



# The Sabbath RECORDER

Inside:

Using  
your GPS

Sweet home,  
Alabama

July-Aug. 2011

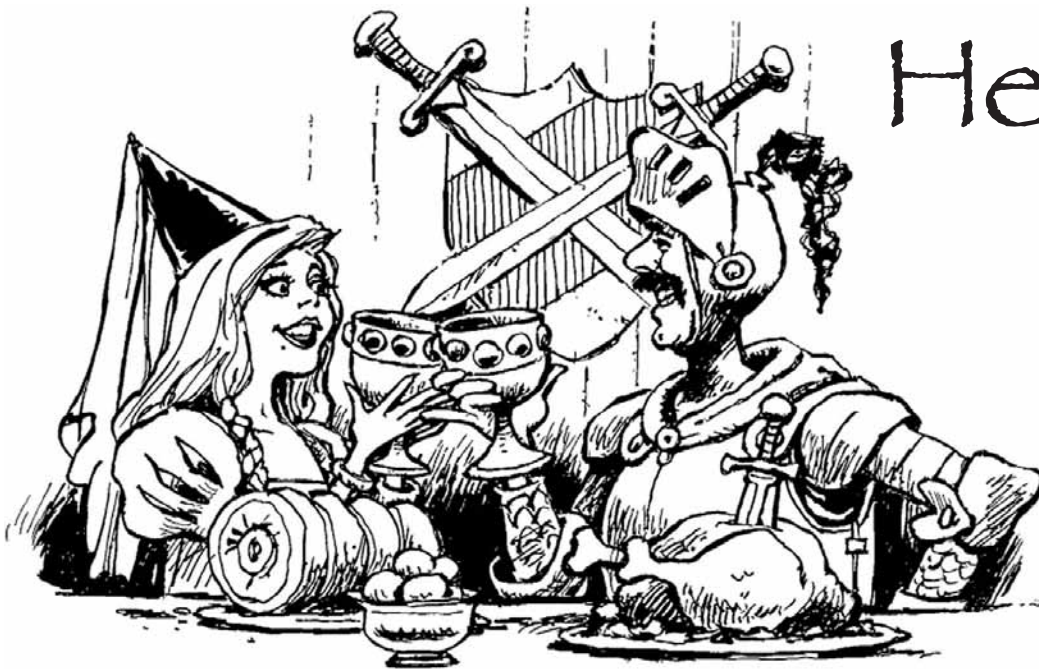
*News for and about Seventh Day Baptists*

## Days of

## Princesses

## and

## Heroes



- Feeding the Five hundred
- Surprised by missions



## 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 a people with a difference.

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](mailto:sdbgen@seventhdaybaptist.org) and the SDB Web site: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org)

## Pastor Appreciation

To help you plan for your Pastor Appreciation in October, the Center on Ministry will give you some good suggestions in the September *Sabbath Recorder*.

Set aside your October celebration date now!

## Nursery at Conference

We are excited for this year's nursery! We plan to have a more structured program that follows the Conference theme about the Fruit of the Spirit (specifically during the mornings). We hope that many will join us!

As in past years, we ask that each family or parent participating in the nursery please volunteer to help for one shift during the week. Thanks!

If you have any questions, contact Tabatha Pethel at [montessorisuccess@gmail.com](mailto:montessorisuccess@gmail.com)

## 2011 General Conference

*"Living in the Fruit of the Spirit"*

Registration forms in the May *SR* and on-line at [seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)

**July 31 – August 6**

Hope College, Holland, Michigan

### Host Chair:

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Planes: into Grand Rapids (GRR)

Trains: into Holland (HOM)

### Health Services:

Marilyn Smith  
269-660-8203  
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Also on the Hope College campus: basketball, swimming, tennis, soccer, skateboard park, and trees!

Nearby: Lake Michigan and beautiful downtown Holland, **"America's Cutest Place!"**



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# Feeding of the five hundred

## A special breakfast for Megan

by Steve Moncrief  
Shiloh, N.J.

Wow! Did you see Him? Did you feel Him? And did you know that He was here in everything that went on?

You might be saying, “What is he talking about?” If you were at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church on Sunday, April 10, and paid any attention at all, you knew that God was there.

### Guided by God

You could feel His presence in everything that was done. He was the leader Who guided everyone and everything that happened. I guess the only thing that was not of Him was the thought that crept in once in a while beforehand that *just maybe* this had gotten too big and we wouldn’t be able to pull it off successfully. Yet we trusted that with Him anything is possible.

When you do the Lord’s will, and put your trust in Him and let Him be the leader, you can’t go wrong. He will lead you to completion successfully and above anything you could ask or think. That’s what happened that day.

### How it all began

It all started about five weeks before. Megan—a freshman in college

and a resident of Shiloh—was in the hospital after being diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease. She had just started chemotherapy. The treatments alone are bad enough, but Megan has some heart and lung problems that complicate matters.

Megan loves the Lord and has a very positive attitude. With her added medical complications it makes for a long and expensive hospital stay. The church wanted to help.

### How about a big breakfast?

After getting the family’s okay we decided to try a buffet breakfast. The youth had done this before on a small scale at Camp



Jersey Oaks (with mostly church members) and it worked well.

We felt that this would be a well-attended event and started to plan and get people involved. We started by thinking big: three seatings with 150 each for a 450 total. That’s a lot

*“Come ’n get it!!” (All for a good cause.)*



of food to cook! Our dream menu included scrambled eggs, scrapple, sausage, home fries, French toast, pancakes, dried beef and sausage gravies, biscuits, homemade muffins, cinnamon buns, sweet breads, fruit cup, juice and coffee.

**No, I mean really big!**

Well, the word spread. People from the community offered their help and donations. As tickets started to sell and reached 400, 450... we added a fourth seating and stopped selling tickets because we didn't think that we could prepare enough food.

Oh, we of little faith. In all we had about 570 people eat a big breakfast that day!

**Spread out!!**

We cooked in the kitchen; we cooked eggs in the basement hallway.

We cooked bacon and scrapple in a classroom next to the kitchen; we even cooked potatoes on a spare stove in the boiler room.

The library was full of baked goods. Our buffet table was 36 feet long and that didn't include the juice and coffee.

**With plenty left over**

We had prayed that the Lord would provide and He certainly did! Virtually everything was donated.

Food—lots of food. People loaned us extra cooking and warming equipment and many from the community came to help.

And, oh yes—when we were through we had lots of food left over. One person said it was like feeding the 5,000! The food kept going out but there was much left. We were able to take several boxes of fruit, bread and muffins to Ranch Hope, a local boys' home. They were very appreciative.

**Prayers were answered**

The Lord provided!! With the exception of blowing a few breakers (until we made a few minor adjustments to our electrical hookups) everything went on without a hitch. But why should we expect anything else when we let the Lord take control?

Yes, we helped Megan that day with \$8,171. But perhaps better yet, the community saw the Lord at work. One lady who helped said that she was looking for a church and she sure was impressed with what she experienced here at the breakfast.

For myself, I saw the Lord clearly that day. He was shining out bright and clear everywhere I looked. What a great sight to see! **SR**



*Top: One of the many cooking stations at the Shiloh church.*

*Middle: A local ball team fueled up before a game.*

*Bottom: The long buffet line offered something for everyone!*

# Using your GPS

by Mayola Warner  
Verona, N.Y.



***Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
(Psalm 139:7)***

Do you have a GPS unit?  
Do you understand how it works?  
What is it, really?

Well, this little computerized gadget links to the Global Positioning System (GPS) and directs you to wherever you're going.

Earlier this year I rode with my son to New York City. As we left our home in upstate New York, he reached for the GPS, tapped in the address of our destination in Brooklyn, and we took off.

All the directions were given immediately—every right or left hand turn to take—how far it would be to get there and how long it would take us. If we made a mistake, the GPS would say “recalculating” and then tell us how to correct our journey. It was amazing!

