

SR The Sabbath RECORDER

November 2006

News for and about Seventh Day Baptists





Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs just a little bit different.

For more information, write: The Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711; E-mail: sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

SDB Store On-line!

At our updated website, seventhdaybaptist.org, click on "Resources" and you'll see photos of tracts, books, and merchandise that you can order by credit card. You may also select the method of shipping. Check out our new store today!

New Resolution Drafted

* * *

At its recent annual meeting, the Board of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty approved a resolution that advocates a continued Seventh Day Baptist presence on their Board. In light of the upcoming vote at Conference 2007, the Baptist Joint Committee's resolution outlines and celebrates their historic alliance with SDBs.

To read the full resolution, go to: www.seventhdaybaptist.org. (A reminder: Packets of information on both sides of this issue will be sent to each church by the end of the year. A vote by church is on the agenda for Conference.)



Students: Are you a high school senior or in college, and willing to serve with next year's Summer Christian Service Corps?

Churches: Do you wish to host an SCSC team for service and outreach?

Applications for team members and church projects are on the SDB Conference website at seventhdaybaptist.org. Please print the applications from the website and send all completed forms (for both members and projects) to: SCSC Committee, c/o

Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Ave., Milton WI 53563.

All team member applications must be postmarked by **January 10, 2007**, and all church project applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2007**. There will be NO exceptions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church at the above address, or e-mail the SCSC Committee at scsc@miltonbdb.org.



Establ. 1844

November 2006
Volume 228, No. 11
Whole No. 6,922



A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the SDB General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Janesville, WI, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 162nd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The *Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



Kevin Butler

Editor

editor@seventhdaybaptist.org

Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

Assistant Editor

Ⓔ = **Editor's Circle members**

Contributing Editors

Rob Appel, Susan Bond, Ruth Burdick, Andrew J. Camenga, Gordon Lawton, G. Kirk Looper, Micayla Neher, Don A. Sanford, Morgan Shepard.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Features

Do you own the holiday—or does it own you? 4

by Christian Mattison

Does the busyness of the holiday season get you down? Some good perspectives to reduce your stress.

Change Thanksgiving Day?? 6

by Donald Graffius

In this "land of plenty," Thanksgiving should be the most important holiday of the year. Traditions—new and old—can help us say "thank you."

Thanksgiving Art Contest results 7

"Everyone wins" when we share our thanks, and talent.

Thanksgiving thoughts 9

by Nick Kersten

Recorder articles from the past can still inspire.

Bracelets and balloons in Boulder booth 10

by Lynne Severance

Once again, a local SDB church promotes Jesus at an annual festival.

2006 Robe recipient 12

Time for a "giver" to receive.

Departments

Women's Society 13

My most prized possession

Pearls from the Past 14

That old family pew

Financial Faith 15

Filling your barrel one handful at a time

Christian Education 16

2006 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Focus 17

Bible College update from Malawi

The Beacon 18

Benefits of real "Son"-light

Reflections 19

A unique Thanksgiving meal

President's Page 20

Give thanks—God is Sovereign

Vision 2020 21

How's your "atmosphere"?

Local news 22-23

New Auburn, WI 22
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 23
Paint Rock, AL 23

Family flux 24-26

Obituaries 25-26

Kevin's Korner 27

Chicago once more



Do you own the holiday— or does it own you?

by Christian Mattison

The *Houghton Mifflin Dictionary* defines the word “holiday” as, “A day free from work that one may spend at leisure, especially a day on which custom or the law dictates a halting of general business activity to commemorate or celebrate a particular event. A religious feast day; a holy day.”

In the Bible, the word “holiday” occurs only once in the NIV—in Esther 2:18. I dug deeper and came up with the Old Testament feast days:

- “...the Feast of Unleavened Bread”
- “...the LORD’S Feast of Tabernacles”
- “...the Feast of Weeks”
- “...the Passover Feast”
- “...the year of Jubilee”

I also looked under “celebrate” and came up with more feasts:

- “Celebrate the Feast of Harvest”
(Ex. 23:16)
- “Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering” (Ex. 23:16)
- “Celebrate the Passover Feast”
(Num. 9:10)
- “...the year of Jubilee” (Lev. 25:10)

By now, you’re probably wondering why I was looking. Well, the “Holiday Season” is upon us.

Summer vacations and Labor Day are distant memories. Thanksgiving is staring us in the face, and Christmas looms on the horizon in fast pursuit.

The new school year began two months ago, Popcorn Days here in

North Loup [Neb.] are “history,” and department stores are gearing up for the holidays.

All of this leaves me wondering, “Will the holidays be the same as they have been the past number of years?”

As I compare the holidays of my childhood with those of ancient Israel and today, I have another question: “Which align most closely with the dictionary definition and the spirit

***The busyness
of the holiday leaves
my tongue hanging
out and dark circles
under my eyes.***

of the holidays God instituted in the days of Moses?”

I’m not sure that the holidays of my childhood and youth count since “time stood still” back then. It seems like all I did was frolic in the snow or rake and jump into leaf piles.

When the rigors of adulthood hit, they were replete with responsibilities. We grownups now prepare and spend ourselves silly—financially, physically, emotionally, and in every other way.

I know it sounds like I’m whining (one thing that I’m pretty darn good at, thank you). Well, I am! That’s because I have joined the vast lemming

mentality: rushing, spending, doing, and going here and there.

Our local ministerium had to schedule our Christmas party in January, of all things! Even a shoe-horn couldn’t help us stuff one more activity into our already bulging calendars.

Don’t get me wrong. I love Christmas and Thanksgiving. The turkey suppers, the caroling, the twinkling lights, the Christmas programs. All of them are wonderful.

But the busyness of the holiday season easily leaves my tongue hanging out and dark circles sagging under my eyes. And I know that I’m not alone. I see people all around me in the same state.

Right now, parking lots in shopping plazas across the country are brimming with cars. Store aisles are jammed with carts, and zombie-like creatures hotly pursue gifts, food, wrapping paper, and all of the other paraphernalia necessary to adhere to the customs of the day.

Cashiers and temporary employees working long hours scramble just to keep pace with the descending hoards of shoppers and their relentless demands.

This year, I’m going to try my best to keep from exhausting myself from over-activity.

By mid-September, my calendar for the fourth quarter was already filling up with obligatory functions, and I’m sure more will be added. If I sound a bit anxious, it’s because I am!

To make things worse, I can recall when it seemed that the holidays

were mine. There was time for a holiday to be both a holy day and a day of leisure.

Are we selling ourselves short nowadays? After all, if you look at the holidays God set up in Scripture, there was adequate time for both holiness and rest.

God invented holidays. The feasts of the Old Testament normally lasted a week. Stores were closed, and the whole week was one of leisure. But I don't doubt that an immense amount of preparation went into a "party" like that.

The one holiday that they observed but never "partied" during was the year of Jubilee. It was an entire year of no planting, a yearlong vacation for everyone. Wow! You can't outdo God!!

But look at us. We plan and prepare for weeks just to celebrate a single day. As soon as each holiday is over, we jump right back into the "rat race." We barely stop to smell the roses, let alone contemplate God's blessings in our lives.

Yes, many will attend Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services, but many others won't. We simply have too much to do, too many places to be, too many obligations to fulfill.

By the time the eve of a holiday rolls around, we'll be too "stretched" and stressed to drag ourselves out of

the house to pay homage to the One this is supposed to be about.

When things get to that point, doesn't it make you wonder what our holidays have become? I'm right there with you.

I believe that the holidays have come to own us, rather than the other way around.

As I review my holiday celebrations of recent years, I wonder:

- Have I observed them in order to honor God?
- Have I given my holidays to Him?
- Or am I driven *by* them? (Especially as I run full tilt, scrambling to take care of all the details demanding my attention.)

I'm struck by the manner in which God *intended* us to celebrate holidays and how that contrasts with today.

The feasts of old were meant to give God's Children time to focus on Him alone; time to honor Him with offerings for worship, and plenty of time to rest and celebrate. They were days of leisure so that you didn't have to cram everything in at once.

I have the distinct impression that most folks in biblical times felt rested after a holiday, even those preparing the food.

Do you feel rested after *your* holidays? Or are you stressed out and exhausted?

One of the most enjoyable Christmas seasons I can recall in recent years was our "\$15 extravaganza."

Rather than traveling miles to participate in an exhausting spending-marathon at the mall—and buying things we didn't need with money we didn't have—our family decided to drive the 13 miles to Ord.

Once there, we had a Dollar General shopping spree. With a budget of \$15 per person, we had "a ball" playing hide and seek in that small store, trying to keep what we had gotten each other under wraps.

No, we didn't get anything extravagant. You can't get much for that kind of money. But we did have fun, and we completed our shopping in a few hours. And later, we had fun opening our simple gifts: bath beads, a package of handkerchiefs, etc.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part was relishing the gift of time that we gave each other, celebrating the holiday together.

For once, Christmas was ours, and the day was glorious. Suddenly, we didn't feel as harried or pressed. Our focus easily drifted upward toward the One Who was the cause of our celebration.

In order to give our holidays more meaning and value, maybe what we need is not more, but less.

Of course, there will always be plenty to do at this time of year. I just hope that, as the holidays approach, we'll be less of a slave to them. I hope that they will be days that "feed" us and our loved ones, providing opportunities to pay our God the honor and gratitude that's due Him.

I pray that we do all of this with reverence, with awe, and with a calm heart and mind.

This year, may our holidays empower us by refreshing our hearts and spirits with grace and joy through Christ. **SR**

Chris Mattison pastors the North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church.



In order to give our holidays more meaning and value, maybe what we need is not more, but less.

Change Thanksgiving Day??

by Donald Graffius

Thanksgiving is the most important holiday of the year. Why? Because in this “land of plenty,” we get the mistaken impression that we “own” things. We feel that since we worked hard to acquire them, we need to thank only ourselves.

But consider 1 Chronicles 29:11-12: “Everything in the heavens and earth is Yours, O Lord, and this is Your kingdom. We adore You as being in control of everything. Riches and honor come from You alone, and You are the Ruler of all mankind;... it is at Your discretion that men are made great and given strength” (TLB).

Thanksgiving reminds us that we are stewards, and God is the owner. Thus, in the words of the Psalmist: “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord...” (Ps. 92:1).

Thanksgiving traditions can help us remember to say “thank you” to God and each other. Traditions are a lot like heirlooms; both come to us through our families.

