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Don't Miss These Christmas Programs at McDonald Road Church:

-Friday, December 9-
 Christmas Concert presented by
 The Laurelbrook Choir
 8:00 p.m.

-Friday, December 16-
 Christmas Candlelight Communion
 7:00 p.m.

-Sabbath, December 17-
 Musical Christmas Vespers
 5:00 p.m.

McDonald Road Has New Emergency Response Kit

By Melissa Turner, editor

McDonald Road Church now has an Emergency Response Kit on hand for medical emergencies. The kit includes a defibrillator (for administering electric shock if a person's heart stops), a stethoscope, a blood pressure cuff and an Accucheck blood sugar test kit.

Dr. Kirk Wilcox showed the new defibrillator to church deacons, elders and safety officers last month. "Anyone can use it," Wilcox says. "It talks you through it and walks you through the steps. And it won't let you administer shock unless the person needs it."

The church deacons, elders and safety officers attended an in-service meeting with Dr. Wilcox, during which they were shown how to operate the equipment. The church deacons will be in charge of the equipment and will regularly check the batteries to make sure they are functioning and ready for any emergencies, according to Wilcox.

The Emergency Response Kit will be kept in the Sabbath school Secretaries/Deacons

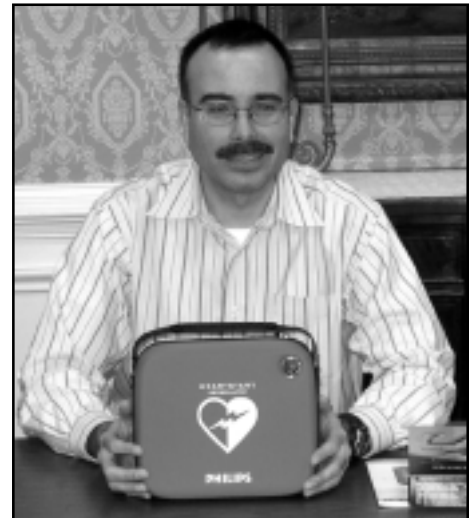


photo by Dean Saunders

Dr. Kirk Wilcox presents the church's new defibrillator at a recent meeting of deacons, elders and safety officers.

cons room next to the kitchen in the Fireside wing. One of the church deacons may be notified if there is a need for the kit.

"We've had a couple of instances where we had people pass out or almost pass out at church, and a nurse here in the congregation mentioned to me that other churches had defibrillators and maybe we should get one too," Wilcox says. "It was something I had been thinking about myself."



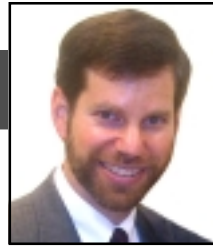
photo by Melissa Turner

Besides a defibrillator, the Emergency Response Kit also includes a stethoscope, a blood pressure cuff and a blood sugar test kit.

The New Emergency Response Kit includes:

1. a defibrillator, 2. a stethoscope,
3. a blood pressure cuff and
4. a blood sugar test kit.

Pastor's Challenge



Pastor Paul Carlson

The God Behind Christmas

Have you ever come to the end of a week wondering, "Where has the time gone!?" But Sabbath comes to assure us that God has already accomplished the most important things. It brings us joyful rest in God's creation and His love.

The same applies to the closing year. There are always more things to do than get done. But, thank God, the hectic days and months get washed with the assurance of God's biggest accomplishment for us—the gift of our Savior. "For unto us a Child is born, . . . His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

That act of love on God's part is even more significant when contrasted to what preceded it. In fact, in an article entitled "The

Lord's Vineyard," Ellen White described heaven's reaction as they observed how corrupt and wicked people were becoming in the years before Jesus came. It was so bad that there was an emergency in heaven.

"A crisis had arrived in the government of God. The earth was filled with transgression. The voices of those who had been sacrificed to human envy and hatred were crying beneath the altar for retribution. All heaven was prepared at the word of God to move to the help of his elect. One word from him, and the bolts of heaven would have fallen upon the earth, filling it with fire and flame. God had but to speak, and there would have been thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes and destruction.

