



Friends

by Pastor Jeff Kinne



Friends. My life is more beautiful because of them.

I'm nearing role-change time. For nearly thirteen years at Village Church and forty-four in the Upper Columbia Conference, I've been Pastor. Soon that handle will be history. Pastor will be something I was. While that transition is significant, I'm grateful I'll still be called Friend. That's really big.

Friendships are significant. They help keep our heads working and our bodies healthy. From good blood pressure and our body's ability to fight off illness, to our emotional resilience and mental stability, friendships are key.

I have enjoyed great friendships throughout my life. During childhood I was blessed with bosom companions. In college and post-graduate work, friends were a nurturing community and a vital source of help and pleasure. Through adulthood, friends have been wise counselors, my emotional support, and trustworthy company. My tenure at Village Church has been especially rich because of the friendships I've been blessed with. Whether they're next door or a thousand miles away, connection with friends remains a lifeline and spiritual anchor.

Friends have been there for me when I needed a helping hand. Through hard times and good, they have remained at my side.

Friends listened when I needed to talk, and they've talked when I needed direction. With friends, I've laughed heartily and had loads of fun. With some I've cried. Good friends are sensitive to my hills and valleys. They care greatly.



Sometimes that meant space. Other times it meant being close, even a sympathetic embrace. Good friends have lasted through differences, apologies, and forgiveness. Dr. Seuss described friendship memorably: “To the world you may be just one person, but to one person you may be the world.”

In John fifteen, Jesus uses a powerful metaphor about us and Him. “I am the vine, you are the branches” (verse 5). The imagery is reminiscent of the bond God invited Israel to enjoy as His covenant people. In effect, Jesus was reapplying that metaphor to us. He



is the conduit through which the blessings to Abraham become ours: rest, peace, protection, salvation. Everything promised to Abraham and his descendants is now ours in Jesus. Christ is the source of life, power, and wholeness for believers. “Abide in Me, and I in you” (John 15:4).

Then He says something startling. He calls us friends. Not servants. Not students. Not acquaintances. Friends. Imagine that! You are, I am, a friend of God.

Our union with Him, Jesus says, is not to be confused with a servant/master role. “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business” (John 15:15). We know our Master’s business. Jesus came to tell us. It’s documented in His word and accessible to all. We know His hopes, dreams, and plans for us and our world. He’s given us the keys to His Kingdom. Servants aren’t privy to such details. We are . . . because we are His friends. “I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15).



In the entire Old Testament, there is only one person who is called a “friend of God” (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). That was Abraham. Moses was close.

He talked with God as with a friend (Exodus 33:11). But Abraham was closer. To this friend, God promised, “Do not be

afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward” (Genesis 15;1b NKJV).

Jesus’ invitation to friendship speaks of a change in relationship. It is companionship plus. He is the Life Source. He is where love originates. He brings eternal joy. He dedicates Himself to us in every saving way.

Welcome to friendship with Jesus.
Celebrate!!

Jeff Kinne



Valued Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT ON CLUB MINISTRIES

by Pastor Steve Reasor

This month’s volunteer spotlight shines on the dedicated volunteers of the club ministries. The Village Church Waiilatpu Discovery, Adventurer, and Pathfinder ministries are alive and well only through the dedicated energy and countless volunteer hours of their leaders and ministry teams.

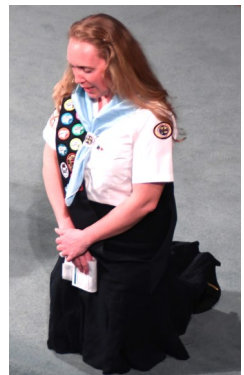
I have to admit that I had never heard of the Discovery uniform club ministry before landing at Village Church last August. I was greeted and invited to participate in the club by its dedicated director, Kimberly Golles. She and her team of volunteers provide lessons, crafts, and learning

in a Christ-centered environment for children ages 3-5. Highlights of each bi-weekly meeting include group stories and activities. Last month, we learned that a game like hopscotch was played in the Roman Empire and Greece when Jesus lived on earth 2,000 years ago. The

Discovery at Club Ministries Sabbath 2023



Kimberly Golles praying



volunteers at Discovery help prepare these precious children for service to Jesus and the world.

