

Sabbath Recorder

**STAND  
FIRM**

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication  
November 2015



# STAND FIRM

but the one who **stands firm** to the end will be saved.

— Matthew 24:13

**Stand firm,**  
and you will win life.

— Luke 21:19

When the **storm** has swept by,

the **wicked** are **gone**,

but the righteous

**stand firm** forever.

— Proverbs 10:25

If you do not **stand firm** in your **faith**,  
you will not stand at all.

— Isaiah 7:9

**Be alert** and sober of mind.

Your enemy **the devil** prowls around  
like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, **standing firm** in the faith...

— 1 Peter 5:8-9

Now this I know:

The Lord gives **victory** to his anointed.

**He answers** them from his heavenly sanctuary  
with the victorious **power of his right hand**.

Some **trust** in chariots and some in horses,

but we trust in the name of the **Lord our God**.

...we rise up and **stand firm**.

— Psalm 20:6-8



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# Sabbath Recorder

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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.

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Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in heavenly places.

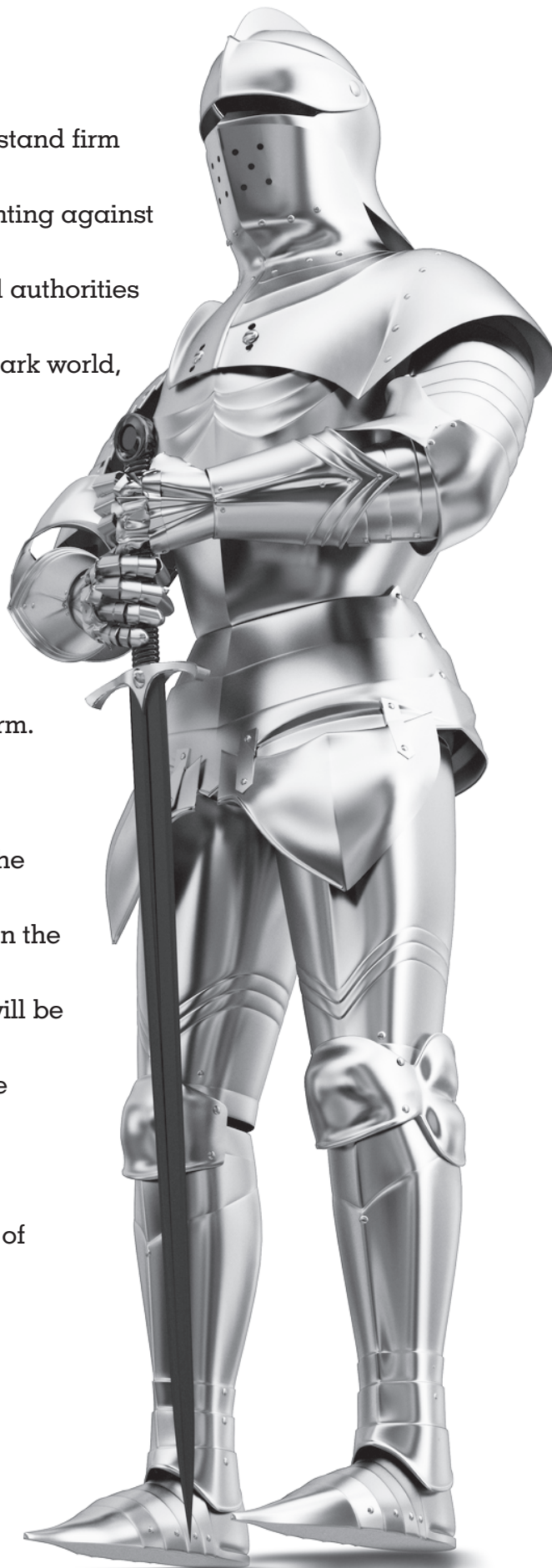
Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

– Ephesians 6:11-17 NLT

Next page is the second in the sermon series by Pastor Nathan Crandall, Senior Pastor, Milton SDB Church, WI





# STAND FIRM

Last month we looked at the need to put on God's armor to stand firm against the wicked schemes that the evil one has planned against us. You can't use worldly weapons to fight a spiritual battle. The Bible says, *"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."* (2 Cor. 10:4) The reason they are powerful is because they are, in fact, God's nature and character. When we reflect the image of God it is because we are becoming more like Him in our nature and character. What is the armor that we have been commanded to wear? It is Christ Jesus Himself. When we put on Christ, we truly can stand against every strategy of the devil.

It has been taught that the apostle Paul was using the equipment of a Roman soldier as his model to talk about God's armor. However, Isaiah the prophet, who wrote hundreds of years before the Roman empire was born, uses almost all of the same words for the full armor when talking about God. *"He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head...and wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle. (full armor)"* (Isaiah 59:17)

There are many parts to the armor of God. This month we take a look at the first three — truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace. The only way to be able to stand firm entirely is to have been fully equipped with God's armor in place. Without these firmly in place, the evil one has options available to push us off our devotion to God and dedication to His will being done in our lives.

## **Truth, Righteousness, and Peace. Where do these come from? They come from God.**

All truth comes from God because God is truth. That doesn't mean that a person who does not know God is incapable of understanding things that are true as opposed to false. What it does mean is that truth is not an abstract concept. Truth is a person. We know what is true because Jesus Christ is truth. He said that He is *"the way, the truth and the life."* (John 14:6)

Righteousness comes from God because God is righteous. *"He is holy."* We know what is right because God is right. He is the standard by which we understand righteousness. Peace comes from God because God is peace. Peace is not the absence of war. Peace is in the presence of God.

*"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having tightly wrapped your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having perfectly fitted your feet with the preparedness of the good news of peace;"* (Ephesians 6:13-15, NCAV)

## **Truth**

The waist area which especially needs strength is the lumbar area up until the 5th vertebrae. A belt was wrapped tightly around the lower waist in order to give the ability to exert maximum pressure. When lifters are moving heavy furniture they have a belt that they wrap tightly around themselves in order to keep safe and to do the heavy lifting. The lumbar region is especially vulnerable to injury when a large force is exerted.

Figuratively, this phrase means "to be ready for anything." To be ready for the attacks of the evil one, we must have truth firmly wrapped around our areas of vulnerability. We cannot have a casual approach to the study and application of God's word and still be prepared for the evil assaults which come our way. We must tightly wrap the word of truth around us.

The phrase "having tightly wrapped your waist with truth" is actually an imperative command. Too often we treat the learning and application of God's word passively. In order to be ready we cannot be passive. There are two ways in which we can be actively prepared. The first is to be an active listener during Sabbath morning messages. An active listener recognizes this truth — that the Lord has something that He wants us to apply to our lives through His word. As it says in James, *"Do not merely listen to the word; do what it says."* We should be asking the Lord each Sabbath morning for at least one action step that He wants us to put into practice. The Lord is our shepherd. He has a plan to lead us to green pastures and still waters. We should anticipate His leadership and be ready to apply what He gives us.

The second way we can be actively prepared is to talk with others about God's word. There is a large difference between the listening that goes on during a sermon and the conversation about the Bible that takes place in a small group study. We cannot expect to be prepared

with truth to the same level if we are not talking about it and studying it and applying it with others. When we are challenged to put God's word into our own words the impact is huge. It is a joy to worship with others in a large group. This is an important part of being a part of God's body of believers. However, from the beginning God's people have met in homes or smaller groups to learn, to fellowship, to worship, to pray, and to be led by the Spirit. When we are missing out on these smaller gatherings it impacts our ability to be prepared with truth.

### Righteousness

Just like body armor which protects a soldier's vital organs, righteousness protects our heart or the core of who we are in Jesus. Righteousness has a two-part meaning. The first is the righteousness of Christ which is given by faith to those who trust Christ alone for salvation from sin and its consequences. This righteousness is absolute. It is 100% purity due to the fact that Jesus was without sin. Some don't believe that it is possible to impart righteousness, but the Bible is clear in its teaching. *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Cor. 5:21) God's righteousness cannot be reached through human effort. In fact, *"all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment."* (Is. 64:6) In order to be protected from the attacks of evil, we need to be given God's righteousness, and this comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. *"The righteous will live by faith."* (Romans 1:17)

The second meaning of righteousness is doing what is right. Although we in our human ability cannot be 100% righteous, we know that there are right things to do and wrong things. It is right to tell the truth. It is right to honor our father and mother. It is right to keep the Sabbath holy. When we value and honor God's standard of righteousness, we understand what is the right thing to do.

We live in a spiritual battlefield. Our heart, which is the central core of what guides our life, is constantly under attack. Proverbs gives this wise advice, *"Guard your heart, it is the wellspring of your life."* The evil one seeks to move us toward accepting and living by a human standard of righteousness instead of God's timeless standard. We are prone to slide into using the world's definition of right and wrong. We need to keep God's righteousness firmly in place so that our hearts can be kept from gravitating toward human standards of righteousness.

