

Sabbath Recorder

175

**This is the
175th Year
Seventh Day
Baptists
bring
to you
Inspiration!
Information!
News!**

June 1844-2019

A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

175th Anniversary

The Sabbath Recorder is...

a magazine of communication
and inspiration among
Seventh Day Baptists;

a vehicle through which
denominational leadership
can communicate the mission,
goals, and accomplishments
of Seventh Day Baptists;

a tool intended to share
the Good News of
Jesus Christ and His Sabbath,
and to inspire readers to share
that news with others;

an instrument used to
acquaint others with the
Seventh Day Baptist
denomination.

In Every Issue

12 Christian Education Council

Change is Just the Way Things Are
by Nicholas J. Kersten

13 FOCUS on Missions

Everyone Needs a Mission
by Andy Samuels

15 Women's Society

The Women's Society Connection
by Katrina Goodrich

16 Council On History

Funny how the past never ends!
by John R. Morgan

18 President's Page

People Get Ready
by Jane Mackintosh

19 Young Adult

What's Your Story?
by Sarina Villalpando

20 Alliance in Ministry

Wisdom from Above
by Rob Appel

21 The Beacon

by Rachael Osborn

22 Church Development & Pastoral Services

Pastors Conference 2019
Ordinations
Pastor Searches
Team 21
by John J. Pethtel

24 Church News

Conversation and a Cup of Tea
by Jean Sheppard Trembley

27 Conference News

7th Annual Gospel Feet 5K
by Eric Bofinger

In This Issue

5 Sabbath Recorder: a Connection Between Individuals and Churches

By Rev. D. Scott Smith

6 It Takes a Village...

By Kevin Butler

8 Sabbath Recorder Blessings

By Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele

9 The BEST is yet to come...

By John D. Bevis (1982)

By Patricia Cruzan, SR Editor

11 By Jeremiah Owen,
Director of Communications

14 Sixty Years of the Sabbath Recorder

By Donna S. Bond

About The Authors

John D. Bevis edited the Sabbath Recorder 1973-1982. He pastored Seventh Day Baptist churches in Denver, CO, and Paint Rock, AL. He is retired, living in Alabama.

Donna S. Bond is a member of the Shiloh, NJ, SDB Church. She lives in Bridgeton with her husband of 45 years, Tim Bond, and is the proud mother of Levi Bond and Sylvia Kusmiesz, as well as grandmother to David Kusmiesz. Former church affiliations include Independence, NY; New Auburn, WI; White Cloud, MI; and Milton, WI.

Kevin Butler edited the Sabbath Recorder from 1989 to 2014. He has pastored the St. John's Community Church in Fort Atkinson, WI, since 1992. Spending the "better" part of last year battling cancer, the Lord brought the healing—praise His name! Kevin gives heartfelt thanks to all of you for the prayers, gifts, and notes of encouragement. He looks forward to serving as Conference President in 2020.

D. Scott Smith is retired and living with his family in the village of North Loup, NE, where he is actively involved with the North Loup SDB Church.

Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele is a graduate of Milton College and a member of the Milton, WI, SDB Church. She worked at the SDB Center from 1982 to 2008, and is an author and longtime newspaper humor columnist. She married Frederick ("Fred") Wuerthele in 2006. Together, they have five children and 11 grandchildren.

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Patricia Cruzan
Editor

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green,
Nicholas J. Kersten, Jane Mackintosh, Isaac Floyd/
Rachael Osborn, John J. Pethtel, Andy Samuels,
Sarina Villalpando

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Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis.

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WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are.

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

THE SEVENTH DAY

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience – not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs a people with a difference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Seventh Day Baptist Center

3120 Kennedy Road,
PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Phone: (608) 752-5055; FAX: (608) 752-7711

E-mail: contact@seventhdaybaptist.org

SDB Website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

SDBs ONLINE

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>

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<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>



Settlers moving into the North Loup River Valley of Nebraska in 1886. (Nebraska State Historical Society) — at North Loup River Valley.

The Sabbath Recorder — a Connection Between Individuals and Churches


A few years ago, our family did something that Seventh Day Baptists began doing in 1871. We packed up our material possessions and resettled in North Loup, Nebraska. The first settlers came here seeking open land to farm. They wanted a place that was free from the “overcrowding” they were experiencing in Wisconsin. With the help of friends and family, they loaded small freight wagons with everything they could fit in and began the long and daunting task of crossing the vast American prairies. They traveled 10 to 15 miles a day. When they arrived in this fertile valley, they thanked God and worshiped Him together along the banks of the slow-moving river.

Our journey here was different than theirs. 144 years later, friends and family helped us to load our things into a rented moving van and we headed west down the Interstate Highway System. We covered 1,150 miles in a few short days and arrived on Sabbath morning just in time for church. Like our predecessors, we thanked God and worshiped Him together.

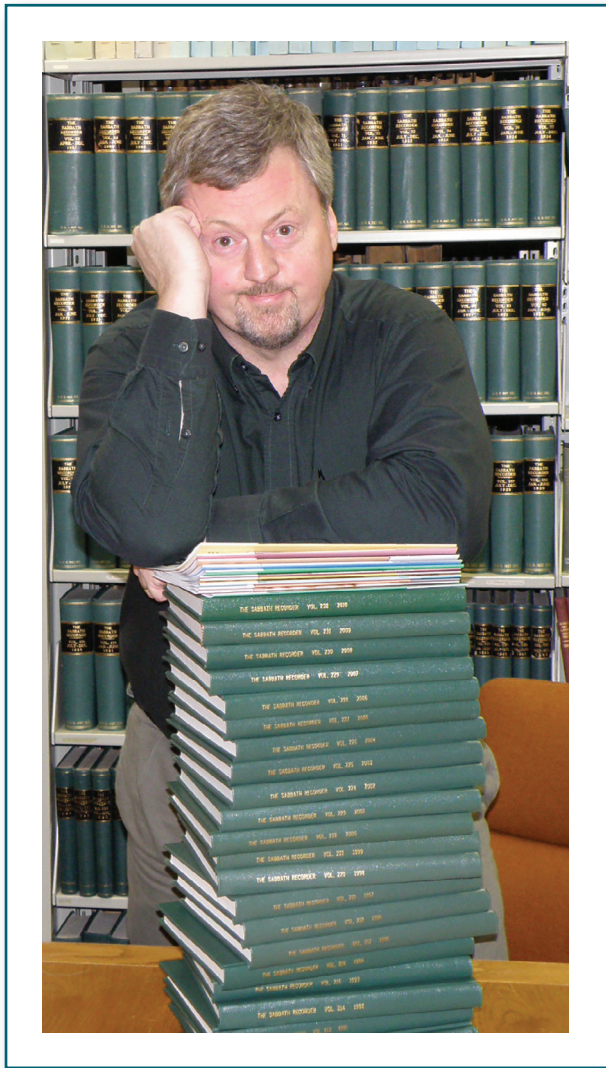
Somewhere in those old freight wagons, our Seventh Day Baptist predecessors probably carried a few copies of *The Sabbath Recorder*. By the 1870’s, it was already a mature publication. Its look had changed a bit since its beginnings in 1844. For those settlers, it was a rather large 22 by 28 inch newspaper. Their subscription cost them a significant

amount of money: \$2.60 for the year! For that investment, however, they received a densely packed publication that was filled with not only news from other Seventh Day Baptists, but news of the world around them as well. There were advertisements, articles on modern farming techniques, and the value of good manners. There was poetry, inspiration, and admonition—all in one place.

When we arrived in North Loup in 2015, our copy of *The Sabbath Recorder* found us quickly through the mail. But we did not need to wait. We could check the latest SDB news through computerized digital devices—something the original settlers here would have never imagined.

Through all of the intervening years, with all of its stylistic and size changes, *The Sabbath Recorder* has always been a connection between individuals and churches across the country and around the world. With all of the change it has gone through, the publication has always adapted to the newest technologies of the time. Who knows what the future will bring for the *Recorder* and for Seventh Day Baptists? God alone knows. Then, now, and in the future, we can stay aware of the work of our people through this publication’s printed and electronic pages. 

By Rev. D. Scott Smith
The Sabbath Recorder Editor, 1982-1989



It Takes a Village...

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

That phrase goes back years before Hillary Clinton’s 1996 book, and likely before the first *Sabbath Recorder* was printed in 1844.

The adage is said to have originated in Africa. Louise Hudson, a contributor at quora.com—a website devoted to the origin of English phrases—suggests it means that “successful child raising requires the input and help of many people, ostensibly a whole village of people.”

