

Special Feature

FOUR SISTERS By John Nicholson, Governing Board

Several years ago Sue and I and my daughter Chrissy went to Florida to visit my daughter Sara. I signed up to do the Space Coast Marathon which was held near the Kennedy Space Center. It was a warm, humid day; not ideal running conditions. That meant I would be on the course for a long time, but at least I would get my money's worth.

One benefit of running slow is you get to meet a lot of nice people. Near the halfway point I found myself running next to two sisters who were running their first marathon. I congratulated them, and they told me that their two other sisters were also in the race. They wore the same color shirts and were all running to raise funds for breast cancer research. It was obvious they were very close to each other, and I knew this race would form an even stronger bond between them.

The course was set up in a manner that the sisters saw each other at several points throughout the marathon. It was fun watching them hug and encourage each other, and also to see their excitement grow as they came closer to the finish line.

I eventually finished, and was greeted warmly by my family. Three of the sisters had also finished, and they were standing vigil, waiting for their fourth sibling. While I was taking pictures and enjoying some refreshments, I heard a loud cheer as the fourth sister came across the finish line, and they all embraced in a group hug.

I walked over to congratulate them, but stopped as I got closer. I saw that the sisters were now weeping as they closed their circle to console one another. There were no other family members joining them. It dawned on me that they did not come together just to complete a marathon. They were likely running for breast cancer research because they lost someone very special to the disease.

I had a pretty good idea who that might be. After all, what mother could possibly be kept away from seeing her four precious daughters complete the challenge of the marathon, unless she could not be there?

As I thought about those four sisters, I am reminded about what can happen when people come together in fellowship and love. Grief is shared, relief efforts are organized, and prayers are raised from every corner of the planet. God is pleased when his children come together and bear one another's burdens. Hebrews 10:25 tell us to "not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

As a church family, we meet to worship, reach out to the community, and encourage one another through difficult times. Without one another, our

church and school could not function, our outreach efforts would be ineffective, and the mission and vision statements would just be words in the bulletin each week.

Through the Holy Spirit we can be used by Jesus to effectively share His message of love. United in Christ we become an incredible vehicle for good. As the old saying goes, "united we stand, divided we fall". Or as the Bible says: We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13), or we can go forward without Him and accomplish nothing (John 15:5).

Our church and school have accomplished great things, but I believe our best days are still ahead. As we continue to grow in Christ we will view the world through His eyes, we will be motivated by "new" hearts, and we will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to go forward in power.

Like the four sisters I met that day, we will run together, encourage one another, and grieve with one another. One day soon, we will cross the finish line together, greeted by the One who already ran the race and won it for us. He will treat each of us as if we were the winners and prepare a banquet, issue us crowns, and allow us to enjoy the cheers of the heavenly court. But we will know better, as we lay those crowns at His feet, and begin to enjoy eternity in His presence. He may at that point have to wipe away our tears.

As we were getting ready to leave that day, the sisters were leaving too. I congratulated them, and asked if it was possible for a humble runner like me to get a picture with the famous four sisters. They laughed and said sure. It's a nice picture, and a nice reminder of the power of coming together in a time of sorrow, and leaving with a lifetime memory.

If it was their mother who was their motivation that day, I look forward to meeting her. Taking on the marathon in her memory tells me that her daughters had a very special person for a Mom.

But then again, I won't be the first to tell her she did a great job.



Sabbath, Feb. 20, 2010
Restoring Christ to Christianity
Pastor Sherman McCormick

Sabbath, Feb. 27, 2010
A Sahib's Secret
Pastor Sherman McCormick

Sabbath, Mar. 6, 2010
Good News! God Wants Us!
Pastor Sherman McCormick

CALENDAR—Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church

SABBATH WORSHIP SERVICE OPTIONS

9:15 a.m. Morning Psalm - with organ/instrumental music and hymns
10:15 a.m. Bible Study Groups (See Below)
11:30 a.m. Gates of Praise —with children's story, and a variety of contemporary music

Today, Feb. 13:

•5:35 p.m. Sabbath rest ends

Wednesday, Feb. 17:

•10:00 a.m. J.U.L.I.E.T.S. (Ladies Prayer Group)
•6:30 p.m. Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 18:

