

Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church
4801 "A" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
Office - 402-483-1344 Leave a Message
Renee Schaecher –Administrative Assistant
402-580-1608 (Text)
piedmontparksda@gmail.com
Pastor Michael Halfhill 402-318-1856
Pastor Andy Moseley 402-450-4390



February 21, 2015

**The Family Communiqué'
Extended Announcements**

This Week's offering is for Piedmont Park's financial needs. Our church budget covers many items. Our budget provides monthly allocations for some ministries, but an allocation is usually not sufficient for the breath of the ministry, but a help. We want to bring focus to one particular ministry today....One of the ministries, that is so important to our people, is the "Caring Heart Ministry." Caring Heart Ministry used to be called "Homebound Ministry" and then "SomeOne Special Ministry." The new name has been adopted so that it is unique from other ministries that carry the word special in their name. It is with a Caring Heart that we keep in contact with members who cannot or often cannot come to church. To operate this ministry we need funds for stamps, CD/DVD covers, envelopes, and large envelopes to be able to send cards, bulletins, and "A Walk in the Park" (Piedmont Park's quarterly newsletter). If you would like to make a donation, please place it in a tithe envelope and mark it Caring Heart. Thank you!

Christian Record Services for the Blind is seeking volunteers to help with a mailing project starting Monday, February 23, until the project is complete. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Alicejean Baker at prhr@christianrecord.org or 402-488-0981 ext. 222

2015 Honduras Mission Trip

Last Sabbath, we collected a special offering at the end of our service to support our Piedmont Youth/CVA students who will serve in Honduras over Spring Break! The offering was over \$1,400.00. Edward Hardy & Sarah Hardy, Estelle Trotter, Jonathon Deemer, Taylor Hillhouse & Preston Hillhouse, and Jeremy Harvey & Matthew Harvey will be part of a group of 40 traveling to Pena Blanca, Honduras March 5-16 to work at the Pan American Orphanage. They will help build an administration building as well as fellowship with and teach the local children. Please begin praying for these students as they go out to show Jesus' love in action. This is the most important way to support their efforts. Second, you can partner with this group financially. Funds are needed for travel and building materials. **If you missed last week's offering but would still like to give there is still time to do so.** Please write "2015 Honduras Mission Trip" in the memo line of your check and MAIL your tax deductible donation to:

KS/NE Conference Youth Department
3440 Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614

College View Academy is looking for two teachers starting in the 2015-16 school year. We are looking for a middle school teacher and a high school Math/Computer teacher. An ideal teacher is someone who is passionate about Jesus and is intentional about weaving Biblical principles into all subject areas and interactions with their students. Please send resumes to Brian Carlson (bcarlson@cvak12.org) or call 402-483-1181 Ext. 12 for more information.

Our offering for next week, February 28, is for Kansas-Nebraska Conference Advance.

Our church is made up of many congregations of all sizes. These churches are organized under a Conference. The states of Kansas and Nebraska make up the KS-NE Conference. The conference office is located in Topeka, Kansas. The President of our Conference is Pastor Ron Carlson. The conference office also houses the offices for communication, stewardship, women's ministries, education, treasury and others. The offering next week will help support the ministries that the Conference helps fund in the local churches and at the conference level such as Kids Camps, Single Mom and Kids Camp, God In Shoes Community Outreach, Friendship Evangelism in the local churches (such as Light Up the Dark), Christmas and Easter Programs for community outreach, Bible Study Outreach, and Evangelistic Series. Thank you in advance for your offering to support KS-NE Advance.



**“YOU CAN DO MORE
for your health
& your **LIFE**
than can HOSPITALS, DOCTORS
all the DRUGS & SURGERIES
combined”**

Dr Hans Diehl, CHIP founder

**Plan to attend an Information
Session to find out how the
Complete Health Improvement
Program can help you take
charge of your life.**

FREE Info Sessions
Sunday February 22, 4:00 pm or 7:00 pm
Tuesday February 24, 7:00 pm
Heartland Hall, College View Church
www.chiphealth.com

