

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

June 2017

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A Walk in the Park is available under the Resources tab on the Piedmont Park church website at www.piedmontparksda.org. Send the link above to any family or friends who would like to see what's happening at Piedmont.

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

Shepherd Ministry

By Pastor Ray Daniel, Shepherd Coordinator

The Piedmont Shepherd Ministry officially began April 1, 2017. Shepherds are actively ministering to their flocks, finding very positive responses and experiencing real enjoyment in their ministry. I'm very pleased with the enthusiasm of the Shepherds! Their ministries will make a real difference in our church.

Editor's note: In our next quarter's newsletter, I would like to publish (if possible) a report from each of our Shepherds' groups, so that we can hear how are members are being blessed by this ministry!

Seeking Green Pastures – Shepherd's Group Ministry

By Schaecher/Young Shepherd's Ministry Group (Seeking Green Pastures)

In April 2017, Piedmont Park SDA Church began a new ministry called "Shepherd's Groups" with the intention of providing an organized avenue for our families to connect on a small-group level, where they can meet and get to know (and hopefully befriend) one another.

"Seeking Green Pastures" is the name we have given to our specific Shepherd's Ministry Group. The Host Families for "Seeking Green Pastures" are Kevin and Melissa Young/Roy and Renee Schaecher. Our Shepherd's group is made up of about 22 families. We have created a private Facebook page to facilitate informing our group of upcoming events, prayer/praise needs, and post short devotionals, etc.

We began this ministry in April 2017, by sending cards to one family who had lost a baby, another whose family member was ill and in the hospital, and inviting our group to our first picnic potluck. We have enjoyed potluck meal gatherings at Robert's Park and Bethany Park so far. I wonder what neat park in Lincoln we will discover next. :)

In the adapted words of author Jen Hatmaker, "*Never doubt your prompting to invite some people, yes even random people, to dinner...It's ok if they do not know each other. Being a friend 'matchmaker' is a real gift from God...the gift of hospitality. In this detached, uninviting and difficult world right now, we need more hosts and hostesses committed to creating safe inviting spaces and opportunities for folks to be seen and loved.*"

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Now more than ever! It doesn't have to be fancy...just open your doors...send out some invites...let others help you by bringing food and cleaning up. Who knows 'you in Jesus Christ' might just what they need right now."

Editor's note: *My family is actually one of the Seeking Green Pastures group. We had a wonderful time picnicking and visiting with the group and look forward to getting to know each member of our group together. What a blessing we can all be to each other!*

Celebration Time!

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

This has been a busy week at the Halfhill household. Excitement is in the air as we have been preparing for my son Ethan's baptism. Ethan and I did not quite realize the level of prep work it would take for his baptism. Now, I'm not talking about Bible study and prayer. We both knew about that preparation aspect of baptism. We just didn't know how much work Jeanette would have us do cleaning and rearranging the house to get ready for this event.

We have family and friends coming from several states. So, suddenly Ethan and I are helping rearrange rooms, deep cleaning (what does that even mean?), helping with painting, and cleaning the garage and storage room. Jeanette is doing the lion share of the prep work and now is preparing for the reception at the park after church. There's a lot of work that goes into a celebration.

This made me think about Jesus' stories in the gospel of Luke about celebration. In Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories about something precious being lost and then finally being found. In these stories, Jesus gives us a glimpse into the activity of heaven. Have you ever wondered what is happening in heaven on a day-to-day basis? What do you picture the angels doing while in heaven? Do they spend all their time going on missions to earth? Are they mainly singing in the worship services of the heavenly courts? Jesus tells us one amazing activity of angels in heaven.

In Luke 15:7, Jesus says there is joy in heaven when a sinner repents. In Luke 15:10, Jesus is more specific, declaring that the angels of heaven rejoice when one sinner repents. My family anxiously waits for the opportunity to celebrate Ethan's decision for baptism with our church family, as well as our family and friends. But Jesus tells us that heaven is also waiting to rejoice when a sinner repents and is baptized.

What an amazing thought! Heaven wants to celebrate with us when a lost sinner comes to accept Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. Now picture this — across the entire world, I don't know for sure, but I would guess there are people being baptized every Sabbath. That means every Sabbath the halls of heaven are filled with the joy when just one person gives their heart to God in baptism. By our decisions for Christ, you and I affect heaven's emotions. We bring joy to the inhabitants of heaven when we believe on Jesus Christ and surrender our lives to God. Wow!