•3:50 p.m. *Faithlift* Ladies Bible Study. (Gayle Land's home)

Friday, Feb. 19:

•5:45 p.m. Sabbath rest begins

For MCA Info, please see MCA Bulletin Board Section

Future Dates:

June 11-19

Camp Meeting in Hutchinson, MN

July 5-9

Vacation Bible School (free)

Day Camp (\$20/day)

July 18-23

Rock Climbing Trip (\$225)

Contact Pastor Benji

August 1-6

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip (\$125)

Contact Pastor Benji

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS BEGIN AT 10:15 A.M. TODAY

Please feel free to join the class of your choice.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES:

(located in the church)

- *Cradle Roll: Infants -3 years
- *Pre-Kindergarten: Ages 3 - 5 years
- *Kindergarten: Age 5 or K - 1st grade
- *Primary: Grades 2 - 4
- *Juniors: Grades 5 - 6

YOUTH CLASS: (located in the school)

*The Filling is our Jr. High/High School class that meets for breakfast & songs, then splits into classes. Home Economics classroom.

ADULT CLASSES

- *Church Office: Provided especially for those who find it challenging to walk to the school.
- *School 3rd/4th Grade Classroom: Young Adult Sabbath School
- *School 5th/6th Grade Classroom: Women's

Group studying Gospel of Luke. Co-leaders Rita Dedeker, Karen Gilbertson, & Karen Peterson.

*School 7th/8th Grade Classroom: Sabbath School Quarterly. Co-leaders John Nicholson & Ackim Haamankuli.

*School Conference Room: Study/discussion of 2 Peter. Co-leaders Ken Dedeker & Bob Dahl.

*School Art Classroom: Team of teachers teach from the Adult SS Quarterly.

*School Math Classroom: Study/discussion of Sabbath School Quarterly. Leader: Ruth Haamankuli

*Fellowship Center: Book of Acts—Contemporary views on the Bible. Leaders: Jack Dougan, Ivan Chavez

Rooms For Parents with Little Ones—(During Worship Services Only)

Children Pastor's Office—Nursing Mothers
Cradle Roll Room—Quiet Training Room

Requests for Prayer:

1. Pray daily for MCA's teachers and students, and for it's long-term ministry to youth in the Twin Cities.
2. Loved ones doing military service.
3. Couples who are working at getting back together.
4. Anonymous requests for private issues.
5. Those unemployed seeking opportunities for work.
6. For guidance from God while searching for a new senior pastor.

Sermons on CD and Website—If you would like a copy of a sermon that was preached at Minnetonka, please write the date or title on the back of the "Welcome" card, the quantity and your contact information. Drop the card in the offering plate or give it to a pastor. Please make a donation toward our media ministry of \$3 /CD. You can also listen to past sermons on our website.

Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church

3510 Williston Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office 952-935-2615; Fax 952-935-0447
Church Website: www.knowgodmore.com
Prayer Request Line: sdaprayers@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours: Closed Mondays
Tuesday — Friday—8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Our School Minnetonka Christian Academy

3500 Williston Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office 952-935-4497
Fax 952-935-4498
www.mca-sda.com



Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church Welcomes You

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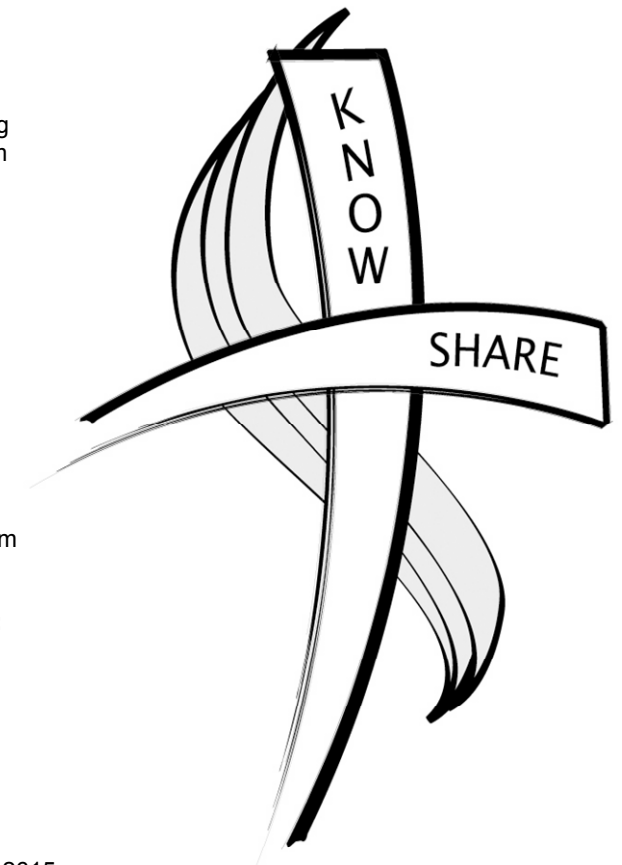
Interim Senior Pastor:
Sherman McCormick
Cell: 218-349-9871
icanoe2@live.com