"The heavenly intelligences were pre-

pared for a fearful manifestation of Almighty power. Every move was watched with intense anxiety. The exercise of justice was expected. The angels looked for God to punish the inhabitants of the earth. But 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' 'I will send my beloved Son,' he said. 'It may be they will reverence him.' Amazing grace! Christ came not to condemn the world, but to save the world" (Review and Sabbath Herald, July 17, 1900).

What a loving God we have! We can truly be thankful for what He is like. May God encourage you this Christmas season as you reflect on the significant meaning of His birth, His life, and His death for you.



Manna

The Manna is the official newsletter of the McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published monthly and distributed to members and friends of the church. Items of interest to the McDonald Road Church family should be submitted in typewritten form at the church office (see address, fax number, and office hours below) or by email to Manna@mcdonald.southern.edu.

Materials for this newsletter should be submitted no later than the third Friday of each month prior to publication. To ensure accuracy, submissions by telephone are not preferred.

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Pastor	Don Gettys
Associate/Youth Pastor	Kent Crutcher
Associate Pastor	Paul Carlson
Church Secretary	Kim Rollins
Newsletter Editor	Melissa Turner

The church office is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Visit our church Web site at <http://mcdonald.southern.edu>

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McDonald, TN 37353
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Sermon Schedule

"No Lions, No Tigers, No Bears" - Part II Sabbath, December 3
by Pastor Kent Crutcher

Cast Iron Toothpicks Sabbath, December 10
by Pastor Don Gettys

"The First Gift" Sabbath, December 17
by Pastor Paul Carlson

"We Three Kings" Sabbath, December 24
by Pastor Kent Crutcher

"Starting New" Sabbath, December 31
by Pastor Don Gettys

Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones

By Adrian Boyer

*“Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.”
Romans 14:13*

I

Of Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones
There is a fair Supply,
And it behooves each one to ask,
“What kind of Stone am I?”
The Stumbling Block too oft offends,
And causes Grief and Pain:
It leaves a Trail of dark Despair
To languish in its Train.
And then there is the Stepping Stone:
Its Mission is to aid
Some struggling Soul achieve its Goal,
While climbing Life’s steep Grade.

II

The Choices that we make each Day;
No matter who we are,
Must come before the Great Assize
Of Heaven’s Judgment Bar.
Should not we check our Motives then?
And after taking Stock,
Determine never to become
A baleful Stumbling Block?
Let’s ask ourselves this Question now,
And heed our Heart’s reply,
“A Stumbling Block or Stepping Stone,
“What kind of Stone am I?”



Support Our Troops!

*Get Involved with McDonald Road
Church’s Service Personnel Ministry*
Contact Ann Davis, Service Personnel
Ministry Director, at 396-2966 or e-mail
her at scottsmom1983@yahoo.com for
more information on how you can help.

Adventurers Make Bird Nests, Christmas Boxes

By Tony & Eva Burchard, Adventurer leaders

The Adventurer Club is always busy with something: The Helping Hands recently had a class full of show and tell and the Eager Beavers made bird nests out of chocolate....Boy did it smell good in their room.



contributed photo

The Eager Beavers proudly present the birds nests they made.

The Builder class finished up the Early Adventist Pioneer award. Wow! What wonderful teachers they had. Jessica and Paula Burns taught this award for the third year in a row and we want to Thank them so much! They always do such a wonderful job.

On November 6, 2005 a group of Adventurer Club kids got together to make Christmas shoe boxes to be distributed to children in hurricane-devastated areas over Thanksgiving break. The kids had a great time filling their boxes with toothbrushes, soap, toys, books, candy and all sorts of fun things to bring a smile to a child's face. Some added personal notes letting the children know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

The Adventurer Club is still selling our fundraiser 2006 Calendars so if you haven't already purchased one to support our club please find a club member and buy one today. Or you can contact Tony or Eva Burchard at (423) 316-2375 if you wish to purchase one. They sell for \$6.00. Thanks!

Feature

What Is God's Greatest Christmas Gift?

God Gave Everything for Us, Are We Willing to Give Everything for Him?

