

A Walk in the Park

Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church newsletter

Our Vision: To encourage a closer walk with God and greater involvement in His Ministries in the Lincoln Nebraska area through the medium of A Walk in the Park.

Our Mission: With God's leading, we will reach out to our church family, sharing stories of hope, encouraging all, and promoting active involvement in the various ministries of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church

December 2012

In this issue:

An Ending With a New Beginning	1
Homebound Ministry	2
Disability Awareness	2
Not by Sight	2
New Members.....	2
Bringing Our Best to the Table	3
Book Report.....	3
Giving Thanksgiving Event.....	4
Light up the Dark	4
Live Nativity	4
Women's Ministries	5
Disciples to Apostle.....	5
Holiday Entrees.....	5
Thank you	6

Ending With a New Beginning

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

An exciting year of 2012 for Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church will soon come to an end. But even more thrilling times are ahead of us. December will again be a busy time for our church. I want you to be aware of a few important dates of events coming up.

December 15 - Faith for the Future Worship Service - Honoring Our Past at 10:50 am

December 15 - Journey to Bethlehem Live Nativity Outreach Event at 6:30 pm

December 22 - Faith for the Future - Commitment Sabbath at 10:50 am

Our Journey to Bethlehem event gives an opportunity for our members and community folks to drive through our parking lot and experience the story of Jesus' birth. They will hear the gospel's birth story on our radio frequency 1580 AM as they drive through and witness six scenes of the nativity. Every car will also receive a Great Hope sharing book and information about our church.

Two important Sabbaths are coming on December 15 and 22nd. Our Faith for the Future project will focus our thoughts and prayers on the past history of our church. We have so much to be grateful for how the Lord has blessed in our past. Faith for the Future will also inspire and challenge us to think of our commitments to giving for the future of our church's ministry.

We pray that in this Christmas season of giving our church will answer the Lord's call to think of how each of us can give to our Building Expansion Project. Our membership and attendance continue to grow. We believe the Lord has brought us to another important place in the history of our church. Will we be willing to give sacrificially in order to fulfill the vision and mission that Christ has given this church?
Continued on page xx

Classical Guitar Christmas Concert!
with **Daniel Martinez**
December 22 (Sat)
6pm (doors open at 5pm)
Free-will Offering
Piedmont Park (48th & A)
CDs available for purchase after the concert!
Sponsored by Echoes of Mercy 402-486-9629

A Walk in the Park is available in the members section at www.lincolnpiedmontpark22.adventistchurchconnect.org/ in both PDF and ePub formats. Please contact Amy Prindle to arrange access to this section of the website (see page 2 information).

A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Welcome Desk for those who do not have access to the online version.

Homebound Ministry **By Teresa Thompson for Mary Belew**

We are happy to share that Homebound Ministry is actively serving over twenty people in our congregation who are not able to attend every week or are basically homebound or in a nursing facility, and in need of some contact with the church family.

Almost two hundred greeting cards, bulletins, and newsletters have been mailed, DVDs of the sermons delivered or mailed, and visits and phone calls have been made this past quarter.

There are ways you can help this ministry. We are especially in need of people who would be willing to visit in person. If you find yourself bored on Sabbath afternoons, we would be happy to share with you some names of people who would benefit from a personal visit. We are also in need of blank greeting cards and postage stamps, if you'd like to donate them.

Feel free to call Mary Belew, our team leader, if you would like to help, or know of anyone not currently receiving our services, who would like to be on the list. Mary's number is 402-784-3352.

Disability Awareness

By Teresa Thompson

As coordinator for this ministry, I have also felt impressed to work with caregivers in our church family, who are responsible in various ways for the care of those with disabilities and other conditions.

Often caregivers are overlooked and their health suffers too when an accident occurs, a terminal diagnosis is given, a child with special needs is born, or when our senior loved ones start needing assistance. As a matter of fact, studies have shown that **caregivers suffer twice as many chronic health conditions as non-caregivers**, so they and those around them must guard the caregiver's health as well.

November being National Family Caregivers Month was an excellent time for Teresa Thompson to give a presentation about caregiving for over twenty women, mostly caregivers themselves, at the Kansas-Nebraska Conference Women's Retreat in Grand Island. Their response and interaction afterward showed the need for more support and recognition of caregivers everywhere.