Pastor for Youth & Worship:
Benji Ferguson
Home: 952-933-0394
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MCA School Principal:
Ken Rannow
School: 952-935-4497
ken.rannow@mca-sda.com



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Minnetonka Seventh-day Adventist Church is to passionately KNOW God as our personal friend and intentionally SHARE God as caring disciples.

VISION STATEMENT

Our response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ compels us to become a growing Adventist congregation. We will impact our community through God-directed worship, selfless service, and a culture of active participation by every member.

Morning Psalm

a sacred meeting

February 13, 2010 9:15-10:15 A.M.

Prelude		
Call to Worship	Pastor Benji Ferguson & Congregation	Hymn #204
	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	
Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Sherman McCormick	
Worship in Music	Pastor Benji Ferguson	
	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!	
	Praise to the Lord	
Scripture—Luke 11:13		
	If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!	
Bible Message	Restoring Power to Christianity	Pastor Sherman McCormick
Hymn of Response	Congregation	
	Let Thy Sweet, Sweet Spirit Live in Me	
Responding to God's Generosity	John Nicholson	
Offertory	Ring Joyfully <i>by Susan E. Geschke</i>	MCA Handbells
Benediction	Pastor Sherman McCormick	
Circle Greeting	Congregation	
Postlude	Chorale In E-Flat Major/Chorale B-Flat Major <i>By Johann Sebastian Bach & Johann Friedrich Doles</i>	MCA Band

Worship Coordinator: Gary / Lee Blount
Lay Pastor: John Nicholson
Deacon-in-charge: David Burley
Greeters: Shar Jesse, Don Peterson, Karen Peterson

Organ: Alice Simonsen
Sound: Roger Christiansen

Gates of Praise

February 13, 2010 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving...His courts with praise..." Psalm 100:4

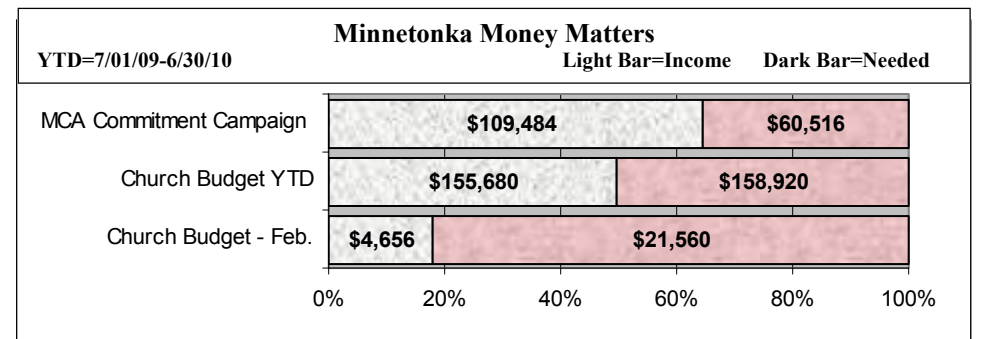
Prelude	Chorale In E-Flat Major/Chorale B-Flat Major <i>By Johann Sebastian Bach & Johann Friedrich Doles</i>	MCA Band
Welcome		Pastor Sherman McCormick
Worship through Music		Praise Team and Congregation
	Shout to the Lord Power of Your Love Breathe In The Calm	
Garden of Prayer	Hide Me in Your Holiness Hide me, Lord, in Your holiness, Ev'ry sin I now confess. Praise to You, forgiving Lord, Hide me in Your holiness, Hide me in Your holiness.	Pastor Sherman McCormick
Children's Story		John Nicholson
Responding to God's Generosity		Kennedy Otieno
Offertory	Ring Joyfully <i>by Susan E. Geschke</i>	MCA Handbells
Special Music	Holy Ground	Troy & Nina Stephanson
Scripture—Luke 11:13		
	If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!	
Bible Message	Restoring Power to Christianity	Pastor Sherman McCormick
Hymn of Response	Congregation	
	Let Thy Sweet, Sweet Spirit Live in Me	
Blessing on the Congregation		Pastor Sherman McCormick
Circle Greeting		Congregation
Postlude		