Here are some traditions of our own and some from other sources:

Thanksgiving services

For the last number of years, our family starts Thanksgiving on Wednesday evening by attending a church service sponsored by the local ministerium. These special services help us count our blessings and leave a joyful feeling in our hearts. What a wonderful way to start the holiday!

The Sabbath after Thanksgiving Day, our church has an all-musical Sabbath worship service. We sing hymns chosen by the congregation. Sometimes, people share a poem, Scripture verse, or testimony. This is a blessing to everyone.



Thanksgiving Day prayers

Traditions for praying before the Thanksgiving meal vary widely from family to family. For some, the prayer is said by the same family member year after year, recounting the year’s blessings.

I personally like the “gratitude circle.” Standing while holding hands in a circle, everyone takes a turn sharing what they are thankful for. Or, if your guests are on the shy side, ask them to write down their blessings on a piece of paper, which are then read before or after dinner.

Our family places five kernels of corn on each plate. Then each person takes a kernel and places it in a basket. For each kernel, you mention one thing that you are thankful for. Some families write the blessings down so that they can be re-read at future Thanksgiving meals.

There’s a story behind the five kernels:

After the very first Thanksgiving, more settlers from England landed at Plymouth, but they didn’t bring any provisions. So as winter began, the food supply was quickly exhausted. The governor instituted a daily ration of five kernels of corn per member of the colony.

The stark reality of those five kernels increases our awareness of the envy, greed, and self-centeredness that characterize our culture today.

Decorations

Involve the entire family in decorating for Thanksgiving. *Family Fun* magazine posts lots of creative ideas for the entire family on their website: <http://familyfun.go.com>.

Start with your table.

Some families use a special tablecloth or set of dishes. We have a “You Are Special” dinner plate that is used on special occasions to honor a certain family member. We get out the best dishes, silverware, and glasses.

Sometimes, a family member provides a floral arrangement. One year, our son made our floral centerpiece. It’s not unusual for my Dad to have a bouquet delivered from a flower shop.

Some families provide fabric markers so guests can record, sign, and date their “gratitudes” or message on the tablecloth. This same tablecloth is used year after year, becoming a “living scrapbook.”

Food and recipes

Families can make certain foods a Thanksgiving tradition.

When I was a child, my mother always made sand tart cookies during the holidays. As children, we always got to “help” by putting colored sugar on the cookies.

cont. on page 8

Thanksgiving Art Contest results

Several of our churches participated in this year's Thanksgiving Art Contest, sponsored (and judged) by the *Sabbath Recorder* Committee. Entries were kept anonymous.

Our first and second place winners (in a close vote) are featured on the front and back covers of this issue.

First place (front cover): Emily Olson, age 12, Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church.

First runner-up (back): Sara Joy Monroe, age 11, Little Rock, Ark., SDB Church.

Great job, girls!



Winner, age 7-9 category:

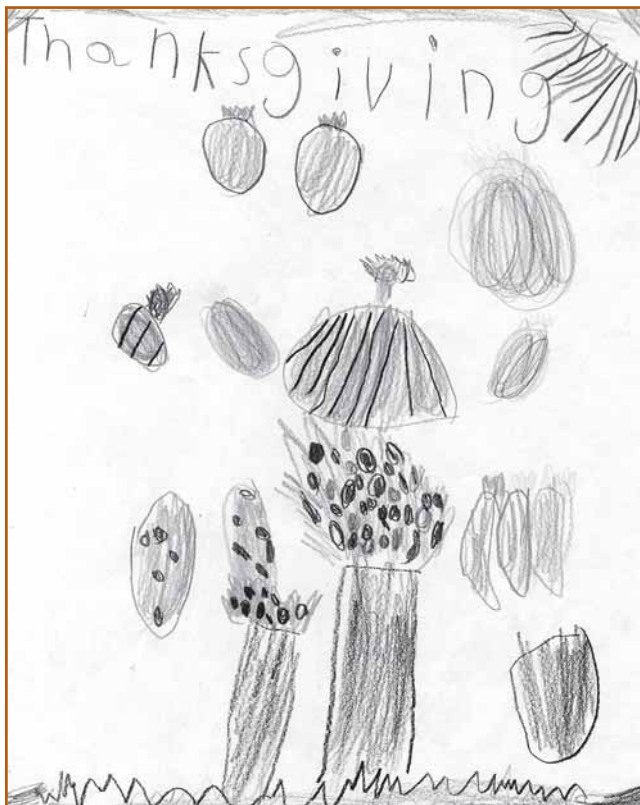
Gabrielle Andries, age 9

Washington, D.C., SDB Church

The text reads: "What's more important, food or family or God. You choose."

THANK YOU to all participants and their teachers!

- Shawna Wilks, 12
Daytona Beach, Fla.
- Susanna Grace Monroe, 10
Little Rock, Ark.
- Brandyn Samples, 10
Lost Creek, W. Va.
- Camryn Samples, 10
Lost Creek, W. Va.
- Charlie Lainni, 9
Westerly (Pawcatuck), R.I.
- Rebecca Olson, 9
Berlin, N.Y.
- Simon Barber, 8
Westerly (Pawcatuck), R.I.
- Nathan Lombardi, 7
Verona, N.Y.
- Adam Nadeau, 7
Westerly (Pawcatuck), R.I.
- Brooke Lynne Vincent, 7
Hebron, Pa.
- Isaac Barber, 6
Westerly (Pawcatuck), R.I.
- Vicky Lainni, 5
Westerly (Pawcatuck), R.I.



Winner, age 4-6 category:

Anna Ruth Lovelace, age 6

Metro Atlanta (Ga.) SDB Church

Change Thanksgiving?, *cont. from page 6*

Even as adults, my brother and sister carried on this tradition. They got quite serious about this and had a healthy competition surrounding this activity. On more than one occasion, I had to determine who made the better cookie. After numerous samples, I eventually—and judiciously—declared a winner. The truth is, I was the actual winner every year, because I got to eat the cookies!

My sister always sends raisin-filled cookies to my Dad for Christmas. This also would make a fine Thanksgiving tradition. (I hope she reads this article!)

In recent years, family members contribute “dishes” or desserts to the Thanksgiving dinner. Of course, we have the traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, turkey, gravy, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. But the arrival of our Southern son-in-law has added sweet potatoes to our meal.

After the dinner, record your favorite Thanksgiving recipes and traditions in a scrapbook to pass along to future generations. And don't forget to take pictures of your family and the specially prepared table!

After a Sabbath service in November, our neighboring SDB church invites our congregation to share a Thanksgiving lunch with them. We bring covered dishes to add to the turkey, ham, gravy, and mashed potatoes that they provide. We always enjoy the fellowship and the great food.

Games

It's my understanding that the Pilgrims and Indians had games and contests during that first Thanksgiving, and people have been playing or watching games ever since.

Growing up in western Pennsylvania, we usually watched—and even sometimes attended—a football game on Thanksgiving Day. Nowadays, we often try to play a board

or card game that involves the entire family.

Change Thanksgiving Day?

Thanksgiving Day is important in bringing families together.

As children marry and start their own families, they often have to choose where to go for the holiday. One family I read about didn't want their children to have to choose between families. To avoid conflict, they decreed that, henceforth, “their” Thanksgiving would be the Sabbath before Thanksgiving Day. And they've continued that tradition. (This reminded me of one SDB family that celebrates Christmas in the *summer* for the same reason.)

Thank an unsung hero

Gather your family and decide on a person (or group) who could use an extra pat on the back. (Nurses, firefighters, police officers, pastors, and soldiers could all fit into this category.) Put together a “care package” and hand-deliver or mail it. You could also send flowers, cards, or an appreciative e-mail message.

And don't forget that special person (teacher, friend, fellow employee, pastor, etc.) who has influenced your life. This might be the day to thank that person by inviting them to share your Thanksgiving meal.

My wife likes to send Thanksgiving cards to family and friends. You don't have to wait until Christmas to send a much-appreciated note.

Create a Thanksgiving journal

Sadly, many of us who have the most to be grateful for express gratitude the least.

We live in a democracy overflowing with freedom and affluence. With



freedom comes the opportunity to choose our profession and location, even our lifestyle.

We also enjoy exceptional health-care here in North America. It used to be a great accomplishment to survive past childhood. Now we expect to live into our 80s and 90s. Sometimes it seems the more we have, the more we want.

The most useful idea is to make Thanksgiving Day every day. Keep a personal family “Gratitude Journal” throughout the year. Each night, a family member can share something for which they are grateful. Share these family highlights or your personal journal at the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day.

We marvel at some of our modern computers that can do unbelievable things in terms of mathematical calculations. It is difficult to understand how these machines can be put together to surpass what our brains can do in a limited amount of time. But marvelous as they are, even computers cannot add up the countless blessings we enjoy.

Start listing your blessings in a Gratitude Journal. I assure you that this will result in a truly heartfelt Thanksgiving. **SR**

Don Graffius is a federal judge in Johnstown, Pa., and a former SDB Conference President.

Thanksgiving thoughts

From the pages of the Recorder

by Nick Kersten, Librarian-historian

“Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.”
(E.P. Powell)

For many Americans, Thanksgiving evokes memories of family, of football, and of food. Is that what God desires of us on the fourth Thursday of November?

In approaching the holiday this year, I searched the pages of the *Sabbath Recorder* for thoughts from the past to inspire us as we celebrate what God has done for us. It is my hope that these historical tidbits will inspire you to change the way you keep Thanksgiving in 2006.

Articles and notations in the *Recorder* include everything from President Abraham Lincoln’s

Thanksgiving address from 1863 (published in 1892), to similar addresses by John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, to devotional thoughts, to historical summaries of the Puritan pilgrims who made their way to this country and weathered difficult conditions to plant the first successful colonies.

The common thread among all of the Thanksgiving articles was an appreciation of the pilgrims of long ago; connecting their bravery in the physical world to the God who makes the physical world possible. In other words, being thankful for the turkey alone—but not the God who created the turkey and provides food and clothing and shelter for us all—is a mistake of the highest magnitude.

Editor Leon Maltby, in the Thanksgiving *SR* of 1961, wrote, “The Bible calls upon all godly

people to express their thanks with deeds as well as with words.” After asking the question of how often we actually succeed in doing this, he suggested, “...there is no scriptural warrant for an impersonalized feeling of thanksgiving. It is God Who has given, God Who is to be thanked, God to Whom vows ought to be made and paid.”