Be on the lookout for caregivers you may know, in our church, or even your own family and neighborhood. You can help them in many ways. Offer your assistance in concrete ways. Anything you can do to lighten their load would be appreciated.

Call Teresa at 402-325-9232, if you are interested in her presentation and/or the information it contained.

Not by Sight

By Sylvia Trotter

Sometimes I *smile* and later I feel **happy**.
Sometimes I *give* and later I feel **generous**.
Sometimes I *wait* and later I feel **patient**.
Sometimes I *go forward* and later I feel **courageous**.
Sometimes I *walk* and later I **see** the path.
Sometimes I am *vulnerable* and later I feel **safe**.
Sometimes I am *washed* clean and later I feel **forgiven**.
Sometimes I *obey* and later I **understand** why.
Sometimes I *reach out* and later I am **held**.
Sometimes I *hurt* and later I am **comforted**.
Sometimes I am *quiet* and later I **hear** His voice.
Sometimes I *jump* and later He **catches** me.

New Members

Since September, Piedmont Park has been blessed with the following new members:

Transfers:

Scott, Manuela and Angela Coppock
Harry and Cathy Renk

Baptisms:

Colton Snyder
Katelyn Snyder
Elliott Moseley

Ending With a New Beginning — *Continued from page 1*

Our expansion project will help us to better effectively minister to our church families and have bigger influence in our community. We want to take the blessing Jesus Christ has given to our church and share it with more and more people.

We ask that you will prayerfully consider how you can make an impact on the ministry of Piedmont Park both today and for our future. We plan to share more details with you in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or our chair of the Faith for the Future Team, Steve Duden.

May the Lord bless you and your family in this Christmas season.

Bringing Our Best to the Table

By Teresa Thompson

I'm amazed and grateful for what different families bring to the Thanksgiving and Christmas table and to the event itself. We are all brought up having holidays a certain way, but then we get married and find ourselves shocked that not everyone celebrates the same way.

For instance, when I was first married, I found out that not everyone had homemade noodles and ambrosia on their meal menu. But it was also a shock to discover how much more taste is packed into sweet potatoes, when they don't come out of a can, and the same for cranberries. I found out how easily you could make your own whole berry sauce and how actually divine it would taste with a small dollop of real whipped cream. These additions came from Dean's family, where we spent most of our holidays in the first years of our marriage.

Now that our daughter is married and we have been attending their larger festivities, I am learning other wonderful things about family dinners. While for some, a linen tablecloth, the best dishes, and even cloth napkins signify a special feast; holiday foods taste good, no matter how they are served. As a matter of fact, it's rather nice to have the attention drawn to the people sitting at the table, rather than the table itself.

I can see from these observations that our church family will grow closer and learn from each other when we all bring our best to the table; learning new and different ways to serve God. Let's keep that in mind as we approach His throne with thanksgiving and love this season. Show God your thanks and love by your offerings of service to Him.

Book Report

Unbelievable – You've heard miracle stories before. Some sound like mere coincidence, other could be explained by natural causes. But not the 27 true stories inside these pages! No, these events obviously have God's fingerprints all over them.

All the accounts in the pages of this amazing book, deal with events that elude a rational or scientific explanation; incidents that have no other explanation than miracle.

It's Going to Be All Right – Arthur Milward's pen traces hauntingly poignant stories of his emotionally traumatic childhood, his young son's battle with leukemia, a Nazi officer's unexpected anguish, a six-year-old's abandonment by parents, and others caught in the frailty and cruelty of life on this sin-stained planet.

Yet, accompanying every sorrow is a thread of hope. Our heavenly Father has assured us that in the end everything will be all right; there will be no more crying, pain, death, or mourning. In the meantime, His promises soothe our aching souls.