The Adventurer program, under the guidance of director Stacy



Maxted and her leadership team, helps to strengthen parent-child relationships and to foster the child's spiritual, physical, mental, and social development. Students in grades 1-4 participate in the Adventurer Club where they improve social skills, increase knowledge about their world, their church, and themselves, and complete fun

Adventurers at Club Ministries Sabbath

crafts and projects. I recently had the opportunity of tasting some delicious food made by one of the units. One of the Adventurer Club objectives is to provide a meaningful and exciting experience as the children look forward with anticipation to someday being Pathfinders.

The Pathfinder Club has a long legacy of active engagement of young people, ages 10-18. Under the guidance of Director Michael Jeffery and Assistant Director Stacy Schwarz, a large

**Pathfinder Club participating in
Club Ministries church service, April 29, 2023**



team of administration, unit leaders, and special volunteers provide a robust program of learning and activities for the Pathfinders. The beat of a hand drum brings them to attention in their units for pledges, instructions, and worship. The Waiilatpu Club participates in local club outings, like unit nights and campouts, as well as conference retreats and camporees.

A recent highlight for me involved a trip to camp MiVoden with the teens of our club for a weekend of music, worship, and friendship building. This year much work and planning is going toward participation in the International Pathfinder Camporee, in Gillette, Wyoming. The club’s funds for the trip have been raised through the generous support of Village Church members.

Steve Reasor



May God continue to bless the work of all the volunteers and parents that make our club ministries a great success.



Recently Baptized

Arthur Moniz
March 16, 2024
Your church family
welcomes you,
Arthur!



*“There is hope in your future,
says the Lord,
That your children shall come back
to their own border.”*

Jeremiah 31:17 NKJV

New Lead Pastor Announced

On March 16, 2024, Duane Anderson, chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, and Brian Harris from the Upper Columbia Conference announced the new lead pastor for Village Church—Pastor Steve Reasor. Pastor Steve will assume his new role after Pastor Jeff retires at the end of June 2024. Welcome, Pastor Steve and Pattie!! We feel like we already know you!



L to R: Duane Anderson, Pastor Steve Reasor, his wife Pattie Reasor, and UCC Superintendent for Education, Brian Harris

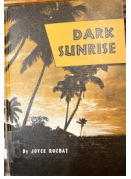
Ebay update: Our Village Church eBay site has been operational since October of last year. We currently have 107 items listed for sale. Most of those items come from donations to the Center. In the last 31-day cycle we have sold \$3,479.35. This money goes to the Worthy Student Account for students from the Village Church enrolled at the Academy or Rogers. If you have items to donate for sale on eBay contact Marcel at 530-966-7187 or simply drop them off at the Center on Sunday morning. To get an idea of what things sell on eBay, go to: www.ebay.com then in the search space write: villagesda. On the left side, go down to the section marked 'show only' and check 2 boxes: 'completed' and 'sold.' All the items we have sold since October will then be shown in the results.



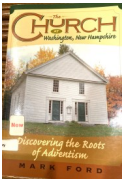


From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl

Recent news from Haiti has not been good. Violence and anarchy are supplanting peace and safety. But our first book details a time of peace and progress for the Adventist work in

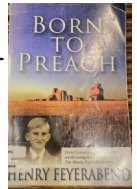


Haiti. The year was 1958 and the book is *Dark Sunrise* by Joyce Rochat. The Adventist presence in Haiti began around 1908 and this book tells of the hardships and triumphs of those 50 years. Illustrated with numerous pictures, this is a book you will enjoy reading!



Our second book, written by Mark Ford, published in 2002, is on the subject of Adventist Heritage, in particular “The Church At Washington, New Hampshire.” This book is a Who’s Who of Adventist pioneers since this church can be regarded as the official birthplace of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was gradually losing members until Ellen White denounced the secret sins of the members including the pastor who had the habit of chewing tobacco. True revival took place and the rest is history!