Publishing the *Sabbath Recorder* “takes a village” as well.

It takes feature article writers, department editors, local news updaters, and other contributors (of both words and money) to raise a new *Recorder* each month. I had the privilege to guide this “birthing” process for a while.

The early days

I felt humbled following in the footsteps of great writers and editors. Thankfully, Scott Smith had adopted the newly introduced desktop publishing equipment and agreed to edit six more issues (from a distance) after his departure. Bless you, Scott! That allowed me nearly three months to get a handle on the other daunting facets of guiding the Tract Council, as well as edit my debut issue in April 1989.

When I began, I brought a few new pages: “From the Heart” (reader testimonies), “Pastor’s Profile” (factoids and tidbits from our church leaders), “SR Almanac” (looking back in the SR archives 5, 10, 25 and 50 years), and “Kevin’s Korner” (my personal reflections on the monthly theme or life in general).

I also reintroduced a letter-to-the-editor section called “SR Reaction.” This ran during most of my tenure, but lost its luster as it started attacking people instead of addressing issues. Hmm...was that a precursor to Facebook reactions and Twitter tweets?

Contests and themes

We arranged for a couple of hymn contests, where readers submitted new words and tunes for Sabbath hymns or praise songs. We even held a couple of art contests for our youth, with the winning entries featured on a full-color cover.

Our various *Sabbath Recorder* Committees would gather in a retreat setting to review the recent issues, then brainstorm on pertinent themes for the next year. As best we could, we would contact knowledgeable SDBs to write on those topics. This pre-planning took a great load off of most last-minute worries. My hat is off to those dedicated committee members.

Listing the scores of themes and issues would quickly deplete my word-count limit. (You’re welcome, Madam Editor!) “Thank you” to the many authors who contributed to our collective growth!

Thanks to many

Part of the “village” that raised the *Recorder* during my time included a great number of fine people: a shifting cast of fellow executives keen on sharing their vision for the denomination and their respective councils or societies; a helpful and capable Center staff; the more than two dozen Conference Presidents I was able to serve; so many elected members of General Council and the Tract Council; and Janet Davis Butler, my oh-so-faithful wife and mother of our great children.

And who can forget my “girl Friday” and assistant editor Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele? She stuck with me until 2008 when it was time for her retirement, but then continued writing her “Reflections” column. Thank you, Leanne, for your 26 years of faithful service!

Editing the *Recorder* was the largest, but not the only, part of my job description. The Tract Council was responsible for Sabbath promotion (including Sabbath Renewal Day and promotional items), tracts, and electronic media. Then at one fateful Conference, the responsibility of the denominational website was “bestowed” upon us as an unfunded mandate. The Memorial Board did help with funding then, and at other times. Phew! Thank you, trustees.

Miles and deadlines

The many facets of being Director of Communications and SR Editor meant loads of meetings, phone calls, and correspondence. I was also on the ground floor of the MORE 2000 initiative (Mission of Revival and Evangelism) for SDBs. Conference executives met with a number of our churches, offering resources and ideas to help them develop their vision.

I needed to juggle all those travels and life around the 20th of the month—our deadline to get the files to the printer.

Despite the many trips to local churches and Conferences, plus overseas travels to visit SDBs in Australia, Brazil, and England, we met each of the 279 *Recorder* deadlines, a few times with only minutes to spare.

A myriad of changes

All of this happened in the midst of a rapidly changing industry. Back in the day, Leanne would physically wax the back of camera-ready printouts to place onto larger “boards.” She added color by cutting shaded acetate film and positioning that on transparent overlays, painstakingly lining up the little adhesive targets on each layer. She would spend hours converting glossy photos to dot-filled halftone shots in the basement darkroom, then cut and size them to fit.


The computer software advanced to simply clicking the mouse to place digital pics on the page, all sized and filtered and composed for print. Instead of driving the large protective case of finished sheets to the print shop, we started handing the print rep a zip disk, then a flash drive; now it’s all e-mailed as a pdf. I will never forget the first all-digital issue

that appeared on the website. Our labors were accessible to the world!

As we marked my 250th issue in 2012, historian Nick Kersten wrote: “It is safe to say that no one in the history of our publishing efforts has gone through a period of greater technological change than Kevin, and the ship has continued to sail, maintaining its course.”

I could have and should have delegated more of the responsibilities—it all took a toll on my physical and emotional health. But I am extremely grateful for the Lord calling me to that opportunity. I still “dream in SDB”—I am either at the Center or at Conference or a Pastors Conference interacting with some of my favorite people in the universe.

Words that I shared in the 150th anniversary issue still ring true today: “While numerous journals have ceased their circulation, the SR remains one of the oldest continuing religious publications in the country. We can take pride in our longevity, but not become complacent.”

May our “village” of Seventh Day Baptists continue to provide the necessary input to raise and sustain our communication efforts, and do it all for the glory of God. 

By Kevin Butler

The Sabbath Recorder Editor, 1989-2014

I was always intrigued by one former editor: The Rev. Theodore Gardiner served as pastor to several SDB churches and then as president of Salem (WV) College. After leaving Salem, he had just been installed as pastor of our North Loup, NE, church when the Tract Board chose him to succeed A.H. Lewis as SR editor in 1907.

According to Corliss F. Randolph’s biographical sketch, Gardiner’s new congregation was “extremely loath to lose him, but felt that the editorial chair of the *Sabbath Recorder* was the greater need, and gracefully yielded.” He began his work amidst the modernist theological controversy (which he addressed immediately in a quiet, fatherly way) and endured some 24 more years—beginning at the age of 63!

Sabbath Recorder Blessings

I'm pleased to write this article for the SR and offer my congratulations on the denomination's 175th birthday. First, I'd like to mention some background information regarding myself:

I wasn't born an SDB but became one through my marriage to Dennis Lippincott. After marrying Denny, I moved from Milton, WI, to his hometown of Dodge Center, MN. While there, I was baptized by immersion, thus becoming a "Christian donut." (I was sprinkled as an infant and dunked as an adult.) I joined the Dodge Center SDB Church after moving to Iowa in 1976.

We moved to Wisconsin in 1979, and I ended up joining the Milton SDB Church shortly after Denny's death in a 1983 plane crash.

As the new Art Director at the SDB Center in Janesville in 1982, I was blessed beyond measure. I worked with a staff of wonderful, caring Christians in an atmosphere free of backbiting and profanity. A weekly chapel session on the Center's second floor gave me additional support and encouragement when I suddenly became a young widow with two children to raise.

That little "mad money" job initiated in July of 1982 slowly developed into a full-time job, allowing flexible family time during the transition. I eventually became the SR's Assistant Editor and, in 1990, I began receiving vacation, healthcare, and retirement benefits. I literally shed tears of joy and relief at the news.

The SDB denomination has been blessed with awesome pastors and employees since its earliest days, and that blessing has never waned.

During my 26 years at the SDB Center, I worked with two awesome SR editors: D. Scott Smith (for about eight years) and Rev. Kevin Butler (for about 18 years). Both have my lifelong admiration for putting up with me, and I offer my sincerest apologies for any gray hairs that resulted from working with me.

Some of my cherished coworkers are now holding chapel meetings in heaven. They include Ivan FitzRandolph, Rev. Paul and Miriam Osborn, Rev. Michael Burns, John Vergeer, Rev. Don Sanford, Rev. Rodney Henry, and my good friend, Rosie Geske.




Over the years, SR printing technologies grew by leaps and bounds. In preparing each *Sabbath Recorder* for publication, I initially used hot wax, a one-line VariTyper, another machine for "developing" type, a darkroom for photo work, sheets of Amberlith (to add shades of color), and X-acto blades. Both Scott and Kevin bought me Band-Aids® by the bulk, but I miraculously needed stitches only once.

The rapid transition of SDB printing technology from the dinosaur age to the space age is mind-boggling: from setting lead type in New Jersey to clicking a computer 'mouse' in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

The world of Seventh Day Baptists is about historical roots in England and the Eastern United States. It's also about buildings and people, courage in the face of adversity, and faith in basic SDB beliefs that often run contrary to those held by others. However, I believe love is the overwhelming tenet and characteristic of SDBs—love for their fellow-man, and love for God and His Redeeming Son.

As I stated earlier, I accepted the Art Director job on a whim. I didn't have any idea it would literally change my life. As a widow, I didn't have to go job hunting; I already had one. And "Workers' Comp" helped support me during those early years of part-time work.

Several years after Denny died, I came across a letter from Scott officially offering me the Art Director job. Denny's plane crashed on June 30, 1983, and that letter was dated June 30, 1982. One year, to the exact date, of my husband's death.