My son tried to explain to me how the GPS works. Basically, it follows three satellites that are floating around up in space (I guess!). Then the satellites can perceive just where you are and direct you to your destination. Amazing!

But now let me explain something I've learned that is even more amazing. I likened the GPS to our wonderful prayer life.

Almighty God, a Trinity, is continually observing each one of us, right? He knows exactly where we are and even what we're thinking (Psalm 139:1-10). And so, I turned on my “God Prayer System” and said to Him, “You see just where we are now, Lord—in a very crowded neighborhood with lots of snow in the streets. Would you please find us a good place to park?”

And He did! Right at the end of the very block where we needed to be.

I've enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the Lord for many years, but this seemed so new and refreshing.

How can we correctly receive His direction? Here is an example from my life. I've experienced some hearing loss for many years and have had to have the tones increased as needed.

This recent experience with the GPS has given me an even stronger faith of hearing my Lord—in many ways, through His Word especially. Praise Him! **SR**

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# Charges and Promises

*Both happened at a pastor's installation service*

by Donna S. Bond  
Shiloh, N.J.



What do you get when you put seven preachers in front of a captive audience? A two-hour worship service!

Recently I had the privilege of witnessing a new pastor being installed at the church where I play the piano on Sunday. Four preachers spoke, two prayed (mini-sermons?), and one played five variations of “The Doxology” on the piano.

As a Preacher’s Kid married to another Preacher’s Kid, I thought some of the comments were worth sharing with SDBs. In fact, at some point each speaker crossed the line between preachin’ and meddlin’.

“Your greatest joys will come from your Christian congregation, but so will your deepest hurts,” warned the pastor giving the **Charge to the Pastor**. *Brother*, I thought, *that’s telling it like it is!*

In pointing out the awesome re-

sponsibility the pastor has for the spiritual well-being of his flock, this speaker recounted a dream he once

had. He found himself face-to-face with the Lord, surrounded by his flock.

God said to him, “Where’s so-and-so?”

“Oh! He couldn’t keep up with us.”

Then the speaker woke up in a cold sweat. Why might his subconscious want to avoid the repercussions of that confession?

In closing, he said that the pastor is to do his best to maintain harmony in the church body; that is, “It isn’t easy to make Euodias and Syntyche get along.” (See Phil. 4:2)

The out-going interim pastor gave the **Charge to the Church**, whom he knew well after three years of “interimship.” He admonished the congregation to “take care of your new pastor. Pray for him. Remem-

ber that he is a husband and father. He has bills to pay. Respect his authority, even if he is ‘just’ your son-in-law or your nephew.”

This pastor also recalled an experience from his previous parish. He had made a request to hire a church secretary, which was denied. However, a number of members volunteered to help with the office work. Every one of them expressed surprise that the pastor DOES work more than one hour a week! (I recalled a certain YF whose stated attitude was, “Let Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ do it. He has more time.”)

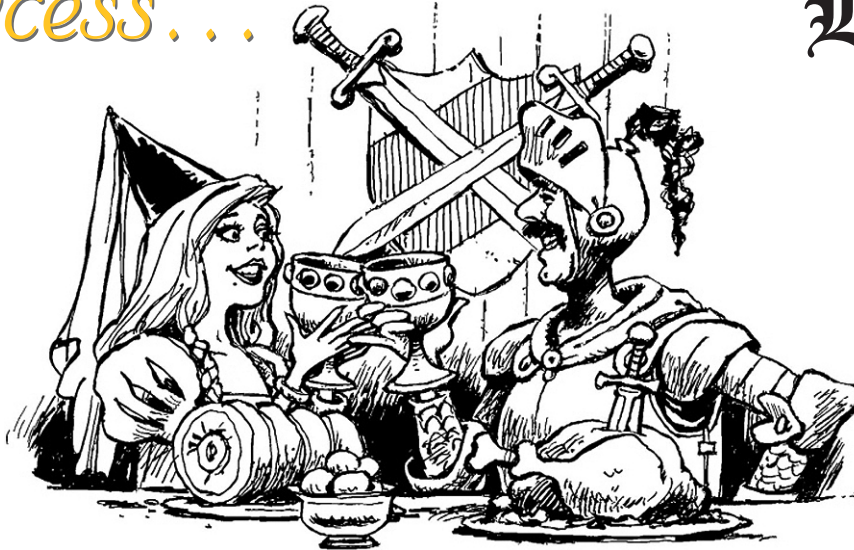
Finally, the newly-installed pastor had his say. Acknowledging that he could not please everyone all of the time, he promised to preach the Word of God but encouraged the parishioners to challenge him if they ever heard him say anything that was not in harmony with the Bible.

Meanwhile, my heart was with the newly-appointed Preacher’s Kids—three precious little boys under the age of 10. They had sacrificed a half day of playtime to spend Saturday afternoon in good clothes, sitting on a pew, only to return the following morning for Sunday School and church.

My **Charge to the PKs**: “Get used to it.” My more well thought-out sentiment: “Be proud of Daddy. And Mommy.” **SR**

# Girls go princess...

# Boys get heroic



by Ellen Olson  
Berlin, N.Y.



“*Since we’re all daughters of the King of kings we are therefore princesses.*”

”



*Princesses of all ages came to affirm their inner beauty.*

About every three months the Berlin, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church has a family fun night. The activities on these nights vary, but the focus is always on good clean family fun with a Christian message.

These events are open to the community, and we usually have a good turnout. Last fall a new VeggieTales video came out called “Sweet Pea Beauty.” Its message was about being beautiful on the inside. We thought it would make a great event for girls only.

### **The Princess Tea**

In April we finally had our Princess Tea for girls of all ages. The girls and their chaperones dressed up—some in wedding dresses and prom gowns—and were treated to fancy snacks of all kinds.

They made princess hats and





*Pastor Matt Olson (above left) organized a day just for the guys: games with limited safety and food with limited nutritional value. Great fun!*



“**The ‘Hero Party’ had bad food and ‘games with limited safety’—with no girls allowed.**”

”

other royal crafts. Fingernails were painted; face painting was available as was a princess coloring table. The more mature tea party attendees sat around and talked while the younger crowd went from station to station completing all of the activities.

After a busy yet quietly chaotic afternoon, the princesses all went to the sanctuary to watch the VeggieTales movie. The message of the movie (and emphasis of the day’s activities) was that God wants us to be beautiful on the inside. Since we’re all daughters of the King of kings we are therefore princesses.

**“Not fair!”**

It was a great afternoon. So great, in fact, that there was a fairly loud outcry from the young men in the

church. They said it was “not fair” that the girls got to have a fun event and they didn’t. To top it off, the teenage girls had just gotten back from another girls-only event where there was nothing similar aimed at boys.

By the next weekend, Pastor Matt Olson had promised the boys that he would plan a “Hero Party” with bad food and games with limited safety—with no girls or moms allowed. That event occurred at the end of May.

**The Hero Party**

Invitations went out addressed to “Sir,” followed by the young man’s name. Entrance fee was set at a type of food that is not good for you. Chicken wings, dill pickle chips, snack cakes, cookies, and marshmallow tacos were some of the fare provided.

At arrival, each young man was assigned a squire (adult or older

teen) who was his partner for the afternoon. They were then given a foam sword with Ephesians 6:11 written on it as well as their official knight name. They also constructed shields out of foam board and duct tape.

Games included sword fights while standing on construction buckets, a tug of war, shooting really cheap bow and arrows through hoops, and knocking over cardboard knight cut-outs with a pool noodle while riding on the back of an ATV.

There were lots of activities, but with less organization and more energy (and noise) than at the girls’ activity two months before. It was, however, exactly what the guys were looking for.

The event concluded with Pastor Matt talking to them about being a soldier for the Lord and putting on the full armor of God. **SR**



# SURPRISED by missions

*by Pastor Matthew Olson  
Berlin, N.Y.*

At the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Berlin, N.Y., we constantly challenge our young adults to use their **gifts**, **passion** and **strengths** to make a difference for the Kingdom of God.

