

Manassas Seventh-day Adventist Church

Newsletter

January 2012

New Ministry Teams

Kris & Rebekah Westermeyer

A new year begins at the Manassas Seventh-Day Adventist Church with the hope and confidence that Jesus will return soon, the promise that His Holy Spirit will be with us, and the command to share Jesus with the world because it's all about Him. During this last year, God has lead our church to create four focus areas, or ministry teams. Each of these areas provides a different way to share Jesus. These teams are designed to develop the spiritual gifts of the church and facilitate a way for each person to be meaningfully involved in ministry.

The *Inspiring Worship* team ministers through the Sabbath morning service. This ministry team works throughout the week so that the church service on Sabbath is guest-friendly, grace-filled, distraction-free, purpose-driven,

engaging, and, most important of all, focused on sharing Jesus each and every Sabbath. This ministry begins at the door (and the parking lot) as people are welcomed, continues with the audio-visual team which ensures the message is heard and seen by all, moves on through music, prayer, children's activities, speakers, and all of the worship service.

There are two branches of the *Reaching-Out* ministry. The external branch, which focuses on finding ways to share Jesus with those who don't regularly attend church and the internal branch, dedicated to sharing Jesus' love with those already a part of our church family. The externally-focused ministry pulls together ideas, volunteers, and programs that will engage our community and promote an interest in spiritual matters. This ministry uses various different avenues to reach our community. The internally-focused ministry gives members opportunities to serve the community and supports Christian education for the growth of children and youth inside and out of this church. This ministry continually looks for opportunities to bring people together socially and spiritually in order to foster a loving, giving, and serving church family.

Building Community is all about finding more and different ways to bring people into sharing

groups -- Sabbath schools, prayer meetings, Bible studies, young adults, clubs, and sports.

This community-building ministry believes at its core that a sense of belonging is important in a person's relationship with Jesus.

The team for *Leveraging Resources* provides a ministry to ministries. The resources team enables each of the church focus areas to serve more effectively. This core ministry of the church ensures that our facilities are in good shape, our finances are in order and that each ministry team can effectively communicate.

The nominating committee has appointed leaders and core participants for each of these teams. However, each team is not comprised only of the people listed by the nominating committee. *(continued on next page...)*

Upcoming event:

January 28th

Family movie night

Fellowship Hall

Christ-myth Busters

Rebecca Erdelyi

Were there really three wisemen? Was Christ born in December or in the springtime? Did the angels sing or did they say "glory to God in the highest"? The students of the Manassas Adventist Preparatory School tested our traditional ideas about Christmas with their annual gift to the church: the Christmas musical program "Christ-myth Busters" on December 10th.

Under the direction of Gerson Hortua, the music featured a fresh take on some of the usual Christmas carols, with calypso shepherds and

rapping angels. The five main parts featured Susan Thomas as the lonely neighbor lady and Stevie Monick, Sarah Monick, Paola Nago, and Ethan Revis as the kids who challenge our long held beliefs about Christ's birth when they explore what the Gospel of Luke really says, and what it doesn't.

The program had special meaning for many as the set was to have been built by Melvin Sanborn, but with his sudden death while working on the set at the church, his daughters Teri Sanborn and Sandy Breeden pitched in and finished the backdrop in spite of their grief and the show went on as planned, just as Melvin would have wanted it to. The "truth" about Christmas continues to be the good news that it brings to us a hope of Christ's second coming.



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These leaders were chosen to encourage all members to be active participants in at least one of these ministry areas.

Below is a table with each of the four ministries, some typical (but not exclusive) activities found in these ministries, and the contact team leader.

Inspiring Worship	Reaching Out	Building Community	Leveraging Resources
Gerson Hortua	Stan Schurtz & Steve Gable	Brett Robinson	Gary Rodman
Music Welcoming Production Audio Visual Lighting Children's Story Offering Setup Team	MAPS SERVE Potlucks Bible Studies Evangelism Communion Social Events	Pathfinders Adventurers Sabbath School Bible & Prayer Groups Young Adults Athletic Teams	Deacons Deaconesses Treasurer Communication Website Newsletters Social Media Maintenance

Each of these teams can only minister if each of us answers the call to share Jesus. Please consider joining a team!

SERVE Update

Scott South

It has been another successful year of ministry for SERVE, a community outreach program of Manassas Adventist Church. Many churches in our area have partnered together to form SERVE, seeking to help feed and shelter less fortunate families and individuals of our local community.

On the fourth Sabbath of each month, our church is responsible for the noon meal at the Serve Shelter. This meal must be well-balanced, with the major food groups represented. Presently we have three groups volunteering to help feed the hungry at SERVE Homeless Shelter in Manassas. Each group consists of a leader and volunteers.

Scott South's group includes: Melissa South, Don Spady, Bernie Bowbeer, Ron and Cwilla Kincaid, Dave and Barbara Mitchell, and Phil and Laura Mudrich.

Susie Schurtz's group includes: Kevin and Susan Thomas, Jocelyn Cosme, Larry and Janine Hudson, Stan Schurtz, and Penny Nickle.

George Carr's group includes: Celina Garay, Joyce Wine, and Steve Gable.

These dedicated individuals pledge their time and money to create hot nutritious meals that will feed 60 or more hungry individuals. MSDA Church is well represented in the community by these volunteers who generously serve in this ministry, one that Jesus commissioned us to do until He comes again.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers who exemplify what serving means. If you are interested, or know of others that might be interested, in being a part of this ministry, please contact Scott South; we are constantly seeking self-sacrificing individuals to dedicate their time and resources to help serve our less-fortunate community members.

Juniors Choose Jesus

Scott South

A baptismal class, sponsored by the junior division but open to all ages, has been held over the last three months. The class focused on the core values, doctrines, and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the symbolic meanings of the sanctuary, the investigative judgment currently occurring in heaven, and the three angels' messages. We discussed the special relevance of these messages to our lives today, living as we are in the end times. The importance of the Sabbath and the blessings of keeping this holy day were explored in depth. Other important discussions included the state of the dead and spiritual gifts.

The students had great questions concerning each of these topics; they impressed me with their thoughtful answers and careful consideration. It was wonderful and a joy to see concepts on these sacred subjects grasped by this baptismal class of young people. The power of the Holy Spirit was present when students not only understood, but enthusiastically accepted these truths of the Bible and doctrines of our church.

This focused study has produced two baptisms, so far: Alondra and Apollo, both who were baptized over the Christmas holidays. Alondra was baptized in San Antonio, Texas where most of her family lives and Apollo was baptized in Idaho where his family resides. These two individuals desired to have their families present during this very special and sacred life event and chose to be baptized in the geographical areas of family. At present there are several other individuals desiring baptism and discussing their baptismal plans with their families. Let us continue praying for those individuals seeking baptism and welcome our newest members, Alondra and Apollo, into church membership.

We are interested in publishing articles, photographs, events, and anything else of interest. Please send submissions to newsletter@msdachurch.org.

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