A weird coincidence? I think not. In many ways, God has blessed me through Seventh Day Baptists throughout my entire life. 

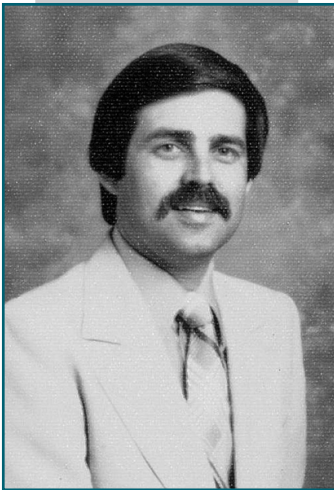
By Leanne Lippincott-Wuerthele
Assistant Editor, 1982-2014

The BEST is yet to Come...

John D. Bevis, Editor 1973-1982

Editor John D. Bevis originated much of the *Sabbath Recorder* as we know it today. When he became editor in 1973, it was a small 6 x 9 inch 16-page newsletter format publication. John changed the *Sabbath Recorder* into a full-sized monthly magazine for Seventh Day Baptists. Color was added and then occasionally a full-color cover. The *Sabbath Recorder* became a free publication to any who requested it; it was funded mostly by donations.

Behind the scenes, the changes made to publishing the *Sabbath Recorder* were amazing. From a machine to set type to a new, state-of-the-art press, to new and faster ways to put the pages together and the use of photographic equipment...these were fast, efficient, and improved the quality of the magazine. However, today with computers and internet, it all seems so archaic and time-consuming—but not back then...it was wonderful!



Editor Bevis wrote in July 1982— his last Editorial:

“Nine years ago my family and I arrived in Plainfield, New Jersey; we came to serve Seventh Day Baptists through the publication work of the American Sabbath Tract Society. During the years that followed, the most enjoyable and challenging part of that work for me has been as editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*.

...

“Certainly one of the highlights of this editorship was holding a copy of the “new” January 1974, issue produced on our own offset press—a colorful and exciting new venture. Since then we have seen many improvements and new features. I am especially happy that in 1982 every Seventh Day Baptist home in our Conference receives this publication.

...

“At 138 years of age, and as one of the oldest religious publications in the country, the *Sabbath Recorder* is vibrant and the future is certainly bright. As Seventh Day Baptists reach out to others, organize new churches, and enter new fields of endeavor, the need for a denominational journal and the influence of the printed page will continue to grow.

“It could very well be that the best is yet to come!” 

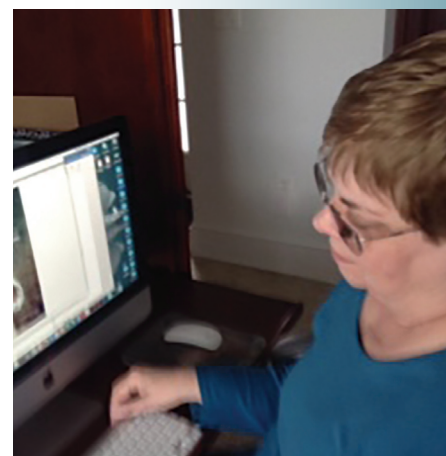
Patricia Cruzan, Editor, 2014-



In 1976, I joined the team working with Editor John Bevis in the Publishing House in Plainfield, NJ. First, I arrived to do some office work one day a week—and there I discovered that I had a passion for producing the *Sabbath Recorder*. Before long I was working as Art Director with Sandy Clare (typesetting), Etta O'Connor (proofreading), and Leon Clare (printing). Later, we were the first staff to work at different locations when John moved to Alabama. Using telephones and "snail-mail" to communicate, John would send us the editorial material—and I would then create the layout and produce the pages for printing each issue. We operated successfully for three years until the denomination moved the headquarters from Plainfield, NJ, to Janesville, WI, in 1982. Many of us could not relocate so an entirely new staff continued the printing of the *Sabbath Recorder*.

During the next several years I continued as a graphic artist in the advertising department of the local newspaper and then at an advertising agency. Also, I continued with projects for the Seventh Day Baptist denomination—including tract and booklet designs, book covers, logos, etc.—and I did advertising at home for the Shiloh SDB Church. But I have always been excited about the possibilities of spreading God's Word through the *Sabbath Recorder*!

And so here I am, some 30 years later, working on the *Sabbath Recorder* as the Editor. I work at my home in New Jersey. All of the authors and editors send me their articles by email which I "copy and paste" into the layout document on my computer. The proofreaders are here in Shiloh while other office jobs, such as the mailing list, are taken care of at the Center in Janesville. I email the SR document to C&M Printing in Wisconsin where it is printed and distributed for mailing. We now have four full-color pages in every issue and online the entire magazine is full-color. You can read the SR much sooner on the SDB LINK app (which you can download for free) because it is posted online each month long before the print copy can be mailed to you.



Words cannot describe how blessed I feel. My prayer is that you will be inspired by the messages, be informed by the news from Seventh Day Baptists, and share the SR with others. It is humbling to be carrying on the publication of the *Sabbath Recorder* as it celebrates the 175th anniversary. WOW!!!

"It could very well be that the best is yet to come!" 



Jeremiah Owen, Director of Communications

In 1844, on the western side of North America (prior to California being a state), the first European laid eyes on Lake Tahoe and, on the eastern side of the continent, the first *Sabbath Recorder* rolled off the presses. It's with great honor and respect that I am able to look back and survey the one hundred and seventy-five years(!) that the *Sabbath Recorder* has been bringing inspiration and news to Seventh Day Baptists. We don't want to stop at 175: however, to continue we need your help.

Over the last nearly two centuries, the *Sabbath Recorder* has taken on many different format changes: from a newspaper to its current magazine format; from having advertising to being wholly supported through generous donations. A lot has changed over 175 years. The current to cost produce the *Sabbath Recorder* is just over \$64,000 per year. This includes the costs for editing, printing and mailing. In the last four years we have reduced the number of printed copies; however, costs continue to rise for printing and mailing. Each year has seen the cost actually go up despite cuts to the amount of printing and shipping. We have updated our "Page Flip" versions of the SR in addition to adding a web edition (www.sabbathrecorder.com) and the SDB LINK app—all in an effort to provide other avenues for folks to enjoy the *Sabbath Recorder* and drive down costs.

The reality is that each year we continue to sell assets to subsidize the difference between giving and the actual costs to produce. At the current burn rate we will run out of assets to tap into in less than two years. We have some options and ideas on what we can do to extend the life of the *Sabbath Recorder* and well... they start with YOU the reader. First, if you have been blessed by the *Recorder*, see value in the *Recorder*, want to see the work continued, we need your financial support. We are asking you to donate to help us to continue to produce the *Sabbath Recorder*. If we can raise just \$20 dollars per year, per person receiving the *Sabbath Recorder*, we can continue delivering the *Sabbath Recorder* with no changes to format or frequency.

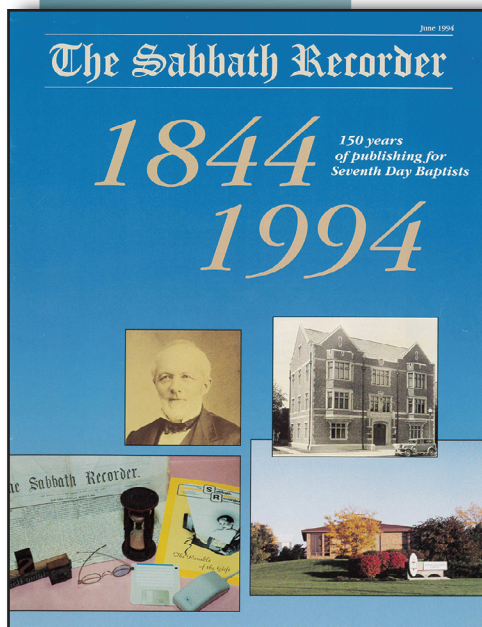
As we look forward, we will continue to reach out and communicate as we move towards the beginning of 2020. Other possibilities include a subscription model and/or scaling back of the format or number of issues as we seek to extend the life of this storied publication. I know the *Sabbath Recorder* has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and with your help, I hope my great-grandchildren will be able to say the same.

You can donate via mail (ATTN: Sabbath Recorder, P.O. Box 1678 Janesville, WI 5347-1678) or online at SeventhDayBaptist.org

"It could very well be that the best is yet to come!" 