It Is Written evangelist Henry Feyerabend dreamed at a tender age of becoming a great evangelist for God. You could say he was “Born To Preach.” This autobiography from 2005 details the events in his life. He grew up on the prairies of Saskatchewan, served as a missionary in Brazil as lead evangelist for A Voz da Profecia, and conducted evangelistic crusades in Portugal, Russia, and the United States. In addition, he authored more than a dozen books. You will be inspired by his story!



Josephine Cunnington Edwards—the name is closely linked with great stories. I personally knew her son Charles who was also a wonderful storyteller. The name of this book, published in 1992, is a long one, “Teaching Old-Fashioned Values to New-Fashioned Kids” and describes perfectly what the book is all about—using stories to teach lessons of obedience, honesty, manners, self-control, and love for God. She does so in a way that keeps the attention of the reader while instilling those above-mentioned values. Entertaining but also transforming. Read and learn.





Walla Walla Valley Camps showcase a variety of day-camp activities in a fun, safe, faith-based environment.



Power Play Camp

June 24-28, \$165. Experiences will include daily drama and kickball/softball options, as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, lawn sports, water fights, swimming, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports, group games, and fun field trips.

Power Spray Camp

July 1-3 and 5 \$135. Experiences will include daily water-oriented activities as well as daily crafts and activity options like kickball, softball, lawn sports, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports, group games, and fun field trips.

Power Forward Camp

July 8-12, \$165. Experiences will include daily basketball and lawn games as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, archery, water fights, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, swimming, table sports, kickball, softball, group games, and fun field trips.



Power Move Camp

July 15-19, \$165. Experiences will include daily volleyball and badminton options as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, kickball, water fights, lawn sports, swimming, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports and fun field trips.



Power Shot Camp

July 22-26, \$165. Experiences will include daily archery and floor hockey options, as well as daily crafts and activity options like water fights, roller skating/blading, table sports, swimming, lawn games, table sports, kickball, softball, group games, and fun field trips.



Power Gear Camp

July 29-August 2, \$165. Experiences will include daily biking and skating options as well as daily crafts and activity options like softball, floor hockey, swimming, kickball, basketball, archery, table sports, group games and fun field trips.



Space is limited, register today!

www.wallawallavalleycamps.com



Family Matters

A feature by Bev Donahey especially for parents of young children

Bev Donahey believes that one of the best things on earth is a happy family. She has a college degree in psychology and a master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science. Her work experience includes providing services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, therapy with children and teenagers who have behavior problems and mental illness, and adults with addictions. She shares tips that she picks up from her experiences, friends, and research.



The Sentencing

I served on a jury a few years ago. After the evidence and defense were presented, we jurors were shown to a jury deliberation room. We discussed the case for 3 days before we came to the unanimous decision that the defendant was guilty. Then the judge stated that the sentencing would be on September 15, two months away. I was puzzled why he scheduled such a delay until I heard that the judge would discuss the case with the defense attorney and prosecutor before deciding the sentence.



I think of the decisions I impulsively made when my little plaintiffs had committed crimes, such as teasing younger siblings to the point of tears. Too often I neglected asking about their motives and talking about the effects of their misbehavior. I usually didn't pray about it by myself or with them. Sometimes my response was unduly harsh because of how annoyed I felt. How we correct wrong attitudes and behaviors really matters. It's helpful for parents to talk things over together when dealing with bigger problems. Rash decisions are often not good. Undue harshness builds resentment and fear in children.

Waiting to hear the consequence is thought-provoking for the child. There are consequences



that are related to wrongs, such as doing an extra chore when one neglected doing his assigned chore. After being rude, older kids can write about a time someone was unkind to them and how they felt, in addition to doing something kind for the person they were rude to.



Jesus, thank you for the parenting information you've given us. We need it.

Anxiety and depression are common in our world, and no one needs to struggle alone. Mindfit, by the Voice of Prophecy, offers practical help and hope. There will be video presentations, group discussion of the video, community and connection. Useful for anyone living in this society. Bring a friend and come check it out!

