



# A WALK IN THE PARK

Piedmont Park's Quarterly Newsletter  
Fall 2022 Issue

**Our Vision:** To encourage a closer walk with God and greater involvement in His Ministries in the Lincoln Nebraska area through the medium of *A Walk in the Park*.

**Our Mission:** With God's leading, we will reach out to our church family, sharing stories of hope, encouraging all, and promoting active involvement in the various ministries of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church



## TEAMWORK

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

We don't have to read too far in the Bible narrative to discover that our God is a God of team work. In Genesis 1:1 - 2 we find God and the Spirit of God working in creation. In verse 26 we hear God say, "Let Us make humanity in Our image." In the act of creation we find God using teamwork among the Godhead. Then in Genesis 2:18 we are shocked to read that something is not good in God's newly created perfect world. "It is not good that man should be alone." So then God creates the first human team when He formed Eve to work with Adam.

Throughout the Bible we find teamwork being utilized. Daniel gathers his friends together to pray about the king's dream in Daniel chapter 1. Paul took companions with him on his missionary trips. Esther implores Mordecai to gather all the Jews together to fast for her and has her maids do the same before she goes in before the king in Ester chapter 4. And of course Jesus gathered the 12 disciples as well as women together to support His ministry on earth. Team work is crucial in the Bible.

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Teamwork is crucial in ministry too. I am blessed to be a part of a church where the members feel ownership of the church ministries. Some churches look to the pastor to do all the ministry. And some pastors look to the members to do all the ministry. We are blessed that Piedmont Park has captured God's vision of teamwork to accomplish our mission.

I am also excited that at the end of October our pastoral staff will be complete again. Pastor Joel Navarro will be our new Family Life/Discipleship Pastor. Pastor Smerdis Fuentes will be our new Youth/Young Adult Pastor. We have been blessed with wonderful associate pastors over the years and now we look forward to these men and their families joining our ministry team.

**Themes of Hope Sabbath School Class** would like to serve our community by distributing donated children's story books through the Lincoln Little Free Libraries. We are looking for books that are Jesus centered, or morally and ethically sound for the purpose of feeding the children's hearts and minds. If you have children's books to donate, please place them on the counter in the workroom at Piedmont Park on Sabbath with a note marked Themes of Hope. Thank you so much for your continued support for this silent, but important ministry! Contact Renee at [hopefilledthemes@gmail.com](mailto:hopefilledthemes@gmail.com)



*“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”  
– Charles Dickens –*

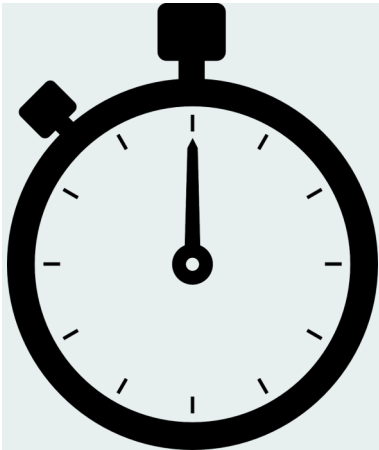


Image by [OpenClipart-Vectors](#) from [Pixabay](#)

### WHEN I AWOKE THIS MORNING

When I awoke this morning, I asked myself, "What is life about?"

I found the answer in my room.

The fan said, "Be cool."

The roof said, "Aim high."

The window said, "See the world."

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

The mirror said, "Reflect before you act."

The calendar said, "Be up to date."

The door said, "Push hard for your goals."

The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

God whispered, "I will take you to and through it all."

Anonymous

2

### THERE WAS JESUS

Casey Beathard, Jonathan Smith, Zach Williams CCLI 7138043

Every time I tried to make it on my own,  
Every time I tried to stand and start to fall,  
And all those lonely roads that I have travelled on.  
There was Jesus!

When the life I built came crashing to the ground,  
When the friends I had were nowhere to be found,  
I couldn't see it then, but I can see it now. There was Jesus!

In the waiting, in the searching. In the healing and the hurting;  
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces,  
Every minute, every minute!  
Where I've been and where I'm going; There was Jesus!

Even when I didn't know it or couldn't see it; There was Jesus!  
For this man who needs amazing kind of grace,  
For forgiveness at a price I couldn't pay  
I'm not perfect so I thank God every day; There was Jesus!

On the mountain, in the valleys, In the shadows of the alleys;  
In the fire, in the flood;  
Always is and always was, There was Jesus!  
No I never walk alone, You are always there!

In the waiting, in the searching. In the healing and the hurting;  
Like a blessing buried in the broken pieces,  
Every minute, every minute!  
Where I've been and where I'm going; There was Jesus!



### STITCHES OF LOVE MINISTRY

By Hugh Davis

The Stitches of Love Ministry recently crocheted and knitted 32 baby items for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Lincoln. Various members come together weekly. Through this ministry the members hope to spread comfort, love and warmth to various agencies and organizations in Lincoln. The group has eight regulars that come and go, and others who just donate items and supplies. The agencies are very grateful for the items. They will start working on home items for the Good Neighbor Community Center next. Since August of 2021 they have donated approximately 125 items. If you like to crochet or knit, or want to learn, Stitches of Love ministry meets in the Conference Room at 6:30pm each Monday evening.