**We need
your
financial
support!**

Change Is Just the Way Things Are




In 1994, for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the *Sabbath Recorder*, Editor Kevin Butler oversaw the production of a special issue which detailed the history of the publication. In it, the authors detailed the changes over the *Recorder's* life to that point, as well as some of the key figures who made the publication vital for so long. At this year's General Conference sessions, the Council on History's table will have a few copies of the 1994 publication for those who may be interested. In addition, we will scan a copy of the publication and place it among the resources available at www.sdbhistory.org so that interested people can review that valuable issue.

A couple of key themes emerge from a careful reading of the history of the *Sabbath Recorder* (both in the special issue for the 150th and elsewhere) and its predecessor publications and they are instructive for us today.

The first of these is that Seventh Day Baptists have always felt the need to communicate and provide both connection and education in our publications. Surveying the pages of the *Recorder* over its entire history, it is easy to see our values and identity coming through in the sorts of material that are published. In the early years, some of those pieces came through published lectures or sermons on specific topics, or in national and world news distributed through the pages, as though the editors were very aware that their work was the only print material some of their audience would see. In addition, the publication has always networked SDBs together as a visual symbol of our connections to one another, person to person and church to church.

Another key theme in the life of the *Sabbath Recorder* is how changeable it has been in its format and style. The publication has changed in some significant way seemingly in every generation—whether it be in size (there have been 7 different sizes!), in medium (weekly newspaper, monthly magazine, weekly magazine, a website, and computer/phone apps), and in general tone. That is before you factor in the different editors and the vast numbers of columns that have graced the *Recorder's* pages. Our periodicals and publications have been astonishingly flexible and have been regularly adapted to meet the needs of the time.

A final theme in the life of the *Recorder* has been the commitment of individuals to continue to see it published, even as it encountered various troubles. Most of the publications which preceded the *Sabbath Recorder* eventually ceased because of financial difficulties. Surveying the closing issues of *The SDB Register*, *The Protestant Sentinel*, and other publications, it is clear that the primary reason they ceased was not because there was no passion or interest, but rather there was a lack of resources. The *Recorder* has had similar bouts in its history, saved only by the efforts of people like George Utter to bring it back from the brink of financial ruin.

These three themes are still present in the life of the publication. We still need to communicate with one another, and education is part of our DNA as SDBs. Current changes in technology and culture will undoubtedly continue to influence how we communicate. Finally, if we wish this (or any other publication) to continue, we must support it with our passions, with our talents, and with our finances. Should the *Recorder* live to see its 200th birthday in 2044, it will do so because Seventh Day Baptists in this generation generously supported it, had the wisdom to make the necessary generational shifts, and because we still had something vital to communicate to one another! 

You can donate via mail (ATTN: Sabbath Recorder, P.O. Box 1678 Janesville, WI 5347-1678) or online at SeventhDayBaptist.org



Christian
Education
Council

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



Mandate — A mandate is an authoritative order or command. Does the *Sabbath Recorder* have a mandate? As believers, our broad and general mandate is the Great Commission. There is an articulation of the Great Commission in each of the four Gospels, plus the book of Acts. —Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8

Incarnation — In the pursuit of the fulfillment of the Great Commission and any God-given mandate, some type of incarnation is usually necessary. Incarnation means taking on the life or state of another. Of course, our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect embodiment of the incarnate. He took on human flesh, in order to identify with us. Christ stood before the Father as if He were us, so that we may stand before the Father as if we are Christ. In very practical terms, many times, to live out an incarnate experience includes speaking the language of another, eating their food, and playing with their children.

Sacrifice — This is the giving up of something for the sake of something else. What does fulfilling your mission cost you? King David said, “I will not offer to God, that which costs me nothing.” —2 Samuel 24:24, 1 Chronicles 21:24

Supernatural — No worthwhile mission that is God-initiated and God-glorifying can be accomplished without His supernatural empowerment. In Matthew’s iteration of the Great Commission, our Lord adds the words, “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” We need the Lord’s power and presence to fulfill His mission.

Intercession — Prayer must undergird our mission. Engaging in prayer ourselves, as well as others on our behalf, is an indication that we understand the indispensable nature of that worthwhile privilege. It is indeed the lifeblood of all our work in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Orientation — As we engage in mission work, preparation is needed. When Moses needed to be prepared and equipped for the monumental mission of delivering the Israelites from their centuries of bondage in Egypt, he was sent by God on a 40-year orientation in the wilderness of Midian. How utterly beneficial that was to him and to his future community! When the Apostle Paul was converted, his name changed from Saul, and he was given the Divine assignment of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles, he was sequestered in Arabia for three years. That was to prepare him for the mission to which he had been called. Such orientation involves learning, unlearning, and re-learning.

New Birth — To be authentic missionaries, the experience of the new birth must be a reality. Assurance of one’s salvation is critical to being an effective witness for the Lord. The Apostle John declares that, “These things are written that you may know that you have eternal life.” —1 John 5:12. After all, one cannot share or pass on what one does not have.


Everyone Needs a Mission

The *Sabbath Recorder* and the Missionary Society have some parallels. First of all, they are almost the same age. The current organization of the Missionary Society was established in 1846, two years after the printing of the first *Sabbath Recorder*.

Secondly, they both have been all over the globe. Just as the *Sabbath Recorder* has found itself in many households and churches around the world over its 175-year history, the Missionary Society through its long-term and short-term missionaries, and through its support of countless international projects, has immersed itself in one form or another, in the almost 50 countries where Seventh Day Baptists exist.

So, the *Sabbath Recorder*, in its own right, has been a missionary. It has played a part in the dissemination of the Gospel in printed form, and it has enhanced the identity of Seventh Day Baptists on a global scale. Hence, the Missionary Society views its relationship with the *Sabbath Recorder* as a partnership, which we pray will continue as long as the Lord permits.

A sense of mission is important for there to be fulfillment and effectiveness in any given context or endeavor. As the *Sabbath Recorder* soldiers on beyond 175 years, I encourage the affirmation of its mission in the continuous introspection in at least these seven areas. Your partner, the Missionary Society, is doing the same. We are constantly evaluating our mission. The dictionary tells us that a mission is “purpose accompanied by strong conviction.” Every individual needs a mission. Every family needs a mission. Every church needs a mission. Every periodical needs a mission. Every denomination needs a mission.

The Missionary Society salutes the *Sabbath Recorder* on the celebration of its 175th anniversary. Even in the midst of many challenges, may its mission never be lost. 

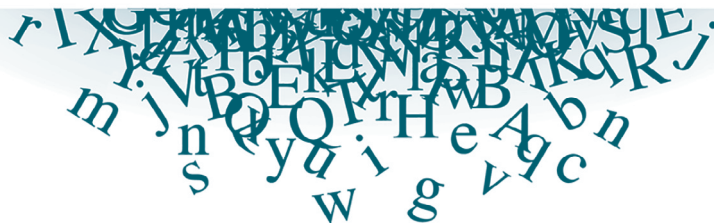


FOCUS on Missions

By Andy Samuels
Chief Executive Director
SDB Missionary Society



Sixty Years of the Sabbath Recorder



“I can hardly remember when the *Sabbath Recorder* was not a part of my life,” I told Pat Cruzan when she mentioned the upcoming 175th anniversary issue. “Maybe you should write about it for the June issue,” she responded.

So here it is: The *Sabbath Recorder* no doubt came into our home before I was born. Once I got beyond Dick, Jane and Sally primers, I was ready to take on denominational news (if not inspiring sermons). My favorite page listed Marriages, Accessions, Births and Obituaries. (A later suggestion of a Divorces column went over like a lead balloon!)

Then, “back in the day” (before Facebook) there was always Church News. It was fun to read what was going on in other churches, particularly my dad’s former pastorates or places where I had served in SCSC.

My first job after college was working in Plainfield as half-time secretary to Leon Maltby, Editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Tuesday was layout day for the weekly publication. Rev. Maltby would hover over me while we pasted preprinted columns in place and submitted fresh writing that I had typed. When the Maltbys went to Florida in March, I was on my own for layout day. When they returned, the layout became my project.

When a second part-time job (read: income with benefits) did not materialize, I returned home to Wisconsin and entered the secular workplace, still poring over the *Sabbath Recorder*.

Time passed. I married Tim Bond (whom I had “sighted” during my stay in Plainfield) and moved


back to New Jersey. When God blessed us with two children 19 months apart, I put my career on hold for 11 years and indexed back issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*. I would turn on “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood” or “Sesame Street” and go to work with my 60s-era typewriter and a stack of index cards. After wearing out two typewriters at home, I reluctantly returned to full-time work in the local school district and almost immediately thanked God for providing health insurance.