We call it our “**Spiritual GPS**”: urging everyone in our church to discover what spiritual gifts they have, what they are passionate about when it comes to God, and what strengths or natural abilities they bring to the table. This has helped many of our people discover their calling.

Several months ago, a young couple in our church, Craig and

Alicia Mosher, came to me to ask for prayer. They felt a burden for the people of Africa and believed God was calling them to go and serve there in His name. After a season of prayer and consideration, I agreed that God had indeed called them.

They began exploring various options for serving as short-term missionaries in Africa, and had even initiated an interview with Africa Inland Missions. During a meeting with the deacons of our church, I

mentioned Craig and Alicia’s call and explained where they were in the process.

It was at this point that I received a big surprise.

If you had asked me six months ago what I thought about the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, I

*Craig and  
Alicia Mosher*

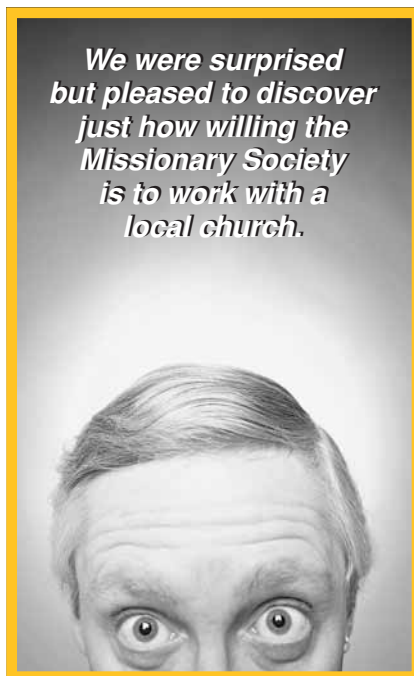


I would have said, “I don’t think about them much at all.” I believed that they were no longer in the business of sending missionaries. That, it turned out, was a *myth*.

When two of my deacons (who are active in the Society) heard of the Moshers’ plans, they immediately asked why they weren’t being sent as SDBs to an existing Seventh Day Baptist work in Africa. My reply—that I thought the Missionary Society didn’t send missionaries—caused them to spring into action.

They contacted Kirk Looper. Within a few days he got in touch with me to let me know that the Missionary Society does indeed “do” short-term missions.

The Missionary Society sat down



with Craig, Alicia and me to figure out how to proceed. It quickly became apparent that the best “fit” for the Moshers was Malawi. Their gifts, passion and strengths were a perfect fit for work that has to be done there.

Kirk contacted Nedd Lozani, the head of the work in Malawi, to see if they would be willing to host the Moshers. Nedd was ecstatic that a couple had been found to answer their call for help.

Now things really began to happen! Because of various legal issues, the Missionary Society does not send short-term missionaries directly. Instead, a local SDB church does the sending, acting as sponsors for the missionary. For its part, the Missionary Society provides training, financial assistance, and guidance for making plans. Kirk has been

invaluable in helping us to think through how this trip will work and what we’ll need to make it happen.

Craig and Alicia are responsible for raising the funds they will need for the trip itself. They will also travel to various Seventh Day Baptist churches and to General Conference, where they will explain in detail what God has called them to do in Malawi.

The Missionary Society has covered the expenses involved in getting them ready to go, which are considerable. They have handled printing and travel, and will provide the various equipment and supplies needed for the trip.

In short, we were surprised but pleased to discover just how willing the Missionary Society is to work with a local church when a member of that church feels a call to the mission field. We are thankful for all that the Society has done and will do for us.

We urge you to consider using the help they provide the next time someone in your church senses God’s calling to serve in the mission field. *SR*



# The latest from SpringsLife

by Harold King

Greetings from SpringsLife SDB Church in beautiful Colorado Springs!

God has been blessing our small congregation here in central Colorado. We have been busy with several projects. A new colorful church sign has been erected, thanks to the hard work of Tim and Kelly Rood, Bob Harris and Randall Dout.

A seldom-used building by the church has been remodeled and turned into a parsonage. Thanks to a generous loan from the Memorial Board we were able to find a wonderful Christian contractor to do the major work. One of our members, Randall Dout, did a lot of the electrical work. Randall and his wife Sharon helped pick out the cabinets, carpet, and kitchen flooring style

and countertops.

Two other members, Charlie and Doris Hopper, were instrumental in selecting the paint colors and paneling. Danny Lee headed up the project, and he and his wife Danita donated a refrigerator.

We also moved the church office to a room in the new parsonage, giving us space at the church for a classroom and lounge where meetings are held.

We recently gave James Hamm a license to preach. He currently attends New Geneva Seminary



*James Hamm (l.) gets his license to preach from Pastor Harold King. Right is the new church sign.*



here in the Springs.

Our steeple has also been repaired and we've replaced the furnaces in the church facility. Along with our regular services, we continue our ministry to the Court Retirement Home every month. **SR**

*The living room and kitchen in the remodeled parsonage.*



## Got News?

We'd love to share what's happening at your local church!

Please mail it to the address found on page 3, or e-mail to [editor@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:editor@seventhdaybaptist.org). Thank you!



## Stillman Family History

This family has been Seventh Day Baptist since 1700, starting with Dr. George Stillman. The large book, published in 1989, is still available. Cost is \$40 postpaid, and the author is willing to donate a book to any SDB church library.

Contact: Frank Stillman, 15 Waverly Drive, Greensburg PA 15601-1318



Women's Society page by Kristin Camenga  
www.sdbwomen.org

## For such a time as this

by Paula Reynolds  
Toronto, Canada

It has been a wonderful experience getting to know my new nephew. Luke is the first grandchild on both sides of the family and was much anticipated.

Through his arrival I have experienced the meaning of Esther 4:14—“And who knows but that you have come to your... [position] for such a time as this?”

Of course I am no queen, and I haven't a kingdom to save. But just as Esther's journey allowed her to serve and save the Jewish people, the path to my career has allowed me to be of service to my sister.

I've always wanted to work with babies, and to that end did a 10<sup>th</sup> grade co-op program in labor and delivery. At that time, my dream of becoming an obstetrician morphed into a passion to be a nurse in obstetrics.

However, by the time high school was over I was so tired of classes that I decided I had had enough and started working at McDonalds full-time. That got “old” really fast and so I buckled down and applied to a nursing program.

Fast-forward through a grueling two-and-a-half year program with shortened summer breaks and a six-hour licensing exam, and *voila!* I was a nurse!

I worked on a post-surgical floor until I attended a graduation tea at school. A fellow student, knowing I had always wanted to do obstetrics,

told me about a hospital that was hiring new grads in combined care (mother-baby unit). I applied and was hired.

Unfortunately, I haven't seen that student to thank her, but I sometimes think she was placed in my life simply to share God's plan. Paul wrote in Romans 8:28 that “all things work together for the good to them that love God.” I knew this was definitely the Lord working in my life and leading me where He wanted me to go.

I spent a few months in combined care and then cross-trained in labor and delivery, my true love. I have enjoyed every minute of helping new lives into the world and serving people as they transition from a couple to a larger family. Helping a patient through her contractions, closely monitoring the baby's heart rate, and including the father in this overwhelming and scary process is all in service to God.

Of course not every situation is happy. I am in God's service when I care for the little lost lives and the grieving families. I have also developed a passion for breastfeeding and have a sense of joy when I help a mother fulfill her desire to feed her child naturally.

How does all this tie in to my nephew? Over the past several weeks I have been able to help my sister as a first-time mom. After

working a 12-hour shift, I stayed throughout the day until Luke was born and the new family was settled for the night. Then I assisted with his feedings and tried to calm my sister's anxiety over whether or not she would be successful at breastfeeding.

Her confidence grows every day and she has gone from tears to joy as she journeys through motherhood. To me, this has been my greatest act of service.