PROVEN RESULTS
Priceless benefits

Please join Union College for an academic roundtable titled “The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship at Union College” on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00pm in the Krueger Center. The world of secular academia would have us believe it is impossible to be both a Christian and a true scholar. But in this roundtable discussion, Union College professors will discuss how their beliefs have enhanced both their research and their ability to connect with students in the classroom. Refreshments will follow. This event is part of the celebration for the inauguration of Dr. Vinita Sauder as 29th president of Union College. Contact: Ryan Teller at ryteller@ucollege.edu, or 402-486-2538

Please join us for the installation of Dr. Vinita Sauder as the 29th president of Union College on Thursday, March 5, at 10:30am in at the College View Church. The event will also include a wide variety of exhibits featuring the artistic and academic work of Union's faculty and students in the college library, the McClelland Art Gallery and the lobby of the church. Contact: Ryan Teller at ryteller@ucollege.edu, or 402-486-2538

Kids Ministries Workshop, Sabbath, March 7, 3:00-9:00pm (English) Light meal provided, at College View SDA Church, Heartland Hall, 4801 Prescott Ave. Speaker, Melanie Cruz is a much sought after Children's Ministries presenter with a B.A. in Educational Psychology and a lifetime of experience of working with children. Melanie will share insights and resources to equip you to make an eternal difference for the kids in your church! Reserve your spot today by March 2. To register please call 785-478-4726 or email scarlson@ks-ne.org. The \$20.00 registration fee includes: Seminars, Sabbath School Room Tour, Handouts, Light Meal, Use of Die Cuts and Die Cut Machines. Send check payable to KS-NE Conference by March 2, Attn: Children's Ministry. We encourage all of our children's and youth Sabbath School Leaders to attend or send a representative from your class. These are very good seminars and we feel confident you will benefit from attending. Our Piedmont Park Contact: Pastor Andy Moseley andrewjmoseley@yahoo.co.uk

GREATER VISION - Gospel Music's Favorite Trio!

Monday, March 9, 7:00pm ~ Piedmont Park Church, 4801 A Streets, Lincoln NE

Greater Vision is recognized as one of the best in southern gospel music today. Gerald, Rodney and Chris are renowned for their rich vocal blends and ability to communicate through music. With too many awards and honors to mention, they are established as the most awarded trio in the history of gospel music and are heard daily by thousands of radio and internet radio listeners. They also appear regularly on "In Touch" television and are featured on the Gaither Gospel Series. Doors will open at 6:00pm for this FREE concert. An offering will be taken. For more information call 402-792-2450. Lou Ann Fredregill, Midwest Gospel Music

GREATER VISION

at Piedmont Park Church



Monday, March 9, 7:00 pm

At Piedmont Park SDA Church we have carefully prayed, surveyed, and discussed our core values. We have found that as a church body the following values are the ones we feel make this church useful and unique in the Lord Jesus Christ's service.

- 1) A community of Believers with Warm fellowship, Preaching/Teaching & Christian Education.
- 2) Godly Servant Leadership
- 3) Passionate Evangelism to Reach Lost People
- 4) Well Mobilized Laity
- 5) Biblical Discipleship
- 6) Inspiring Worship
- 7) Strong Families

Piedmont Park's Facebook Page is a great resource to keep up-to-date on what's happening at our church. Please visit it at www.facebook.com/piedmontparksda & be sure to Like the page

Piedmont Park's Website: Visit www.piedmontparksda.org to find events on the Calendar, learn about Ministries at Piedmont, donate using Online Giving, view each week's Bulletins or watch each week's Service. You can even find instructions on how to use Piedmont's Church Directory! We hope you will visit the website today and take advantage of all the information offered there! Questions: Vanessa Schaecher, Communications Chair

The Building Expansion is progressing. Members and guests at Piedmont Park's Sabbath services and activities will need to enter from the Cotner Street side of the building. Unless you are unable to manage the steps please enter our building from the back door just across from Bryan Hospital. Continue through the education wing and middle foyer, then enter the sanctuary through the door directly in front of you. For those who need this service, our stair-free entrance is on "A" Street on the north side of the building near the east end of the building where the glass wall/door is. Greeters will meet you at the back entrance, the stair-free entrance and at the south sanctuary door. You can pick up bulletins, Sabbath School lessons and flyers at all three entrance points. The Welcome Desk will be in its usual place, but the children's supplies are on a shelf inside the sanctuary. God bless you, and we are excited to see you this coming Sabbath at our old, yet "becoming new," building! It is still God's House where He will meet us for worship.