Village Church Fellowship Hall
April 4-7, 2024, 7 p.m.



The central flyer graphic has a light grey background with a white brain in the center. The brain is stylized with colorful, multi-colored lines (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) extending from its base, resembling neural connections. At the top right of the flyer is the logo for 'voice of prophecy' with a small orange bird icon. Below the brain, the text reads 'Your invitation to participate in' in a dark font. Underneath that, the word 'mindfit' is written in a large, bold, green font. Below 'mindfit' is the subtitle 'A four-part bridge-building series' in a smaller, dark font. At the bottom left of the flyer is a QR code. At the bottom center is the website 'MindFitEvent.com' in a green font. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for 'Scan code with smartphone camera'.



Editor's note—This story was shared by Mabel Wagner who wrote, "I miss the children's stories in Village Voice." So she came up with a great solution and sent this one. She said, "We lived for a few years on 'the farm,' actually a small old orchard. It had many little animals from bee size to a deer that visited me and helped me prune my baby roses. This story is about a wasp. So many little creatures out there inspired me! Isn't God's creation amazing!"

Thanks for sharing this story, Mabel. Perhaps you'll find time to write more stories for our enjoyment and inspiration!



The Persevering Wasp

by Mabel Wagner

One beautiful sunny day I was edging the lawn while my son Brent mowed. I stepped on the edging tool, cutting straight down into the soil, then smoothed the soil up onto the bed making a flat bottom and then a rounded raised edge on the other side. About 5 feet ahead of me something at the edge of the lawn glittered in the sunlight. I stepped closer to see what it was.



It was a tiny black wasp about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, very thin and shiny black. Its body and wings glittered with colors of the rainbow in the sunlight. She looked to be dancing with joy around an ugly greyish-white caterpillar. It was a bit longer than she was and 4 times as big around—thick and fat. I leaned closer to watch her. She was dragging it home, probably for lunch for her babies. I wondered how far she was going. I hadn't cleaned the edge there. She was struggling to get around a big wood chip. I picked up another chip and proceeded



to help by scraping out a smooth path before her. She danced with joy and tugged her heavy burden along—shoving and dragging it.

Brent came to see what I was doing and he predicted I would get stung. I said, “No, I won’t. See how happy she is, and see her sparkling rainbow colors?” He shrugged and started mowing again.

She came right along the path I cleared for her. I wondered, did she know where she was going? How far? Was I distracting her from her direction by making life too easy? Would she forget where she wanted to go? Sometimes the devil leads us astray by making it so easy we lose our way. She continued right along the path I made for her, making about 5 feet in 20 minutes. Probably would have been an hour without my help. Would she have given up? Was she now lost? She was still dancing and flicking her wings, sparkling like the rainbow.



Then she stopped. To rest? To get her bearings? What? I had cut the edge there 2 inches deep—3-4 times her height. She inspected the bank. No way could she possibly pull her heavy burden up that bank! After all her struggle was it a lost cause? She nudged the caterpillar close and climbed on top of it. She still couldn’t reach the top.



Sometimes have you found yourself in that situation? “Lord, I’ve worked so hard, I can’t do this! Help me!” I wondered, “Do wasps pray?” I had to help her. I slid the chip of wood I was using to make a path into the soil under her and lifted very carefully. She waited. I pushed the chip against the edge of the lawn. The lawn was cut short there, but it was still taller than her body. She got off the chip and dragged her burden off onto the grass. Now which way would she go? Did she know where she was? How good was her tiny GPS? She had turned west and now she tried to move forward through the thick spring grass. Was she going to go to the neighbor’s yard about 60 feet away? This could





take all day! I looked around. How could I help? I spotted some flowers—irises with wide flat leaves. I broke off two leaves and laid them in line in front of her. She tugged the caterpillar aboard and pulled it down the long runway. She looked so happy. But was she going the right way?