I don't regret the 4:00 a.m. dashes to her house, or the three-hour naps between assisting her with feedings after working 12 hours, or talking her through her moments of feeling defeated. I wouldn't trade it for anything and I can see how God has directed my life so I could serve at such a time as this. *SR*

*Paula Reynolds is a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Toronto, where she serves on the praise team and helps*



*with Sabbath School and children's church. She works at Humber River Regional Hospital and hopes to see as much of the world as her vacation time allows!*



## Exciting times at the Society

As the Historical Society prepares for the upcoming General Conference sessions at Hope College in Holland, Mich., it seems like a good time to give you an update on our work.

The Society's 2011 Annual Meeting was held on May 15 at the SDB Center in Janesville. This meeting is our yearly review and summary of the Society's work, as well as the chance for our membership to select their Board of Directors and corporate officers.

Our usual business included: a financial update, the reading and adoption of the Society's 2010 Annual Report, the induction of new life members (three this year), and the election of our officers as well as the election of a director to a five-year term. This year, Paul Green was re-elected as a director.

The election of officers found us re-electing all the directors into their current offices (see box below). The Society also voted to elect Elizabeth Camenga—a college student and member of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church—an associate director. This new position is a trial program to attempt to include younger people in the work of the Society. Associate directors participate in all Society business but do not vote. If this pilot program functions well, it may lead to further by-law revisions in the future.

### *Historical Society Directors and Officers*

Janet Thorngate, President  
Ruth Burdick, First Vice President  
Judith Parrish, Second Vice President  
Norma MacLuskie, Secretary  
Paul Green, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Camenga, Associate Director


In addition to our usual business, the Society discussed the work of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Denominational Restructuring. To prepare for this, Society members received questionnaires in the mail asking about their concerns, and for feedback regarding the General Conference request that the independent agencies like ours consider merging with the Conference.

Responses from the questionnaires were compiled, and we heard from Ad-Hoc Committee members Jim Skaggs and Ron Ochs as part of our meetings. The committee members also fielded questions from Society members about the current by-law proposals and their potential effect on the Society.

No decisions about merging were made at our May meeting. We are in a process of exploration, education and evaluation which will ultimately lead to a vote of our membership when such a vote is merited.

In the meantime the work of the Historical Society, like time itself, marches on. We are excited to announce that we have a publishing agreement with Mercer University Press for a second edition of *A Choosing People*, the in-depth Seventh Day Baptist history book by Don Sanford. We expect the new version to be ready in 2012.

We are also engaged in an effort to redesign our website ([www.sdbhistory.org](http://www.sdbhistory.org)) which should be completed by the end of the year. Work continues to automate the library so that the catalog can be searched through our webpage. However, because of changes in our database software, we will be switching gears from one version of our entry program to another this fall. This change will mean that searching our collection (and entering data from it) can be achieved through internet browsers, rather than a dedicated program that people would need to install on their computers.

As always, we continue our service to the individuals and congregations of the SDB General Conference. If we can be of service to you or your church, we invite you to contact us. Our ministry of remembrance exists to tell the story of Seventh Day Baptists, including your story and the story of your church! 



## COM updates

by Gordon Lawton, Dean  
Director of Pastoral Services

### Summer Institute Changes

The 2011 Summer Institute began in January. (And we are in the Northern Hemisphere!)

This year's class in Sabbath Theology is the first to be converted to have an on-line component. This was done so that the same material is covered as in previous years, while the time away at the SDB Center is reduced to one week.

Enrolled students have been busy reading, writing and posting weekly. The class time will be used to hear and discuss exegetical (a Bible study) presentations of assigned texts. I am looking forward to a busy week in August when the students will discuss, present and finish their papers.

### Student Fundraising Successful

Our 13 seminary students have raised over \$16,000 since they began the effort last fall. This successful program has been encouraged by a generous 2-to-1 matching from the Memorial Fund trustees.

Modeled after the SCSC fundraising, this plan helps raise the funds which the Center on Ministry (COM) provides as financial aid to our seminary students. The financial aid is structured as a loan, but will be forgiven based on years of service as an SDB pastor.

COM put this plan in place at their midyear meeting last August. It is structured as an ongoing annual plan focused on the school year. That means that this fall you may again receive a request from a seminary student. Thank you for your past giving and your prayerful support in the future.

### On-line Accountability

In the March issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*, I wrote of our response to the General Conference's request that COM research, implement and publicize a program for on-line

accountability to our pastors and pastors in training.

The program is with a company called Covenant Eyes, and the accountability software can be placed on multiple devices for the same fee. The person chooses one or more accountability partners who will receive a regular report of computer activity. My accountability partner is my wife and she gets reports about every four days.

To date, a few have signed up for this program. If the \$24 per year cost is an obstacle, this might be a service the church could provide for their pastor. **SR**

### Pastoral Changes Since January 2010

#### Marc Baker

Lake Elsinore, CA (1/10)

#### David Stall

Ashaway, RI (7/10)

#### Ken Lance

Asheville, NC (7/10)

#### Josh Michaels, Assistant

Berlin, NY (9/10)

#### Liz Green, Associate

Milton, WI (1/11)

#### Norman Fearon

Ft. Lauderdale, FL (1/11)

#### William Shobe

Dodge Center, MN (3/11)

#### Shay Rankhorn

Shepherd's Fold, TN (4/11)

#### Tom Browka

Leonardsville-  
Brookfield, NY (4/11)

#### Barry Dailey

SE Atlanta, GA (4/11)

#### Steve Graffius, Assistant

Riverside, CA (4/11)

#### Brent Hannah

Salem, WV (7/11)

#### Carl Greene

Hebron, PA (7/11)



## Sponsoring the future

### *What it means to sponsor a youth at Conference*

Seventh Day Baptists in the USA and Canada value our annual Conference session. We value it so much that organizing an annual family-oriented week is listed as one responsibility the Conference has toward member churches in our newly-adopted document, “Conference Membership Responsibilities.”

We work hard together to make the annual gathering happen. We also work hard together to make it a time that is family-oriented.

One way we make the Conference a family-oriented event is by requiring a sponsor for all people under the age of 18. The sponsor’s responsibility is to keep the child or youth safe, help them find the right place to be, and to help them find a way to participate when they arrive.

Sometimes, this isn’t all that demanding a task. For **children**, the Board of Christian Education serves the Conference by providing a fairly thorough program that oversees care and education through much of the day and early evening. The programming seeks to find ways to explore Scripture, to explore aspects of Seventh Day Baptist identity, and to find opportunities for some kind of service in the community.

For **junior high** youth, the program is not as comprehensive, but does provide programming through the day. For **senior high** youth, the programming is further reduced to a scheduled Bible Study geared for them and evening activities.

For children and younger youth, sponsoring can include helping young people find their classroom and making sure they show up at the appointed times. For older youth, sitting down and reviewing the Conference schedule may be necessary. Together you can work through the opportunities of the week, pick places to be, and ways to participate.

Sponsoring also means figuring out a way to know, in general, where the youth is and what the youth is doing. There are several ways to make this happen. I’ll share one model, the one used with me through the 1980s:

*“You’ll need to find one of us at each meal, at the start of Bible Study, at the start of business, and at the start of the evening worship service. Since you’ll be going to an interest committee that we aren’t attending, you’ll need to make sure that Pastor So-n-So knows you’re there.*

*“In addition, right before you go to your room for the night, let us know you are in. You are responsible for finding us; it isn’t our job to track you down.”*

Now, I don’t know if these exact words were ever said to me, but I remember my parents making clear what they expected of me during the week of General Conference. It meant consistently checking in to show that I was in the pre-

determined places and paying attention to what was happening.

Since I chose (at a relatively young age) to attend the business meetings, the interest committees, the agency reports, and the Bible Studies instead of participating in the Associated Conferences, my parents looked for ways to accommodate that interest while still making sure that I was where I had agreed to be and was participating.