By Melissa Turner, editor

Heaven is a place of upside down values. Everything we value here on earth is nothing, according to heaven's exchange rates. Those who are poor are actually rich. Those who are weak are really strong. Those who are last are actually first.

But none of these spiritual blessings—being made rich, strong or first—have anything to do with the kind of “rich,” “strong” or “first” we think of here on earth. This goes against everything our culture tells us. If we want to be successful in this world, we are taught, we must strive after wealth, fame and lots of nice things to make us happy.

Perhaps this sentiment has something to do with why we think it was such a terrible sacrifice for Jesus to leave the riches and position He had in heaven to come here and die for our sins. Yes, it would seem like quite a sacrifice if you or I decided to pack up and leave for Africa or Southeast Asia to be a missionary. Think of all the stuff we would have to decide to leave behind. Think of all the creature-comforts we would have to forego. What a sacrifice, right?

But giving everything up and leaving behind comfort and pleasure would not be a sacrifice for us if we were completely full of love and compassion for those we were going to help. This is what it must have been like for Jesus. It was not a sacrifice for Him to leave heaven to come save us from our sins. He was so full of love for us that He didn't have to think twice about actually going through with His plan. Could we say the same for ourselves if we were asked to give up everything we know and find comfort in to carry out God's plan for our lives?

Or, more important yet, could we say the same for ourselves if we were asked to give up everything we know and find comfort in to have a life-saving, life-changing friendship with Jesus Christ our Savior? These ques-

tions hit close to home, don't they? We don't like having our comfort zones prodded.

Are we willing to give up watching television, sleeping in, listening to music, attending social functions or anything else that might be standing in the way of our spending precious time with our Friend Jesus or serving Him? I think of one of history's great Christians, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, whom I've admired ever since I was a little girl. He was one of Europe's premier musicians, theologians and philosophers. He hadn't simply excelled in one field, but in three! But he had a burden—the burning love and compassion of his Friend



Jesus for helping people in need. Dr. Schweitzer gave up his fame and comfort in Europe to study medicine and travel to the jungles of Africa to care for the people there and to share Jesus with them.

More than anything else, Jesus wants us to seek Him first in everything. He wants us to give everything for Him and for developing our life-saving, life-changing friendship with Him. Jesus himself gave us this powerful advice in Matthew 6:33: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you,” (NKJV).

You see, this is where heaven's economics come into play. When we seek Jesus first in everything and we are willing to give everything for Him and our friendship with Him, we will discover riches and strength like we have never known or experienced before. Our lives will be transformed and we will never be the same as long as Jesus' love remains in us. In fact, giving Him our lives is the best Christmas gift we could possibly give Jesus. He has given everything for us, at the risk of receiving nothing in return. But we have a choice to give Jesus the greatest Christmas gift we could possibly give Him—ourselves.

Critter Corner

"The Legendary Raccoon"

Uncle Burney's



Raccoons are known for their tricks at getting food. What we throw away these critters consider high-class eating. If you feed your dog or cat outside you just might be feeding these unseen guests as well. Coons have learned to knock over trash cans and undo the lids. Many of these critters depend on your handouts and can get very bold in their pursuit of food.

Often we sit in a boat just off shore and watch raccoons and their babies feeling and sifting through the muddy shoreline for mussels. Since raccoons don't have as many salivary glands as other animals, they need to dampen their food somehow before eating. After finding the mussels, they use their sharp teeth and claws to open them up. The mussels are already wet, so it's slurp and down the hatch. This process of food wetting gives the appearance that they are washing all their food before eating it. Until I learned otherwise, I just thought coons were some of the cleanest of animals.

Coons are very cute when they are little and we have raised a few. However, the wildness seems to always be in them. They manage quite well out-of-doors as pets, but indoors they can cause havoc. We had a very tame one that seemed just fine until inside. Within seconds, newspapers, toilet tissue and kitchen trash would soon line the kitchen and hallways. Soon he learned about the refrig-

erator. One day as my wife opened the refrigerator door he just climbed in and cleaned out the bottom shelf and was aiming for the second shelf when we collared him. That was the last straw. It took some doing to get the mayonnaise and ketchup off him. As soon as we cleaned up the broken glass and food off the floor we made some phone calls. Arrangements were made that day for him to go to camp, a youth camp, where they kept animals for educational purposes. I did advise them not to take him near the kitchen.