### The Good News of Peace

The footwear of a soldier provides a solid foundation on which to fight. Firm footing is essential to standing firm in the middle of a struggle. In the same way the good news which leads us to a relationship with God is the foundation upon which our new life is founded. True peace can only be found through Christ who is the Prince of Peace. The fruit of the Spirit of peace is the overflow of peace that comes from the presence of the source of peace, God himself. The Bible says, *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Romans 5:1)

We can only stand firm when the foundation upon which we stand is secure. Is your foundation secure? Do you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that if you were to die today that you would be with Jesus forever? Are you 100% sure? The good news is that you can be sure. You don't have to wonder about it. You don't have to try and guess whether or not you measure up to God's standard. You don't! But you don't have to be 100% righteous and holy in order to know your relationship with God is secure now and into eternity. Jesus can be your righteousness. You can have peace of mind today by knowing that you have been made righteous or justified by faith in Jesus. Your peace of mind comes from being at peace with God when the Prince of Peace enters your life. 1 John 5:11-12 states, *"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."*

This is a paradox. The gospel of peace brings preparedness to stand firm in our struggle against the evil one. *"It is the appropriation of the gospel of peace which makes one ready for war."* (p.449, WBC, Lincoln) The peace of God is powerful. *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."* (Romans 16:20)

### Stand Firm

How can we stand firm against the work of the evil one in our lives and in our time? We must actively clothe ourselves with truth, righteousness, and the good news of peace. We cannot stand firm by using the tactics of the evil one but instead must learn to resist according to the weapons of God's fighting. In Him we are strong. In Him we overcome all of the strategies of the evil one. SR

# Truth, Righteousness, and Peace



# Spiritual Warfare in Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia Puerto Rico



The second annual youth camp of the Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia in Puerto Rico (Seventh Day Baptist Church in Hoyamala, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico) was held July 13-18, 2015. There were lots of great moments, but the highlight came on Thursday evening, July 16, when we saw the Holy Spirit move and take back His territory and His people.

All week until then, there had been spiritual struggle. The camp cook brought her sons and their behavior deteriorated as the week went on, bringing a spirit of confusion and frustration into the camp. Adding to this situation, some of the adults helping with the camp were unable to stick to the schedule or to provide needed support. The arts and crafts director (from a neighboring church) harshly criticized one camper's efforts to the point of creating hurting feelings and disappointment. Some campers were listless and rebellious — almost defiant. One camper in particular (Wills) was disaffected and began repeating "I want to go home" as early as Tuesday. His behavior began to affect the other campers as the week went on.

Tuesday night, July 14, was a great spirit-filled evening service where youth ministered to youth and were in turn ministered to by adults. The speaker laid hands and prayed, ministered, and prophesied over the youth. But by Wednesday afternoon, the disorganization and rebellion were creeping back into the camp. Wills again stated his desire to go home and was starting to try to recruit other youth to leave the camp. The situation continued as a sort of tug-of-war between organization and chaos until Thursday evening.

One of the youth, Ricardo, had stated before camp that he wanted to get baptized and that celebration was scheduled for Sabbath morning service. But, with the inability of the Berlin, NY, team to be present, and with the struggle going on, a last-minute change was made and the decision taken to baptize Ricardo Friday morning.

When the Thursday evening meal was bordering on chaos, Pastora Judith felt in her spirit that Satan was getting hold of the campgrounds and of some of the campers. As she quietly prayed for wisdom, she was able to discern a whirlwind of destruction and mockery. Immediately she got hold of Ricardo and told him that his baptism was going to be in minutes. She

asked brother Craig Mosher (he was going to help with the baptism the next day) to get into the pool immediately. Without any hesitation he did and she followed. Immediately Ricardo followed. She announced that in order to kick Satan in the teeth, we were going to baptize Ricardo that night — that moment. The mood changed. Peace came over the dining area, over the campers, over the leaders, over the missionaries helping out. The Pastora had gotten their attention and so had God. As Ricardo's baptism was completed, Pastora asked if there was anyone else that felt led to get baptized. There was calm; there was a never-felt peace near the pool. Pastora explained it as if the Lord Himself got in the water with her. Immediately a young lady came forward crying, "Dei." She said she wanted to get baptized, then Erick came forward stating that he too wanted to get baptized and then Justin, the 10 year old boy and first attendee of the church three years ago. Then came the moment the Pastora was waiting anxiously for, Wills (the young man being used by Satan to help him bring chaos into the camp) came over and told the Pastora, "I caused all these problems all week long just to end up under the water; I too want to be baptized."

As Wills went under, we could all sense a "second wave of the Holy Spirit," a lifting of a heaviness, and a sense of peace and complete order being restored. In all, five young men and women were baptized: Ricardo, Justin, Dei, Wills, and Erick. Needless to say, the atmosphere from that moment on was one of cooperation and enlightened peace. The dramatic change in the mood was not lost on the youth. We want to focus on Wills' response to the events of the week: "All this, just to end up being baptized." It is called "God's everlasting love."

As the 2015 Youth Camp came to an end, the church membership had grown by three new members. Two of the newly baptized are still taking discipleship classes and hopefully they too will join the church — among them is Wills.

To God, indeed, belongs the victory, the glory, and honor. Praise His name. SR

— Pastor Joel A. Houts  
Youth Pastor, Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia PR



# Divine Interventions

Recently, my good friend, Ann, and I started to include Ned in some of our activities. We knew from what neighbors told us that Ned had lost his beloved wife just a year ago and was still in the grieving process. So to help alleviate all the meals eaten alone, we started to invite Ned to join us in some of the evening meals we shared now and then. Both Ann and Ned were avid movie watchers, so about once per week we arranged "dinner and a movie night."

After a few of these get-together meals, I began to be offended and somewhat upset by something Ned said at least once per evening. I thought he was insensitive, self-centered, and thoughtless now and then. After one such evening, I found myself texting Ann that I didn't think I would be participating in events that included Ned any more. I wanted to keep him "at arm's length" and avoid conversations with him as much as possible.

Ann encouraged me to talk to Ned about the remarks I found upsetting instead of avoiding him. So, realizing that my Christian witness was on the line with these two friends, I responded to her wise and gentle push by saying I would pray that God would provide both the opportunity and the words to talk to Ned. This "talk" had to happen within a few short days, as Ann was already planning our next dinner and a movie night for that weekend. The next morning I saw Ned outside, walking around his house and I considered going over to talk to him. However, a clear thought came into my mind, "No, I will bring him to you." I recognized that as a direction from God and did not go over.

A day later, I was driving home, not paying any attention to the time. I was hungry for some supper. It had been a long day. I was not up to the effort of cooking my own meal in the kitchen at home. On impulse, I pulled into a pizza place on my route, and ordered a Hawaiian style pizza to go. After paying for it, I sat outside, occupying myself until the pizza was done and my order was up. At least twenty minutes went by, and most likely more, when I finally realized that folks who had entered the pizza place after me were now walking out with their food to go. So I stepped inside to find that my pizza was up and ready.

Continuing to drive home with the pizza, I saw Ned coming down our street in his vehicle. Our cars met just outside my driveway and I rolled down my window to wave. Ned rolled his window down for a brief conversation. He was headed out to get some supper, so I invited him to share my pizza. God continued to answer my prayer providing the words as we had our dinner conversation and cleared up some misunderstandings.

I can't help but think about God's undeniably perfect timing again: if I had just gone straight home, or sat waiting at the pizza restaurant for a different amount of time; if Ned had chosen to head out for supper just a few minutes earlier or later; God is good all the time! He answers our prayers when we ask according to His Will. Oh, and by the way, I found out that evening that Hawaiian style pizza is Ned's favorite.

— **Cheri Appel**  
Palm Desert, CA

Examples of Divine Intervention which I have experienced:

1. Several years ago I was driving to church on four-lane Route 1 when a pickup truck passed me. Out flew a saw horse. It bounced ahead of me. I KNEW IT WOULD HIT ME! But at the last possible second, it swerved and struck the guard rail.

2. I parked my car by the bowling alley's rear entrance and walked through the corridor leading to the lanes. Inside, I passed a young man who said, "Give me some money." I ignored him.

Returning from the rest room, I saw a large man also walking out. I closely followed him, almost scuffing his heels. As I expected, the young man was waiting by the door. I hopped into my car. Our eyes met. His couldn't have been more hate-filled.

3. I was at Rhode Island Hospital in a waiting room with other women scheduled for a free examination. An older woman entered and I got up, offering her my chair. A young man walking past the door apparently fainted and fell across the chair I had vacated, and the other woman not yet occupied. Neither of us was hurt.