Prayer and Praise:

If you would like special prayer and want your church family to pray for and with you, please send your request to the church office by email at piedmontparksda@gmail.com or by phone message at 402-489-1344. The Office will email your request to your church family. If you would like to your church family to respond with messages of encouragement, please provide your choice of address, phone and/or email as well.

If you have a prayer request, but do not want your request sent to prayer and praise, please feel free to send your request to the church office by email at piedmontparksda@gmail.com or phone message at 402-489-1344 and let us know it is a private request. The pastoral and administrative staff will pray for you, individually, as well as together, at staff meeting on Tuesday mornings. If you would like a card from the Pastoral staff or a visit from a Pastor or Elder, please provide your address, email and phone number along with your message.

ARTICLE...

"Marriage and How to Make it Better"

Nothing hurts quite like a failing marriage, and there is no loneliness as intense as living with a stranger, especially one that used to be your best friend. So how did you get here, and is there any way to get back to the love you once knew? To that giggly, hand-holding stage you swore to one another you'd never leave? The answer is an unequivocal yes. The God

who raised Christ from the dead and who breathed life into man can indeed breathe life into your dead and decaying marriage. That doesn't mean it will be easy, In fact, it will take a great deal of prayer, inner strength, perseverance, and surrender, but it will be worth it! So very worth it. Let's take a closer look at these five steps to marital healing.

1. Pray

Denise Friesen, co-founder of the non-profit marriage ministry, SOS Marriage Care, Inc., reminds us that God is the designer of marriage, and as such, should be our first source of wisdom. "So many times it's easier to pick up the phone and call a friend to discuss your dead marriage," she says, "than it is to do the right thing and turn to God first for his direction."

Going to our friends first can create numerous problems. Mankind's wisdom often directly opposes God's. In our give-me, grab-it culture, many encourage a self-centered solution, even those in the church. This isn't intentional on their part. Rather, it comes from having a sin nature while living in a deceived and sinful world.

"We have been living a false lie in society that has wreaked havoc in many marriages," Friesen says. "This lie tells us that we get married to be happy for the rest of our lives, and that our spouse is responsible for making us happy. When this doesn't happen, we become bitter and angry that our expectations aren't met. This is very far from how God designed marriages to work. God designed marriages to encompass spouses who mutually complete one another and serve one another selflessly."

There is a second and larger problem with going to our friends first: Doing so can easily fuel our negativity and bitterness. First off, our friends will only hear one side, which happens to be ours—the only side we know. This will rarely help us dig deeper, to the root of the problem. More than likely, our friend will validate our feelings, becoming our ally in this "war." What we need is not someone to make us more entrenched in the battle but rather a peacemaker who will help us lovingly work our way out.

The role of a peacemaker is a difficult one to fill, one that requires strength, honesty, and Christ-like wisdom. Few friends have the strength and courage to speak the complete truth regarding our situation, especially when we're going through a tough time. Christ, however, the Prince of peace, fills the peacemaker role perfectly, and he is ready and available to walk us through the worst relational issues. The One who reconciled us to Christ has given each of us the role of reconciliation. More than that, he's given us everything we need to fulfill that role, **if we'd but seek his wisdom and follow his lead.**

2. Surrender

Surrender means giving up all our rights, expectations, and desires for Christ's sake, **out of obedience to him.** This step has absolutely nothing to do with our spouse. In other words, it doesn't matter if we think our spouse deserves our Christ-centered actions or not. Christ does. **He gave everything, his very life, so that we may live,** and he asks us to give our lives back to him.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "*And so dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God **because of all he has done for you.** Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person **by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect*" (NLT).

Notice, this verse doesn't say, "In view of everything your husband has done," or "Because your wife genuinely apologized," or even, "Because, if you do X and Y, all will go well for you."

No. It says, *“because of all he [God] has done for you,”* the biggest being surrendering his very life so we could live. Because of that, Paul urges us to give our life back to him. This means living in a way God desires, regardless of the outcome.