I have long dreamed of what it will be like to baptize one of my children. My guess is my heart will leap for joy that day when Ethan comes back up out of the water. But I am amazed to think that heaven itself will also be leaping for joy at that moment. And not just the angels, but the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all ready to start the celebration with us when we are baptized.

I would like to encourage you — if you have never made the choice to accept Jesus as your Savior and follow Christ as your Lord, please begin to pray about your relationship with God. Your decision to repent and turn to God can actually cause all of heaven to throw a celebration party as they rejoice over one who was lost, but has finally been found.

Friday Night Vespers

By Vanessa Schaecher

Each month a special Friday Night Vespers is planned as a way for our church family to gather and bring in the Sabbath hours together. Friday Night Vespers programs are from 7-8pm in the Sanctuary. We hope you will plan now to join us for one or all of the following Friday Night Vespers programs. If you want more information about Friday Night Vespers or have an idea for a program, contact Vanessa Schaecher at ppvespers@gmail.com or 402-580-1611.

July 14: Emotional Health with Lorie Escobar, LMHP, LPC

August 11: Laura Daw & Britani Maisu

September 8: Dustan Daniel

October 13: Renee Schaecher with Young Musicians

November 10: Pastor Caleb and the Youth Sabbath School Class

December 8: Christmas

The Puzzle Peace

By Teresa Thompson (There is a longer version of this story published in Outlook magazine online at <http://outlookmag.org/the-puzzle-peace/>)

Jesus incorporated all personality types, all character virtues, all spiritual gifts. As a matter of fact, He exhibited them in perfectly measured, balanced amounts. He, who loved mingling with the masses and healing their diseases, also craved His alone-time with God each day, as He sought privacy to pray in the quiet solitude of nature. He knew when and how to proactively confront the Pharisees and sinners, even chasing moneychangers out of the temple. But when it came time to stand before His accusers at a trial that ended in His cruel execution, He was perfectly content to remain silent. Why not use Jesus then as our standard, our banner--the One capable of drawing us all together as one?

The reason we, as individuals, aren't endowed with perfectly balanced natures and characters may obviously be a result of the sin that has entered our world. But nevertheless, it serves a vital purpose. Together, we imperfect humans can couple our ragged, uneven edges with one another, resulting in one glorious image of Christ--like the pieces of a puzzle. This is surely why Jesus prayed for unity in the community of diverse believers He was beginning to assemble while on earth. Only by humbly joining ourselves, allowing our varied talents and gifts to mesh and blend, will we be able to portray to a broken world what God is really like.

When I've worked on puzzles in the past, I find it almost imperative to keep looking at the picture on the outside of the box to inform my mind where the pieces will most likely fit. In the same way, we must keep our eyes on Jesus, if we want the image of our church to truly reflect Him.

So, I'm just going to encourage each of us to get back to Jesus, to follow His banner, in whatever way seems to work best for us. He is the Prince of Peace, so we mustn't let Him be the missing piece of our church puzzle. If we lose "The Box", we could be working on this peace puzzle for a long time.

Memorizing the Words of Jesus Class

By Eula Key

Eula Key recently taught a "Memorizing the Words of God" class in which eight people (one person was not there for the picture) consistently participated. They learned Chapter 15 of the Book of John - 27 verses. Nine classes were held, in which three verses of scriptures were learned each time.

The Bible states in John 14:26, NKJV, "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*" When we realize that the Holy Spirit Himself is teaching us and bringing the words of God to our memory, it makes it easier to memorize.

The church members attending the class expressed receiving a deeper meaning of these scriptures after they memorized them. There were no short cuts; they learned a phrase of the verse first, then the verse, then another verse, then all three verses for the night, then eventually all 27 verses.

Eula has had a couple of requests to teach another class, so more scriptures can be learned, and she is planning to continue as long as there is an interest in memorizing the words of God.



Piedmont Park Family Bible Adventure

By Vanessa Schaecher for Charlene Hawkins

During Family Bible Adventure, we will learn more about the early Christian Church! We will visit a crowded Roman marketplace, play games, make friends, sing songs, make crafts, and meet with the Apostle Paul! God's gift of love will change us, save us, and always be with us!