4. Several years ago, I was in Providence on an errand for my husband (a hot day). The car window was open. I was waiting for the red light to turn. Suddenly, a wild-eyed man brandishing a knife appeared at the window! The light turned green. I slammed on the gas pedal and zoomed to safety!

5. A few years ago, I was returning from work and had just driven from Rt. 138 to Rt. 1A. A car came from Heffie's Filling Station, zooming across the road in front of me. I slammed on the brakes. My skid marks remained several weeks.

LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS...  
EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

— Matthew 28:20b

— **Thelma Tarbox**  
Saunderstown, RI



# Divine Interventions

*In the process of emptying out a buffet that I had advertised for sale, I came across some paperwork with the name of an acquaintance. Ed lives down the street from me. He was an art appraiser prior to retiring and helped me evaluate a few screen prints a year ago. I hadn't thought about Ed for a while, and certainly had forgotten his name, as we rarely cross paths. So with that renewed memory in my brain, I threw the paperwork away and continued with the task at hand.*

*That evening I was enjoying one of our community's pool and spa with my next door female friend. After soaking and talking for quite a while, I was surprised to be stung by a bee in my upper arm. In the distant past I have had serious swelling from bee stings, and so became quite concerned right away. An old Native American treatment of wetted tobacco pressed onto the sting area and held there with a bandage had worked for me before. I immediately began thinking about what nearby neighbor was a smoker, and would be up at that hour of the night.*

*As my friend and I quickly drove home from the spa, we passed Ed's house. I could see lights on and the flicker of a TV screen. I knew from our connection a year ago that Ed was a smoker. Knocking at his door at the late hour caused some concern within the house. However, after introducing myself and being able to mention Ed's name and how I knew him, I was invited in. I apologized for disturbing them, and explained my situation with the bee sting. When I asked for a cigarette in order to use the tobacco, Ed graciously produced one. His response was swift and caring. I thanked him and was on my way.*

*At home, applying the tobacco to the bee sting area and securing it with a band aid, I thought about how God had that very afternoon reminded me of Ed's name just hours before He knew I would need it. Once again I was reminded that God is good all the time, and His timing is perfect as He cares for us.*

— **Cheri Appel**  
Palm Desert, CA

## FROM ASHES TO JOY

*"Our old house burned down." Thus my husband greeted me one frigid January day in 2014.*

*With shock and dismay, we drove to view the damage. The roof, held in place by 170-year-old timbers, was intact. But between those timbers was empty charred space where our children's bedrooms had been. We had bought the handyman's special as newlyweds, brought our new babies into it, and spent most of 25 years making it as comfortable and presentable as the budget would allow. Then in 2000, with a son in South Korea with the Air Force and a daughter starting her final year of college, we found a charming Tudor-style house in town — smaller, 100 years newer, and closer to our jobs and the pharmacy.*

*Energetic young parents of a two-year-old were excited to buy our old farmhouse and began to renovate it, hoping to fill some of the four bedrooms with more children. The tired old house took on new life under their regime; the empty bedrooms did not.*

*We grieved the new owners' loss as well as our own sweat equity and were greatly relieved to learn that the blaze was not a result of any of our amateur electrical projects.*

*The community rallied around the family who had been left with a garage, two dogs, a rabbit and hutch, a mailbox, two bikes, and a sundial. Fund-raisers were held and household goods were collected. A temporary home was offered from someone's estate.*

*In a few weeks' time, the charred timbers became a pile of rubble which mercifully was bull-dozed. Grass was*

*planted on the site and a new septic system replaced our three cesspools, satisfying the township code.*

*The family celebrated our Savior's birth in a brand-new rancher on the spot where I had once hung diapers every other day. Speaking of diapers....a brand-new baby daughter joined the family mid-way through the ordeal — joining her 16-year-old brother!*

*As I ponder the events of this tragedy and new life, I am reminded of God's promise...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning..." (Isaiah 61:3b KJV).*

— **Donna S. Bond**  
Shiloh SDB Church, NJ



30 Old Cohansey Road  
January 29, 2014 and  
December 2014



# Team VESSEL 2015

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable,  
he will be a vessel for honorable use,  
set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house,  
ready for every good work.

—2 Timothy 2:21 ESV

*These are excerpts from the exit testimonies of Team VESSEL*

The idea of participating in SCSC was briefly brought up by a friend and that was all it took for the seed to be planted. All throughout 2014 the seed grew and I couldn't deny the calling God placed on my life. I listened to the call and submitted my application.

From the very beginning the whole adventure of SCSC has been a growing experience for me. Stepping out of my comfort zone was hard for me from the start. As the weeks continued I was thrown into new roles and environments I had never experienced before.

This year our theme at training was "Identity." We learned that our identity is formed in Christ and not in our own self-perception. This was an important theme for us to study and take the time to discuss because it is something that we all can struggle with at times. Not knowing who we are in Christ is the easiest way for us to lose our way.

God has been teaching me about my identity through training for leadership and learning what that really means. Expanding on my experience of learning with leadership, I learned that God may call me to do something out of my comfort zone and I will have to rely on Him even more. Learning to let go of pride, becoming a servant leader, and letting God take control in whatever I'm doing is a lifelong pursuit.

I had to get it through my head that my will power was not going to cut out the sin in my life and that I had to accept God as my identity, claiming His things as my own in order to leave the others behind. The spiritual counsel I received at SCSC training and on tour will be used to keep God the main focus and not be led by the worries of THIS world, but the concerns of my heavenly Father.

SCSC equipped me to work and be used in ways I never felt I could before. Once I get home there are more opportunities for God to use me in forwarding his kingdom.

God showed me that He can and WILL use me. I have always thought there are plenty of other people capable of doing my job. God showed me this summer that He wants to specifically use ME. It totally blew my mind. I plan on returning home and being open to opportunities that are placed in my path. God showed me that I am capable and that I am stronger than I know. Even though I had a lot of fear about this summer, God blessed me for jumping into the unknown. Hopefully, I won't stop jumping.

I saw God moving, working with each word we spoke, using each lesson, each song, and each leader. God showed me that no matter what the situation or who the person is, so long as His glory, honor, and will are placed before anything else, He will make things work.


God worked in crazy ways this summer, and I think that our team made an impressive impact in the church and community. I'm thankful for the opportunity that God gave me, and for the love and guidance that He provided through it.

At the end of project, my partner and I were told that we had relieved much stress and had been an enormous blessing to the community we served.

God has really stretched me this summer and I can't wait to see where I will go from here.

There is so much I have to learn. I am ready for wisdom to grow and to continuously pray for my family to come to God and to be a leader for them. Amen.

For SCSC application information go to <http://bit.ly/scsc2016> (applications due by January 8, 2016).

Make sure to check out the new foci! 



Women's Society

Katrina Goodrich  
[www.sdbwomen.org](http://www.sdbwomen.org)



# Christmas Gift List 2015



*This year we are encouraging our friends and family again to consider giving to support our Seventh Day Baptist brothers and sisters around the world in ministry. Please look at the list and determine if there are ways you feel called to help celebrate in giving during this season of remembering the greatest gift of all, our Father's sacrificial love for us.*

## Emergency Relief Funds

- 1 - Ebola Epidemic Recovery Support (suggested gift: \$30)
- 2 - Children Distressed by War & Conflicts (suggested gift: \$60)
- 3 - Clean Water for a Family (suggested gift: \$15)
- 4 - Emergency Relief Supplies: an urgent need (suggested gift: \$45)

## Orphans and Widows Ministries

- 5 - Shoes and Clothing for the Poor (suggested gift: \$25)
- 6 - Help Provide a Home for an Orphan's Placement Support (suggested gift: \$45)
- 7 - Buy Seeds for Sustainable Food Gardens in Uganda (suggested gift: \$25)
- 8 - Dengue and Malaria Preventing Mosquito Nets (suggested gift: \$10)

## Gifts Under \$15

- 9 - Books for Evangelists/Leader Training (suggested gift: \$14)
- 10 - Soccer Balls for Community Youth Ministry (suggested gift: \$8)
- 11 - Life-saving Medicine (suggested gift: \$12)
- 12 - Missionary Society Membership for a Friend (suggested gift: \$10)

## Evangelism and Discipleship

- 13 - Evangelist/Pastor Training Bibles in Africa or Caribbean (suggested gift: \$25)
- 14 - Helping Hand Overseas for a Year (suggested gift: \$22)
- 15 - Shipping Christian Literature: urgent need in South Sudan (suggested gift: \$15)
- 16 - Bibles and Hymnals for Developing World Congregations (suggested gift: \$20)

- 17 - General Missions Ministry Support (suggested gift: \$50)

*Currently the Missionary Society sends 100% of the funds received designated for these purposes directly to the project without collecting administrative support costs. We hope to maintain this practice while continuing to provide and expand our services for missions ministry work. Please give generously to these and other projects and consider giving to support the ministry work overall. May God bless you and your family abundantly for His glory!*



FOCUS on Missions

Clinton R. Brown  
Executive Director



**SCSC Student Applications  
are due January 8, 2016.**

**Church Applications  
are due January 29, 2016.**

**Applications can be found at  
[seventhdaybaptist.org](http://seventhdaybaptist.org)  
under Womens Board/SCSC**

**NOVEMBER**  
Family

**Youth/Adult**

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

– Exodus 20:12 NASB

**Junior**

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged...