These books can be found at your local Adventist Book Center at 4745 Prescott Ave., on-line at <http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/home>, or in eBook/Kindle versions at <http://reviewandherald.com/index.php/products/ebooks.rhpa> and <http://www.adventist-ebooks.com>

Heard Around the Park

Piedmont Park Giving Thanksgiving Event From Echoes of Mercy Facebook page:

"On November 17, this year over 50 volunteers from Piedmont Park SDA Church participated with many other volunteers from around the Lincoln community in the Giving Thanksgiving Event at The Center for People in Need on 27th Street. We had a good time working together and loved helping those in need, especially on the Sabbath. We swapped stories, had sundown devotional and ate supper together afterwards. Everyone was ready to do it again next year!



Piedmont Park Lights up the Dark

By Teresa Thompson

It was so gratifying to see the number of families in our community who have responded to the invitation to attend our Light up the Dark program both in 2011 and 2012. Hundreds of children and adults alike were so pleased to find Bible-based stories and activities, as an alternative for Halloween trick-or-treating.

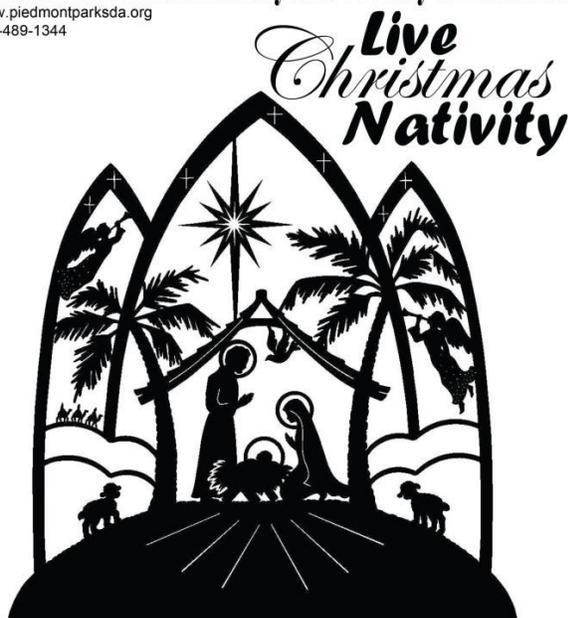
One parent commented to me that she has attended dozens of Halloween alternative events over the years at other churches, but ours was one of a kind, with its focus on Bible characters and stories. She was very happy to see the success we were having with such a unique program.

I saw the sacrifice of just one of the volunteers that night, as this young man in a Biblical costume told the same Bible story over repeatedly all evening until he was starting to get hoarse. The parents seemed very impressed and thankful that someone so young would be so talented and dedicated.

Hopefully, we can keep providing this event in the future. It's a valuable service and opportunity to show that we are a church that cares about sharing Jesus with families everywhere.

Piedmont Park Church invites you to Journey to Bethlehem

www.piedmontparksda.org
402-489-1344



Live Nativity

By Teresa Thompson

Last December, I was awestruck while driving through the Live Christmas Nativity scenes on our church grounds. There was such a reverent sense of being in Bethlehem, as we inched our way in the line of dozens of other vehicles. Listening to our pastor tell the story over the radio as we drove through gave us an even greater sense of closeness to the story of baby Jesus told in Luke.

This year we invite you and all your friends and neighbors to another Journey to Bethlehem on December 15 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The drive-through tour starts at the A Street entrance and you can listen to the Nativity story at 1580 AM on your car radio

December 15 ~ 6:30-8:00pm ~ 4801 A Street
**Drive-through while listening to the
Christmas story on 1580AM**

Women's Ministries Update

By Carol Leonhardt

Women's Ministries desires to support victims of abuse by providing some basic needs for women and children at Friendship Home in Lincoln. Friendship Home shelters and advocates for victims of domestic violence. Containers are located at each door of the church to collect needed items for this ministry. Your donations of the following will be greatly appreciated: New socks and new underwear for children and women; robes, slippers, pajamas and sweats for women; toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hairbrushes, shampoo, etc.). Please make your donations by **December 23**.

A SNOW Day is planned for the women of the church on Sunday, January 20. SNOW refers to Spiritual Needs of Women. This event will include brunch and featured devotional speaker. This will be a good time to invite your friends and neighbors. In February, a Valentine's Tea Party will be held at Chatelaine Residences on February 10. This Sunday afternoon event will include women from the Residences together with Piedmont Park women. Treasured Valentines will be featured.

