



Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist 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 2019**

In this issue...

Different Eyes .....1  
 Service Through Time.....2  
 Finding the Meaning .....3  
 Community Connections.....4  
 School Supply Drive.....4  
 Light up the Dark.....5  
 Personnel Committee .....5  
 Pathfinder Sabbath .....6  
 Baptisms .....6  
 Baby Dedications .....7  
 Vespers .....7  
 Prescription/Health Bottles ..8  
 Women's Ministries .....8  
 Folk Mountain Concert.....9  
 20/20 Vision .....9  
 Shepherd Ministry .....10  
 Golf Fellowship .....10  
 Recipes .....11  
 Recipes .....11  
 Mark Your Calendar .....12

**Different Eyes**

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

I recently experienced a holiday tradition that I am not fond of - shoveling snow. I went to push the snow as it was still gently falling. It was quiet and peaceful. Science tells us that falling snow actually does make things quieter. But inside, I was anything but quiet and peaceful. I was grumbling about having to shovel the snow. I realized my feelings about snow have changed over the years.

As a child, like most kids, I enjoyed snow. It meant days off from school, snowball fights, building a snowman, and sledding down a huge hill near our house. As a youth, I started to like snow less. It kept me from driving around with my friends. But now as an adult home owner, snow just really looks like more work.

My view of Christmas time has changed over the years too. As a child, December was the longest month of the year. It simply took forever for Christmas to arrive. Now - December disappears in the blink of an eye. There is so much to do at Christmas time that in the hustle and bustle it is easy to lose the joy and the wonder of this time of the year. But there are people who help me when this happens.

*Continued on page 2*

## Service Through Time

By Vanessa Schaecher

On a weekend in October, Piedmont Park members showed up and gave their time in several community events. An eleven-member team from Piedmont volunteered for the Safe Quarters fundraising drive for Friendship Home. They were assigned areas of Lincoln to go door-to-door and ask for donations. The Piedmont team collected \$629.68 that was added to the collections from all the other teams for a grand total of \$102,000 for Friendship Home's work to support, shelter and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their children. (<https://friendshiphome.org/>)

Several Piedmont members and their children participated in Christian Record Services for the Blind's annual EYE Run which raised money to aid CRSB in their work providing reading services, college scholarships and confidence-building camping experiences for people who are blind. (<https://christianrecord.org/>)

And a team of 25 Piedmont members and their friends joined over 400 others who participated in the Walk for Freedom which raised awareness and funds for I've Got A Name, a local organization that is committed to eradicating sex slavery in Lincoln and Nebraska through awareness, prayer and support of victims. (<https://ivegotaname.org/>)



---

### Different Eyes - Continued from page 1

Wonderful people that God put on this earth to remind us the importance of joy and fun - we call them children. Children help me to see Christmas and yes, even snow, with different eyes. Eyes that aren't so focused on to-do lists. Eyes that still see the specialness of this time of year. Children have a wonderful way of helping us to remember the story of the Christ child who we celebrate at this time of year.

I think the world in general needs Christians to help them see this time of year as more than just parties and presents. The world needs to see this special time through the eyes of Christians. Our busy fast-paced world needs us to shine the light of the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus told us that we are the light of the world in Matthew 5:14. I am praying this season for God to help me see with His eyes. And let's help others to see what is so easy to miss - a baby in a manger, God in human flesh, coming on a rescue mission to save us.

## Finding the Meaning

By Laura Daw

This year I've been trying to make sure my grandchildren are "getting" the meaning of Christmas. It's so easy for kids to think of it as a day of fun and toys and forget why we celebrate. Sure, we do some things at church like the children's classes teaching about Jesus' birth and the performances the kids do of Christmas songs, but are they thinking about it when they go home, and applying it to why we celebrate? For that matter, two of my grandchildren never attend church. They have swimming lessons during that time.

The focus of the world has shifted in our present day from the birth of our Savior to a family day for giving gifts and spending time with one another. I was watching a sitcom (Schooled) the other night, and it was all about trying to squeeze all the world's cultural December holidays into the Christmas Play. They went through including Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanza to about 40 holidays in total. When I attended my grandchildren's programs at the public school, they didn't even address Christmas. I guess it's too "politically incorrect".

It's hard to get the kids to look beyond the excitement of the day, the presents, the family fun, and the good things to eat; to get them to think about why we are celebrating that day. We read the story, and sing the songs, but I know exactly where the kid's minds are usually centered. Sometimes, I think we should celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas and give the gifts on Boxing day (the day after Christmas for those who are not familiar with that holiday). Or better yet, celebrate Jesus' birth in the Spring (when it actually happened), so it would be separated from the gift giving of Christmas time. As Christian parents and grandparents, it's up to us to teach our children why we celebrate Christmas.

Because I do not have the power to change the calendar, I'm doing what I can. I'm sharing the story. I'm reminding them why we celebrate the Christmas holiday. I'm watching The Star with my grandchildren (the ones that actually watch TV anyway). I'm toying with the idea of making Stanley dress up as a wise man to bring them their gifts, and help them remember the wise men who presented Jesus with the first Christmas gifts. An angel might be even better, but it's hard to see Stanley as an angel.

I'm focusing my decorating on Jesus. Under the tree I have a "manger" with a baby Jesus in it. The twins keep running off with the baby, but then they love the Sabbath School song **Mary rocked the baby Jesus, because she loved Him so**. If they want to love Jesus, that's exactly what I'm trying to share with them. I've placed two nativity scenes on my mantle. One is my ceramic one that I painted when my own children were small and I took ceramics to keep my sanity while being a stay-at-home mom. The other is a Fisher Price nativity scene I found a year ago and the kids play with all year long (they've lost Mary, Joseph, and the wise men somewhere in this house, but baby Jesus is still there).

We will read the My Bible Friends version of the Christmas story that started with "Clip clop went the feet of little donkey" that my parents read to me. We'll sing the songs that remind us of why we celebrate that day. We'll share what Jesus has done for us this year. We will prayerfully seek the best way to remind these precious children that Jesus was born for them. The most wonderful gift of all.