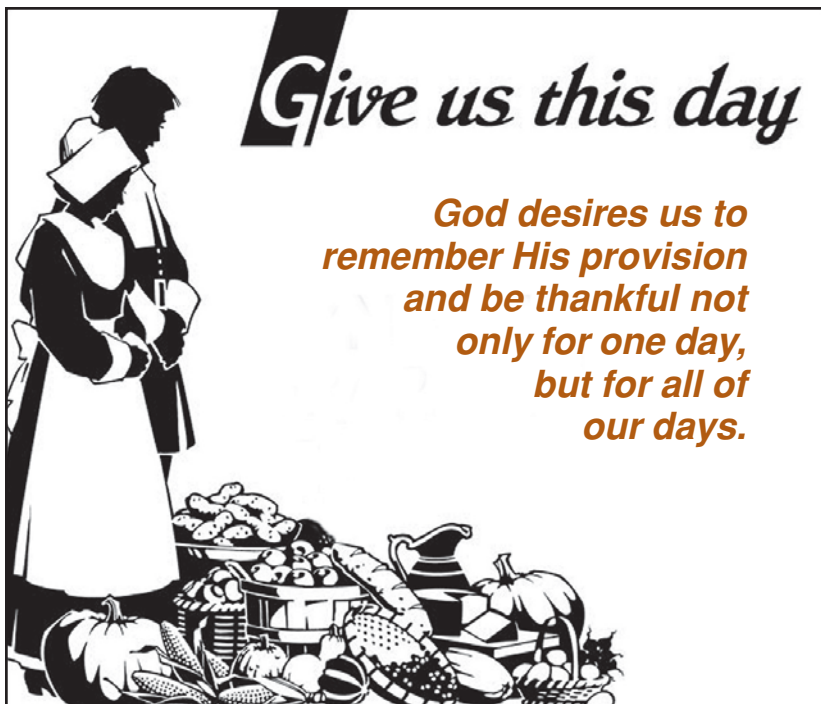
Likewise, Hurley Warren, editor of the *SR* 10 years earlier, made a similar reminder: “True worshipers of God increasingly find that it is pleasing and satisfying to worship Him. So much depends upon the individual worshipers. God will do His part if we do ours.

“If we permit a divided attention in worship, worldly thoughts, ill feelings, and a crowded schedule to separate us from the true worship of God, how can God do His part to make worship of Him pleasing and satisfying?”

Warren then reminded his readers (and us) that the world is in turmoil, but that God is still in control, using Psalm 147 as his inspiration.

This Thanksgiving, as you go about your plans to honor a day set aside for the explicit purpose of remembering and being thankful, know also that our God desires us to remember His provision and be thankful not only for one day, but for all of our days.

Let this Thanksgiving Day be—as it has been to generations past—an opportunity to remember all the incredible things God has done. May it be for us, as E.P. Powell suggests, a “jewel in our hearts.” **SR**



Bracelets and balloons in Boulder booth

by Lynne Severance

For the second year, the Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church was represented at the Boulder Creek Festival during Memorial Day weekend. Last year we gave away over 3,000 bottles of water.

This time around, we were informed that no one is allowed to give away free water at the festival (or ever has been?). So, it was back to the drawing board, with prayers for guidance to come up with a new way to witness from our booth. We finally hit on the idea of turning our booth into a “colors of faith” witness to the 140,000 people expected to attend.

We gave away helium balloons with our church name on them in some of the “colors of faith.” Along with our booth signs, they told passersby that “Jesus Loves You, and so do we.”

We also handed out several different kinds of multi-colored, beaded bracelets, along with “business cards” giving Bible verses that corresponded with each color in the bracelet. This told the story of God’s love for us and the salvation we receive through His Son.

Our most popular bracelet was like the rubber ones that so many youth wear on their wrists today. Each was a different color and had its own message imprinted on it.

Last but not least were the candy bracelets with wrappings that told the meaning of each color.

This year, our booth was among very diverse groups. There were massage therapists and chiroprac-



A professional sign welcomed many to the Boulder SDB booth.



Keith Severance and Bert Heath helped to construct the booth.

Our immediate neighbors were palm readers, aura cleansers, and tarot card readers. Most challenging of all were the Boulder Atheists.

tors, health-aid sales people, and “your perfect love match” finders.

Our immediate neighbors were palm readers, aura cleansers, and tarot card readers. Most challenging of all were the Boulder Atheists. (Who, by the way, were “giving away” bottles of water for a *donation*.)

The reactions to our booth and message were just as varied.

One family, when offered balloons for their children, took one look at the message and said, “We’ll get them elsewhere.” Another family thanked us sincerely for being there.

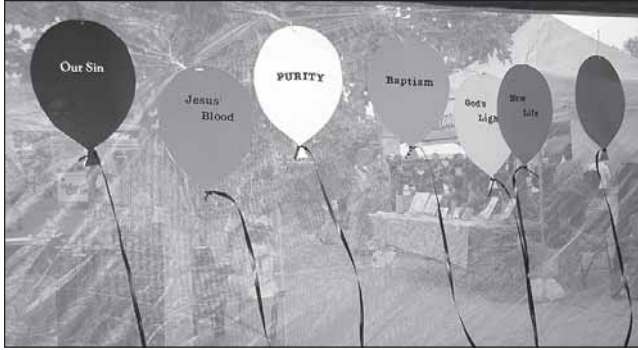
Some people simply approached our booth for balloons or bracelets,

while others took a good look at the camp pictures we had on display, advertising the availability of our camp to other Christian groups.

While some of our visitors simply picked up tracts or walked past us (trying not to make eye contact), many made it clear that they were happy to see a Christian presence in this setting.

Some stopped to argue with us, some had questions about our beliefs, and some wanted to discuss differing beliefs.

One couple from another state wanted to know, “What’s it like to be Baptists in Boulder?” Another



While some of our visitors simply picked up tracts or walked past us (trying not to make eye contact), many made it clear that they were happy to see a Christian presence in this setting.

Colorful balloons matched the Christian process.

out-of-state man noted that we certainly didn't need to travel far to find our mission field.

Some of our visitors discussed Christ's gift to us at length, while others simply smiled approvingly and walked on. Some of the festival attendees remembered us—and our free water—from last year.

We'll probably never know what effect we had on specific individuals. What we do know is that Jesus tells us to go out into the world and share his message with *everyone*.

One of our booth attendants shared how he prayed that "Each and every one of those teens will think in a different way as they wear the bracelets we gave them."

Another attendant felt that "No matter what the results appear to be now, it is very good for our church

to make an effort to reach out into the Boulder community and lift up the name of Jesus."

And yet another said, "You can't help but be blessed out there, no

We'll probably never know what effect we had on specific individuals.

matter what reactions you get. We know that we are still planting the seeds."

Our church members were highly supportive of this project, financially as well as prayerfully. The Evangelism Committee spent many hours

putting together ideas that seemed to suddenly blend.

Those who worked at the booth spent hot hours in the sun. There were also those who planned, investigated, and ordered balloons and gifts; those who made signs and business cards; those who spent time getting the tent "figured out" and ready; and those who decorated balloons and dressed up our booth.

Still others set up the booth, took pictures of camp and made great posters with them, picked up helium, and set up and took down the portable items. I'm sure there are even more helpers not mentioned here.

Our people gave their time, money, talent, love, and prayers to make this outreach work. As much as went into the booth, so much more was given to those of us who were a part of it! **SR**



Denise Coe gave away smiles and balloons.



Tracts and camp photos provided information.

2006 Robe recipient

Born in West Virginia, our recipient is a lifelong resident of Salem. She joined the Salem SDB Church at a young age in 1924.

After graduating from Salem High School, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Music at Salem College. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice, and a Masters in Music Education.

She was a voice instructor at Salem College until retiring in 1980. During that time, she served as head of the Music Department as well as an advisor to the Music Educators National Conference.

She married her college sweetheart, and they raised five children.

In service to her church, our honoree has sung in and directed church choirs, and served on the Music Committee. She has been a member of the Women's Society, and was its treasurer for many years. She also served as church clerk for 13 years.

For 50 years, she has offered her home for refreshments and fellowship following the annual church Christmas caroling.

She has driven or provided a car for many who needed transportation, and she has opened her home to SCSC workers, Conference attendees, denominational representatives, and other church guests.

She is still active in assisting with church lunches and bereavement dinners, helps with fundraising activities, and participates in church work bees. She even found time during her summer vacations to teach Vacation Bible School, cook for camps, and attend Association meetings.

In her community, our recipient has been honored as "Woman of the Year" by the Salem BPW. She has served on the Randolph Terrace Apartment Board of Directors and delivered Meals on Wheels. She was also named Professor Emeritus by



Ruth Sarah Rogers

the Salem International University and was honored with the Salem Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award.

She had been an active member of the Friends of the Fort, a group dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the founders of the Salem area, serving as its corresponding secretary for many years. She researched and wrote many articles relating to the Fort and its history, along with the settlement of the area.

In our denomination, she has served on the Christian Social Action Committee and on the Women's Board.

For many years, Salem College, with its SDB heritage, attracted students from across the denomination. On many Sabbaths, she and her family provided a meal and a home-away-from-home for these students.

She has also been a supporter of denominational programs. As such, the Memorial Board, foreign missions, and camps have been an important part of her life. She even established a memorial fund in her late husband's name to promote the Christian camping experience.

This SDB woman extraordinaire has represented her church at many Conferences, served on Conference committees, was a Conference choir director, and worked on several Conference Host Committees to ensure a comfortable atmosphere in which to conduct denominational business.

She has given much of her life so that others could have a better life.


As a wife, she worked "a couple more years" so her husband could travel as Conference President, and as he served as Memorial Board President.

As a mother, she gave her time, patience, and energy to see that family needs were always met.

As a teacher, she shared her education and knowledge to teach others.

She sacrificed her own desires and ambitions so that others could achieve theirs.

As a Christian, she followed Christ's example and gave to others. Now, it is time for *her* to receive.

The 2006 Women's Society Robe of Achievement recipient is Ruth Sarah Rogers. 

New Robe Nominations

Nominations for the 2007 Robe of Achievement are now being accepted. Visit www.sdbwboard.org for complete information, or contact:

Laura Hambleton, Chair
1568 Megan Bay Circle
Holly Hill FL 32117
Ph. (386) 677-8594



My most prized possession

“What is your most prized possession?”

That was the day's question on my perpetual calendar. (I'm writing answers to daily questions to leave as an heirloom for my grandchildren.)

“Of course, my salvation,” was my first reply. I wrote it almost flippantly.

A few nights later, I had a dream that seemed a mix of an eerie “Disney World attraction” and an end-times experience:

Friends, family, and strangers were waiting for their number to be called so that they could line up and then enter some doors to some undisclosed destination.