– Exodus 20:12 NASB

**Primary**

Honor your father and your mother...

– Exodus 20:12 NASB

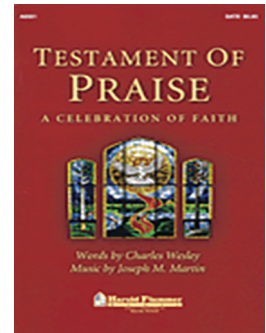
**Contributions for Christmas Gifts for the  
SDB Missionary Society can be sent to:**

**SDB Missions  
19 Hillside Ave.  
Ashaway, RI 02804**

**or give online at:  
[www.sdbmissions.org](http://www.sdbmissions.org)**

**Conference 2016**

**Choir  
Cantata**



Throughout the history of the Christian community, choirs have often been used to aid the people of God in worship. Will you consider being a part of the 2016 Conference Choir at the Conference session in Houghton, NY?

Each evening, Sunday through Thursday, and on Sabbath morning, the 2016 Conference Choir will sit on the platform at Houghton College, Wesley Chapel for the beginning of Worship and then join the congregation just before the message. On Sabbath Eve (Friday evening at 7:00 pm) the Choir will present a Cantata, *Testament of Praise: A Celebration of Faith*. The anthem each evening and Sabbath Morning Worship will be taken from this work.

Joseph Martin was commissioned to compose this work. This commissioned work was inspired by the words of Charles Wesley in celebration of the hymn writer's 300th birthday in 2007. Fresh and unique arrangements of timeless hymns are coupled with a set of narrations, litanies and suggested congregational songs to maximize the presentation. Celebrate the work of one of the most influential lyricists of all time with this special collection! The work includes: *O, For a Thousand Tongues; Love Divine, All Love's Excelling; Thanks for Our Every Blessing; Jesus, Lover of My Soul* and more!

The 2016 Conference Choir is under the direction of Linda Lawton and accompanied by Charlotte Chroniger. The 2016 Conference Choir rehearsals are tentatively scheduled at 4:00 pm Sunday through Thursday and for about 1.5 hours on Friday afternoon.

Because this cantata performance is an outreach opportunity where musicians from the community will be invited to join in ministering and it will be heavily advertised, we need to be the most prepared Conference Choir as we get to the 2016 Conference Session. Would you do the following:

1. Purchase as an individual or a local choir, *Testament of Praise: a Celebration of Faith*. The cost is \$8.95 per copy.
2. Practice the work and maybe even perform it.
3. Know it to the point the music is second nature.
4. Pray through the music.
5. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use this to bring persons to the Faith.

To purchase *Testament of Praise: a Celebration of Faith* Use the following link:

<http://www.jwpepper.com/Testament-of-Praise%3A-a-Celebration-of-Faith/10021429.item#.VdJ30fViko>




Contrary to popular belief, being a teenager is hard. It brings the struggles of high school, extracurricular activities, piles of homework, college searches, part-time job applications, trying to fit in, learning how to maintain relationships, and so much more. It's easy to be consumed with these things. It seems like you're being swallowed up by due dates, demands from coaches, and requests from parents. We take it all on thinking we're some kind of superhuman and before we know it, we snap. Something tiny suddenly seems like the end of the world and this perfectly balanced system comes crashing down. Trust me, we've all been there.

I know this feeling as well as anybody, and most of the time I'm too stubborn to ask for help. While I'm being absorbed by these worldly things, I often forget to look to God. When you have a constant checklist of things that need to be done, it's easy to push God to the side, thinking, "Do I *really* need to have a set prayer time today?" or "It wouldn't hurt anything if I skipped Bible study this week, would it?" These statements couldn't be more wrong. God doesn't want us to be so wrapped up in the things of this world that we shut Him out. In fact, He wants to help us. And if I'm being completely honest, we can't do it without Him.

## Let's Thank God

The Bible is full of scripture that tells us to give everything to God rather than be in a constant state of stress. Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." We see something similar to this in Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

So as the school year progresses and you find yourself being overtaken by standardized tests, college essays, sports, volunteer hours, homework, and whatever else you may be involved with, remember, you're not alone. Turn to God rather than turning *from* Him, and He will help you tackle whatever comes your way. 



THE BEACON

Gabi Osborn

Boulder SDB Church, CO



# for the Rainy Days!

Today my friend and I were coming out of our biology class and we were greeted by a “lovely” heavy rain. All we could think about was how we were going to get to our next class across campus. Neither one of us had brought an umbrella and we had left our jackets in my car. We had heard a rumor that it might rain but neither of us had really believed the reports. So, needless to say, my friend and I ran out into the pouring rain to our next class attempting to shield ourselves with our binders. Of course, when we got to our next class we were both soaked from head to toe and shivering because the building’s air conditioning was on. (It had been hot earlier that day.) At the time, all my friend and I could think about was how miserable we felt. But it is November — the time of the year that we set apart to think about the blessings we have and what we can be thankful for! Since its time for thanksgiving, we are going to do a little exercise together. I want you to think of a random event that happened to you within the last few days — one, that at the time, seemed more negative than positive (as I did above). Go ahead and think about it — I’ll wait.

Got one? Awesome. Now I want you to flip that event on its head. How were you blessed by the event? What are you thankful for after the event occurred? 1 Thessalonians 5:18A (ESV) says, “Give thanks in all circumstances....” So

that is what we are going to do. What happened in my event that was a blessing? Well, let’s start at the basics: I thank God for the rain that we so desperately need in California right now. I thank God that when I did not have my umbrella I did have somewhere to run to in order to shelter from the rain. I thank God that, a few days after this, I have not gotten sick. I thank God that rain only lasted about an hour or so, and my friend and I were able to run to my car and get our jackets after class. And I can even look at the fact that I had my binder to help shield me, because I probably would have been a lot more soaked if I had not had it. These are just a few examples of the blessings that were hidden in what I at first thought was an annoying inconvenience.

So what can you do with this? This is an exercise to help you see that we always have something for which to be thankful. It’s not always easy to remember that. But we can look at small inconveniences and find things for which to be thankful. It will only become easier to find things to be thankful for, and to thank God for, when times are hard. SR

**YOUNG ADULT**

Willy Villalpando

Maranatha Community Church, Colton, CA





## Connection Rejection

The Coroner had listed the deceased's cause of death as "Connection Rejection." He wasn't surprised when the D.A.'s office called for a clarification of his findings.

"Can you explain what you mean by 'Connection Rejection'?" the Deputy District Attorney asked. "My boss is going to need something more than this for her report."

"Connection Rejection," said the Coroner into the telephone, "happens when a person's attempts to connect with other people are not reciprocated. The person's foundational need for relationship is not met, which sometimes leads him to view himself as unworthy of relationship. This negative assessment of himself can lead the person to start making decisions that reflect this perspective. He starts to isolate himself from others, giving up on trying to connect with them. This isolation often leads people to diminish their own worth, and to continue this line of thought by engaging in behavior that is harmful to themselves."

"That's what happened with the deceased," the Coroner continued. "He started viewing himself as a lost cause, so he saw no point in taking care of his physical health, not to mention his psychological, emotional, or spiritual health. He thus entered a downward spiral that ultimately ended his life at a premature age."

"That sounds so sad," the Deputy D.A. commented. "Could anything have been done to change the course of this person's life?"

"Intervention could have occurred at a number of points in the deceased's life," suggested the Coroner. "Children naturally seek their first connections with their parents,

so a child's early experience with his mother and father is crucial. If his parents are not able or willing to connect with the child, or are not present, then other family members, or members of the child's immediate community, can step in and invite him into healthy relationship opportunities. If a child continues to grow up without healthy connection, he will tend to begin the process of self-isolation, as a perceived means of self-preservation. It's therefore vitally important for us to begin connecting with children who have been rejected by their family or community. It is true, however, that even adults who have lived for many years without connection are able to form relationships, if they can find a supportive environment in which to begin reaching beyond their fears and insecurities. Even though it's more difficult for an older person to learn these connection skills, no one is beyond hope. Since we were created for connection, each of us possesses the capacity to connect, even if this capacity appears handicapped by years of connection rejection."

The Deputy District Attorney wrapped up his phone call by asking the Coroner some final questions regarding the deceased's family history. Then he hung up the phone and lost himself in what seemed like hours of deep reflection.