As a preteen, I dreamed of becoming a famous author. That hasn’t happened exactly, but the *Sabbath Recorder* has afforded opportunities to contribute as Shiloh Correspondent off and on for 45 years, as Contributing Editor of the Women’s Page in the 90s, and just as a person with an interest in the *Recorder*. After I was sent home from Conference in 1992 for a biopsy on my neck, the *Recorder* gave me an outlet for expressing thanks for your prayers.

After sharing my article *Pass Me a Hymnbook, Please!* (ref. October 2009 issue) with a local Baptist pastor, I was invited to submit devotional material to a non-denominational book of daily devotions. Many of these have been reprinted on *Recorder* pages. It was also my sad duty and privilege to write three obituaries—for Ilou Sanford, Margaret Bond, and Don Sanford—all in 16 months.

I was recently chided for submitting notice of the marriage of a non-SDB niece. I explained to my critic that genealogists and historians frequently consult *Recorder* pages, finding useful information that may not be available any place else. (The index is also an invaluable resource for Robe of Achievement nominations.)

Now, since I am cursed with a red ink brain, I am one of several critics who proof the Editor’s work before it goes to press. So, yes, if your work is not exactly as submitted, maybe you can blame me. Or someone else.

My prayer is that the *Sabbath Recorder* will continue to be available on paper as long as I am here to read it. God bless you, Pat, for your talent and your dedication to the task. 

By Donna (Sanford) Bond

The Women's Society's Connection



The world is a smaller place than it was in 1844. The newest communication technology released that year was the telegraph. Today we have cell phones and the internet; we can hop on an airplane and be halfway around the world in less than a day. But while the world is a smaller place today, the distance between people is larger than ever. I suspect that if you were to take a survey of people today you'd find that overwhelmingly they find it difficult to make connections with their peers. Sometimes even making acquaintances can seem an insurmountable task. I've had so many conversations with different people on this topic and, truth be told, I had no idea how difficult they found it to simply meet new people and make friends.


Now with that depressing observation out of the way, how amazing is it that our denomination has a periodical developed by, for, and about Seventh Day Baptists with a goal of connecting to and informing one another? That was the goal when the *Sabbath Recorder* began as a weekly publication and that goal hasn't changed 175 years later. There is something special about being a part of that.

Reflecting on the recent meetings of the Women's Board and Society, a pattern becomes evident that echos the goals of this publication. Looking back on the founding of the Women's Society, the ladies of that generation wanted to form a group (specifically women in the denomination) that could connect new people to one another and aid in the goals of the denomination. The Society was founded as an auxiliary to the conference to make certain that the other boards and agencies could operate. Today we're still working to make sure that goal is being met although things look a little different now.

As a Board and a Society of the Conference we are looking for ways to go forward helping with the goals of Seventh Day Baptists of USA and Canada, Ltd.

Some of that goal involves utilizing our scholarship program for Seventh Day Baptist women who are looking to further their ministerial education through classes, workshops, and seminars. This is called the Tuition Fund and you can find out more about it on our website www.sdbwomen.org.

We also want to further this goal through utilizing the Stephanie Sholtz Wellness Fund. This fund is for SDB pastors and their families to help with their mental and physical wellness. Stephanie understood the great need for the availability of counseling and help for pastors and their families who are frequently exposed to stressors and may need an outside source to cope with those stressors in a healthy way. This is a confidential program and more details can be found at our website as mentioned above. These are just two underutilized (in my opinion) programs the Women's Society offers to members of the Conference.

Part of the onus of responsibility of being the editor of this page is the continued effort to keep members of the Women's Society and conference well informed on the actions of the Board and its members throughout the year. So this year we are focusing on what SDB women are doing in and for their communities. This month in lieu of mentioning any specific group, I've chosen to highlight two programs of the Society that are building blocks for community outreach—the education and equipping of leaders and aid for their greater well being. Please utilize these programs so that in the next 175 years we can say that we are continuing the work that began so many years ago. 



Women's Society

By Katrina Goodrich

“Funny how the past never ends!”

By John R. Morgan

For how many years had it been on top of this tall closet in the choir loft?

The title comes from an observation I made in an email to Janet Thorngate in which I enclosed a camera-shot of the handwritten note to “Dea. David Rogers” signed “Geo. B. Utter.” It was on the first of two blank pages in a bound volume of the entire first year of *The Sabbath Recorder* (52 issues! Volume I: June 13, 1844 - June 19, 1845). For how many years it had been on top of this tall closet in the choir loft? It’s fifteen years older than this church building! The deacon of the church had received it as a gift from the man who edited the *Recorder* for its first twenty-five years.

As any researcher, including the most casual family genealogist, knows, when you connect with a meaningful bit of the past, it is intensely exciting. That bit pops off its page like a static-electricity shock and becomes a super-charged new secret that you’re bursting to share. A transfusion from another’s life seems to shoot into your system and jump-start your resting heart.

Wow! It is transporting in the genuinely marvelous pre-Marvel comics meaning of the word: you feel yourself in the presence of some new brightness, trying to see anything the writer saw, and smell the very surroundings of the moments reported. While thus enthralled, you strain to capture every bit you feel so you can report how the discovery magically collapsed “the walls of time,” as Bill Monroe so soulfully put it.

The Sabbath Recorder has become a new lifeline for me in searching for tidbits about the lives of over 100 of the “residents” of the West Neck Cemetery in Waterford, Connecticut, which became the new Seventh Day Baptist burial ground in 1853, taking over for the smaller Old Rogers Cemetery, which was almost full.

And *The Sabbath Recorders* that I mean are “the real ones” that were put out the way the original publisher and readers expected! Yes, sir, none of this glossy colored print and staples stuff! And, by gum, always citing the *King James*! In 1844 that meant each week’s paper was produced on a single broadsheet measuring 30 inches wide and 21-1/2 inches tall; it was printed on both sides, then folded lengthwise to make a four-page paper with five columns per page. Clearly, a 3-foot lapboard, if not a table, was an invaluable reader’s aid.

I am currently finishing a project of finding the sources of old, often eroding epitaphs and have been transported several times by locating obscure, yet freshly poignant poems inscribed to memorialize former neighbors and relatives. But years of occasional research on three residents, all church members, who were lost together off Sandy Hook (NJ) on January 12, 1853, on board the Schooner Thomas W. Williams had come up empty until I was going through some early 1853 *Sabbath Recorders* and found this in Vol 9, No 38, March 3:

MISSING VESSELS.—The Pilot Boat “Commerce” left New Jersey about the 1st of January, on her regular cruise, and the last that has been seen or heard of her was off Little Egg Harbor during the snow storm of the 12th. She is supposed to have been lost, with all on board, including four pilots, an apprentice, a boat-keeper, and four hands. *A fishing vessel belonging to Waterford, Ct., Thomas Beebe captain, was seen about the same time and place, and has not since been heard from. She had on board six or seven persons, of whom three, we believe, were members of the Seventh-day Baptist Church at Waterford.* (emphasis added)

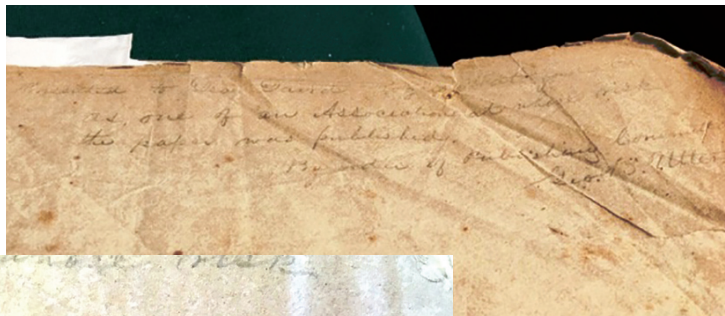
Eureka! Thank you, Nick Kersten, for making this time-transportation possible without a plane ticket, or a 2,100 mile road trip, or a delay until I could schedule a trip to the library in Janesville. *The Sabbath Recorder* is now ALL available at www.sdbhistory.org all 175 years of it!