The scene was like a train station, with rows of seats facing each other. Adjoining this large room were more rows of seats as in a theater with a sloped floor. Halfway up the outside aisles, a rope separated the upper section from the lower.

While the people in the upper section could not cross over to the lower, those in the lower thought that they could leave at any time when the call was issued to line up at the counter. This way, they would be in position to receive a ticket as well.

However, after three calls, an impenetrable steel door closed from the ceiling down without warning, separating all in the theater from those in the station. An earthquake then let loose, creating a deadly upheaval. Just then, a small passageway, like a tunneled waterslide, appeared in the theater floor. I watched as a few children escaped through the small passage, clinging to a toy like it was a broken life raft.

I went back into the theater to find something soft for the children to hold on to. As I left with a fluffy pink pillow, I woke from my dream.

As a high school senior, I wrote



A recent Bible reading took me to John 15:14–16:15, which reinforced my appreciation for the Holy Spirit.

For this “Thanksgiving” *Recorder*, the combination of my dream (which jolted me to re-appreciate my salvation) and my morning meditation stirred me to list specific reasons why I am especially thankful for the Holy Spirit:

- He
- Was the first to convince me that God really loves me just the way I am
- Makes reading the Bible feel like I am holding the hand of Jesus
- Is always with me
- Nudges me to do the right thing
- Reminds me what the right thing is
- Reminds me that God accepts me, thanks to Jesus
- Provides me confidence that God is greater than any enemy
- Awakens my sleepy mind, heart, spirit, and body
- Soothes me with unexplainable peace
- Fills me with love overflowing

- Floods me with joy
- Reminds me to think on the good, lovely, and true
- Gives me insight into God's Word
- Gives me words with which to refresh others
- Lets me laugh or cry or both
- Prays for me
- Helps me keep my mouth shut
- Helps me discern truth
- Reminds me that the door to God's throne room is always open
- Comforts me
- Corrects me
- Strengthens me
- Gives me songs and smiles
- Alerts me to danger
- Assists me in worship of the most High and only God
- Makes me sensitive to the needs of others
- Opens my eyes to see that God is daily loading me with benefits, among them—always in His safekeeping—my most prized possession. **SR**



That old family pew

My 36th *Pearls from the Past* (in the July/August 1990 *SR*) centered on the practice of “pew rental.” This was a way to raise money to operate the church.

The rental was done on a yearly basis with a “sliding” price scale, depending on the location of the pew. In some cases, an auction-like procedure could alter the value.

I’ve never been able to determine if the front pews were more expensive than the back, because in some churches, the back pews seemed the most desirable.

High pew rental costs in the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church was cited as one of several factors leading to the formation of the Milton Junction SDB Church in 1877.

As I dug deeper into the Milton church records, I was surprised to find an original, commercially-printed and notarized document of pew ownership. The opening paragraph (with inserted script italicized and underlined) read:

This Indenture, Made this *6th* day of *April* in the year of our Lord *1863*, between the Seventh Day Baptist Society of the Town of Milton, a corporation duly organized pursuant to the provisions of the act to provide for the incorporation of the Seventh Day Baptist Society and other Religious Societies in the territory of Wisconsin approved February 8th 1849, party of the first part and *the heirs of the late Jacob Davis, deceased*, party of the second part in

the consideration of *ten* dollars to be paid to the party of the second part: the receipt whereof is acknowledged, does hereby grant, bargain, sell, alien and confirm unto the said party and *their* heirs and assigns for ever that certain Slip numbered *61* in the house of public worship belonging to said party of the first part situated in the town of Milton, Rock County *to have and to hold the Slip*, with the benefits, privileges and appurtenances, to the said party of the second part, *their* heirs and assigns forever.

Other parts of this document specified that the owner of the Slip may be assessed from time to time “for purposes of raising money for necessary repairs, or purchasing stoves and pipe to be used in the house of worship of party of the first part, whenever the trustees may find such assessments necessary, the same to be made on all Slips in said house in equal proportion, according to the appraised value of said Slips

made by the trustees at the time of such assessment.”

(The document did provide an “out” for the resale of the Slips.)

A further search of the Milton records gave more meaning to the church minutes of 1863-64.

“December 8, 1863: Moved and carried that a committee of one be appointed to ascertain how many of the Slip owners will be willing to donate their Slip for the benefit of the church per year, provided three-fourths of the membership will do the same.”

Subsequent action of the church included assessing the value of each pew, giving former owners the right to place the first bid, and taking “subscription” from those who did not give up their seats for rental—or from others who might give something to help cover church expenses.

I couldn’t find any record of the pew rental concept being formally suspended.

In many SDB churches today, a traditional “family pew” notion has persisted. I know of people who have asked others to move when found occupying the old family pew, even when it’s done unintentionally.

Some of these customs may stem from the old box pews of colonial days, when individuals brought their own heat during cold weather.

Soon after attending my first Sabbath service in the Milton church, I was assigned a pew—which I kept throughout my college days. (It was the tenor section of the choir.)

In spite of some of the drawbacks—hurt feelings, for example—the concept of a “family pew” isn’t totally negative. As part of God’s family, we should feel “at home” in church. We’re much more likely to be missed when we’re not there and our “accustomed” pew is empty. **SR**





Filling your barrel one handful at a time

by Donald Graffius

Our last few articles have focused on our denomination's financial needs and the blessings of tithing. The *first* check you write should be to the Lord, but your second should be deposited into your savings account!

In my years of financial planning, I've learned that the single biggest financial mistake people make is failing to save. The average person in the U.S. is three weeks away from bankruptcy, with little or no savings to fall back on. They also have significant debt.

Scripture admonishes us to save. In Proverbs 21:20, we read: "The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets."

I recently read that saving is making provision for tomorrow, but debt is presumption upon tomorrow.

Saving is hard work and takes a lot of discipline. Many people are unable to write that second check and end up spending the money elsewhere.

If you fall into this category, set up an automatic payroll deduction so that money is saved before you even receive your paycheck.

Alternatively, set up a systematic withdrawal from your checking account into an investment account—money market, mutual funds, etc. You can also save income from tax refunds or bonuses, but you'll end up saving more if you immediately save a portion of your income every time you are paid.

There are two types of savings accounts: long-term and short-term. I place retirement accounts, pensions, and savings for the down payment on a house in this long-term, "never to spend savings" category.

Short-term savings should be easily accessible and equivalent to three to six months of your income. This money is to be used for emergencies, such as an illness or job loss. It can also be used to replace appliances or automobiles, or for making major house repairs.

"Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty" (Proverbs 21:5, TLB). It is my understanding that in the original Hebrew, "steady plodding" pictures a person filling a large barrel one handful at a time. Little by little, the barrel is filled to overflowing, but it takes *time* and *persistence*.

When Linda and I were first married, we could save only \$25 a month, but my wife did it faithfully. Since we had started this practice when we were young, we had time on our side. Because of the "miracle" of compound interest, our savings increased significantly over the years.

Let me illustrate the importance of starting a savings plan while young:

Which of these two people do you think would accumulate more money by age 65? A 21-year-old who started saving \$1,000 a year for eight years and then stopped? Or a person who started saving \$1,000 a year at age 29 and con-

tinued that practice for 37 years? (Both earned 10 percent interest.)

Incredibly, the one who saved only \$8,000 would earn more than the one who saved \$37,000. Why? Because the 21-year-old started saving earlier. At age 65, the \$8,000 saver would have \$427,736, compared to \$363,043 for the \$37,000 saver.

Let me help you visualize this in another way.

If a person faithfully saves \$2.74 each day (some spend this much at Starbucks), which amounts to \$1,000 a year—and earns 10 percent—at the end of 40 years, that savings would have grown to \$486,852. In turn, that amount would be earning \$4,057 each month in interest. Steady, faithful saving pays!

However, if a person procrastinates just one year before starting to save—but then saves for 39 years—\$45,260 **less** will be accumulated. The obvious message is, *start saving today!!*

The rate of return, when combined with time, also plays a significant role in the growth of savings. Investing \$1,000 a year at 8 percent over 40 years will grow to \$279,781. But that same amount, when invested at 10 percent over the same period, would grow to \$486,851.

A 2 percent increase in the rate of return almost doubles the amount earned! However, remember that the higher the rate of return, the higher the investment risk.

The bottom line is: Start saving steadily, and fill your barrel one handful at a time! **SR**



2006 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year



Professor and Sabbath School teacher Wesley Greene

Wesley Greene of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Pataskala, Ohio, received the Crystal Apple Award as the 2006 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

The award-winner was announced during General Conference sessions at Houghton (N.Y.) College this past August. Wesley accepted a certificate and crystal apple during the Conference's awards ceremony.

The Crystal Apple Award was established to highlight the important role that Sabbath Schools play in our churches, and to honor those teachers who help those classes function at a high level.

By effectively using his time and energy, Wesley Greene has shown how Sabbath School can be an important part of a church's Christian Education program. He has helped many people to learn and grow in Christ.

Wesley cares about the students he teaches and gets involved with other things happening in their lives outside of class.

One who nominated him for this honor wrote:

"Although Wesley is a college professor by profession, he has demonstrated an interest and capability for working with children, young people, and those of all ages. Throughout the past 18 years that the Greene family has been attending the Columbus SDB Church, Wesley has been actively involved with the Sabbath School program, taking a chance at teaching every class from preschool through adult. He has also taught several age groups more than once.

"Wesley selects interesting and challenging teaching materials and then faithfully shows up prepared to teach the lesson each week. The students are often welcomed to the classroom with a different arrangement of tables and chairs. His classes always involve students using the Bible to look up verses for themselves, followed by thought-provoking discussion.

"Wesley cares about the students he teaches and gets involved with other things happening in their lives outside of class. He has served as a Sabbath School Teacher, he has been involved in the church as a camp director and staff member, Children's Church leader, Sabbath School Superintendent, and YF leader."

Does this description remind you of someone in your church? If so, encourage your congregation to nominate that person for the 2007 Crystal Apple Award.

You can find information about this program on the Board of Christian Education's website: <http://EducatingChristians.org/Programs/CrystalAppleAward>. Nomination forms and additional information will be sent to your church next year. **SR**

CE e-mail list



Do you want to talk with others about Sabbath School materials, getting a handle on that difficult class, home schooling, or Christian Education in general?

Join the Christian Education E-mailing List. You can sign up by clicking on the "CE List" link on the left-hand side of the Board's website.