For business, they found people I could sit with—people who were willing to answer my whispered questions about what was happening and how it worked. Looking back, I’m relatively confident that they warned at least one person in my chosen interest committee that I was coming, or arranged for someone to be present who could provide interactive training in the “live committee” setting.

As I aged from 13 to 18, the number of times I needed to check in was gradually reduced. In my final year with a sponsor, I only checked in at meals and before curfew.

The method used for me is not the only way to go about it. I’m confident that there are other ways that those who sponsor and those who are sponsored can make the relationship work. However, at its heart, sponsoring is making sure our young people are safe, making sure they have a place to be, and making sure they have a way to participate. **SR**





## FOCUS on Missions

# Sabbathkeepers in Muskogee

by Kirk Looper

Muskogee may be a small city in eastern Oklahoma, but it is the largest in the area. It is known as “the Azalea Capital.” Spring tours feature gardens loaded with azaleas with numerous blossoms and a variety of colors.

It is also a harbor town for the Arkansas River with navigation locks and industries that depend upon the river traffic to transport goods and produce. Small hills and a multitude of rivers and recreational reservoirs surround Muskogee with outstanding fishing spots. The city holds one of the largest veteran’s hospitals.

In this beautiful city there is a new group forming with the possibility of becoming Seventh Day Baptists. When Justin and Sue Camenga, and Vivian and I met with them for a Sabbath meeting, there were 23 adults and six children. A couple of the families who regularly attend were away on vacation or other trips.

The ages of the adults ranged from late teens to over 60. They were an active group and the service was on a more conservative level. We enjoyed the music as well as the Sabbath School lesson.

Everyone was congenial and made us feel at home. I believe they would welcome anyone who wanted to visit them. They may even try to talk you into joining them permanently!

Justin presented a sermon and was engaged with the congregation during the break between Sabbath School and church, as well as during the meal after the service. Sabbath School began at 2:00 p.m. with the worship service following a refreshment time.

Sabbath School was led by Stacy Tipton. Jim Shockley led the worship service along with a worship team consisting of two men and two

women. The pianist, Glenda Shockley, played for both services. The former pastor is Albert Nunez. He continues to attend and participate but his job has Sabbath requirements that made him feel he could not pastor the church.

After church we were given time to describe what SDBs believe. It gave them a chance to ask questions and talk about their expectations and needs. We were pleased that so many had questions pertaining to the work of the Conference, our beliefs, polity, and Sabbath convictions.

Their interests ranged from organization, development, ownership, Conference expectations and help, to their independence and ability to run their own work there. We talked about autonomy and their responsibilities to the members, as well as to the General Conference.

They have become leery about some of the requirements and the doctrine and polity of other groups. They seem impressed with our polity and the basic doctrinal statement we studied with them. The church has been organized and has been meeting for awhile. It appears to be a stable group with individuals traveling from neighboring communities as well as Muskogee.

This group could use our encouragement. This could be done through visits by SDBs as you travel on vacations. The contact person, Kim Williams, would be happy to discuss your attendance and give you specifics about the group—where and when they meet. To get more

information you can contact the Missionary Society at 401-596-4326 or [sdbmissoc@verizon.net](mailto:sdbmissoc@verizon.net). **SR**



*Top: A group of joyful Sabbathkeepers meets at this location in Muskogee, Oklahoma.*

*Bottom: Justin Camenga (rt.) talks with two of the church members in Muskogee.*



# the BEACON

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

July-Aug. 2011

## Looking back

by Emily Olson

My last *Beacon* article.

I have written about everything from stress to toilet fundraisers. I have gone from being unsure about whether or not I wanted to do the *Beacon* to “being okay” with it—then back to being unsure—and finally really appreciating the whole experience.

I find that I actually enjoy writing and I’m a little sad to let this position go. When I think back to the beginning last July, I was totally against the idea of being *Beacon* editor. I didn’t want it, and even though I admitted it, I was still wishing that I could run away like Jonah.

Thankfully, God helped me to enjoy it. This whole experience reminds me of a well-known but very important verse: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

I think this is an important verse to remember. Sometimes God asks



“  
**Listening  
to and following  
His call is one of the  
most important  
things you can do.**  
”

you to do things that stretch you. We may not always be willing, but God is patient. He works to bring us to the place where we can follow His plan.

When we run from those plans, we often end up in trouble—not because God wants us to be in trouble, but because we aren’t in the place we are supposed to be. God wants what’s best for us. Unfortunately, what He thinks is best isn’t always what *we* think is best. Trust me, just going with His plans is way easier.

I think everyone at one point makes a promise that they aren’t ever going to do something. You’ll “Never get married,” “Never be a pastor,” “Never be a missionary,” “Never be a teacher,” or, like me: “Never be the *Beacon* editor.” Many times, however, the plans that we think are best for us aren’t, because they aren’t *God’s* plans.

God’s plan is best because He wants what is best for us. If you let Him, He’ll help you understand His plan and lead you to it. Listening to and following His call is one of the most important things you can do. God knows you better than you know yourself. And like the verse says, He has plans for you.

My last challenge for all of you is to follow God’s plan. Let Him lead you wherever He wants you to go. **SR**



# 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*

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## The torch has been passed

During President John Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address he proclaimed, "Let the word go forth—the torch has been passed to a new generation."

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, those words echoed through my mind when I learned that the last of my aunts and uncles had died.

Goldie Marion Florence Edwardson, who turned 90 on May 24, was the youngest of nine children born to Lui and Augusta Kutz on the family farm in Lima Center, Wis. She was also the little sister of my mother, Bernice Martinsen.

Goldie and Mom loved to dance and both played the piano "by ear." With no formal training, Goldie also played the organ, ukulele and harmonica.

Their love of music even invaded the kitchen. Much to their mother's chagrin, Goldie and Mom frequently sang as they leisurely did the dishes—often for 16 people, including hired hands and live-in grandparents.

"Girls!" Grandma Kutz would scold. "Stop singing and finish the dishes!"

As teenagers, the two stayed up late listening and dancing to Big Band music on the family's large Philco radio. Years later, Goldie recalled, "Pa still had good hearing, and he could especially hear the bass thumping during the songs. But he never complained. One morn-

ing when he came downstairs and walked past us, all he said was, 'Oompah-pa, oompah-pa.'"

My paternal cousin, Ruth Ann Hess, remembers a trip to nearby Fireside Dinner Theatre.

"When we took Goldie home, she stood on her back porch, lifted her dress above her knees, and starting doing the can-can—kicking her legs into the air." That was vintage Aunt Goldie, dancing her way through life.

Goldie was my favorite aunt. Because she lived just a few miles away, my siblings and I spent many hours with her three offspring.

Although she wore a perpetual smile, Goldie's life wasn't without heartaches. Her two daughters went through divorces (both have been happily remarried for years now), and her son was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at age 52. He died in 2003.

In 2002, her beloved husband, Clarence "Cash" Edwardson, died after 60-plus years of marriage. During the eulogy for her mother, daughter Shelley pointed out that Cash and Goldie were aptly named because they were "treasures."

Throughout the decades, I never once saw Goldie "down" or wallowing in self-pity. I'm sure she had her moments, but she seemed constantly upbeat and vibrantly alive.

Like my mother, Goldie was a committed Wisconsin Synod Lutheran. She was one of my sponsors when I was baptized as an infant,



*Leanne's Mom (left) and Aunt Goldie.*

standing in front at the church that her parents helped found.

As my godmother, Goldie vowed before the Lord to faithfully pray for me and help me grow in my Christian faith. She was a wonderful role model of how a Christian wife and mother should live her life, and I'll always be grateful for that.

Although I like other translations better, I still cherish the large King James Bible that Aunt Goldie gave me when I confirmed my baptismal vows as a teenager. My maiden name is embossed in gold ink on the Bible's cover, and inside is the simple inscription, "Presented to Leanne Kay Martinsen from your sponsor Aunt Goldie."