I was too fascinated to stop, and she seemed to get more and more excited as the morning minutes quickly ticked by! I kept alternating the leaves in front of her. About 12 feet across the grass we came to the curved edge of the flowerbed again. Now there was a deep drop-off in front of her (equivalent to about 20 feet for you, if you are 5 feet tall). The iris leaf ended there and before I could get the other leaf across the great expanse of the flowerbed, she gave a big tug and pulled the critter over the edge. They tumbled together to the bottom of the ditch. I thought she was crushed by the fall, but she wiggled out from under and began the long, steep (for her) climb up the curved edge of the bed, ignoring her skinned knees.



I cleared her path straight ahead a little way at a time, hoping she would stop soon. Suddenly she flitted over the ground a few inches ahead. There she stopped and searched in a small circle. And there it was! A small hole—too small, I thought. She came back to the caterpillar and tugged it towards the hole. I cleared her way. She pulled it to the entrance. It didn't fit! She cleared it out a bit wider. Still not big enough, I thought. But she

went into the hole and tugged. Slowly it slipped inside. I thought it would plug the hole, but after a bit it plopped inside.



Then she appeared at the entrance, came out and did her happy jig just for me, I think. Then she turned around and began kicking the dirt into the hole with her back legs.

When she was finished she flew away. I marveled at the accuracy of her tiny GPS. So much harder than just flying there. So happy that she had accepted my help! (If she had been a big

yellow wasp I probably WOULD have gotten stung!) If you ever see a tiny black wasp, don't do it any harm. They do good for us.

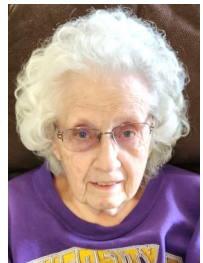
I thought about how many times along the way I have been tempted to give up. How uncaring God seems when the way is so hard. Is He scraping the path before me sometimes, making elevators and green smooth paths for me and I don't think He even sees or cares? I grumble instead of sparkle when He's been there all along clearing the way for me?



If you ever think the way is too hard, remember the little black wasp. God cares about the sparrow. Did He even send me to help the wasp—at least as a lesson for me? He says to watch the ants too. I say we “hang in there.” He'll make a way for us to get home! I'll see you there!”



Mabel Wagner



Kids: Remember to notice the little creatures God made. He cares for them and you are way more important to Him than a tiny wasp. He's waiting to help you get home too.

“Children should be encouraged to search out in nature the objects that illustrate Bible teachings, and to trace in the Bible the similitudes drawn from nature. They should search out, both in nature and in Holy Writ, every object representing Christ, and those also that He employed in illustrating truth. Thus may they learn to see Him in tree and vine, in lily and rose, in sun and star. They may learn to hear His voice in the song of birds, in the sighing of the trees, in the rolling thunder, and in the music of the sea. And every object in nature will repeat to them His precious lessons.” —Education p. 120



Upcoming Event—Prophecy Unsealed



Beth Travis

by Elizabeth Travis

Mark your calendars and prepare yourselves—a massive evangelistic series is coming to Village Church this autumn. Although the series is still a couple months away, it's never too early to write down the dates and consider which meetings and topics you want to be sure and see.

The evangelistic series is called Prophecy Unsealed: An Intelligent Look Into Bible Prophecy and End Time Events. It will be hosted by Pastor Brian McMahon at the Village Church over the course of three weeks, October 19 through November 9.

Meetings on Sundays and weekdays will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sabbath seminars will be held at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and at the 11 a.m. church service. Watch for more specifics in October.

Pastor McMahon has already selected the topics for each meeting. He will cover vital topics from Revelation ranging from the biblical teaching about hell and the resurrection to important prophecies such as the 1,000 Years and the Mark of the Beast. The evangelistic series will culminate in Pastor McMahon telling his own personal conversion story and sharing one of the most treasured Bible prophecies, the promise of Christ's soon return and the heaven that awaits us.

Here is a list of the dates and topics for McMahon's meetings:

Sat. Oct 19 Unlocking Revelation's Mysteries

Sun. Oct 20 A Thief in the Night!

Mon. Oct 21 Spiritualism Exposed! Death's Mystery Solved!

Tue. Oct 22 Revelation's 1000 Years

Thu. Oct 24 What is Hell-fire really all about?