Bible College update from Malawi

by Kirk Looper

Seventh Day Baptists began ministering in Malawi in 1899, and the need for pastors increased almost immediately. This need was partially met by organizing and developing a Bible College. Through the guidance of many, including some of our own SDB missionaries, that college was established and has developed through the years.

Background

Prior to the arrival of SDB missionaries in Malawi, local pastors were ordained based on their credibility. After the arrival of Pastor David Pearson, studies leading to “pastorhood” were taught at Makapawa, where three to four students attended each year.

In time, it was recommended that students be sent to Likubula Bible School, a college belonging to the Zambezi Evangelical Church of Malawi. Being a Sunday-keeping denomination, there was no emphasis on Sabbath-keeping or Seventh Day Baptist church history.

However, during the time Pastor Pearson was a missionary in Malawi, he taught our Likubula Bible School students on Sundays at his Namiwawa residence in Blantyre. The subjects he taught included the Sabbath and our church history.

Introduction of Makapwa Bible College

The Central African Conference (CAC) Board of Trustees was not satisfied that our pastors had to go to a Sunday-keeping college. They wanted them to have their own Bible College that would teach, among other subjects, about the Sabbath and SDB church heritage.

In 1982, the CAC trustees appointed five people to a Board of Governors. The intent of this group was to come up with a proposal to open a Seventh Day Baptist Bible College in the area. Among its five-member Board were Pastor George Nantikwa (now deceased), Dr. E.E. Ngalande, and Pastor Canaan Phiri.

They recommended that the college be based in Zomba because of its easy accessibility, and its proximity to nearby Zomba Theological College and the University of Malawi Library.

In 1992, during SDB World Federation meetings

in New Zealand, Pastor R.J.B. Mkandawire presented a program on Malawi’s strategic plan for the Bible College. The idea was warmly received, and the delegates recommended that Makapwa serve as the starting point of the college. That way, they could use existing structures. (They lacked the money to start the project on “new ground.”)

Current position

In today’s world, it’s obvious that we need to “keep up” with technological advances to be efficient and effective. A good college needs computers, e-mail capability, telephones, electricity, and clean water—just to name a few necessities.

Since these items are not available at Makapwa, despite SDBs being there for more than 50 years, it is strongly recommended to move the Bible College to Zomba to improve the school for its students.

The CAC has not yet purchased the land for the college, but the Town Assembly—through the Physical Planning Development

Department—has promised a plot on which to construct a church, a parsonage, and the Bible College.

Once the school is moved to Zomba, the Bible College will definitely work with the University of Malawi. In fact, one of the current members of the Board of Governors—Mr. Bright Molande, a member of the Zomba church—lectures at the university. He is very involved in acquiring the plot of land, dealing with the Zomban authorities and keeping abreast of the requirements for a school to be affiliated with the University.

They need money to help build this Bible College complex. Once completed, it will add an exciting page to our denominational history as well as a valuable asset to the work of SDBs in Malawi—perhaps even in neighboring countries.

For information regarding this project, contact:

SDB Missionary Society

119 Main St.

Westerly RI 02891 USA

Ph: (401) 596-4326; FAX: (401) 348-9494

E-mail: sdbmissoc@verizon.net

The Town Assembly—through the Physical Planning Development Department—has promised a plot on which to construct a church, a parsonage, and the Bible College.



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship

November 2006

The benefits of real “Son”-light

by Micayla Neher

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Earlier this year we made some renovations on our house. I live in an A-frame house, with the bigger windows on the south side. A few years ago, we added another room onto that side and it closed off those windows. This change made our house very dark inside.

Our few windows in the kitchen didn’t allow much light to enter the rest of the upstairs. Even though we had “simulated daylight” bulbs in most of the light fixtures, our house was still quite dark. Our solution? We installed skylights.

The day the skylights went in, I arrived home and walked upstairs into a bright room. It took me a moment to realize that the lights weren’t on—it was the skylights! I was amazed at how much light streamed into the room. I never knew how much “real” light the bulbs had lacked.

The difference between God’s light (that *He* made) and the light that *man* made was enormous! The man-made light doesn’t measure up to God’s light, and those bulbs aren’t even needed when we use God’s light.

This same concept applies when we listen to God’s voice instead of listening to those around us. There are many people out there who say they have all the answers. They tell us that if we do something a certain way, then such-and-such will happen. God gave us an important tool for us to hear His voice: the Bible.

God not only gave us the Bible; He also sent His son, Jesus. Jesus showed us, by example, how we should live our lives and listen for God’s voice.

My family thought we were doing “just fine” with our light bulbs. When the skylights were put in, we found out what we were missing. In the same way, we may sometimes think that we are doing “just fine” by going to church and hearing the sermon. But if we’re not getting into the Word of God we are really missing out on a lot of things that God may be telling us—things that we wouldn’t get out of the sermon.

There are times when days get cloudy and we need a little assistance from our man-made light. God’s light helps us, but it still may not be as bright as we would like. There may be times when we really seek what God is telling us in His Word, but we’re just not seeing it clearly. In that case, we may need further guidance from others.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help. When you’re having a hard time understanding what you think God is telling you, find someone you trust and see if they have a way to brighten and enhance your thoughts.

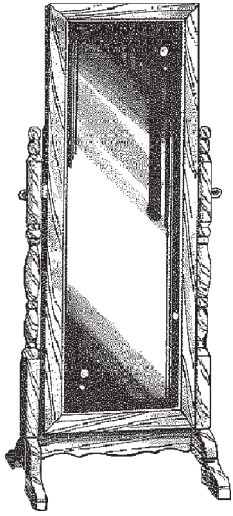
It’s “challenge time” again. I challenge you to look for God’s voice. If you find that you aren’t hearing it, wait a little longer; you’ll hear it. Also, don’t forget about the challenges that our Conference President Ruth Burdick and Pastor Scott Hausrath gave us this year: “Get into the Word [daily] and see if you can read through the Bible in a year.”

I know you can do it. Follow Jesus’ example, look toward God, and don’t get left in the dark. Use the real “Son” light. **SR**

WANTED:

*Beacon
writers!*

Please send
your YF news
or personal
reflections to
chickenpotpie11
@yahoo.com



Reflections

by Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

*"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror;
then we shall see face to face."—1 Cor. 13:12*

A unique Thanksgiving meal

At times, we all have to "eat crow" or take a bite of humble pie. Here I am, about to do both.

In May of this year, I ended 23 years of widowhood by becoming the wife of a wonderful man named Fred Wuerthele. With the wedding still very much on my mind, I wrote my *June Reflections* on widowhood and remarriage. In that article, I mentioned several members of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church who had outlived two or more spouses.

Much of that column dealt with my "soul sister," Margaret (Lowther) Smitley Burdick, who died in January of 2004. Margaret was first widowed in 1948 when Chester Smitley died, and again in 1991 when her second husband, Roger Burdick, passed away.

I first became aware of Margaret when I was a student at Milton Union High School in the early 1960s. She worked in the school office back then and always had a ready smile and a kind word for everyone.

After my first marriage in 1970, my husband and I set up house-keeping in Minnesota. While there, Margaret and Roger were our houseguests while attending Association meetings. I had fun getting acquainted with Margaret on an adult level.

When Denny and I moved back to Wisconsin in 1979, Margaret and I renewed our friendship.

Shortly after Denny's death in 1983, we began calling each other

"sis." We weren't close in age, yet we felt a certain kinship as widows who had to raise young children on our own. Later, when I joined Margaret as a breast cancer survivor, we grew even closer, calling ourselves "soul sisters."

So why am I compelled to eat a certain black-winged fowl for Thanksgiving this year?

In my *June Reflections*, I wrote that Margaret was pregnant with her second child when her first husband died, and that she went on to raise two young girls alone.



In spite of my chemo-saturated, post-menopausal, chocolate-fueled brain, I knew better than that. Margaret and Chester were expecting their *third* child.

Daughter Carolyn was born in 1944, Mary Ellen in 1947, and Virginia in 1949. "Ginny" was born just 8 months after her dad's death. So Margaret was left with *three* children to raise.

To get by, Margaret sometimes juggled three jobs at once. When she was the only secretary at Milton College, she earned 75 cents

an hour while paying a babysitter 50 cents an hour.

But there were some sunny moments along with the dark ones.

Many people were thoughtful, helping the family with Sabbath meals and giving them the opportunity to do things they couldn't otherwise afford. "We were poor," Ginny said, "but we never knew *how* poor, thanks to our mother. She was wonderful. She didn't complain, and she accepted most things as they were, without another thought."

When Christmas rolled around, Margaret would pack a box of hand-me-downs, new homemade pajamas, and assorted other items, and mail them to a family in Mississippi who lived in a cardboard house.

"There was always someone who needed more than we did," Ginny remarked. "As an adult, I realized her willingness to put others first."

During those days, emotional as well as financial stress bombarded Margaret. Along with single parenthood and an uncertain future, she had to endure hurtful, baseless rumors that Chester wasn't the baby's father. But, again, there was light.

"When I was born, the Nottinghams sent Mom a dozen red roses," Ginny recalled. "What a beautiful gift, since my dad wasn't there to do so himself."

So, to Carolyn, Mary Ellen, and Ginny:

Please accept by sincere apology for the errors (aka "stupid goofs") that appeared in my *June Reflections*, and for any negative ramifications they may have caused.

Now, if I can just get these black feathers out of my teeth... **SR**

tell the truth ... the truth

SDB General Conference July 29 – August 4, 2007
George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon



The President's Page
by Ruth Burdick

Give thanks— God is Sovereign

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's a time to concentrate on God's provision for us and all the blessings He has bestowed on us over the last year. Our answered prayers during the last 12 months should be acknowledged before His Majesty.

This is also a time to invite to our table those who are lonesome, those who are impoverished, and those who are in spiritual need. At Conference, the young adults challenged us to reach out beyond our walls and meet the needs of others. The opportunity is there. Use it.

Many of you have picked up the challenge to read the Bible through in a year. I have been thrilled to hear of the number of commitments.

Daily Themes for Conference 2007

- God's Word is Truth
- God is Sovereign
- Christ is Divine
- The Holy Spirit Indwells
- The Lost are Really Lost
- Worship God in Spirit and Truth

***Our sovereign God
has touched our lives
and has given us
purpose, hope, and
unconditional love.
We are part of His
eternal plan.***

Have you reached 1 Chronicles 16:7-36 yet? This is one of David's Psalms of thanks. What a wonderful passage to read to your family and guests on Thanksgiving Day! I encourage you to do so.