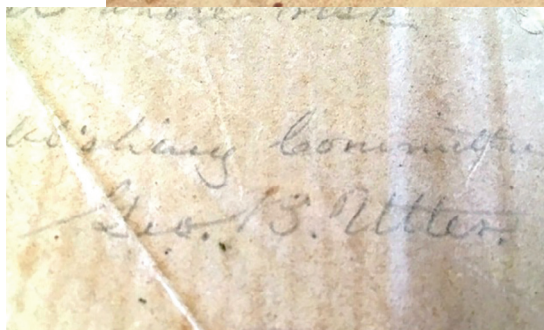
Council
on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

*Presented to Dea. David Rogers, Waterford Ct.
as one of an Association at whose risk
the paper was published.
By order of the Publishing Committee
Geo. B. Utter*



In transcribing the note, John Morgan was unsure whether the last word in the second line was risk or wish. However, upon discovering that Rogers was one of the eleven men who formed an association (with a Publishing Committee of three) to cover any financial loss in *The Sabbath Recorder's* first year of publication, it seemed certain the word was risk. They did have to cover some loss the first year, but volumes 2 through 5 finished "in the black."



Looking through original broadsheet weeklies in that time-worn volume at our church has provided fresh wonders that nourish my historical bent, plus affording a rare direct-contact experience for my two boys, 6th and 8th graders. I made sure they got some "handle carefully" contact with documents they will surely read about someday: broadsheet newspapers.

As noted above, the first *Sabbath Recorders* were printed on both sides of one sheet folded in half to make a four-page newspaper measuring 15 inches x 21-1/2 inches per page. Two headlines from the very first paper, published "New-York, Fifth Day, June 13, 1844" include:


Theophilus Brabourne (1590-1662): This was the first in a series of biographical reviews of those who were important to asserting the observance the Biblical Sabbath on the Seventh-day.

Morse's Magnetic Telegraph: In exploring applications of this new development, the telegraph, they note that its "perfect success...has excited the astonishment and admiration of the community...[and] put us upon the inquiry into the future agency of the wonderful contrivance which thus, without metaphor, annihilates both time and space. It has been said that the railroad system has given a perpetuity to our Union, which it would not otherwise possess—and that with iron bonds is our country bound together. But the day of iron bars must now yield to that of copper wires."

And this is where we see yet another way in which the past never ends. Not only does a 175-year-old newspaper force me to think of how my third great-grandmother, Nancy (Rogers) Brooks (1788-1872), most assuredly paged through this very volume, but at some point her son and grandson did, too. Since it has been kept in the church, it is nearly guaranteed that my grandmother and mother had stray moments with it, and now my sons and I have read at it,

making seven generations of unbroken family contact and/or readership of the very first *Sabbath Recorder*. Whew!

Even though the seven generations of direct contact brings the past yet again into the present, the Morse article could easily tack on subsequent "wonderful contrivance(s)" that "annihilate both time and space," such as the copper-wired telephone and trans-Atlantic cables, then the wireless transmission of radio and television signals, eventually enhanced by satellite communications, and ultimately including the many genuine marvels of cell phones, the Internet, and "the cloud."

When I wrote to Janet about my discovery of this set of 1844 *Sabbath Recorders*, I knew in the way historical bushwhackers do that not only does everything we see in the present track back to an origin somewhere, but that indeed, the past never ends. 

John R. Morgan is the Secretary/Treasurer/Archivist/"Their-story" of the West Neck Cemetery Association in Waterford, Connecticut, a position he's held since 2004. In 2018 he was baptized by the Reverend Scott Smith in Long Island Sound and became a member of the Waterford SDB Church, the church where his mother was raised and his maternal grandmother was a lifelong member. In this line, he represents an unbroken chain of members going back to three of the seven founders in Newport (Samuel and Tacy Hubbard and the Rev. Wm. Hiscox). His research on cemetery "residents" has relied almost exclusively on the compendious work of Jon Saunders, whose contribution has been invaluable in establishing family links there, as well as following his own Rogers line prior to his third great-grandmother, Nancy (Rogers) Brooks (1788-1872), who is buried in West Neck Cemetery not far from Deacon David Rogers (1786-1859), her same-level second cousin.




People Get Ready

I am writing this the week of another school shooting and this one was right here in Colorado, just a few miles from Columbine which was twenty years ago. This school shooting was even more personal for me because it took place less than a mile from my daughter's home. My three grandchildren in Highlands Ranch were not part of the school, but there were 1800 kids in that school who were. As life gets more frightening and dangerous for our children and grandchildren, our Conference theme becomes ever more relevant. Clearly, none of us are promised tomorrow, but who would have thought that school would become an unsafe place for children?

As I was speaking with my granddaughter about this, I remarked that one of the shooters in Highlands Ranch was victimized by bullying and that schools need to be places where bullying is absolutely not tolerated in any way, shape, or form. But immediately I had to backtrack to clarify that the adults in our country are the biggest bullies around. No wonder bullying has become so prominent in schools and children are lashing out with guns and suicides as the answer to getting even or making it stop. Even believers have bought into the idea that we can cyberbully by making snide remarks about the intelligence, morals, and/or hypocrisy of our brothers and sisters who voted for (fill in the blank). We have probably all been easily swayed by seeing a Facebook post snippet of what so and so said and therefore concluded this person must be a heretic or liar or (fill in the blank). We have become a judgmental society and I am concerned that the Church has become part of the problem—rather than the beacon of grace we are called to be. It is so easy to fall into the trap of judging, and it is very difficult to know how to

take a stand for righteousness in love and grace without getting unloving and ungraceful. We can know we will get accused of being a bigot, unchristian, mean-spirited, and worse, when we take a stand for righteousness, so we need to expect that, but people are not our judge and jury. That is God's job. Fortunately, He says we are His precious kids and He loves us unconditionally even when we mess things up.

So how do we navigate these waters? Scripture does give us good guidelines: Is what I am saying loving, joy-filled, peaceful, patient, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and am I exhibiting self control? Of equal importance is the question: Am I sure this is what God is saying and doing, and is now the right time to say and do? We must not be so afraid of making mistakes that we are tempted to do nothing. That is why learning to hear God's voice is critical to knowing what He is saying and doing, and the timing He has for doing so. At Conference this year, Marlene Campbell and Gaye Dailey will be leading a seminar on "Hearing God's Voice," so you can learn how He speaks and how to handle what you hear.

We, as part of the Church, need to **Get Ready**. We must be good examples of exhibiting the Fruits of the Spirit in our speaking and doing if we have a hope of helping this bullying-obsessed society we live in see a different way. We must not tolerate bullying among adults if we expect to see things change in our schools. We must pray for the eyes of our hearts to be opened first, then the eyes of the hearts of other adults to be opened, to see what is really going on. We cannot expect more of our kids than we practice as the adults. We must examine our hearts to make certain we are part of the solution, not part of the problem. 

See you at Conference in
Lancaster, PA,
July 28-August 3.
PEOPLE GET READY!!!



By Jane Mackintosh
Conference President


As the *Sabbath Recorder* continues to grow, I hope for more growth in the Young Adult section. I see this section as somewhere for young adults to journalize their feelings and express what God is putting on their hearts and what God is doing in their lives. I want the young adult *Sabbath Recorder* section to be a place where there is no judgment and no formality so those who are not writers can write. I hope for more writers. In the past, the *Sabbath Recorder* has been mostly the editor(s) writing the majority of the articles. For the future, I hope for an abundance of different writers—that there may even be two articles every month in the YA section! I hope for continued growth of the YA section and God-loving articles.

What's Your Story?

Dear SDB Young Adults,

You do not need to be an experienced writer to write for the Sabbath Recorder—you just need to have something to say. Is God doing something amazing in your life or has He already done something? Do you have something you're very passionate about? Is there a verse or song that is really touching your heart right now? Do you want to share your testimony in written form? Do you have a lesson you want to teach? Put it into an article! Do you have an idea but you are unsure of how to write it? That's what I'm here for! Let me help you bring your brilliance to life. Don't be scared, and don't worry about being perfect, because no one is. God does not require perfection and neither does this section.

—Sarina Villalpando

Feel free to email me at smvillal19@gmail.com or text me at (909)4967337. 

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”

—2 Timothy 3:16

Young Adult

By Sarina Villalpando
Maranatha Community
Church, Colton, CA

“Wisdom from Above”

It seems that today many people seem to thrive by being in conflict. They seem to always be picking on other people, sometimes arguing, or disagreeing, or just trying to get something riled up. They pick fights just for the fun of it, not because they passionately believe in a particular cause; they simply want to “stir the pot.” Many times they are quick to jump in and expend their energy fighting other people’s battles—even when they don’t have a stake in the game. They need to have the feeling that they “always win” in order to feel good about themselves. These people appear to be confident, but many times make poor decisions. So then others learn to simply ignore them and do not take them seriously.