Fri. Oct 25 The Issue that Divides the World

Sat. Oct 26 (5 pm) God's Test of Loyalty



Pastor Brian McMahon

Sat. Oct 26 (7 pm) The Doorway to a New Life

Mon. Oct 28 The Longest and Most Amazing Bible Prophecy

Tue. Oct 29 Bible Secrets to Good Health

Thu. Oct 31 Unmasking the Antichrist

Fri. Nov 1 The Mark of the Beast and the Seal of God

Sat. Nov 2 (11 am) Overcoming Through the Word

Sat. Nov 2 (5 pm) The United States in Bible Prophecy

Sat. Nov 2 (7 pm) Armageddon and the Seven Last Plagues

Mon. Nov 4 Revelation's Saints – A Peculiar People

Wed. Nov 6 The Most Sought-After Secret in the Bible

Thu. Nov 7 Prophets and Prophecy, Visions and Dreams

Fri. Nov 8 The Last Night on Earth

Sat. Nov 9 (11 am) The Lost Coin. Pastor Brian's Story

Sat, Nov 9 Heaven... Is it for Real?

You and anyone you know will be informed and inspired by this incredible series of meetings, so mark the dates, invite friends, and prepare to attend Prophecy Unsealed this fall. We at the Village Church hope to see you all there.

More info about Brian McMahan, from prophecyunsealed.com:

“Brian McMahan, an ordained minister, has had the privilege to minister to tens of thousands of people around the world of many backgrounds and faiths preaching with conviction, sincerity, clarity and compassion.

Brian's seminars are well known for being among the very best for thoroughness and Christ-centeredness. His background has been beneficial in enabling him to communicate with and befriend those of all backgrounds and faiths. He has had the opportunity to present seminars in a vast array of venues and on multiple occasions in a correctional facility.”

Pastor McMahan will speak at Village Church Sabbath, June 15, 2024, so we can meet him before the series.

Broccoli Cheese Soup

This recipe comes from the cookbook “Of These You May Freely Eat” by JoAnn Rachor. Naturally vegan and gluten-free, this soup is a delicious, nutritious comfort food, filling, healthy, and easy to put together. If you dare, drop in a pinch of cayenne pepper for added flavor and warmth.



Ingredients:

- 3 ½ cups water
- 1 2/3 cups raw, chopped carrots
- 1 ½ cups raw, chopped potatoes
- 1 cup onion, cut in chunks
- ½ cup raw cashews
- 1 ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 pound frozen broccoli or 4 cups fresh, chopped in small pieces



Instructions:

Lightly boil the carrots, potatoes and onion in the water until tender, 15-20 minutes. Put the cashews and salt in the blender along with part of the vegetables and part of the water from the saucepan. Blend for a full minute, until very smooth. Empty blender and blend smooth the rest of the ingredients from the pan. Cook the broccoli until tender. Combine all ingredients. Reheat and serve.

Variation: Sliced or chopped, cooked carrots and potatoes may be used for part or all of the broccoli. Or use other favorite vegetables, such as frozen, mixed vegetables, in place of the broccoli.



Dear Village Voice readers,

When you read the list of people in Hebrews 11 who “by it [faith] received a good report” (v. 2), do you ever put yourself there with Abel, Noah, Abraham, and the others? Why not? These are our biblical ancestors through Christ, “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29 NKJV).

These giants of faith listed in Hebrews were just as human as we are. In their daily trials they had opportunity to walk by faith, trusting God’s word for the “now” the same way you and I can. In the power of the faith gifted to them through Christ (Eph. 2:8), they believed, and God did amazing things for and in and through them!

When we hear the oft-quoted “. . . except as we shall forget. . .” passage by Ellen White (Life Sketches p. 196), let’s expand our thinking to include not just the pioneers of our church, but His people through all ages, focusing on what the Lord has taught and how He has led humanity since Creation and

Karen Ekkens



will continue to the close of time, “for He is faithful that promised” (Hebrews 10:23).

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor



VILLAGE VOICE

Is published monthly by the
College Place Village Seventh-day
Adventist Church, and is
distributed free to its members.

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