Not only do these verses speak of God's sovereignty, His nature, His faithfulness, and His salvation; they tell of our response of thanks, humbleness, singing, praising, and bringing an offering to Him. Let us consider the truth of His Word in this passage this Thanksgiving.

As we prepare for Conference 2007, the second daily theme I want us to think about is that God is Sovereign. He is THE King of the Universe. Words like *supreme, almighty, preeminent, powerful, potent, and highest authority* all vividly describe our God, Who is in charge.

In Acts 17, Paul proclaims to the people of Athens the God they can know: the Creator, the Lord of heaven and earth. Verse 28 states, "For in him we live and move and have our being."

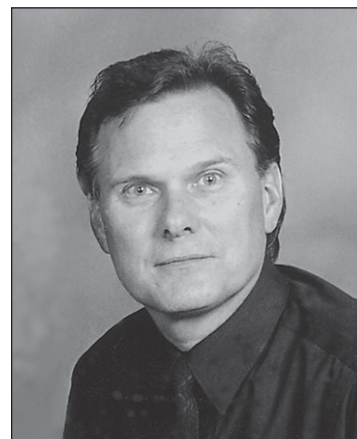
Too many times I see believers limiting their understanding of God. Some try to manipulate God through prayer and action. Others don't trust that His plan and His timing for us is better than we can even imagine.

We get too impatient and sometimes make the wrong choices. At times, we belittle His sovereignty by downplaying our daily dependence upon Him in our personal lives. We fail to acknowledge Him before men (our family and co-workers).

Let us remember that our God can stop the sun from moving (Joshua 10). He sets up kings and deposes them (Daniel 2:21). Even a donkey can speak by His order (Numbers 22).

Yet the greatest provision of all is Jesus dying for our sins to offer us eternal life. This is a miracle that we should never take for granted.

Our sovereign God has touched our lives and has given us purpose, hope, and unconditional love. We are part of His eternal plan. Live as such, honoring and revering him as the Sovereign God that He is. Let God be God. **SR**



by Executive Director
Rob Appel

How's your "atmosphere"?

Last month, we looked at our tendency to complain, criticize, and whine. We need to get rid of our sin, pride, and un-forgiveness. Then we can catch the JOY and put on compassion, kindness, gentleness, holiness, humility, and forgiveness. This way, we will have an attitude worth catching!

Now that we know what attitudes we need to work on, what should our church work on?

It was a bright and beautiful Sabbath day outside, but inside the sanctuary sat an old rag mop and a dirty pail full of water. Obviously, they were not supposed to be there.

Almost everyone that morning looked at those items with disgust. After church, some parishioners complained to each other about the bucket and mop, wondering why they hadn't been properly taken care of.

The next week, the mop and bucket were still there—untouched. Fewer people complained, but they still wondered when someone was going to take care of the unsightly duo.

The third Sabbath came, and the mop and bucket were *still* there. But this time, few noticed them at all.

By the fourth week, the mop and bucket had become part of the total worship atmosphere, becoming symbols of just how dirty our sin is.

This scenario seems far-fetched, doesn't it? But it really isn't.

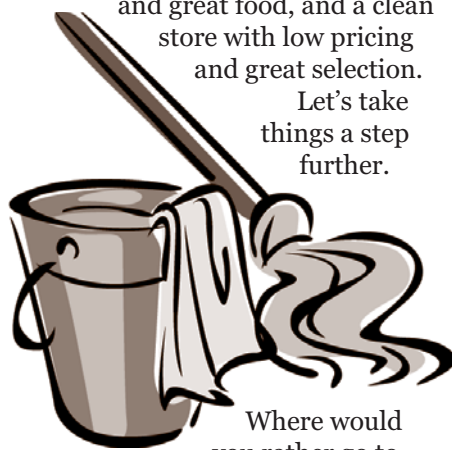
Which would you rather have? A restaurant with a great atmosphere

and lousy food, or a place with great food but a lousy atmosphere?

Where would you rather shop? At a clean store with a poor selection of goods and outrageous pricing, or a dirty store with dimly-lit shelves full of great prices and selection?

Well, if you think like I do, you want the great atmosphere and great food, and a clean store with low pricing and great selection.

Let's take things a step further.



Where would you rather go to church? Would you choose a church building that is falling apart and dirty but has great preaching and music? Or would you choose a sparkling-clean church with dull preaching, lousy music, and a burned-out spirit?

Now answer this: *How do you think the unchurched would answer that last question?*

Would they choose a dirty, cluttered church full of the Holy Spirit, and great preaching and music, or a clean building with boring preaching, lifeless music, and no spirit?

I think whether you are churched or unchurched, we all want the same

thing: the *entire* worship experience. We want great preaching, spirit, and music, and a great atmosphere!

On the whole, churches make too little of the stuff we call "atmosphere." We tend to think of only "heavenly things"—like prayer and preaching, worship and Bible study—when we think of church.


We might tend to think that people who are "truly spiritual" wouldn't mind if there are little stacks of trash—old Christian literature and whatnot—in nearly every corner and classroom of our church. We think that the "truly spiritual" wouldn't care that the walls desperately need a fresh coat of paint, that our bathrooms are cramped and dirty, or that our nursery always smells like dirty diapers.

Truly spiritual people don't care about that sort of stuff, right?!

Maybe so. But are we trying to reach just the "truly spiritual"?

The spiritual things in our churches are more important than the atmosphere. Having an attractive building is not as important as praying or teaching biblically sound principles. But atmosphere, camaraderie, and oneness are *still* important to the spiritual vibrancy and effectiveness of the local church.

Admit it; we want both the great atmosphere AND the outstanding entrée. We want to have our cake and eat it, too!

The bottom line is... **it starts with you!** 

Prepping for POIEO

by Jessy Olson

I left Conference this year and returned to life and work with one word reverberating in my mind and heart—"Poieo" (pronounced poy-eh' o).

I had been challenged more than once over the last year to consider attending Poieo, a ministry training school just starting up in New Auburn, Wis. Though I reasoned with God about my finances and the responsibilities of an "adult" in this world, it turns out He doesn't function according to my reason, but according to His will.

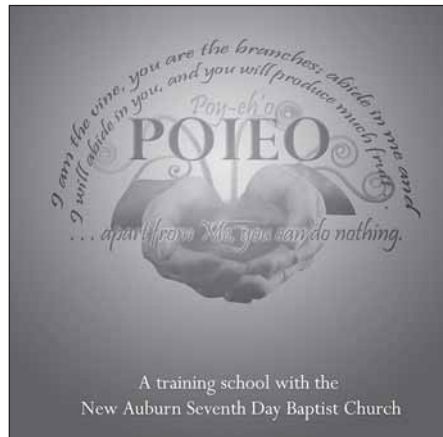
"Just make the call, Jessy," God repeated to me one morning during my hour-and-a-half commute to work. With exasperation and a tinge of excitement, I obeyed.

That is how I came to be here, living in the parsonage of the New Auburn SDB Church, along with a solid and encouraging sister in Christ named Michelle Parrish.

As I write this, Poieo isn't quite functioning yet. But God has brought me here to devote myself to falling in love with Him, receiving His correction and direction, and building Poieo according to His principles and pleasure. I have only been here a short while but God has already thoroughly blessed me.

We kicked off week one by driving into Minneapolis with New Auburn church members to attend a worship service featuring international preacher and author, John Bevere.

Each morning, Michelle and I have been using Bevere's curriculum, *Driven by Eternity*. As a result of its message, and the daily prayer and study with Michelle, I confess that my heart and perceptions—the very place where I live and form daily decisions—are being transformed, giving me new life. I praise God for



the way He is teaching my heart to fear Him as well as love Him!

I'm learning to build the foundation of my life on God's full Gospel and His manifest presence. I'm also learning to respond to His voice and call alone, all for His glory and to increase His kingdom on earth.

This, indeed, is the vision of Poieo for students; to grow in fearing and loving the Lord.

Under the stewardship of the New Auburn church, Poieo works to train servant-leaders for God's kingdom and our denomination. The three-month training course is available to all ages, and singles as well as families. The spring 2007 semester runs from February 4–May 4. Please prayerfully consider becoming a student!

If your heart is stirred to invest in building God's kingdom through Poieo, here are some ways to contribute:

- First, Poieo is a huge undertaking. But God tells us that "the prayers of the righteous will avail much." Please pray in His Spirit for Poieo, and let us know if the Holy Spirit has moved you to pray for Poieo consistently and specifically.

- Secondly, Poieo needs physical support in the form of furniture, books, and work done in the parsonage. Right now, the parsonage is being renovated to accommodate students and to facilitate teaching and learning. Please contact Poieo to receive a detailed list of needs and the ways to contribute.

- Thirdly, Poieo is trying to raise funds to run the school and help subsidize students. Currently, it costs each attendee \$2,000 for three months. This covers food and housing, as well as curriculum and outreach expenses.

The school also needs money to do the necessary physical renovations, and to support and train staff. Yet another need is for reserve funds to cover emergencies, and to provide flexibility in its curriculum and outreach.

Please tell us if you are moved to contribute a one-time amount, or to give monthly.

Michelle has committed herself to starting up and staffing Poieo, and I have prayed about staying here during the fall to go through the curriculum as a student as well as serving as development staff. Both of us need direct financial support to continue to work in this capacity.

Please contact either of us if you have questions or are moved to support us.

Jessy Olson
(608) 295-7335
miss_jessylynn@yahoo.com

Michelle Parrish
418 S. East St.
New Auburn WI 54757
gods_kid317@yahoo.com
(715) 237-2616 

A call to ordination in Fort Lauderdale

by Lauren Philibert

The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is one of many small SDB congregations that has a big desire to develop and spread the wealth of preaching and teaching.

Our congregation called Brother Val Henry Bennett to ordination. After a successful Examination Council in January, his ordination service was set for April 8, 2006.

The youngest child of Reuben and Dowager Bennett, Val surrendered his life to Christ during a Bible study over 50 years ago. Following

secondary school, “Bro. Val” studied in a wide range of fields, earning several diplomas and certificates.

He has been a missionary; an evangelist; a member of the Planning Commission of SDB Churches in Jamaica; a moderator, trustee, and Sabbath School superintendent; and president of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Young People’s League.

Val is also a husband and a father of four children. His wife of 46 years, Olga, was by his side during the entire ordination process.

After migrating from Jamaica, Bro. Val spent many years as a member of the Hope SDB Church in Philadelphia, Pa. He eventually relocated to south Florida and joined the Fort Lauderdale church.