The father coon isn't allowed to help in the raising of the young in most cases. The mother raccoon does all the training and feeding of the young. There are usually three or four babies in a litter and most people refer to them as pups or kittens. The mother can be very aggressive in protecting her young, so don't ever make the mistake of trying to take one from her.

With the human population explosion that we are experiencing, wildlife and humans are going to clash even more. Raccoons are survivors and will dominate where other animals will suffer. Much wisdom is needed along with a lot of education to solve these difficulties. May God grant our younger generation the wisdom to make the right changes about this and the courage do them.

Woodsyland Tales

"A Winter's Night"

A Story by Mrs. Janice Parker

Darkness is falling and the night creatures of Woodsyland are coming out. A Whip-poor-will chants his call, "whip-poor-will," "whip-poor-will." Dry leaves on the forest floor crunch as Ricky, Rory, Rudy and Ramy Raccoon quickly make their way through the woods looking for food and adventure.

On a limb high in the Old Oak tree, Wise Old Owl sits, blinking his eyes as he scans the area. The branches sway back and forth in the wind, making an eerie sound. "Who-oo," "who-oo," screeches Wise Old Owl. From far away comes an answering "who-oo," "who-oo."



Under the pile of rotting logs, Posey Possum stirs. Her babies are half grown now and can walk on their own. She leads the way as she takes them in search of food.

Mazie the field mouse moves silently across the Woodsyland floor, looking for seeds and nuts to eat. She stays in the shadows of the trees and bushes as she nibbles softly. She must keep a constant lookout and stay out of the view of Wise Old Owl.

The moon rises in the night sky, with a glow of comfort and peace filling Woodsyland. Like the Woodsyland creatures, we can have peace in Jesus too.

Church News

Please Help Find Missing Church Members

Gifts for JESUS: Gift Suggestions, New Items Only Please!

Men, Women & Children always need...

Socks
 Warm pajamas
 T-shirts
 Briefs
 Panties
 Warm slippers
 Handkerchiefs/Bandanas
 Tennis shoes
 Insulated underwear
 Hats, mittens, gloves, coats
 Personal care items: shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, sanitary items...

Babies & Toddlers

Disposable diapers
 Stretch outfits and onesies
 Bottles
 Activity toys and books
 Sleepers
 Stuffed animals
 Receiving blankets



Bring your "Gifts for Jesus" items to church on Sabbath, December 17. Or drop them off at the front desk at the Samaritan Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. For more information call 238-7777.

Junior High and Teenagers

Cologne
 School supplies
 Hairclips
 (Teens know best what teens need)

Children

Crayons and coloring books
 Books
 Ribbons and hair clips
 Combs and brushes
 School supplies
 Puzzles and games

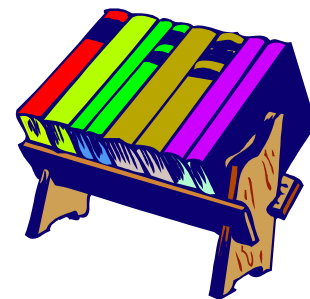
Other Needs

Stamps
 Stationary and envelopes
 Greeting cards
 Sewing kits
 Batteries
 Umbrellas
 Crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles
 Nail clippers, emery boards
 Pens and markers
 Boxes of tissues
 (Something you would like yourself)

New Books Are Available at the Church Library

"New" Story Books:

Red Dot COUNTRY ROADS, PAINTED
 GUL SKIES
 Gulley, Judie
 Heart-tugging stories of life, choice and growing up.



Red Dot JOSEPH
 FIV Fresh insights into the story of Joseph, one of the great stories of all time.

Also you will find in the library many other interesting and exciting story books. These are identified and separated as follows:

Red Dots General stories
 Yellow Dots Children's stories
 Blue Dots Mission stories
 Green Dots Teen stories