With Goldie's death, the "torch" has been passed to me, and to my siblings and cousins. We're now the new/old generation of aunts and uncles. That's a strange and emotionally-charged thought.

My wish—my fervent prayer—is that we can meet the challenge of filling the big shoes of those beloved relatives who preceded us.

Well done, good and faithful servants. **SR**



***The President's  
Page***

by Stephen Rogers

Holland, Michigan July 31–Aug. 6, 2011

## Conference is oh-so-close!

I encourage you to get the full benefit of your time spent at Conference. There are Bible studies, worship programs, numerous interest committees, general business sessions, and seminars (see below) scheduled throughout the week for your participation.

It is my hope that each of us will seek new ways to let the Spirit grow in our lives, to be manifest in our daily walk, and shared in our common Christian experiences. I look forward to seeing you in Holland, Michigan! **SR**

### **What's in your vault?**

*Nick Kersten, SDB Librarian-Historian*

The SDB Historical Society Library and Archives contain powerful tools for exploring our heritage as Seventh Day Baptists.

Learn about the collection and how you can use it to bolster your own faith. (Tuesday, repeated Thursday)

### **Biblical Leadership**

*Rob Appel, Conference Executive;  
Pastors George Calhoun and Andy Samuels*

In our efforts to fulfill the Great Commission, we need to constantly evaluate the objectives and relevance of our work. Just because we are busy doesn't mean it is to a purpose.

Since form follows function, we will use the book *The Master Plan of Evangelism* to understand the leadership principles that were underlying in Jesus' ministry—principles that determined His methods.

(Two-day seminar with some advance preparation necessary)

### **Fasting**

*Dr. Paul Davis*

Paul is a practicing physician from Salem, West Virginia. The workshop will cover three areas on the topic of fasting: its Biblical Basis, some Clinical Considerations, and fasting as a Spiritual Sacrifice. (Tuesday, repeated Thursday)

### **Short-Term Missions**

*Kirk Looper, SDB Missionary Society*

Examples of mission trips organized by a church or group. Members from four churches will cover the process of selecting, developing and preparing for a project. Those participating are from Milton, WI (post-disaster missions in southern U.S.); Miami, FL (work in Haiti and Jamaica); New Auburn, WI (work in Jamaica); and Calvin Babcock (techniques for fund-raising). Our prayer is that you will organize a short-term mission trip to one of our sister Conferences or churches. (Thurs. only)

### **Principles for Blended Worship**

*Pastor Dave Stall*

Description in Conference booklet.  
(A two-day seminar)



by Executive Director  
Rob Appel

## Sweet home, Alabama

[Note from Rob: As part of our ongoing series, “*Churches on the Move*,” we take a look at the changes happening in the Paint Rock, Alabama, SDB Church. The information was written by **Pastor John Bevis**.]



In 1968, I became a Seventh Day Baptist and joined the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church. At that time I never thought I would eventually end up as pastor for 25 years.

Shortly after joining, the church gave me a license to preach. I wasn't quite sure at the time what that meant.

Thanks to the assistance of Rev. Alton Wheeler and Dr. K.D. Hurley,

I was employed to teach history at Salem (W.Va.) College. Some five years later, I became editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, a position I would hold for nine years.

While working for the Tract Society in New Jersey, I helped to organize the Raritan Valley, N.J., and New York City

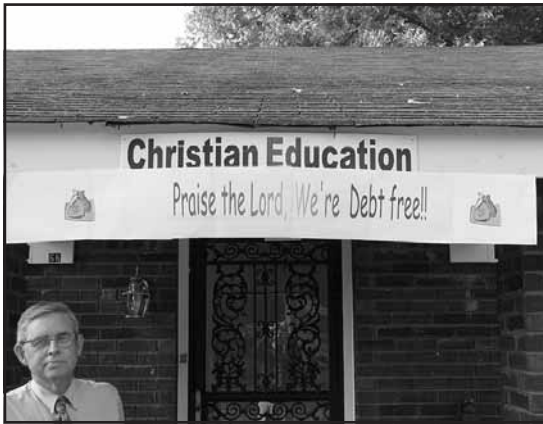
churches. New York City was a challenge. How could we obtain names of those who might be interested?

We consulted the *Sabbath Recorder* and denominational mailing lists. We got names from the Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church guest book. We visited several people in

**cont. next page**



Part of  
the Paint Rock  
congregation.



*A proud and relieved Pastor Bevis after the church paid off the mortgage for their CE building.*

their homes in the city. We asked them for additional names.

We created a mailing list and invited those interested to attend a Sabbath meeting. Fifteen came to that initial gathering. From these faithful people, God led us to a hotel in Manhattan for future services. In time, Socrates Thompson was called to be pastor. Today, there are three churches in New York City.

I returned to Alabama in 1980 and became pastor of the Paint Rock church until June 1982. The "Light-Bearers for Christ" team made Paint Rock their base, and the church grew to some 35-40 in attendance.

After serving the Denver, Colo., church from 1982-1987, I then returned to Paint Rock. The church had declined to five ladies in attendance. Over the years the church has had its ups and downs. We live in a very mobile society and many have moved away from the area. Still, our average attendance last year was 47.

There is always a challenge that we are Baptists who keep the Sabbath, and not some other denomination. We have good results from our large sign on U.S. Highway 72. We've seen to it that our branch churches also have visible signs. Our ad in the phone book has been well worth the cost involved.

The church has a Food Pantry which has been used to assist many in the community. The pastor and several from the church are involved in the Paint Rock Senior Citizen Center. This has helped us become more visible in the community.

Many have toured our facilities. They come to see the stained glass windows that were originally in the DeRuyter, N.Y., church, or to hear the story of the Paint Rock church facility, built in memory of James Edward Butler. He died defending his country in World War II. Several are in regular attendance today from these contacts.

Over the years we have attempted to start branch churches in several locations. One of the success stories is the Metro Atlanta (Ga.) Church, organized with several of our members and with our support. A disappointment was the closing of the Cornerstone SDB Church near Tupelo, Miss. We have studied these two in an attempt to understand why one succeeded and the other did not.

Our branch churches do not have a vote in local Paint Rock church affairs. Neither do we vote in their business issues. They make a quarterly financial report to us. We have a fraternal, supportive relationship. We seek to follow the guidelines found in the SDB Manual of Procedures.

Currently, we have a growing branch in Nashville, Tenn., which we believe will some day be ready for Conference membership. Our newest branch is in nearby Huntsville, Ala. We believe God is leading and blessing these new churches. **SR**



*Pastor John welcomed Derrick Whitlow as pastor of the new group in Huntsville.*



# PROP—It's more than just numbers

by Morgan Shepard

*“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” (1 Tim. 5:17 NIV)*

### Eleven pensioners with—

- A combined 350 years of service
- An average age of 82
- An average of 32 years of service
- An average pension of \$7,709 per year

The Pastor’s Retirement Offering Project (“PROP”) was established in 1979. The goal was to raise \$500,000 in 10 years to support those pastors and denominational workers who were 55 years old or older and who had served SDB churches, Boards and Agencies. PROP also provides disability insurance for current qualifying pastors and denominational employees.

Today, PROP is worth \$37,154 with an expected outlay this year of \$120,000. Sixty-two endowments provide an annual income of \$20,000 and annual gifts average \$10,000. If you do the math, the numbers just don’t add up.

### 2010 Retirement Expenses

Retirement Pensions	\$107,734.98
Disability Insurance	12,964.08
Total	\$120,699.06

But this is about more than just numbers. We were recently reminded of this through a note from Bob and Lois Edwards following the death of her mother, Ethel Davis Dickinson Clarke. While Ethel’s PROP pension was small, it made a significant difference in her life (please see note).

There are seven pastors (with four spouses), and four surviving spouses who receive a pension from PROP. They have been, and continue to be, faithful servants to SDBs. We need to be faithful to them.