Although Val is not currently being called to assume the pastorate, he was recognized as a man of strong Christian convictions and solid conduct, possessing an array of leadership qualities.

His ministry experience also in-

cludes outstanding service as a missionary in Guyana, South America.

The ordination service was blessed with more than 100 attendees, including guest speaker Rev. Joe Samuels, pastor of the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church; Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society, Kirk Looper; Sis. Prudence Robinson, then president of the Jamaica SDB Conference; Val’s former pastor, Rev. Kenroy Cruickshank of the Hope SDB Church; and Pastor Luis Lovelace, leader of the Metro Atlanta, Ga., SDB Church.

Rev. Andrew Samuels, host pastor, led the inspiring service.

In the afternoon, a concert featuring the Gospel Heralds blessed us. Bro. Val is one of the original members of this dynamic a cappella singing group, and it was truly an electrifying event. Bro. Val’s ministry shined brightly as he glorified the Lord through music.

What a blessed day it was! **SR**



Newly-ordained Val Bennett with his wife, Olga.

Celebration in Paint Rock

On August 26, 2006, in the village of Paint Rock, Ala., the bell of the Seventh Day Baptist church rang its usual call to worship, with 69 people responding. It was to be a day of celebration, marking the 80th anniversary of the church’s organization.

The day began with a white dove appearing on the church grounds. Pastor John [Bevis] felt that was an indication that the presence of the Holy Spirit would be with us during the services.

On August 21, 1926, our church began in the Oakdale community of Athens, Ala. Sabbath services were held for some time at the home of Thomas J. Bottoms and his wife, Talullah. Thirteen char-

ter members attended, mostly from the Bottoms family.

In 1954, the church relocated to Paint Rock, with a new building dedicated to James Edward Butler, who died in World War II.

Several individuals assisted Pastor Bevis with the anniversary service, including Bryn Butler, a 5th-generation member of the church.

Executive Director of the General Conference, Rob Appel, was the guest speaker, challenging us with his message, “Will God’s Vision Help Us?”

Our two branch churches sent representatives—Faith Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn.; and Lakeview in Jemison, Ala. (Birmingham area).

The celebration continued with

the burning of the mortgage for our recently-acquired Christian Education building. We bought this structure for \$88,000, aided by a \$60,000 loan from the SDB Memorial Fund. We paid the loan back in just 11 months. Praise God!

This facility is located next to the church and is used for Sabbath School classes and Wednesday evening Bible study, and houses an office for the pastor. Located on an acre of land, the building also has a kitchen and two restrooms.

As we celebrated the past, we look forward to the future and God’s continuing plan for this congregation.

Truly, we “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.” **SR**

“Class, how do you spell relief?”



“Correct! Your gift to the SDB United Relief Fund provides help for medical and emergency needs both here and abroad.”

Please give generously to the **SDB United Relief Fund** through your local church on Thanksgiving Sabbath, **November 25th**, or mail your gift directly to:

*SDB United Relief Fund
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678*

New members

Daytona Beach, FL
W.H. Winborne, pastor
Joined after baptism
Ashley Wister
Joined after testimony
Robert Habbick

Salem, WV
Dale Thorngate, pastor
Joined after baptism
Alexander H. Green
Joined after testimony
Argil Wayne Nicholson
Angela Dawn Nicholson

Texarkana, AR
Mynor G. Soper, pastor
Joined after testimony
Lee Hilliard
Charlene Hilliard

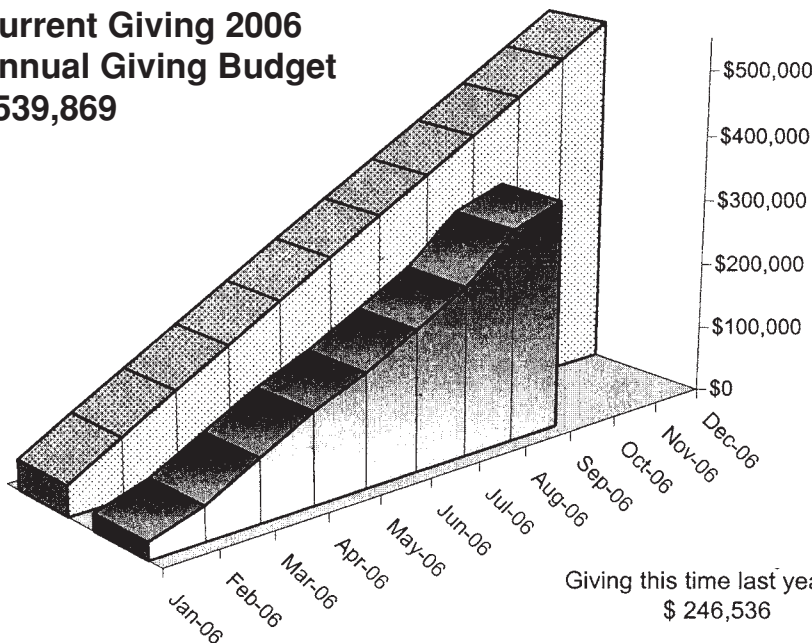
Marriage

Palmiter - Sugden.—Timothy Palmiter and Angeline Sugden were united in marriage on August 5, 2006, at the Alfred, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The father of the groom, Pastor Kevin Palmiter, officiated.

Birth

Rankhorn.—A son, Benjamin Asher Rankhorn, by adoption, to Shay and Brenda Rankhorn of New Market, AL, on June 18, 2006.

Current Giving 2006
Annual Giving Budget
\$539,869



Giving this time last year . . .
\$ 246,536

	Month - Sept '06	Year To Date
Budgeted	\$ 44,990	\$ 404,902
Actual	\$ 25,715	\$ 342,898
Difference	\$ (19,275)	\$ (62,004)
% of Budget	57%	85%

PROP Giving	
Sept '06	\$ 140
Year To Date	\$ 3,376

Morgan Shepard, Treasurer

Obituaries

Harris.—Anita D. (Davis) Harris, 97, of Hopewell Township, N.J., died on May 5, 2006, at The Cumberland Manor in Hopewell. She had been a resident of that township for over 60 years, moving there in 1942 after living in Shiloh and Port Norris, N.J.

She was born on October 16, 1908, in Salem, W.Va., the daughter of Ernest O. and Ruby (Fitz-Randolph) Davis. Her husband, Charles F. Harris, died in 1981.

Anita received a degree in Music and English from Salem College and soon began a distinguished teaching career at the Hopewell Township School. She taught music for nearly 50 years, beginning in Port Norris. After four years, she spent the rest of her career in Hopewell Township, retiring in 1971.

She was a dedicated and long-time member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh. In addition to teaching Sabbath School and leading the choir for 45 years, she volunteered at church camps and Bible schools. In 1973, she received national recognition for her dedication to the church, accepting the "Robe of Achievement" from the SDB Women's Society.

Anita, who played violin in the Bridgeton (N.J.) Symphony and also the former John Elmer Orchestra, gave voice, piano, and violin lessons to many students. She was also a member of the Matinee Musical in Bridgeton.

Beginning in 1972, Anita traveled extensively for several years, and was a winter resident of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Survivors include three daughters, Carol Loper of Upper Deerfield Township, N.J., Nancy Brandon of Lancaster, Va., and Jane Jernoske of Hopewell Township; two sons, John of Pennsville, N.J., and Jeffrey of Millville, N.J.; 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and four

great-great-grandchildren. One sister, Lucille Bond, and one brother, George Warren Davis, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on May 21, 2006, at the SDB Church of Shiloh, with Rev. Don Chroniger officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Greene.—Wallace Adelbert Greene, 91, of Dodge Center, Minn., went to be with the Lord on August 12, 2006. His wife also died when their car was broadsided by a truck that ran a stop sign.

He was born on January 15, 1915, in New Auburn, Wis., the son of Mack and Ethel (Duncan) Greene. When Wallace was 10, the family moved to Arkansas and ran a portable sawmill business.

In 1932, the family moved to Minnesota, traveling in a horse-drawn, rubber-tired wagon. It took 30 days to reach Dodge Center, where Wallace met his future wife, Millicent Payne. The couple married on January 4, 1936.

Wallace worked in the Dodge Center area the rest of life. He was an insurance salesman for many years, and ran a soft water franchise in Faribault, Minn., for a time. He also worked for Greene Doors and Hardware, Inc., in Dodge Center, and was still employed there at the time of his death.

Wallace's hobbies included buying small plastic horses and making harnesses for them. He would then hitch them to miniature wagons and display them in his home.

He was very involved in the lives of his family, visiting with them at least weekly, but his greatest passion was his Christian faith.

Wallace was a charter member of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Committee in Faribault, and was a faithful member of the Dodge

Center Seventh Day Baptist Church for many years. He was also active in other churches and many Bible studies in the area. He loved the Lord and had a tremendous hunger for the things of God.

Because of Wallace's outgoing personality, he was a powerful witness for the Lord, often talking with others about their faith.

Survivors include one daughter, Lorna Zincke of Dodge Center; four sons, Phil, Steve, and Dan, all of Dodge Center, and Ken of Wasioja, Minn.; one brother, Clare, of Dodge Center; 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. One step-brother preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on August 18, 2006, with Pastor Dale Rood officiating. The Praise Fellowship Church in Dodge Center graciously donated their facilities for the double funeral. Burial was in the Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja.

Greene.—Millicent Mary (Payne) Greene, 89, of Dodge Center, Minn., went to be with the Lord on August 12, 2006. She died in a car accident, which also took the life of her husband, Wallace. She was born on May 24, 1917, in Hitchcock, S.D., the daughter of Arthur and Eva (Churchward) Payne. Later, her family moved to Dodge Center.

After graduating from Dodge Center High School, Millicent married Wallace Greene on January 4, 1936, in Dodge Center. This past January, the couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Millicent was a stay-at-home mom until all of her children were in school. In addition to helping her husband with his work, she was employed as a patient-care assistant at the Fairview Nursing Home. Later, she worked as a health aide, assist-

cont. on next page

ing elderly people in their homes.

Her hobbies included garden-
ing, knitting, crocheting, needle-
point, sewing, and playing games
with her grandchildren and great-
grandchildren.

Millicent enjoyed people and had
a knack for hospitality. She often in-
vited families for lunch after church,
and dinner guests were a common
occurrence.

She spent a lot of time with family
and friends, and was active in various
churches over the years. She was a
committed Christian and shared her
husband's passion for God.