Coming back down to earth, he gradually noticed the presence of the office mail carrier, Richie, who had just now quietly added a large stack of manila envelopes to his inbox. Richie was always like that, he thought, quietly delivering the mail without saying anything to anyone.

"Hey, Richie," he called the young man back into his office. "I'm headed downstairs for some fresh air. Come on, I'll buy you a Coke." SR

# Family Matters

Pastor Robert Babcock  
Marlboro SDB Church, NJ



Because of the way the police, the justice system and society as a whole treats African-Americans, some feel that they must think that black lives don't matter. They are rebelling against that notion with the chant "Black Lives Matter." To be honest, I can't really speak to that issue, because I haven't walked in their shoes. But I tend to believe that what God's Word teaches is that all lives matter. Ken Chroniger has asked me to speak next year at conference on the subject of the "Family." In this context, it has occurred to me that more than ever before, the family is under attack in America — almost to the point where it seems that the preponderance of Americans today no longer think the FAMILY MATTERS.

The attack against the God-instituted family unit has come from many arenas: from government-funded child abortion clinics; the easy access of divorce; the increasing number of absentee fathers; mothers and fathers both working and allowing daycare centers to raise their children; more and more couples living together out of wedlock. The list goes on and on, to the point where today the Supreme Court of our land has passed a law demanding that every state recognize and perform same sex marriages. Couples can't even perform the basic functions of the marriage that God

instituted and called good. Such a union may fulfill the requirements of our fallen society, but it is not and can never be the FAMILY that God intended.

Our nation was founded on the Godly principals of the Christian Family. From Genesis to Revelation, marriage and the family is emphasized and encouraged. It started with Adam and Eve, it goes through such luminaries as Boaz and Ruth, and it ends with Christ and the church. Marriage is everywhere in there. I will not say that every writer mentions it, but it is pretty close. The Bible contains actual chapters regarding instruction on marriage and the family; and numerous individual verses throughout the Bible in the form of laws, proverbs, songs, prophecies, and clear teachings.

The Bible supports marriage and the family from cover to cover.

All of our forefathers understood the necessity of Godly Families to make our nation great. We seem to have lost sight of that basic necessity in our society today.

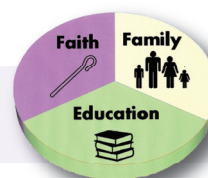
An appropriate scripture for us to consider is Psalm 128. From the Contemporary English Version of the Bible it reads:

- 1 *The Lord will bless you if you respect him and obey his laws.*
- 2 *Your fields will produce, and you will be happy – all will go well.*
- 3 *Your wife will be as fruitful as a grapevine, and just as an olive tree is rich with olives, your home will be rich with healthy children.*
- 4 *That is how the Lord will bless everyone who respects him.*
- 5 *I pray that the LORD will bless you from Zion and let Jerusalem prosper as long as you live.*
- 6 *May you live long enough to see your grandchildren. Let's pray for peace in Israel!*

The 128th Chapter of Psalms, as in the former chapter, is a psalm for families especially emphasizing that the well-being of our families depends upon the blessing of God. In this scripture we are taught that the only way to obtain that blessing is to live in the fear of God and in obedience to him. Those that do so, in general, shall be blessed and those that ignore God's design and plans for the family will not receive His blessing, because in God's eyes FAMILY MATTERS. [SR](#)

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger  
Alfred Station SDB Church, NY

President's Page





## Life and Death at Green End

*The congregation asked for help on a regular basis, and rather than provide it, the SDBs of that era elected to withhold their support.*

In between the lines of our history as Seventh Day Baptists, many stories are hidden. One such hidden story emerged several months ago when we received two requests in quick succession about our churches in Rhode Island. The first request was for a listing of all of our Rhode Island churches for a religious history of Rhode Island being written by an *emeritus* history professor from Rhode Island College, Dr. J. Stanley Lemons. After surveying our resources, our list was comprised and sent. Soon after, we received a request from a woman asking about the history of an SDB church located at Green End, RI, which was not on the list we had just sent. A church, which was not part of any of our church lists, emerged from the research which followed — and a once hidden story is hidden no longer.

Green End was apparently located on the sea coast near South Kingston, Rhode Island. Geographically speaking, it is not far from our other historic Rhode Island congregations, and had a postal address in Perryville, RI. Perryville is located just north of US Highway 1, between Charlestown and Matunuck.

The first references to SDB work in South Kingston are from 1825, when Elder Matthew Stillman stopped and preached there as part of a trip through the area.<sup>1</sup> There is no reference of a church beginning at that time. In 1843, the *SDB Register* (our publication directly before the *Sabbath Recorder*) records the organization of the church with 13 members on April 9th. The first clerk of the church was William C. Lanphear.<sup>2</sup>

The new little congregation struggled from the outside with two crucial things: pastoral leadership and associational support. Throughout the remainder of the 1840s, the church seems to ebb and flow with the involvement of leaders — doing well when there was leadership help from other congregations, and foundering when it was not supplied with leaders. By the early 1850s, the little group had grown to about 25. In 1853, the Green End congregation reported to the Eastern Association that they were endeavoring to build a meeting house. In response, the association took up a collection and sent money to help with the building project.<sup>3</sup>

The building project seems to have been completed shortly thereafter, early in 1854,<sup>4</sup> though apparently the members of the church required loans to get the project completed. Once again after the completion of the meeting house, the little congregation begged for support in the form of pastoral leadership. The Eastern Association had been supporting the work of Henry Clarke to aid the little church. This aid continued until

1856, when enthusiasm for supporting the little church ran out and the work ceased to be supported. In 1857, the Association allocated \$100 to aid in the hiring of a minister, but there is no record of any pastor or leader ever being hired. The reports continue in a negative vein from there, as the church failed to find a leader. With the addition of the debt from the construction of the meeting house, the church was even more burdened. In 1865, the Missionary Society sent a missionary to inquire after the health of the group, but the town was quarantined for small pox, and the missionary was advised to stay away. By 1876, a missionary reported that the church had been “undermined by Seventh Day Adventists,” and was no longer in fellowship with Seventh Day Baptists.<sup>5</sup>

Putting the remaining pieces of the puzzle together, it seems that when SDBs failed to support the congregation, and deep in debt, they reached an agreement with the Adventists to make use of the building, providing they could pay the mortgage. In time, as the Adventists grew and cared for the meeting house, they seem also to have gained the trust of the members of the Green End church. They ultimately sold the building to the Adventists and became members of the church. In short, the little church ceased to be an SDB church because it was neglected by Seventh Day Baptists. The congregation asked for help on a regular basis, and rather than provide it, the SDBs of that era elected to withhold their support. That withholding came despite the affirmation of the work at Association meetings. There was much talk about supporting the congregation at Green End, but too little action.

The lesson for us in this is clear as we once again focus on church planting: talk is cheap, and planting is hard work for all of us. If our efforts to cooperatively plant new SDB churches is to be successful, we must move past affirming the work of spreading the Gospel in committee meetings and into doing the work of supporting with our prayers, our dollars, our time, and our hands — the work of advancing the Kingdom of God in Jesus Christ. We must do the hard work of training leaders whom we can commission to go elsewhere and lead well. Local churches will have to focus their attention to this in order to be successful. If we fail in this, many more of our churches will become “hidden” stories in the pages of SDB history. SR

<sup>1</sup> *Missionary Magazine*, v2, i7, p186 (September 1825)

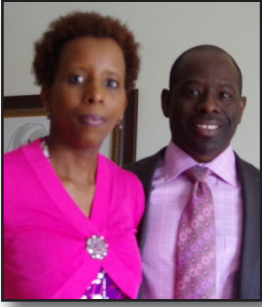
<sup>2</sup> *SDB Register*, v4, i8, p30 (April 19, 1843)

<sup>3</sup> *Sabbath Recorder*, v9, i51, p202 (June 2, 1853)

<sup>4</sup> *Sabbath Recorder*, v10, i32, p126 (January 19, 1854)

<sup>5</sup> *Sabbath Recorder*, v32, i45 p1 (November 9, 1876.)





## Conlief Lyons

I live and work in Toronto, Canada, attending the First Seventh Day Baptist Church pastored by Herlitz H. Condison. I am married to my sweetheart, Zelmur James Lyons, and still on our honeymoon going five years strong!

I am a committed follower of Jesus Christ. I was born to an itinerant pastor, Charles S. Lyons, who planted many churches all over Jamaica and to a prayer warrior, Lucille E. Lyons, who would wage all-night prayer battles, storming Heaven with her petitions. I now find myself drawn to the ministry like a moth to a flame!

By the age of 14 I had accepted Christ and was baptized during one of my dad's fiery sermons. Sweet conviction! But it wasn't until as a ripened 31-year-old I finally came to know Christ personally. One of our church leaders, Tom Rhoden, took my brother and me under his wings and carefully, meticulously, opened the scriptures concerning the messianic prophecies. In particular, he uncovered passages in Isaiah that detailed the birth, life, example, and death that Christ would eventually model for all His followers.