Leading us in worship:
Lay Pastor: Kennedy Otieno
Praise Team Coordinator: Marilyn Carlson, Nina Stephanson
Praise Team: Isabel Banda, Marilyn Carlson, Burt Elmer, Shanita John, Tony Lister, Kathleen Mathis, Nina Stephanson
Piano: Scott LeBard
Deacon-in-charge: Joshua Onserio
Computers/AV/Music: Kevin Mayer, Goran Pujic, Shar Jesse

Greeters: Don Learned, Nancy Learned, Jared London, Carol Lyons, Alice Mairura

Bulletin Board

- Today's offering helps provide essential outreach funds for *It is Written, Faith For Today*, and *Breath of Life*. As these ministries labor to touch lives and changes hearts, let's each lend support to our Church's media voices. Please mark your offering envelope for Adventist Television Ministries.
 - **Winter Clothing Needed:** Our Minnetonka Adventist Community Services (MACS) is now accepting winter clothing (all ages). No stains. No rips. For drop off information, contact Les Morrison at (612) 296-2716; lehmr40@gmail.com. Angel Hands Thrift Store, Watertown, MN. **Grand Opening, Monday, Feb. 15th - 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Beginning Feb. 18—Faith Lift Women's Bible Study:** We will resume our Bible Study on Thurs., Feb. 18, 3:50-5:15, (Philippians & Colossians) at the home of Gayle Land, 15808 West Oaks, Minnetonka. Please contact her at 952-932-9684 or gayle.land@yahoo.com for further information.
 - On **April 10th** the offering is for **Christian Record Services.** Cards are now available at the counter in the church hallway that will hold \$10.00 worth of quarters. Be sure to pick one up, fill it with as many quarters as possible, and return it for the April 10th offering.
 - **ICA:** Community Services / Minnetonka Church is working with ICA (Intercongregation Communities Assoc.). Please bring peanut butter, jam, macaroni/cheese, etc. to help us support the food shelf. Questions—Please contact Les Morrison at 612-296-2716 or Lehmr40@gmail.com. ICA website: www.icafoodshelf.org.
 - **Volunteers Needed** to be part of a volunteer team to work and collaborate with Congo Frontline missions. Contact Jared London at: jared_london@yahoo.com, (612-618-6636) or Pastor Benji at: one_lakatu@hotmail.com, (612-481-3843) for more details. You can also learn more about this mission by visiting: www.congofrontlinemissions.org.
 - **New Prayer Box:** Did you notice the new prayer box at the end of the Welcome Desk in the lobby? We encourage you to write out your prayer requests and praises and place them in the box. These will be prayed for by the pastoral staff during the next week.
 - **All Church Directories are here.** Please pick up your reserved copy as soon as possible.
 - **Haiti Disaster Relief:** The link is <https://appeal.nadadventist.org/Haiti> Individuals may print out a receipt. It has the option of keeping track of what comes from each conference for those that wish or need to keep track of that figure.
- The **Nicholson family** would like to thank the Church family for their prayers, cards, and kind thoughts after the loss of Sue's mother. There is no greater gift you can give us, and we feel greatly blessed to know you are all doing this on our behalf.



Tithe does not pay for operating our church ministries and is separate from Church Budget.
Today's Offering: Adventist TV Ministries— Next Week: Church Budget
All unmarked offering goes for local church budget.
Your tithe and offerings can be given online at www.knowgodmore.com.



- **Monday, February 15:** No School—President's Day
- **March 15-19:** Spring Break—No School
- **April 19-23:** Spring Week of Prayer
- **April 24:** Alumni Day