This begs the question, how does God want us to live? According to Jesus, the answer to that is relatively simple. We are to love God with everything we have **and love others as ourselves**. The problem in most marriages is that we have the latter part of that command flipped. We love ourselves as we’d like others to love us. Meanwhile, our spouse is likely doing the same, leading to disastrous results as each of us feeds our negativity and bitterness, leading to further isolation. God’s way, however, leads to life, love, intimacy, and freedom. And this freedom often comes through the third step:

3. Forgiveness

For years, I hung on to my pain, feeding it until the very thought of an event or individual spiked my pulse. I knew I needed to forgive, that God had commanded me to do so, but I was so consumed by the injustice of it all, I refused to take that step. As a result, I grew increasingly angry until this anger began to seep out into my daily life. I grew impatient, easily irritated, and easily offended. **My unforgiveness became a growing poison that stole my joy and isolated me not only from the one who had wounded me, but from all my relationships.**

One evening my local Bible study group launched a study on forgiveness. Concluding the study, we were each invited to write on slip of paper the name of an individual or event that had hurt us deeply. We were then to toss that slip of paper into a bonfire burning in the study host’s backyard. As we did so, we were to release our anger, **choosing** to forgive and asking God to give us the strength to act on that choice.

That night, as I watched the flames flicker, my wadded paper in hand, realization swept through me: God didn’t want me to forgive for the other person’s sake. **He wanted me to do so for mine.** He longed to free me from the bitterness that was stealing the peace and joy he died to grant me.

I cannot explain the incredible joy and healing that realization brought, and the overwhelming peace that followed, once I released my pain, anger, and need for vindication, to Christ. That moment paved the way for great inner growth, and **allowed me to proceed with thoughtful intentionality rather than emotional reactivity. In other words, I became proactive about my relationships and determined to rebuild that which had been lost.**

This leads me to the fourth step toward marital healing:

4. Fight with Everything You’ve Got

Fight—not with your spouse but for them. Because isn’t that what unconditional love is all about? Isn’t that the kind of love each of us longs for? A love that sees us at our worst but chooses to remember us at our best? A love that becomes our support when we feel like we’re going to crumble? One that looks past our actions and reactions to our heart within—a **heart that usually won’t reveal itself until all fear of abandonment and retaliation is gone.**

This kind of love is tough. It doesn’t come naturally. In fact, initially, our self-protecting heart might rally against it. When this happens, we might need to seek reinforcement. **Never be afraid to use the C word—counseling.** I’ve often said my husband and I have our counselor on speed dial because we’ve sought outside help on so many occasions. Doing so has given the tools we need to deal with difficult issues and resolve conflicts effectively. Meeting together with an unbiased professional has also given us a safe place to talk openly until we reach the root of the problem.

Remember the vows you spoke on your wedding day? To love, cherish, and honor, forsaking all others, in the good and the bad? **This Valentine’s Day, God is giving you an opportunity to put feet to your words—to make good on your**

promise. More than that, he'll give you the strength to do it, **if you'd but stay in the fight. For as long as it takes,** trusting not in your spouse and their ability to change, not even in yourself, but rather in Christ and his ability to radically transform.

Because nothing—nothing!—is impossible with God. So rest in him, trust in him, and, walking forward in the freedom and strength he provides, choose to begin again, today.

This leads me to step five...

5. Choose Hope, and Always Be Ready to Begin Again

I love **Lamentations 3:23** which tells us God's "mercies begin afresh each morning."

The question is, do ours? Can we begin afresh today, offering our spouse that clean slate of grace? That doesn't mean we won't deal with the issues that are weakening our marriage, but it does mean we'll view them through a different lens, that of love and hope.

It won't be easy. Long-term, committed love never is. **But we'll never find the intimacy we long for if we walk away,** because the problem doesn't lie entirely with our spouse. Until we learn to resolve conflicts God's way, turning to him in prayer, following with wholehearted surrender in whatever he asks us to do, and fighting for those we love with everything we've got, we'll continually move from one broken relationship to the next. But if we turn to and lean on Christ, trusting in his wisdom, strength and power at work within us, we can find healing, restoration, and a love deeper than we'd ever imagined.

How do I know? Because I've been there, and standing on the other side of the fight, preparing for an epic 20th anniversary celebration, I never plan to go back. **Author: Jennifer Slattery**