## GOD'S CARE NOT A MYTH

Compiled By Renee Schaecher

Image by [Dimitris Vetsikas](#) on Pixabay.com



In Greek mythology the myth of Icarus teaches a lesson about humans who attempt to exceed the boundaries of their abilities and who tempt fate.”

Is Jesus Christ familiar with the Greek’s way of writing and explaining the difficulties of life and tendencies of mankind to lose themselves in pleasure and pride? He must be, because He teaches that disaster always follows in the wake of pride. (Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”)

In the Greek myth of Icarus, the father and his son are imprisoned in a tower from which there is no escape. Yet the father somehow secures wood to build a frame for wings, and unexplainably has plenty of wax and feathers with which to make wings on the frame. He then uses this wonderful contraption for he and his son to leap from the tower and sail away into freedom.

The father passionately and lovingly informs the son that he must not get too close to the sun because the overpowering hot rays of the sun will melt the wax, destroy the feathered wings and consequently plunge the boy to his death.

The son hears, yet in the exuberance of the experience and in the pride of freedom and life; the son dips, ascends and swoops with unbounded pleasure. Then in foolish pride he challenges the sun, drawing near to its scorching orbit until it is too late. The wax melts, the wings collapse, and he is plunged into the sea to meet his eternal end. And no one notices or cares except the helpless father who desperately shouts out useless warnings and anguished cries as he watches his beloved son fall to his death.

How can we, as frail humans, prevent such a fate for ourselves in our real-life experience? How can we prevent our pride and foolish ways from causing us eternal death?

Jesus gives this advice. (Psalm 39:4 “Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.”) and this warning (Deuteronomy 12:32 “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”). He gives us this assurance (1 John 5:11 “And this is that testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son).

In gratitude and confidence, let us remember that our Father God not only provides a way of reliable escape from the imprisonment of sin, but He is also able to save us from our own tendency to destruction. (Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”)

## SAFE QUARTERS

Thank you to all who participated in giving and soliciting for Friendship Home’s Safe Quarters drive. Our Piedmont Park Women’s Ministries team collected \$1,557.56 to support crisis services and a shelter for families in our community experiencing domestic violence. Out of 45 teams that participated throughout Lincoln we placed 5th in raising funds for Friendship Home of Lincoln. We are grateful to those who gave and showed support for this important cause.



The Hornby Family were some of the volunteers on Piedmont’s team!

# SCAFFOLDING

By Kendra Carlson

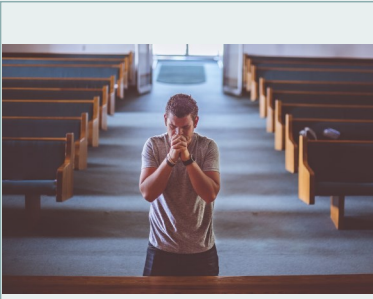


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## A TEACHER'S PRAYER

By Renee Schaecher

As I sit tonight, seeking wisdom, getting the details right;

Knowledge floats and swirls, exuberant in its allusiveness

It cannot be caught, there is not a net large enough

What do I teach, how do I teach, what is important to teach!

These lives who are in hasty pursuit of growth and assurance

Does life make sense, what is truth, where do we go from here

God guides, He has all knowledge, He can corral and net...

Can I listen, can I learn, can I comprehend, can I explain!

Do not fear.

Dear God, please be here!

Sometimes life is just discouraging. Maybe your wins are few and far between right now. If you're burned out, you may still be getting things accomplished, but your heart is so empty, there is not satisfaction in any of it for you. No pride, no sense of accomplishment, just an endless list of more things. When I find myself in this spot, I remember I don't pull my weight alone. I'm yoked up with Jesus and He is right at my shoulder, so close I can always turn to Him. I can tell Him all the things I hate about this particular situation. I can cry softly. I can yell like a wounded animal. He never leaves and He never scolds me.

Instead He whispers sweet advice and encouragement to me. Maybe He's saying one of the following to you today.

- You are doing so well! I'm proud of you.
- It's okay to rest. Everyone gets tired. I did too.
- I know you made a mistake and I'm not mad.
- Your house doesn't have to be clean all the time.
- You have no idea how much joy is coming your way.
- Make the heartbreaking choice that will set you free. I'll be with you.
- Stop worrying about if you're doing this right. It's a formative time, you've put me in charge and I am doing it right.
- When crisis comes, you will be broken open and I will show you the best parts of yourself. You'll also learn what's important and stop being distracted by the rest.
- Let go of your timeline. Everything will unfold beautifully.
- Be your real self - the one I created. That's the interesting you. :)
- I will always be right here, loving you.