### Pastors

- Leroy C. Bass
- C. Rex Burdick
- Leland E. Davis
- David C. Pearson
- Donald E. Richards
- Victor W. Skaggs
- Edgar F. Wheeler

### Other Retirees

- Joyce L. Conrod
- William McCallister
- Doris Van Horn
- Cynthia J. Brissey

If any of these faithful workers touched your life, would you please consider helping them? Your gift now and into the future will help ensure we can continue to honor their service.

See you in Holland, Michigan! **SR**

*I also want to thank you and the SDB denomination for caring for their former pastors and wives through the monthly pension from PROP. That definitely helped us to keep Mom in a facility where she received excellent care. Again, thank you from both of us.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lois and Bob Edwards*

# Teach your children well

by Cindy Nadeau

On Sabbath, May 21, 2011 the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, R.I., awarded eight medals to their youth.

Under the teaching of Kerri Barber, Debi Barber, and Lauri Barber, these girls earned their "God and Me" award: Emily Barber, Helen Barber and Abigail Nadeau (l. to r. in photo). They learned that Jesus is their best friend and is always with them. The young ladies also learned the Lord's Prayer and can be heard each week setting the pace for the congregation.

With Hiram Barber IV and Doug Badger as their teachers, Spencer Barber, Isaac Barber, Simon Barber,



Adam Nadeau and Patrick Nadeau (l. to r. in photo) all earned their "God and Church" awards. They learned about the structure and polity of the local church. They also learned about having a daily Bible reading.

They all worked from books developed by Programs of Religious

Activities with Youth (PRAY). The books are written non-denominational, with the local church then adding in their own polity and distinctives. Each book is written by grade level and includes ideas for children's activities. **SR**

## New members

### Paint Rock, AL

*John Bevis, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Clyde Thompson

### Seattle Area, WA

*Ken Burdick, pastor*

Joined after testimony

Jenny Jensen

## Obituaries

### Dozier.—Rose Marie (Lucas)

Dozier, 64, of North Little Rock, Ark., passed away on February 9, 2011.

She was born December 31, 1946 in Little Rock, Ark., to the late Andrew J. and Marie (Korte) Lucas. She was a graduate of Mount Saint Mary Academy. Rose was a member of the Little Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Ann Marie Dozier of Little Rock; two sons, Gerald Dozier of North Little Rock and James Lee Dozier of Thibodaux, La.; two granddaughters; a sister, Rita Lucas Gibbs of Hot Springs, Ark., and two brothers, Andrew Lucas Jr. of Fayetteville, Ark., and James Korte Lucas of North Little Rock.

### Furman.—Evelyn Livingston

Furman, 97, of Leadville, Colo., died in the home of her granddaughter in Highlands Ranch, Colo., on February 16, 2011.

Born April 17, 1913 a pioneering spirit was the "steering wheel" of her life. The road map included significant stops along the way: Growing up in Dodge Center, Minn., as part of the Dodge Center SDB Church; a young woman seeking a college degree; taking a summer job with the family of a geologist to travel to the majestic mountains of Leadville (the geologist was on a mining venture with the famous "Baby Doe Tabor"); deciding to stay in that historic city and make it her home marrying a miner, Gordon Furman, and living in a miner's cabin not far from Baby Doe and the Matchless Mine; going door-to-door selling washing machines, finally building a furniture and appliance business with her husband who had just lost his right arm in an ore crusher.

With her aptitude for business, Evelyn succeeded in this area generally reserved for men. Interest in the Tabor family history grew. When the Elks Lodge decided to sell the Tabor

Opera House in 1955, Evelyn found a way to purchase it and preserve its history. In the summer, the Tabor was the highlight of her life as she shared its past with visitors from all over the world.

Then the author in Evelyn appeared as she wrote four books about the infamous Tabors. Not knowing nor even caring to know what discrimination was, she simply saw a need, took up the challenge, and fought her way to a successful completion of each venture. One of the first women to vote, she proudly cast her vote in Leadville. Throughout the years she maintained her membership and interest in the Dodge Center SDB Church.

Evelyn is survived by a daughter, Sharon Bland; two grandchildren, Heather Cumpston and Richard Krueger; two step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Fulfilling Evelyn's wishes, her funeral was held in the historic



## Obituaries, cont.

Tabor Opera House in Leadville, Colo., on February 20, 2011. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in Leadville.

**Lawrence.**—Pastor Cormeth George Lawrence, 67, of Palm Bay, Fla., quietly passed away on March 30, 2011 surrounded by his family and friends, after a 12-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Cormeth was born on August 5, 1943 in Georgetown, St. Mary, Jamaica. His educational journey began at Jackson Primary School in St. Mary. After completing his secondary education, he left the Jamaican countryside and relocated to the city of Kingston where he joined his older brother Val Bennett. While there, Cormeth became a member of the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church and became its first Youth Fellowship President. He and two of his church brothers formed the Gospel singing group, the Gospel Heralds.

Cormeth remained active in his community and church until he moved to the U.S. in 1971. He joined the Mount Zion Church of God Seventh Day in Brooklyn, N.Y.

His accounting job with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation led to his relocating to Bethlehem, Pa. He married the former Lois Silvera in 1977 at the Morning Star Holiness Church in Philadelphia.

Cormeth was ordained as a pastor in 1980 by the Remnant Church of God, Seventh Day. Subsequently, he became a member of the Hope SDB Church in Philadelphia and served as Associate Pastor, as well as other

offices. He served on the General Council of the SDB General Conference, 1990-1993.

Lois and Cormeth had three children and lived in Bethlehem until they relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 2003. The Miami SDB Church recognized his ordination as a pastor in 2004, and they became members of the newly-planted SDB Church of Fort Lauderdale. After moving to Palm Bay, Fla., they traveled the two-and-a-half hour (one way) trip to Fort Lauderdale whenever they could. By that time, Cormeth's battle with Parkinson's Disease was in an advance stage.

Pastor Cormeth was known for his vibrant smile and easy laugh that he did not hesitate to share with the people he held dear. He loved with his whole heart. One way he expressed his love for his wife was through poetry. He wrote that Lois is "the sugar in his tea, his coat in winter, and the dip for his chip."

Cormeth was a faithful husband, a dedicated father, and a loyal friend. He will always be remembered for his strong faith in Christ which he expressed in many of his sermons.

His life is being celebrated by the following: wife, Lois; daughters: Golda, Colena, Cordea and Carissa; sons: Geovanni and Osbourne; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild; three brothers: Keith, Clem and Val; two sisters: Shirley and Zadie; and a host of other relatives, church family and friends.

A memorial service was held on April 14, 2011 at the Melbourne Church of Christ, West Melbourne, Fla.

**Sutton.**—Nancy Helen (Fitzpatrick) Sutton, 89, passed away on March 31, 2011 at Ayers Health and Rehabilitation Center in Trenton, Fla.

She was born September 6, 1921 in Kermit, W.Va., to Thomas Edward

and Lucy (Salmons) Fitzpatrick. Thomas was a coal miner and died before Helen was born.

Helen spent a good deal of her childhood at the International Order of Odd Fellows Home in Elkins, W.Va., and graduated from Elkins High School. She married Francis Brady Sutton and spent much of her married life in Doddridge County, W.Va.

Besides being wife, mother, and homemaker, Helen enjoyed gardening and many creative projects. She was an active member of the Currydale Home Extension Club. One of her favorite volunteer duties was reading stories to grade school students. She was a strong advocate for education to family and others.

She was an active member of the Middle Island SDB Church in New Milton, W.Va., for many years. She did the cleaning, taught Sabbath School, served as an officer of the church and served the Conference. She treasured family and friends, making a concerted effort to stay in touch by cards and letters, recognizing happy milestones as well as moments of sadness and pain.

Her parents, her husband, and an infant daughter, Nancy Lee Sutton, preceded her in death. She was also preceded by brothers Clyde Fitzpatrick, Claude Fitzpatrick and Lee Fitch; sisters Florence Kertz, Anna Ruth Mason and Dorothy Varney.