I am a trainer at heart. From my earliest days, I have been involved in coaching, mentoring, or training my friends and co-workers. But it has only been in the past four years that I have come to recognize the gift that God has given me. I have known for some time that I was able to motivate and encourage others, but wasn't able to connect the dots in terms of my own life's goal. I had always felt God's calling on my life and somehow knew that I was to follow in father's footsteps but lacked the courage and confidence to really explore and discover what this would look like for me. Four years ago, I was given the opportunity to join the training team at my work on a three-year secondment. Therein I found my passion. I love designing and delivering training and get real joy in seeing others find their passion and move forward. Through this experience, God connected the dots for me, allowing me to see how He desires to connect the dots in our lives, pointing us back to Him and His perfect will for our lives. In Him, all things join together perfectly and we are given the wherewithal to navigate the storms that inevitably come into our lives.

Now my desire is to study at Tyndale to bring together my love for training and coaching with the formal means of shepherding a flock. My desire to pastor a flock is based on this: to equip and encourage others to find their passion and to realize what God's will is for them; to know that in Him they are perfected. SR



# Scripture Memory Program 2014-15 Participants

As part of last year's Scripture Memory Program, 178 individuals from 27 churches completed the program. The winner of the Mary Clare Scripture Memory bowl, given to the church with the greatest number of individuals who complete the program, is the Toronto, Ontario SDB Church with 24 individuals who successfully memorized all the verses.

The program for this year, 2015-16, is available on the SDB General Conference website at: [www.seventhdaybaptist.org/scripturememory](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/scripturememory). Commit yourself to learning and memorizing the Word of God this year!

## **ALFRED STATION, NY**

Elaine Brundage  
Nancy Cherry  
Elianna Chroniger  
Madge Chroniger  
Colleen Morrison  
Abigail Noel  
Erin Sanborn  
Marcus Sanborn  
Morgan Trudell

## **ASHAWAY, RI**

Melissa Brown  
Ivan Dixon  
Susan Lamphere  
Nadine Lawton  
Barbara Nugent  
Joel Roache  
Matthew Roache  
Lorelei Stall

## **BATTLE CREEK, MI**

Lorrie Bird  
Caron George  
Beth Jones  
Judy Parrish  
Mary Ellen Wilkey

## **BOULDER, CO**

Gregory Looper  
Patrick Muniz  
Cletus Severance  
Keith Severance  
Shari Severance

## **CENTRAL WASHINGTON (YAKIMA), WA**

Margaret A. Fox

## **COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**

Linda Harris  
John Pethtel

## **DAYTONA BEACH, FL**

Everald Kelly  
Leora Pinder

## **FORT LAUDERDALE, FL**

Verona Fuller  
Norma Kennedy  
Curletta Wright  
Eldon Wright

## **GARDENA, CA (ALL NATIONS)**

Gwendolyn Ewen  
Vivian Lynch

## **HEBRON, PA**

Pearl Brock  
Alicia Graham  
Nicole Graham  
Carl Greene  
Cindy Greene  
Elizabeth Greene  
Luke Greene  
Samuel Greene  
Seth Greene  
Jared Kenyon  
Josiah Kenyon

Kent Kenyon

Landon Reiner  
Sophia Reiner  
Alyson Thompson  
Elizabeth Thompson  
Brooke Vincent  
Thomas Wilson

## **HUNGRY HORSE, MT**

Vivian Allan  
Christina McNeme  
Timothy McNeme

## **LOST CREEK, WV**

Josie Amstone  
Sara Amstone  
Cate Camenga  
Cathy Camenga  
Eve Camenga  
Johnmark Camenga  
Jonah Camenga  
Faith Facemire  
Jonathan Facemire  
Michaela Facemire  
Denise Fenstermacher  
Rick Fenstermacher  
Cindy Lawrence

## **MARLBORO, NJ**

Colleen Bond  
Scott Cruzan  
Sharon Davis  
Annelise Sweeney  
Sean Sweeney

**METRO ATLANTA, GA**

Joanna Lovelace  
Jonathan E. Lovelace  
Luis D. Lovelace  
Bettie B. Pearson

**MIDDLE ISLAND, WV**

Clara Glover  
Cora Mae Lough  
Eudora Grace Lough  
Emily Robinson  
John W. Robinson

**MILTON, WI**

Kecia Thompsongordon

**NEW YORK CITY, NY**

Beverly Alexander  
Cailin Bell  
Ita Cox  
Judith Smith-Dennis  
Inez Gray  
Dawn McLean-Bell  
Meggan Morrison  
Caroline Shorter  
Blanch Williams  
Jean Wynter-Barrett

**NORTH LOUP, NE**

Ron Cargill  
Shirley Cargill  
Katherine Dutcher  
Scott Hausrath  
Teri Morgan

**PATASKALA, OH**

Emma Van Horn  
Lana Van Horn  
Lily Van Horn  
Robert Van Horn

**PORTLAND AREA, OR**

Dolly Bruce

Marlene Rhodes  
Deborah Stein  
Martha Vaught

**QUEENS, NY (AGAPE)**

Makaila Abney  
Dorothy Beaumont  
Sylvia Clarke-Smith  
Amy Damon  
Benita Damon  
Clothilde DeSantos  
Joyce Fenderson  
Rosealine Jean-Baptiste  
Derek Thomas

**SALEMVILLE, PA (BELL)**

Esther Baker  
Beth Boyd  
Lon Calhoun  
Eileen Claycomb  
Robert Claycomb  
Adam Defibaugh  
Harold Defibaugh  
Darlene Dimond  
Dwight Kagarise  
Jennie Kagarise  
Floyd Roberts  
Ruthanna Roberts  
Ed Sutton

**SHILOH, NJ**

Jonah Bond  
Carolina Campbell  
Savannah Campbell  
Sharon Campbell  
Jennifer Chroniger  
Luke Coleman  
Nancy Davis  
Cathy Dixon  
Lauren DuBois  
Ellen Hemple  
Callie McAndrew  
MaryJane McAndrew

Frankie Mazza  
Bill Probasco  
Holly Probasco  
Liam Probasco  
Valerie Probasco

**TORONTO, ONT**

Merlin Condison  
Junie Dillon  
Osbourne Dillon  
Marva Edwards  
St. Clare Gooden  
Herman Grant  
Hermine Hunter  
Lorraine Hunter  
Jalyssa Lynch  
Debra-Lee Matthews  
Debrenique Matthews  
Debronjae Matthews  
Miguel McFarlane  
Annette Murray  
Vanessa Ormsby  
Florence Reynolds  
Linnette Reynolds  
Paula Reynolds  
Ruth Reynolds  
Natasha Reynolds-Ashley  
Lorna Samuels  
Festina Smith  
Nicole Smith  
Evelyn Taylor

**VERONA, NY**

Paula Browka  
Joey Hudson

**WASHINGTON, DC**

Pauline Nairne

**WHITE CLOUD, MI**

Sheryl Deehan  
Norma Rudert





# What Should Your Church Be Aware Of?

## The U.S. Supreme Court Decision Regarding Same-Sex Marriage

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling on June 26, 2015, holding that the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex. This decision also requires states to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed in another state.

Although this seems to be a landmark decision, this ruling does not appear to take away any of the rights that religious organizations currently have under the law. The First Amendment ensures us that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so vital to their lives and faith, and to their own deep objectives to continue the family structure they have long valued. Still, this ruling leaves unanswered questions, and those questions could lead to confusion and concerns for our churches and their ministries.

With this in mind, what should our SDB Churches do? What should our SDB Pastors do?

### So What Does This Mean for Churches?

This ruling does not appear to take away any of the rights that religious organizations currently have under the law. Still, the ruling leaves concerns for ministries. Common concerns include whether a pastor must perform a same-sex wedding ceremony or whether a church must make its facilities available for same-sex wedding events. We do have some things we should do in our churches to ensure we are being compliant with the law of the land.

### Communicate Expectations

Your church should have Biblically-based beliefs and policies documented in the bylaws, articles, and other foundational documents. Stating the church's belief, along with applicable reference to scripture in your governing documents, can help avoid claims of improper discrimination. Churches and ministries will do well to clearly communicate what the church's positions and policies are based on sincerely held religious belief. This lays the foundation for the ministry to operate in accordance with its stated belief, found in the bylaws.

Your church must be consistent in its response to questions. The church or ministry cannot treat an individual or a group of people differently than it does another person or group. For example, if the church offers the sanctuary or event center for rent to the general public, yet declines to allow a same-sex couple to rent the facility, the individual whom the church declined may have a valid claim of discrimination. The odds of the church losing a lawsuit increase significantly. Your church would be better served only renting to members of the church.