In the book of James 3:17-18 we read, “¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good

fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” When it comes to your relationships with others, you need the “wisdom from above.” When you have this wisdom, you won’t need to put everyone else down or pick fights with them just to show how strong or how smart you are. True self-confidence, including confidence in your ability to make good decisions, comes from within—and that comes from God!

When you operate according to the scriptural principles found in James, you’ll know whether or not a battle is worthy of your attention, or to simply walk away. If you keep your eyes on the prize that God has set before you, you’ll realize that some things aren’t worth your time and attention. And as a result, you’ll make better decisions about your life as well as your relationships.

“And Wisdom in Giving”

One of the better decisions recently made on behalf of Seventh Day Baptists by the Memorial Fund (Trustees) was in regards to a parcel of land called the “French Property.”

The French Property is a gift to the SDB General Conference with the primary purpose of helping fund the work of “**Home Missions.**” Embedded in that purpose, the Trustees’ fiduciary responsibility is to the wishes of the donor, Dr. Bessie French, whose desires were to help fund the work of “**Home Missions.**” The Conference’s responsibility to our churches is to equip them to actively advance God’s Kingdom. This means “**Home Missions**” as it relates to the SDB General Conference will mean any ministry to, for, or through a church, organization, or individual that actively advances SDB ministry in North America.

The ministry of the SDB General Conference currently uses, and is likely to use in the future, many different methods to do the work of “**Home Missions.**” These methods include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- a. education and training of leaders for new and existing churches; home missionaries
- b. development of social and relational networks
- c. communications to, from, and between the General Conference and the churches
- d. translation of materials into languages spoken in North America
- e. evangelism and discipleship (including camping programs/facility/staff)
- f. personal development of leaders for new and existing churches (health, mentoring, etc.)
- g. starting new SDB churches or assimilating existing churches into the SDB General Conference
- h. strengthening existing SDB churches and their ministries
- i. supporting personnel to administer any of these “home missions” ministries


The Memorial Fund Trustees shall determine any instruments or requirements for the disbursement of the “home missions” funds.

Continued on next page...



By Rob Appel
Executive Director

Continued from previous page

If your church, Association, or camp has needs, please dialog with one of the Directors or a Trustee. If you have questions before applying for a grant, please feel free to contact one of these Directors at 608-752-5055: John Pethtel ext. 1009; Nick Kersten ext. 1006; or Jeremiah Owen ext. 1008. 

Please remember, money earned from the investments from the Dr. Bessie French Fund can only be used for Home Missions.

All the other ministry of the Conference **still needs to be fully funded through your generous giving.**

Without you, our Kingdom work together would not happen.

Thank you for your financial support!

We want to know! HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH DO OUTREACH?


**Take 5 minutes
and help us help churches
throughout the Conference
with your creative ideas!**

GO TO:

<https://bit.ly/2UrL8f0>

I've been going to Conference for as long as I can remember. Some of the biggest memories I have are when I met my best friend Holly. Now, I don't remember exactly when I met her but I do remember hanging out with her a lot at conference almost every year. I remember when we started talking and forming a friendship outside of Conference. I remember taking trips with Children's Conference. I loved the yearly children's performance—until I got "too old" and "too cool" for it. I remember the first time I went to a business meeting. I remember sitting with Phil and having him explain everything that was going on to Holly and me. We were lost, completely, but we enjoyed going and learning anyway. Going into young adult activity, as opposed to the youth, I really appreciate the oppor-

tunity to have learned what was going on before being thrown into it. I remember the first time I didn't share a room with my sister and feeling so trusted. I can't imagine my life without Conference, and can't wait to continue making memories!

I pray that this page continues in the SR and the youth continue to be excited to add to it. I pray that the youth continue to learn—whether it's about Conference, business, or each other. I pray that God will build up strong youth to lead our denomination and to spread the Word of God to the nations. Most of all, I pray that the youth will continue to learn about Jesus. I pray God will continue to lead our youth and bring them to Him. 



THE BEACON

By Rachael Osborn

SDB Church
Boulder, CO



Pastors Conference 2019

Fifty-nine pastors and spouses came together April 26-28, 2019, for our annual Pastors Conference in Milton, WI. The theme was “MOBILIZE” and we got a chance to hear stories of mobilizing from around our Conference as well as from our special guests from Q Place. There was a great time of fellowship and fun had by everyone there. Special thanks to the Milton SDB Church, Pastor Nate Crandall, Marian van Dalen-Anderson, Paul Anderson, Frank Green, Janet Butler, Barb Green, Linda Lyke, Melissa Lade, Shanny Snyder, and Joel Osborn.

Our next Pastors Conference in 2020 will be held in Colorado. We are asking that every SDB pastor make plans to be at this next meeting. Start planning now. If you have any obstacles keeping you from making those plans, please talk to the Director of Pastoral Services.



On February 16, 2019, Pastors John Pethtel, Robert Van Horn, and JR Shick traveled to San Sebastian, PR, to celebrate with Agape Ministry Iglesia Bautista del Septimo Dia in recognizing a prior ordination of **Pastora Judith Houts**. The celebration included testimonies, poems, songs, and scripture that were inspired by the ministry that Pastora Judith has done in planting this church in Puerto Rico. **Congratulations Rev. Houts!**



Steven Hinton, Assistant Pastor of Freedom Community Church in New Auburn, WI, was examined for fitness to gospel ministry before an Ordination Council that convened on March 30, 2019. After reviewing his testimony and asking questions to test his fitness for ministry, the Ordination Council recommended that Pastor Steve has beliefs that were in accord with the SDB Statement of Belief and that he be ordained. The ordination service was held on May 4, 2019. **Congratulations Rev. Hinton!**

On March 23, 2019, many pastors and friends from around the greater NYC area (and the country) came to attend the formal installation of **Pastor Egbert Downes** as the pastor of the SDB Church of Christ in Plainfield, NJ. There were many special moments of music and ministry shared as well as powerful charges to both the Plainfield church and Pastor Downes. Many of the Samuels family (Pastor Joe Samuels was the previous pastor) were able to attend this installation and transition of ministry. A feast followed in celebration of everything that God has done. **Congratulations Rev. Downes!**



ORDINATIONS



Church
Development &
Pastoral Services

By John J. Pethtel
Director

Johnmark Camenga, Pastor of the Lost Creek SDB Church in Lost Creek, WV, was examined for fitness to gospel ministry before an Ordination Council that convened on April 6, 2019. After reviewing his testimony and asking questions to test his fitness for ministry, the Ordination Council recommended that Pastor Johnmark has beliefs that are in accord with the SDB Statement of Belief and that he be ordained. The ordination service was held on May 4, 2019. **Congratulations Rev. Camenga!**



PASTOR SEARCH

The following SDB churches or groups have called new pastoral leadership:

First SDB Church of Hebron (Coudersport, PA)
Steven Hinton, Pastor

The following SDB churches or groups are looking for pastoral leadership. Please keep them in prayer as they search for their next leaders.

Shepherd's Fold SDB Church (Johnson City, TN)
Assistant
Bay Area SDB Church (Pinole, CA)
Covenant SDB Fellowship (Hungry Horse, MT)
Pataskala SDB Church (Pataskala, OH)
Miami SDB Church (Miami, FL)
Remembrance SDB Church (Ft. Worth, TX)

There are other potential vacancies in the near future. If you are interested in one of these vacancies, if you are called to pastoral ministry, or if you know someone who might be interested in pastoral ministry, please contact the Director of Pastoral Services by email at jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org or call 608-752-5055 ext. 1009.



Wanted: Dynamic Pastor For a Culturally Diverse Church

With Pastor Andrew Samuels called to a new ministry with the SDB Missionary Society, the Miami SDB Church is seeking a pastor who will mentor and encourage the congregation spiritually, dynamically preach and teach the Word, shepherd a geographically and culturally diverse group throughout South Florida, and help us fulfill the vision that God has for the church.

We covet your prayers as we ask God to reveal to us the Pastor that He already has in mind for our church.

Please send any suggestions, resumes, and questions to the Miami SDB Pastor Search Team at

MiamiSDB.PastorSearch@yahoo.com.



Prayer Initiative 2Q19

Team 21 is part of the ADVANCE initiative to promote, support, and fund church planting among SDBs. We are seeking out people who will donate \$21 each month towards church planting, pray at least 21 minutes each week (3 minutes per day average) and for 21 days straight each quarter, and commit to sharing their SDB expression of faith with at least 21 people each year (less than 2 people per month). All Team 21 members will receive a gift from the Church Planting Task Force for their contributions. If you are unable to meet all Team 21 commitments, we would still covet you joining in our prayer initiatives as individuals and as a church. To join Team 21, please visit: seventhdaybaptist.org/churchplanting/team-21.