Your entire family is invited to participate in Piedmont Park's Family Bible Adventure on July 16-20 from 6:30-8:30pm each night. To pre-register for FREE, please go to www.piedmontparksda.org and click on the **FBA** link. Register by July 4, and receive a FREE thank you gift! We look forward to having you with us! Questions? Call 402-489-1344 or e-mail piedmontparksda@gmail.com.



Stewardship Update

By Eula Key

Do you want to determine the spiritual gifts God has given you? Eula Key maintains a Stewardship Bulletin Board that contains Spiritual Gifts Assessments that we can take home to determine what spiritual gifts God has given us. To date, seven Spiritual Gifts Assessments have been taken from the Bulletin Board. Imagine how much more quickly the Gospel of Jesus Christ would spread if each person in the church was involved in some type of ministry for the Lord!



Matt 24:14, NKJV, states *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* We look forward to the end of sin, and a new heaven and a new earth. Feel free to contact Eula to go over the Spiritual Gifts Assessment with you or take it home to complete it. Please feel free to call Eula if you have any questions.

Would you like to be able to give more money to the work of God? The Crown Financial website has spreadsheets that show you exactly what percentage of your income should be spent on your house, car, etc. It also shows you how to pay your debts off more quickly by paying one debt off, then putting the money saved from paying that debt off, onto the next debt. This will eventually free up funds which will allow you to pay your tithe, and give more funds for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. To date, 28 financial spreadsheets have been taken from the bulletin board and people have expressed how helpful these spreadsheets have been to them.

God promises in Malachi 3:10, NKJV, *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."* Many of us already know this to be true, so let's commit to giving more.

That Look

By Laura Hartnell Daw (also published at <https://laurahartnelldaw.wordpress.com/2017/03/31/that-look/>)

Have you ever gotten that look? You know the one I mean, the eye roll, the head tilt or shake, and then looking away when someone else's child is acting up? You know what the person is thinking: 'Why doesn't she do something about that kid? Doesn't she ever discipline him? That kid needs a good spanking/time out' (depending on which way you roll with discipline).

I have to admit, I've done that look more times than I want to count. Especially to a sister whose son was later diagnosed as having Asperger's. She'd say he's ADD or ADHD, but I thought he just needed some discipline, and that everyone was using the ADHD buzzword to explain why they weren't training their children to behave properly. I felt so self-righteous that my kids were well-behaved. Why didn't other kids behave like mine did?

I wronged her badly. If I had truly done what my Jesus would have done, I would have hugged her and said, "I'm so sorry. I know it's stressful. How can I help?" Instead I shook my head and rolled my eyes and made judgements I had no right to make.

How did I finally realize how wrong I was? I have a granddaughter who was born with missing DNA on her first chromosome. It's a very rare deletion (maybe six other people in the whole world have the same one), so we don't know much about what to expect. What we do know is that she lacks impulse control. This runs the whole gamut from learning naughty words and then not being able to keep from saying them, constantly wanting something to eat and not finishing it, and ignoring her parents' and grandparents' rebukes (especially in public places where she feels the stress of being around so many people). Add that to partial blindness and difficulty communicating (and the frustration that goes with both) and she is a child at whom people roll their eyes.

The people who observe Allie and immediately judge our poor parenting/grand-parenting don't have all the facts. They see a tiny girl (although she's seven, she looks like a four-year old and speaks more like a three-year old) who says naughty words, tells people to "move it", and even (gasp) sometimes hits one of the adults near her.

How often do we judge others without knowing the facts?

The single mother struggling with her children lost her husband to a stroke years ago. Those children still struggle with the loss of their father and sometimes act out. She's just trying to hold it all together by herself when she expected to have his support while they grew up.

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That Look—Continued from page 4

The people next door who never invite you into their house are embarrassed because they can't afford to fix things, or have been too ill or have too many other responsibilities to keep up with the housework.

That young boy with the huge earrings and the pants that are almost falling off just wants to fit in. He's never known his father and needs some male mentors.

Matthew 7:1 and 2 says *“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”*

The sister whom I judged too quickly has never said anything about how I judged her, when she sees the difficulty I have with my granddaughter. She offers comfort and advice. She's been there and is willing to forgive me and share what she learned through her experience. She shows the love that Jesus showed the afflicted.