### Take Steps to Avoid a Lawsuit

To reduce the likelihood of an individual bringing a successful same-sex-related lawsuit against your church, your church might want to consider the following steps:

- 1) Include a spiritual purpose provision in the governing documents/bylaws. Be sure the organizational governing documents clearly state the ministry's spiritual purpose, reliance on scripture, and the intent to advance the ministry in accordance with scripture. Where appropriate, quote scripture within the purpose statement.
- 2) Respond with sensitivity. Train the clergy, staff, and volunteers to approach individual needs and requests with empathy. Although the church cannot meet every request or demand, the manner in which it conveys its response is sometimes as important as what is decided.
- 3) Consult with local counsel. If your church is revising its organizational documents, ministry policies, and procedures, it should involve a local attorney. A wide variety of federal, state, and local laws apply to employment and facilities use. Consulting with a local attorney can provide guidance on any state-specific and local legal issues that the church may encounter.

I hope that this has been helpful. Following the steps listed above can help our churches continue to operate in accordance with their sincerely held religious belief. [SR](#)



## Body Fat

Fat is an organ that can help or harm your health. Everyone has fat; we need it to survive. The trick is understanding the difference between the kinds of fat and keeping them in balance with diet, exercise and common sense.

Subcutaneous fat lies directly underneath the skin. It stores energy and provides essential padding. It also generates adiponectin, a hormone that helps regulate insulin production. The more fat, the less adiponectin produced, which causes the body to have trouble regulating insulin, increasing the risk of heart disease and diabetes. Blast it off by cutting calories and exercising. Even little bursts of energy help. If you already exercise step it up, as a higher exertion level helps the body to keep burning fat even after the activity ceases.

Visceral fat is nestled deep within the belly, padding the spaces around the abdominal organs. You can't feel or grab it. It secretes inflammatory proteins called cytokines that affect insulin production and increase inflammation throughout the body raising the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease and earning the name "toxic fat." It is usually visceral fat that we add as we age. To reduce this type of fat, eat a balanced diet with lean protein while controlling your carb and fat intake. Aerobic exercise is the best workout.

Ectopic fat has the same metabolic properties as visceral fat, but settles in the heart, liver, pancreas and muscles. Most have only a few pounds but it is dangerous because it's inside vital organs increasing the risk of heart disease, liver damage, and type 2 diabetes. The more you sit the more likely you are to have this type of fat around your heart. Stay active.

Brown fat is mainly around the neck, collarbone and chest. Although it has been assumed that it is present only in infants, helping to keep them warm, recent studies reveal that some adults still have brown cells. It becomes

metabolically active when we're exposed to cold temperatures, burning up energy. Because it generates heat, it burns more calories at rest. To activate this fat, prepare to shiver. Spending 10-15 minutes in temperatures below 60 degrees produces a hormone called irisin, which appears to make white fat cells act like brown fat — so keep the thermostat low. Brown fat may reduce the risk of diabetes because it vacuums up excess glucose from the blood.

The number of fat cells you have is set early. You don't get more of them when you gain weight. Instead, the fat cells swell as triglycerides are stored in them and as the fat cells swell so does the body. Boys tend to be born with more fat cells in their belly, while girls are born with more in their hips, thighs, and butt. Between the ages of 9 and 19 the volume of fat in girls more than doubles due to a surge of estrogen. Post-pregnancy fat is hard to get rid of because it's reserve storage for the demands of breast feeding. The body is hardwired to hold onto some of these reserves until after you wean the baby. Once women go through menopause, their fat storage tends to mimic that of men's. You may start sporting what looks like a beer belly instead of storing fat around the hips and thighs.

Three ways to burn flab faster include resistance training, rest, and relaxation. A strength workout that incorporates high intensity interval training will help burn calories and fat stores at a higher rate than straight sets. Lack of sleep can wreak havoc on hormones that control fat metabolism. Finding ways to relax may reduce cortisol levels (high levels of the stress hormone are linked to belly fat). Some examples are yoga, prayer, meditating on God's word, or listening to hymns or praise songs. Fat, essential to our health, may also cause us to be unhealthy. Once again proper diet, exercise, rest and relaxation will keep us whole. [SR](#)



## OBITUARIES

**SHEPPARD** — Arah Mae Sheppard (nee Davis), 78, of Stow Creek Twp., NJ, passed away at home on Sunday morning, June 14, 2015, while in the care of her family and hospice.

Arah Mae was born in Bridgeton, NJ, on July 17, 1936. She was the daughter of Percy C. and Beulah Allen Davis. She was the wife of Mark K. Sheppard. A graduate of Bridgeton High School, she was a registered nurse and had worked at Bridgeton Hospital for eight years and later for the Cumberland County Homemakers in Millville. She retired in 2002.

Mrs. Sheppard was a longtime resident of Stow Creek and was proud she was a farmer's daughter and equally proud to be a farmer's wife.

She was dedicated to her family and to her church. Mrs. Sheppard served as church clerk and had been a member of the choir. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting and counted cross stitch. She liked to work in both her flower and vegetable gardens. Arah Mae also enjoyed travelling and boating. She was a music lover who played the piano and she was an avid reader.

In addition to her husband, Mark, she is survived by four children and their families: daughter, Ann Sheppard Polo, her husband, Anthony, and children: Amy Olin (Brian), Michael Burdsall and Casey Burdsall; son, Jeffery Mark Sheppard, his wife, Pamela, and children: Megan Hurst (David), Tara Dettra (Grey), Matthew Sheppard, Christian Sheppard (Erin), Gregory Sheppard; daughter, Karen Sheppard Uhland, her husband, Terry, and children: Courtney Mattus (David), Kyle Uhland, Travis Uhland (Emmily); and daughter, Jean Trembley, her husband, John, and children: Joshua Richie (Erica), Mark Richie (Heather). She is also survived by 13 great grandchildren; two brothers, Allen Davis (Nancy), and Phil Davis (Cookie); and sister-in-law, Florence Dickinson. She was predeceased by a grandson, a brother, and a brother-in-law.

Funeral services were held on June 17, 2015, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, NJ. Memorial contributions are requested to the SDB Church of Shiloh or to Inspira Health Care HospiceCare, Vineland, NJ.

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**MINOTT-HAMILTON** — Gladys Louise Minott-Hamilton; July 17, 2015 at the age of 102 years old.

Gladys Louise Minott Hamilton was born to Horatio and Rhoda Minott, on December 27, 1912, in Jamaica, West Indies. Her parents, who were Jamaicans, had migrated to Cuba to seek a better life. When her mother became pregnant with her, they went back to Jamaica for her birth, and returned to Cuba when Gladys was 10 months old. Unfortunately, her mother

died when she was 5 years old and she was raised by two female guardians. In her formative years, she attended a Baptist Union Church regularly, while learning both English and Spanish, so she was fluently bi-lingual. In her youth, she received Jesus Christ as her Savior, but was never water baptized, nor did she become a member of any church.

In 1954, Gladys married Isaiah Hamilton. Five years later, following the Fidel Castro-led revolution in Cuba, the couple returned to live in Jamaica. From her own personal reading of the Scriptures, she became aware of the relevance of the seventh-day Sabbath and was very interested in becoming part of a Sabbath-keeping church. Through a relative of her husband, she met the Mulvaney family and discovered that they were Seventh Day Baptists. She began visiting their church in Kingston, and fell in love with it.

Gladys was finally water baptized at age 50 by Pastor Leon Lawton in 1962, and became active in that very same church. She especially enjoyed working with the children and functioned in the spiritual gift of helps. Five years after being baptized, she migrated to New York City, and in 1974 when the New York City SDB Church was started, she had the privilege of being one of the charter members. She had become acquainted with that church planting effort through Clara Thompson, a co-worker and the wife of the founding shepherd of the church, Pastor Socrates Thompson. Gladys was appointed a deaconess in that church before relocating in 1979 to Miami, Florida.

Two years after settling in South Florida, Gladys again had the opportunity to be charter member of another SDB Church, the Miami Church. That church appointed her as a deaconess, and then ordained her in that role in 1992. Her husband, Isaiah, passed away in 1993. Although she never gave birth, she was significantly responsible for helping to raise numerous children. She had a passion for taking care of children.

Her life has been characterized by service, faithfulness, and humility. In her later years, Gladys relocated to West Palm Beach and then St. Cloud in Florida. The aging process, and relocation prevented her from being physically active in the church, but her longevity and consistency were so outstanding that the church conferred on her the honor of Deaconess Emeritus in 2006 when she was 94 years old.

At age 102, Gladys took her last breath on July 17, 2015. She is survived by nephews and a nieces, grandnephews and nieces, and great-grandnephews and nieces. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held at the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church on August 6, 2015, officiated by Pastors Andrew Samuels, Norman Fearon, and Alcott and Jasmine Lynch. Her body was laid to rest alongside her husband's.