Women's Ministries Leader, Carol Leonhardt, would like to initiate a regular women's Bible study and prayer group. Leaders, curriculum advisors, hosts, and childcare providers are needed. Please contact Carol with your interest at caleonha@gmail.com or 402-421-7507. Also needed is someone to service a Facebook page for Piedmont Park Women's Ministries

From Disciples to Apostles

By Laura Daw

In Matthew 10 verse 1 Jesus, "called His disciples to him and He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. (NKJV) In the next verse the disciples are now apostles. "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these..."

I looked up disciple and apostle at www.dictionary.com. The definition of disciple is "a person who is a pupil or an adherent of the doctrines of another". The definition of apostle is "one who pioneers an important reform movement, cause, or belief" or according to the Teacher's Comments in the 3rd quarter 2008 *Bible Study Guide for the Seventh Day Adventist Church* an apostle is "literally one who is sent and refers to those who have all the authority of the person who sent them."

When I was studying this I found it fascinating. Jesus called disciples and made them apostles. He didn't call men who already had power and authority. He first called His pupils and then gave them the power and authority to carry out His mission. In the same way today He calls us, His pupils and gives us the power and authority to carry the good news to all the earth. We don't start out qualified, **He** calls us, and then **He** qualifies us.

Holiday Entrees

Quinoa Lentil Patties

by Crystal Schaecher

1 C cooked Quinoa
1 Tbsp. Onion Powder
2 Cloves Garlic
1 15 oz. can Lentils, rinsed and drained
1/2 C Sunflower Seeds

1/2 C Amaranth Flour (any other flour will work also)
1 tsp. Dried Basil
1 tsp. Sea Salt
1/2 tsp. Black Pepper
Oil for frying*

1/2 C Pumpkin Seeds

Heat oil. Put all ingredients in a high-powered blender (Vitamix, etc.) Blend till all ingredients are well pulverized and mixed. Drop mixture by spoonfuls into oil. Fry till golden on both sides. Serve plain or with your favorite sauce (gravy, sweet and sour, or ketchup).

*To make an oil free version, use a non-stick skillet on medium heat and brown on both sides (you may need to spread them out so they are thin enough to allow the center to cook).

Holiday Entrees

Pierogies

Submitted by Laura Daw: A common Christmas dish in the area of Canada in which her family lived.

** Wrapper

Mix together:

2 cups flour	1 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. butter	3/4 cup warm water

Form into ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator 1 hour. When chilled, remove from fridge, roll out on floured board and cut into circles with coffee cup. Put 1 Tbsp. filling on each circle, fold over and crimp edges. Place in a single layer on cookie sheet and freeze, then place enough for one meal each in Ziploc bags (figure about 4-5 per person).

*** Can use the wonton wraps from the produce section in your grocery store instead then fill as directed above.*

Filling:

4 large potatoes, cooked	1/2 lb. grated cheese
1 tsp. salt and dash pepper	1 Tbsp. margarine

Mash potatoes together with all other ingredients and use to fill pierogies.

When ready to use, heat 4 cups water to boiling and drop in pierogies a few at a time. Let cook about 3-5 minutes or until they float and remove with slotted spoon. These may be placed in a bowl and served with green onions and sour cream, or you may brown in margarine or oil before serving.

NOTE: *These can be made, then instead of cooking, lay on cookie sheet and freeze. Bag in meal-size Ziplocs and keep in freezer until ready to use.*

Thank you

Thank you to all who have contributed to the newsletter this year:

Amber Attarzadeh	Larry Bucher
Laura Daw	Lou Ann Fredregill
Janice Grote	Pastor Michael Halfhill
Chris Hausted	Darla Hornby
Shelly Jackson	Carol Leonhardt
Pastor Andy Mosely	Dorothy and Deforest Nesmith
Amy Prindle	Crystal Schaecher
Renee Schaecher	Vanessa Schaecher
Teresa Thompson	Sylvia Trotter

A special thank you this month to Teresa Thompson who did an immense amount of research and writing to keep us in touch with what is happening in our church family.

If you would like to be part of A Walk in the Park, contact Laura Daw at ldaw269@hotmail.com or 715-271-4645. We welcome new contributors!