2019 Team 21 Prayer Guide is based on Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

For the next 21 days (June 2-22, 2019), we are asking that you pray for:

"SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD"—Praying for those who have yet to believe the gospel.

Whom do you know who hasn't responded to the gospel?

How many people in your city still have yet to believe the gospel?

Conversation and a Cup of Tea

Sage table covers draped the new addition of Shiloh's 66" round tables in the fellowship hall, as conversations buzzed in the April air. Antique china teacups, porcelain teapots, candle-lit pot warmers, and beautiful succulent centerpieces created the perfect setting for the 56 who attended "Conversation and a Cup of Tea" with author Lori Roeleveld of RI.



Lori and her husband Rob blessed the folks of Shiloh for a weekend with Lori sharing at the Ladies Bible Study on Friday night, bringing the message Sabbath day, a "Conversation and a Cup of Tea" Sabbath night and breakfast Sunday morning. Many who attended Sabbath night were blessed to receive free copies of *The Art of Hard Conversations*, *Running from the Crazy Man*, *Jesus and the Beanstalk*, or *Red Pen Redemption*—all of which come from the heart of Lori's obedience to Christ and gifted by the Ladies Benevolent Society.



During this time, Lori reminded us that the "art of hard conversations" is not just for those who feel gifted to speak, but for all Children of God. As ambassadors of Christ, the Word instructs us to do our part as found in Ecclesiastes 3:7 & 8: *A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, at time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

To be able to speak with others, we need to speak with a heart of love, not love of the flesh, but love that only God can provide. The kind of love that went all the way to the cross is found in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

If we are unable to speak to others with a Godly heart of love as defined above, then that's when we need to be silent, go to God, confess our lack of love, and allow Him to fill us with His love. If our spirit is moved to speak with someone (whether it be a hard conversation or not), it needs to be free of anger and our personal agenda. After Christ rose from the dead, He had a difficult conversation with Peter, after Peter denied knowing Christ, not once, but three times. Jesus had every right to be angry with Peter, but he addressed the conversation in a loving spirit.

If you find yourself troubled with someone or a situation, pray about it, give it over to God, surrender your anger and process your feelings FIRST. God created us to be emotional beings, meant to have feelings unapologetically, as long as our conduct is presented without anger or bitterness to apologize for.

After hearing Lori share, the evening left me questioning the depth of my love for others that are outside my intimate circle. Motivation to teach my children and grandchildren of Christ is

rooted in my abundant love for them, so sadly, a lack of love must keep me from those I am not emotionally attached to. Ouch, that was a painful reality to admit!

There have been hard conversations throughout the years of my youth within the Shiloh Church family, but the one that stands out was that of Ella Sheppard fulfilling the role of my dutiful grandmother as she pricked at the sin in my life. Her words rang true, her scripture references were sound, her feelings and emotions had already been sorted out with our divine creator, and her only agenda was that of deep love. Her disappointment



in me was evident as well as justified, but I am forever grateful she loved me enough to step out her comfort zone, be obedient to Christ, and love me in spite of myself.

Another conversation during my challenging years was more of a visit than a conversation. At 20 years old, divorced and single, my heart still rebelled at God and church. Distanced from family, I weepingly lay in the hospital bed after giving birth to my first-born, knowing my life was not as it should be. Much to my surprise, the Love of God walked in to visit. There was no agenda, no anger or disappointment, just the time, love and prayer of a faithful servant, who I truly had no relationship with and little knowledge of. Thank you, Pastor John Camenga for your obedience in an awkward situation to love the soul of a lost child. Our words during Pastor John's visit were few, but his mere willingness to engage himself with my wretchedness at that time has forever touched me.


It's hard conversations that matter and leave lasting impressions that can sting or bless us with the fragrance of obedient love for years to come. The fragrance of Grammie's loving, yet prickly words, were deep seeded in the depths of my soul for years, before nurtured to sprout into something of beauty.

Psalm 19:14: *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer, Amen.* Are my words and meditation acceptable? Have I gone to my redeemer for strength and

love? Just as Lori encouraged us to do, Grammie obviously did her homework before she completed the Lord's assignment. I pray that I, too, will carry Grammie's wisdom, faith, and love to engage in whatever conversation or open door God may call me to serve.

Those who have gone before us were there during our tea, as generations past shared in the evening with Mommy's (Arah Mae Sheppard) teapots, Elsa Scull's milk glass (shared by Carol Scull), Billie Dickinson's and Alinda Davis' teacups (shared by Linda Garrison) and Grandma's (Beulah Davis) doilies, all of which were long-standing Sabbathkeepers and committed women of God.

The added blessing of the evening was the addition of the round tables recently added in memory of Arah Mae Sheppard, Barbara Lee Nieukirk, Camella Peck, Anna Mary Richardson, Audrey Chew and Tillie Dickinson. The tables provided ease of conversation, and the night of "Conversation and a Cup of Tea" was a perfect way to showcase them.

Everyone was blessed by Lori's oral and written words, and her candid spirit, making her easily relatable. Thank you, Lori, for reminding us that it's not all about us; to check our love gauge regularly; and hopefully we can strive to all be another Grammie Sheppard. 

By Jean Sheppard Trembley
SDB Church of Shiloh, NJ

Team Members Requested!



Would you like to be part of a team that has a lasting impact on the future of Seventh Day Baptists?

We are currently seeking enthusiastic, nurturing and loving brothers and sisters to support **Children's Conference for 2019** in Lancaster, PA.

Please consider joining this teaching, singing, dancing, loving and laughing group by spending your mornings making a difference in the lives of the children (ages 4 – sixth grade) in our denomination.

Please contact Emily Watt Arnold at 240-393-6294 or ew9@hood.edu if you are interested in working with this amazing program.

YOUTH CON 2019!

Plan NOW to be there. See pages 13-16 in the May SR for registration information and expenses. There is an additional fee of \$25 for a Youth Con T-shirt!

As you register, please remember to include the shirt sizes of the registrants!

SEE YOU THERE!

If you have questions about Conference activities for those under the age of 18, please contact Director of Education & History Nick Kersten for more information!

AIRPORT CORRECTION:

Registration Transportation Instructions should be: Attendees flying in will be picked up only at the Harrisburg (MDT) Airport.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & PASTORAL SERVICES

Rev. John J. Pethtel, Director
jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org
cell: (304) 629-9823

COMMUNICATIONS

Jeremiah Owen, Director
jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org
cell: (818) 468-9077

EDUCATION & HISTORY

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten, Director
nkersten@seventhdaybaptist.org
office: (608) 752-5055
cell: (608) 201-4850

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

Robert Appel, Executive Director
3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678,
Janesville, WI 53547-1678
robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org
Phone: (608) 752-5055

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Andrew O. Samuels, Chief Executive Director
129 Main St. #156, Ashaway, RI 02804
info@sdbmissions.org
office: (401) 596-4326

**PEOPLE GET READY for the
7th ANNUAL GOSPEL FEET 5K
taking place this summer
at Conference.**

The GOSPEL FEET 5K is a fundraising opportunity for the SDB Missionary Society in support of ongoing work with orphans in African communities. The event will take place on Friday, August 2 and will feature some new and exciting challenges this year!

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.’ (Hebrews 12:1-2)



Join our training group and surround yourself with those working to achieve the same goal as you!

Runners and walkers are welcome!
www.strava.com/clubs/GospelFeet5k

KIDS DASH:

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

—Proverbs 22:6

We will be featuring a Kids Quarter Mile Dash (Ages 2+) after the 5k.

TEAM CHALLENGE:

When registering for the event, you will be given an option to join a team or create a team. Please join your church’s team! There’s nothing better than a little friendly competition to bring out the best in us. Acknowledgments will be made for the “fastest” church and the church with the most registrants.

Registration is now LIVE.

Cost is \$20 for the 5k and \$10 for the Kids Dash.

There is also an option to purchase a race T-shirt for an additional \$10.

www.runsignup.com/Race/PA/Lancaster/GospelFeet5k

As the Sabbath Recorder enters
the 175th year of publication,
may we echo the words of
Theodore L. Gardiner,
in his first SR editorial,
September 16, 1907:

May it ever speak the truth in love.

**May it be ready with its comfort
and cheer for troubled hearts.**

**May it be full of good counsel
for all who are perplexed.**

**May it bring light
to those who are in darkness...**



COMING THIS SUMMER!!

**Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
July 28 – August 3, 2019**

Lancaster Bible College
Lancaster, PA