## OBITUARIES

**TANNEY** — Donna Jeanne Spooner Tanney passed away Sunday, July 19, 2015, at the Presbyterian Home, after a brief illness. She was 12 days short of her 91st birthday.

The daughter of Jean and Verah Honer Spooner, Donna was born July 31, 1924, in New Hartford, NY, where she spent her early childhood. Most of her life, however, was spent in Brookfield, NY. She was predeceased by her husband, Charlie Tanney; her parents; and three brothers, Robert, William and Mac Spooner. She is survived by six children, James Elliott (Sharon), Thomas Elliott (Barbara), Debra Lattimer (Roger), Nancy Elliott (Jim), Douglas Elliott (Terry) and Daniel Lum; as well as 21 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. She is survived by her stepchildren (Charlie's seven children), many of whom have continued their contact with and caring for her.

Donna was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Brookfield, NY, where she enjoyed teaching Sabbath School and performing special music. She labored over distant family history, to the beginnings of the Town of Brookfield — to author a book of local interest, *The Eternal Hills*. Donna and Charlie owned and operated "The Gates Hill Homestead," an area favorite for sleigh and stagecoach rides. She was also very active in the Brookfield Historical Society and the Travellers Club in Waterville. In recent decades, her passion was genealogical research with a focus on the early families of Brookfield Township. She was very proud of the part she played in acquiring an historical plaque for Mertilla Miner in the township.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, July 23, at the Brookfield First Baptist Church. Interment was immediately following the service at the Brookfield Cemetery.

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**NIEUKIRK** — Barbara Lee Nieukirk, 66, of Shiloh passed away peacefully at Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden, NJ, on Tuesday morning, September 22, 2015.

Barbara was born in Mesquite, TX, and was the daughter of the late Archie and Anna Brittain Foster. For the past 35 years, she was the wife of William B. Nieukirk. A resident of Shiloh for the past few years, Barbara Lee was raised in Texas and had also lived in Florida, Colorado and Millville, NJ.

A licensed real estate broker and agent, Barbara Lee was the former owner of Southern Realty in Millville and most recently was a broker with Keller – Williams Realty in Millville.

Barbara Lee enjoyed crossword puzzles and reading, and was an excellent piano player. She was a member of the SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ, and was a member of the choir. She was

very active in the church's music programs including the Gospel Music Festival held each summer for the last seven years.

In addition to her husband, Bill, she is survived by two children, Amy Nieukirk of FL and William Nieukirk and his wife Elizabeth of OH; two granddaughters, Addie and Elise Nieukirk; one sister, Patsy Goforth and her husband Bobby of TX; and two nieces, Theresa and Misty.

Relatives and friends attended the memorial service at the SDB Church of Shiloh, East Avenue in Shiloh on September 27th. The interment took place privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, c/o Steve Moncrief, 385 Jericho Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

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**HOFF** — Susan K. (Loofboro) Hoff, age 68, of Milton, WI, passed away September 28, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sue was a faithful member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was a loving, devoted wife, mother, sister and friend, always putting others before herself. She had the most generous, loving heart and touched many lives with her presence. Susan was born June 1, 1947, in Edgerton, WI, to Carroll and Iva Belle Loofboro. She graduated from Milton High School in the class of 1965. Sue married her loving husband of 49 years, LeRoy S. Hoff, on April 23, 1966. She worked for Milton College, Badgerland Harvestore, and The Undercover Shop. There was a special place in Sue's heart for individuals with an intellectual disability and Sue will be especially remembered for her volunteerism with Special Olympics. Starting out as a supportive volunteer, she soon became Agency Manager of Janesville 7-02, for almost a decade. Her legacy is carried on through the athletes and volunteers in the area. Sue loved to love on people and served with a servant's heart in the Milton SDB Church.

Susan is survived by her husband, LeRoy Hoff; a daughter, Debbie Hoff; a son, Kevin Hoff; sisters, Linda Gilmore and Lori (Bob) Ball; brothers: Warren (Arleen) Loofboro, Neil (Linda) Loofboro, Rodney (Yvonne) Loofboro, LeRoy (Janette) Loofboro, Robert Loofboro, and Alan (Donna) Loofboro; numerous nieces; nephews; great-nieces; and great-nephews. Sue was preceded in death by her parents, Carroll and Iva Belle Loofboro; and sister, Phyllis Loofboro.

Funeral services were held Friday, October 2, 2015, at the SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH with Pastor Nathan Crandall officiating. Burial will be in Milton Junction Cemetery.



## NEW MEMBERS

### LITTLE GENESEE SDB CHURCH

Little Genesee, NY  
Kevin Palmiter, Pastor

Praise the Lord! Little Genesee SDB Church has added to their numbers 9 new members. Four completed 16 weeks of discipleship training and were baptized on May 23. The testimonies and letters of transfer from other churches led us to 5 more seeking membership in our "elite" group. During worship on May 30 our moderator called a special meeting to order and all 9 were brought into full membership after reading and agreeing to our church covenant. Our God is an awesome God.

### SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHILOH

Shiloh, NJ  
Donald Chroniger, Pastor

Transfer of membership  
Philip A. Lawton

## BIRTH

**KERSTEN** – A son, Caedmon John, was born to parents Nick and Brittany (Schumitsch) Kersten (and proud sisters Sophia and Zoey!), October 4, 2015, in Fort Atkinson, WI.

## MARRIAGE

### RANKHORN – CROWDER

Joshua Rankhorn and Tiffany Crowder were married August 8, 2015, at the Seventh Day Baptist church in Paint Rock, AL. The Rev. Luis Lovelace officiated.

## DEATH NOTICE

**MAXSON** – Alice Maxson of North Loup, NE died on September 23, 2015. Alice was born in Nortonville, KS. She married George Maxson on November 25, 1956. A memorial service was held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in North Loup on October 5.

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# SABBATH RECORDER

Since September 2014 you've seen a considerable difference in the *Sabbath Recorder*. Our Editor, Patricia Cruzan, has incorporated new and diverse looks producing a magazine for Seventh Day Baptists — and we hope you share this exciting publication with your friends.

The *Sabbath Recorder* is free to everyone. It is something we do as a courtesy to inform SDBs around the USA & Canada. Although it is free — there are no subscriptions — **it does come with a cost**. Therefore, I ask you to strongly consider giving a gift to support the work of the *Sabbath Recorder* and to continue its 170 years of service!

Please send your financial support to:  
The Seventh Day Baptist Center  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

Thank you for your continued partnership in this vital ministry.

Rob Appel  
SDB Executive Director



Coming Next Summer:  
July 31 – August 6

## Seventh Day Baptist Conference 2016

Houghton College, Houghton, NY

Facebook: *SDB Conference 2016*  
#sdb2016

<http://www.sdb2016.com>

## The Connecting Church Calls Senior Pastor and Director of Youth Ministry

On August 29, following a special business meeting to discuss the recommendation of their Pastoral Search Committee, The Connecting Church (Milton, WI) voted to call Rev. Nathan Crandall as their new Senior Pastor.

Pastor Nate had been serving as Interim Senior Pastor since June and had been serving as an Associate Pastor at The Connecting Church for years.

Also on August 29, Chad Ochs was named as Director of Youth Ministry.



New Senior Pastor — Rev. Nathan Crandall



Director of Youth Ministry — Chad Ochs

## Assistant Pastor Installed at Shiloh

On Sabbath October 10, the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh installed their new Assistant Pastor, Philip Lawton. While Shiloh has hosted many future pastors over the years, Phil is the first to serve in this capacity in several decades. The journey to this time and place was reflected in Phil's testimony during the morning worship service.

Phil shared how faithful God has been, especially through the past few years. Even when doors seemingly appeared to close, God was working all things together for good. God used a willingness to serve at Jersey Oaks Camp and General Conference this summer as a gentle reminder of Phil's calling into full-time ministry. At the end of the summer, it became clear to both the church and Phil that God wanted him to continue serving in Shiloh.

Church moderator, Frank A. Mazza, called for a vote to accept Phil's membership into the Shiloh Church which was unanimously approved. Deacon Bill Probasco presented Phil with a License to Preach on behalf of the congregation. This license acknowledges and supports Phil's position as one who is set apart to preach God's word. Following the worship service, everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments. We praise God for all He has done, and lift thanks for all He will continue to do through his people!



Phil welcomed by Moderator Frank Mazza



Deacon Bill Probasco presents License to Preach





And that about wraps it up.

God is strong, and he wants you strong.

So take everything the Master has set out for you,  
well-made weapons of the best materials.

And put them to use so you will be able  
to stand up to everything the Devil  
throws your way. This is no afternoon  
athletic contest that we'll walk away from  
and forget about in a couple of hours.

This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight  
to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

– Ephesians 6:10-12 MSG