Helen is survived by her three sons John, Joel and James; nine grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren; and her sister Reba Jenkins, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church on May 29, 2011 with Rev. D. Scott Smith officiating. Burial of her ashes was at the Masonic Memorial Cemetery in Crystal Lake, W.Va.



# Finding your way to Hope (College)

The Conference Host Committee hopes you are planning to come to Hope College in Holland, Mich., for Conference. It's almost here!

All those flying to Holland must make reservations through Grand Rapids International Airport (GRR). Then the Host Committee can transport you to the Hope campus. **Greyhound** bus service and **Amtrak** train service is direct to Holland. The Committee will also take you to the college.

If you are driving to Holland from I-94 in southern Michigan (just north of Benton Harbor), take I-196/US 31 North. Continue to Holland, staying on US 31 when I-196 splits off just south of the city. Drive past the Business I-196/US 31 exits as well.

Stay on US 31 to 8th Street, then turn west. Go one mile and take College Street south for two blocks to arrive at the Hope College campus. The registration area will be marked.

Please join us July 31–August 6, 2011, in the Water Wonderland State for a wonderful, family-friendly vacation and Conference!



The Annual Meeting of the members of the SDB Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held on the campus of **Hope College**, Holland, Mich., immediately following the evening worship service of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada, Ltd., on Monday, August 1, 2011. The specific location for the meeting will be prominently announced.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 2010 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of the member churches of the SDB General Conference are members of the corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 2011 General Conference sessions in Holland, Mich., are entitled to vote at this meeting.

## From breakfast to banquet for Megan

*A follow-up on our page 4 story*

*From the editor:* Two days before going to press with this issue I received an e-mail from Steve Moncrief in Shiloh. He said that Megan was doing well with her chemo treatments, but after she got home this past week she suffered some setbacks and passed away.

I was stunned and saddened. My first thought was, *I should have run that article in the June issue so Megan could have seen it!* But there just wasn't enough space.

Then I remembered Steve's short description of Megan. "Megan loves the Lord and has a very positive attitude." But her physical complications became too much.

A sad local newspaper article begins, "Having shown her community true courage and faith through her 19 years of life, Megan Daddario passed away unexpectedly on Thursday evening at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia after bravely battling Hodgkin's lymphoma and a congenital heart condition."

I rarely check my e-mail on Sab-

bath morning, but this time I did. There was a purpose. My prayers at church were directed toward Megan's family. Why couldn't I decide on Friday what to use for this spot on the page? There was a purpose. This story needed to be shared.

For the Shiloh church's fundraiser for Megan, all of that work and all of that food was not wasted. There was a purpose.

Megan displayed a positive witness, as did the Shiloh people in their outpouring of love, support and elbow grease. Now, there are no more treatments, no more complications, no more pain. As great as it was, the sumptuous and loving breakfast spread out at the church is "nothing" compared to the eternal wedding banquet laid before Megan.

As one of her friends shared, "Megan, you honestly may be one of the biggest influences of my life. You told me... how life was so amazing and never to give up. I listened to you; I'll never give up."

There was a purpose. **SR**

# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

### Power in the storm

A huge thunderstorm roared through our area last night. The cold front whipped winds up to 90 miles an hour, dumped heavy rain and hail, and spawned a few funnel clouds here in southern Wisconsin.

I was still at my office at the SDB Center, just about to head home after a long day. Staying late to review for the final test of an internet course, I had just shut down the computer and was heading toward the front door when the storm hit with all its fury. With torrential rain and tree branches hurtling past the window I got the hint that it might be best to hunker

down in the lower level of our building.

Since the storm was heading toward our house I called Janet's cell phone to see if they were doing all right. She told me not to be in any rush to come home since they were already getting "hit"—in fact, the power was out. At the Center, the lights flickered for only a moment but we never lost power. After more than an hour had passed, the storm let up enough for me to get home.

As the night progressed we kept thinking (and hoping) that the electricity would soon be restored. Our thinking and hoping went for naught; the power remained off this morning. I wasn't sure about how much hot water we'd have so I took a real quick shower while warming more water on the gas stove.

The after-effects of the storm left the morning skies cloudy and dark, so it felt good to get to the office where we had bright lights and working computers.

I called the local power company to report our outage. The automated system told me that the company was aware of the situation (reported to them soon after it happened). They also recorded my cell phone number so they could call me once the power was returned.

Going to their website I see that a large chunk of the stateline area has outages, but really only a tiny section in Janesville. Lucky us.

Nearly 20 hours have gone by and still no phone call. I know that the power is still off because I get a busy signal when calling the home phone. With no appliances working there, I guess I'd better stop for some pizza. Oh, and get some ice to chill whatever food we can salvage from the fridge.

It's getting close to 24 hours, and we have (finally) seen some power company trucks go by the house. Hey—the fridge motor just came alive and a few lights popped on! We are back in business!

While the power was off, I sure realized how much we take it for granted.

- When we want light, we "instinctively" reach for the switch.
- Curious about the weather? Check the weather map on TV.
- Need information in a hurry? Search the internet.
- Want to be entertained? Watch a video and have microwave popcorn.

Oops. We couldn't do any of that, and got frustrated. We really are spoiled in this country.

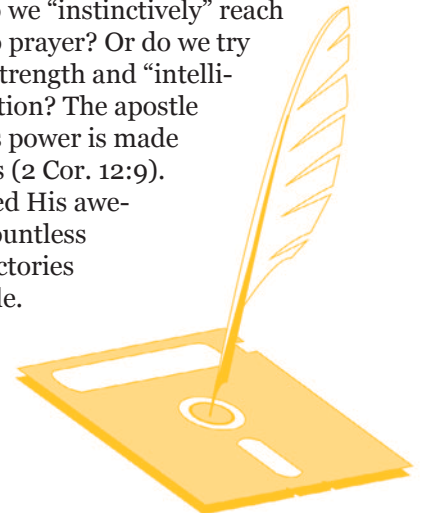
How many people live in this world, and survive all right, with no electricity?

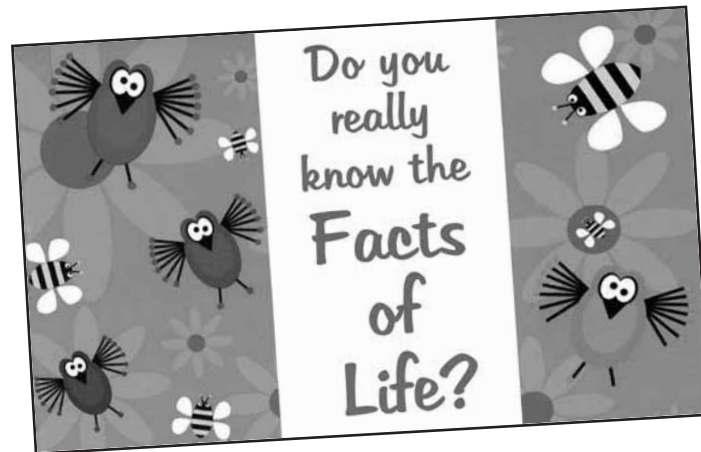
Yet how many people live empty or powerless lives—spiritually—while God's power is close and available?

When we go through a stormy time and need supernatural power, do we "instinctively" reach for our Bibles and go to prayer? Or do we try to muster up our own strength and "intelligence" to face the situation? The apostle Paul learned that God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

The Lord has revealed His awesome power through countless verses and countless victories in the lives of His people.

May we tap into His limitless resources and live each day in His power!





## The Offer of Salvation

Vibrant artwork lays out seven Facts to real—and eternal—life. Powerful Bible references point readers to their need for Christ and his sacrifice, ending with an invitation to become part of the closest SDB congregation.

Each 20-page booklet is only 20 cents (plus postage). Please call for larger orders so we can calculate the shipping costs. Or, go to the on-line store at our website and the checkout system will calculate the shipping for you.

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