This is why His yoke is easy. Does your heart feel lighter reading those words? Every human experiences suffering, but none of us have to walk or work alone. Jesus wants to help us every minute of every day.

Do you feel doubtful about God's intention to comfort you? I've felt that too, but Jesus could have called the Holy Spirit the Conviction Specialist or the Revealer, but He didn't, did He? The Comforter is who He sent to care for us from the time He left earth until He comes back. Isn't that what we need most? Before we confess, we need to feel safe. Before we try something new, we need to feel somewhat safe. Before we can offer ourselves to the world, we need to know God cares for us. God didn't throw out the directive Fear not without building scaffolding under us. The scaffolding is the Holy Spirit who is the Comforter. Humans need reassurance. All of us. And God is devoted to restoring our sense of safety as we realize we sit softly in His great heart of love.



Photo by Ricardo Gomez Angel on Unsplash



## AND SHE CAME RUNNING

By Renee Schaecher

She shouted out in excitement! her head leaning out of the rusty car window as they drove by; “Oh dear God, they have brought food!!”

They drove on...maybe they were not going to stop after-all? Ah, to bad...we had gifts to share.

As we completed placing the food donations Piedmont Park Church had provided into the Little Free Pantry and turned to go back to our lives of enough, we saw her.

She came panting and flapping toward us; running as fast as an old woman can run! “I can’t believe it! she cried. Just a grey-haired woman, slightly unkept, who maybe needed a haircut... a passionately expectant customer, she blessed our afternoon.

She explained, “I just moved into that apartment over there and I have nothing in my cupboards! God Bless You! We instantly invited her to the plenty we had just deposited.

How gratifying to actually have helped a person with a face, a person we are certain for which we, as a church, were the miracle she had asked God for that day!

*The Olive Branch Ministry at Piedmont Park  
SDA Church  
Piedmont Food Cupboard  
Lincoln’s Little Free Pantries  
Walking Food Kits (Homeless Ministry)*



Photo by Wolfgang Eckert on Pixabay

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE!

Pastor Michael Halfhill  
Hugh Davis  
Renee Schaecher  
Joanne Reinke  
Kendra Carlson

### GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

Copied from Facebook Post

Dear Piedmont Park SDA Church, thank you for supporting GNCC during this year’s Give to Lincoln Day. Your support helped us raise a total of \$44,373.73 which includes a \$2,490.73 match from Challenge Match Funds.

Thank you!  
Tom Randa  
GNCC Executive Director - July 14

### CLINIC WITH A HEART

Clinic With a Heart is in need of more volunteers!

CWH has been Lincoln’s free healthcare clinic for almost 20 years. It’s a faith-inspired organization serving people who are uninsured and underinsured through a ministry of healthcare with hospitality, dignity, and grace. CWH is in need of more volunteers such as care providers, nurses, interpreters, and other non-clinical staff. Volunteering regularly once a month would be such a blessing! The volunteer application is available at [www.clinicwithaheart.org/volunteer/](http://www.clinicwithaheart.org/volunteer/)

If you have additional questions contact Dr. Kristine Follett.

**Piedmont Park  
Community  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church**

has been a presence in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 1885. We pray that your encounter with God and His family will renew your experience of joy and peace in your journey.

As of the writing of this newsletter, Lincoln has moved down into green the COVID dial. All services and activities will be held in person unless otherwise noted.

**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES** will continue each Sabbath our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Livestream Adult Sabbath School on YouTube at 9:30am CST

Livestream Church Service YouTube and Facebook at 11:00am CST



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## MY TREASURES

By Joanee Reinke

Looked at my bank account today,  
not much treasure there,

Checked my home for wealth,  
found only humble fare.

Searched my closet, purse and car,  
oh, treasure — somewhere you are!

Sat myself down and peeked inside me,  
and there my treasure I did see.

Memories sweet from the past came forth,  
and a poetic rhyme or two,

Out came a song with a cheerful sound,  
and creative thoughts flowed through.

The most precious treasure lay deep inside,  
snuggled in my inner core,

What do you think I found today,  
as I opened up that door?

I found ME first, my own special self,  
then more came into view,

A treasured circle of fiends came up,  
and in that circle was you.

I saw the treasure of shared delights,  
as I traveled down memory lane,

And I realized that never, never,  
would I ever be the same.

How do I measure the song bird's worth,  
or place a price on shared mirth?

What's the value of driving down a country lane,  
or the ecstasy of sharing the sunset's flame?

Do you know the price of a bird on soaring wing,  
or the harmony created as we sing?

Or a gaze through binoculars for new delights,  
as we search God's creation for magical sights?

What's the cost of the view around the bend,  
or the leaping deer and the frolicking lamb?

The treasure you have within you've shared,  
and now I have it too,

As I go through life and draw from this "bank,"  
I'll always think of you.

Yes, I traveled into my heart today, and found my treasure there,  
Material wealth was a lack, but I found inner "gold" so rare!



Photo by Vlad Ymyr on Pixabay