In John 8:11 Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, *“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*

Who am I to judge, not even knowing the story behind the person, when my Savior, who does know the story, refuses to condemn and even died for that person. Lord, open my heart and fill it with love for all your children.

No More Good-byes

By Laura Hartnell Daw

Yesterday, I said good-bye to my middle daughter, her husband, and her two small children. They live in Ecuador, so the good-byes are especially painful, because I know it will be a while before I see them again. The children, who are four and almost two, are at the age where you miss so much during those months when you don't see them at all.

It brought to mind the good-byes throughout my life and how they don't get any easier. There were the good-byes I made to my parents: first when I went away to camp, boarding academy (high school), college, and when they moved out-of-state themselves. I finished school and moved back, but by then they had moved away and I married a man from “back home”; so I never followed. Years of good-byes have been said between us since then. I am blessed that they are still alive, so I haven't had to say the final good-bye to them yet.

There were the deaths in my family. A brother who died far too young, an aunt who died leaving behind teens and twenty-somethings, four grandparents, an uncle who died suddenly leaving behind a very young son and barely grown daughters, and a treasured aunt who died so suddenly when preparing for a hip replacement. I miss them all dearly.

There have been family on my husband's side whom we have lost to death and friends who have passed away or simply lost touch with during moves on their parts or ours.

There were my kids leaving for camp, leaving for academy, and leaving for college. I remember the many tears I shed as I said good-bye to them each time. Even their weddings, in a way, were a good-bye. Each now belongs to another family with her respective husband, and although they are still my daughters, there is a change from just our daughter to wife/mom/daughter-in-law.

As I turned away from the car that was leaving to drive my daughter and her little family to the airport, I thought about how glad I am that there will be no good-byes in Heaven. I'm tired of watching loved ones leave. Revelation 21: 3, 4 alludes to this *“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’”*

Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

Mark Your Calendar

July 14 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary—
Emotional Health with Lorie Escobar, LMHP,
LPC

July 16-20 Family Bible Adventures 6:30-8:30pm
each night. pre-register for FREE, please go to
www.piedmontparksda.org and click on the
FBA link. Register by July 4, and receive a
FREE thank you gift! We look forward to hav-
ing you with us! Questions? Call 402-489-1344
or e-mail piedmontparksda@gmail.com.

August 11 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary—
Laura Daw & Britaini Maisu

September 8 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctu-
ary—Dustan Daniel

October 13 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary—
Renee Schaecher with Young Musicians

October TBD Church Campout at Woodland
Acres. Our annual campout is always a great
time to gather as a church family around a roar-
ing campfire. Sabbath dinner is potluck and
Saturday night there are games and goodies in
the lodge. Details about when it will be will be
provided as soon as they are available.

October 31 Light up the Dark 4:00 p.m.

November 10 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctu-
ary—Pastor Caleb and the Youth Sabbath
School Class

December 8 Vespers 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary—
Christmas

Tammi's Choplet Casserole

Submitted by Tammi Daniel

Gravy:

1 can low sodium cream of mushroom soup
1 envelope of onion soup mix
4 oz. can (small) mushroom stems and pieces (do not drain;
I also cut the mushrooms a bit smaller with scissors in the
can)

Mix well and set aside; use juice from Choplets to thin if
needed. You may need to use 2 cans of cream of mushroom
soup, depending on how much gravy you want.

Casserole:

2 cans of Choplets drained, but save juice to thin gravy if
needed
1/2 – 1 cup of plain unseasoned bread crumbs
Gravy (above)

Put a thin layer of gravy in the bottom of your casserole dish.
Dredge Choplets in breadcrumbs until covered, fry them in a
hot skillet with a thin layer of oil until light tan, then place in
casserole dish.

Cover breaded Choplets with the rest of the gravy, then bake
@ 350* for no more than 45 minutes, or until hot and bub-
bly.

Note: This is mostly guesswork on the amounts. When I
make this for church potluck, I use 6 cans of Choplets, 5 cans
of soup, 2 envelopes of onion soup mix, and 2 cans of mush-
room stems and pieces. I like to make a lot of gravy, because
I have seen people scrape the gravy out of the dish when the
Choplets are gone and put it over rice, potatoes, or just plain
bread.



Friday Night Vespers

Emotional Health: Tips on
how to move towards
wellness presented by
Lorie Escobar, LMHP, LPC

July 14 at 7pm
Piedmont Park Sanctuary