Survivors include one daughter,
Lorna Zincke of Dodge Center; four
sons, Phil, Steve, and Dan, all of
Dodge Center, and Ken of Wasioja,
Minn.; two sisters, Dorothea Shettel
of Sydney, Australia, and Lorna Aus-
tin Graffius of Whitewater, Wis.; 13
grandchildren, and 13 great-grand-
children. One brother, Donald Payne,
preceded her in death.

Her funeral was held on August
18, 2006, at Dodge Center's Praise
Fellowship Church, with Pastor Dale
Rood officiating. Burial was in the
Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja.

Lupton.—Elizabeth R. "Libby"
Lupton, 92, went to her heaven-
ly home on August 24, 2006,
at South Jersey Healthcare—
Elmer Hospital.

She was born on June 17,
1914, in Shiloh, N.J., the daugh-
ter of Harry and Olive (Randolph)
Lupton. She attended Hopewell
High School, then graduated from
Bridgeton (N.J.) High School in
1931. She received her teaching
degree from Salem College in
West Virginia.

Libby taught business educa-
tion at Bridgeton High School
for 40 years, retiring in 1976. She
had served as the advisor to sev-
eral classes, including the class
of 1945.

After retiring, she volunteered
for many years at Bridgeton Hos-
pital, and also for the CONTACT
program in both Cumberland and
Salem Counties.

Miss Lupton, who enjoyed tra-
veling and skiing, was a member
of the Cumberland County Histori-
cal Society, helping with their ed-
ucational programs; and the Dallas
Lore Nature Club and the Matinee

Musical, both in Bridgeton.

As a lifelong resident of Shiloh,
Libby was its oldest resident and
served as the Grand Marshall dur-
ing its recent 300th Birthday Parade.

Survivors include her friend and
longtime companion, Louise Cour-
sen; one sister-in-law, Charlotte
Bonham Lupton; and many nieces
and nephews. One brother, Charles
W. Lupton, predeceased her.

Funeral services were held on
August 30, 2006, at the Seventh Day
Baptist Church of Shiloh, with Rev.
Don Chroniger officiating. Interment
was in the church cemetery.

Correction

In September's obituary
of Pastor Ken Davis, we
omitted the listings of two
special survivors: Ken's
daughter Susan Bond of
Jane Lew, W.Va., and his
sister Jean McAllister of
South Plainfield, N.J. We
apologize for the omissions.

Denominational Dateline

November

- 4 Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church's 175th
Anniversary Celebration—Rob Appel
- 4-5 Tract Council Annual Meeting, SDB Center,
Janesville, Wis.—Kevin Butler
- 10-12 South Atlantic Association, Atlanta, Ga.—
Appel
- 10-12 Spiritual Retreat Week, Texarkana, Ark.,
Seventh Day Baptist Church—Ron Elston
- 11 Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church,
175th Anniversary Celebration—Nick Kersten
- 17-19 Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church,
Fort Worth, Texas—Elston
- 20-30 Texarkana, Ark.—Elston
- 20 (To December 1) South America trip to Chile
and Argentina—Kirk Looper

December

- 10 (To January 8) African trip to Tanzania,
Sudan, Liberia, and Sierra Leone—
Looper

January 2007

- 7-10 North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF)
Meetings, Atlanta, Ga.—Appel
- 20-21 (Tentative dates) SDB Memorial Fund Quar-
terly Meeting, location to be determined—
Appel, Morgan Shepard
- 21 SDB Missionary Society Board of Managers
Fourth Quarter Meeting, Westerly, R.I.—
Looper
- 27-28 Council on Ministry Annual Meeting, SDB
Center, Janesville—Gordon Lawton

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Chicago once more

As Sinatra used to sing: “My kind of town, Chicago is...”

NOT.

Near the middle of September, I had the “privilege” of being in Chicago seven out of eight days. Some of the visits were planned; others were not.

Janet and I attended a seminar near O’Hare airport that ran from Sunday to Wednesday. We had toyed with the idea of commuting back and forth, but thankfully decided to stay at the host hotel. The construction delays and wear-and-tear on the

car (and our nerves) would have taken their toll (many tolls) on us.

Even though the seminar cut into our usual *SR* deadline—and into my birthday—it was a worthwhile time, and we should reap the benefits of our efforts.

That Thursday, I was able to catch up with things at the office. But I knew that I wouldn’t be able to start any big projects since I’d be heading back to O’Hare the next day to catch a plane.

Or so I thought.

When I booked the trip many weeks before, I never imagined what September 22nd in Chicago would be like. My flight to Lincoln, Neb., was to get me to North Loup for a *Sabbath Recorder* Committee meeting that started Sabbath afternoon.

Friday in the “Windy City” [day five of six]. One look at the “Departures” display and I got a little uneasy. The 3:00 flight was postponed until 4:30.

No problem. I’ll be more prepared for the meeting and get some other reading done, I thought.

Another look at the board, and the 4:30 was pushed to 5:25. Uh-oh. Later, the 5:25 morphed into 6:30. I got a lot uneasy; especially when I saw the reason.

Dark storm clouds had rolled in from the west (*let’s see; wasn’t I heading west?*), and mid-afternoon Chicago looked like midnight. Lightning flashes sent all the baggage handlers inside for their safety. The TV monitors carrying national news reported tornadoes touching down around Chicago (*let’s see; where was I?*).

My flight was canceled.

Back to the bus to head home! A bit of “salt in the wound”: by the time we got on the interstate, the skies

had cleared and I watched a beautiful sunset to the west (*let’s see; where was I headed?*) right at 6:30, when I could have been flying.

In the meantime, I had made several calls to my wife, to the airline to reschedule, and to Pastor Chris Mattison (who has a nice article on page 4, by the way). He had set up my housing in North Loup—something else that had to be canceled. Fortunately, I was not scheduled to preach there in the morning.

After a short night at home, it was back on the 6:00 a.m. bus for Chicago [day six of seven]. When that flight was delayed, I started getting nervous again. This time, the hour-plus setback was not weather-related; they had to change a tire on the plane.

Off I flew to Nebraska, rented a car, had productive and enjoyable meetings that night and the next morning, and then sped back to the Lincoln airport on Sunday afternoon. I couldn’t wait to get home.

Fully loaded, the plane backed away from the gate, and all of us sensed (literally) that something was not quite right. Fumes of jet fuel wafted strongly into the cabin. Back to the gate. (*Groan.*)

Fortunately we didn’t have to get off the plane while they checked things out. Everything seemed to be in order as we pulled out once again and took off.

Of course, that delay pushed back our arrival time into Chicago [day seven of eight]. My bus got to Janesville after midnight. If ever I wanted to take a “comp day,” this was the one. And I did.

Even after experiences like this, I can truly be thankful.

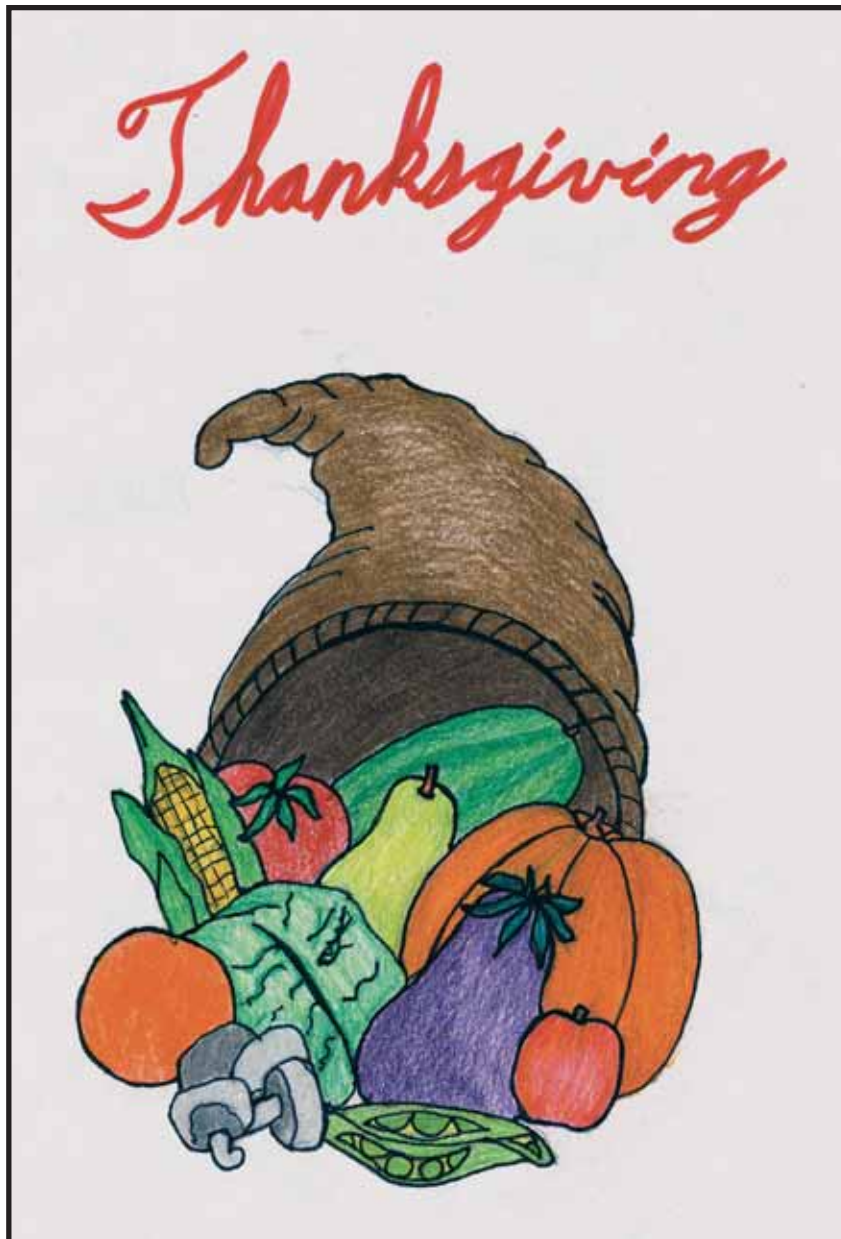
In the end, I was safe and healthy. The meetings took place as planned and went very well (thanks, chairman Jean Jorgensen and committee!). God is still on the Throne and Chicago is still on the map.

I can’t always count on man’s schedule, but I can trust God’s will and watchcare. I am thankful.



Thanksgiving Art Contest winners

Front cover: Emily Olson, age 12
Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church



First runner-up: Sara Joy Monroe, age 11
(above) Little Rock, Ark., SDB Church
(see page 7 for other participants)