

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



Habits of Diligent Disciples

By Pastor Nate Crandall

“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut 6:4-7)

Disciples are diligent. Discipleship does not exist without diligence to God’s Word. Unless we are diligent to learn, obey, and teach the Word of God, we will lose out on the blessings that God has for us. Spiritual habits help to keep us diligent.

Three spheres of diligence as disciples are especially important for us to look at today. I don’t emphasize them to say that they have been neglected, necessarily, but they are of such importance to our life in Christ that it would be hard to over-emphasize them. I am referring to family devotions, disciple-making communities, and personal spiritual devotion. Here are a few quick suggestions to help you in the coming year.

Family Devotions

For our family devotions this year, Michelle and I will be using the “New City Catechism” written by Tim Keller. Although a catechism focuses on the basics of the Christian life and doctrine, the basics are what we

need to go over and over if we are to become diligent disciples. My hope is that the topics in these chapters will lead to family discussions at the table, on the road, and wherever else you may be.

Disciple-Making Communities

When disciples of Jesus gather intentionally to study the Word, to pray, and to share what the Lord is doing in their lives, that, in essence is a disciple-making community. In our church family, we have several types of disciple-making communities such as Awana, Collision, Men’s and Women’s Bible studies, Q-place gatherings for ladies, and the Greene home group. If you are not in a disciple-making community, let’s change that this year so that you can be an even more diligent disciple.

Personal Bible Habits

The diligent disciple will read, memorize, and meditate on the Bible. David was a man who was diligent when it came to the Word of God. Listen to his prayer. ***“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”*** (Ps 119:10-11)

Some of you who are good at reading daily need to take the

Continued on page 2

January 2025

Inside this issue:

	2
Church Directory	2
Annual Meeting	3
Week of Prayer	3
SDB Virtual Meeting	3
Collision Sabbath	3
Bulletin Board	4
Calendar	5



New Year Prayers *by Renee Sanford*

Let us take time to seek the LORD in prayer – for he so graciously promises, over and over again, that when we seek him, he will be found by us!

LORD, we are overwhelmed with gratitude – for this great blessing! You make it possible for us to know you, to worship you. You provide for our needs. You continually work to conform us to the image of your son! Thank you!

We pray, LORD, of a **fresh start** in 2025. May we let go of frustrations, unachieved goals, and unmet expectations. Let us shed the weight of anything that has kept us stuck. Give us courage to continue to wrestle with ongoing challenges. Help us press on to the victory you promise in Christ Jesus. Open our eyes to see new dreams, new possibilities and new opportunities. Let this year be blessed, fruitful and productive.

We pray, LORD, for a **renewed spirit and a hopeful outlook** in 2025. Make us more intimate with you, more confident in your sovereignty

over world events. Help us remember that you are our shepherd, caring for us every day. Forgive us for any hardness of heart or confusion that makes us feel hopeless. Create in us clean hearts and renewed, right spirits. Fill our cup, LORD, fill us up and make us whole!

We pray, LORD, for **your divine guidance** in 2025. Guide us as individuals and a community. Keep us daily seeking your will and purpose. Lead us away from world views and people who promote evil. Let your Holy Spirit make us sensitive to your word and counsel. Focus us on your word not on popular opinions or the crisis of the day. Instruct us and teach us the way we should go. Let your guidance be clear and make us willing to follow it!

We pray, LORD, for **wisdom and discernment** in 2025. An awesome understanding of who you are – that is the beginning of wisdom! Show us yourself more clearly! How great thou art! We want to make choices based on your word and the principles it

teaches. Give us understanding to choose between right and wrong, between good and evil, between your will and misguided human desires. Let our decisions advance your kingdom and give you glory.

We pray LORD, for **faith to stand firm** in 2025. Thank you for the gift of salvation and the gift of faith. Keep our faith strong – let it not waver when trials and challenges come. Help us remain steadfast in your word and confident in your unfailing love and kindness. Help us remain committed to your truth when the world pushes us in different directions. Let us truly love our neighbors.

LORD, help us remember that you are always with us. You are always doing more that we can ever ask or imagine. We cannot see or understand all you are doing to fulfill your promises to all of us and each of us. How glad we are that we are not alone! May 2025 be filled with joy and faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit. May the name of Jesus be lifted high!

Habits of Diligent Disciples, *continued from page 1*

step and start working on memorizing. When you memorize, you automatically start to meditate because the Word comes back to you and you think about it. But don't stop there. The next step is to ask questions of God about the Word. You must make it your own, and that only comes from meditating. It is essential to listen to the preaching of the Word, but it is only by meditating on the Word that it will

work into your heart and transform you into a disciple who walks closely with Jesus.

Spiritual habits help to keep us diligent. Unless we are diligent to learn, obey, and teach the Word of God, we will lose out on the blessings that God has for us. I don't know about you, but I want 2025 to be a year of great blessing. I have given you your marching orders. Go forth and be blessed by being diligent disciples.

Your Year for Abundant Living (... and giving)

by Pastor John Pethtel

Many Christians think of “stewardship” only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it’s usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2024 your year for wholistic stewardship - and abundant living - and abundant giving by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are some tips.

Health: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

Relationships: We not only share love and joy with family and friends, but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get together and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Time: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

Faith: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2025, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

Money: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

Church: Consider how you can take your next step in your growth toward Christ-likeness. Take a SHAPE survey to discover your spiritual gifts. Volunteer or donate toward an outreach or facility project that wouldn’t be able to be completed without your abundant living and giving.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.



A 2025 Church Directory

Published in late January

If you would like to be included, please email churchoffice@miltonsdb.org with your name, address, email, phone, birthday, anniversary and a color photo.

Those who are currently in the directory will need to check their details in the Welcome Center.



Business Meeting

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 19th, 9:00 a.m.

Join us for the Annual Meeting on for updates on the ministry of the church. Here are some of the items on the agenda:

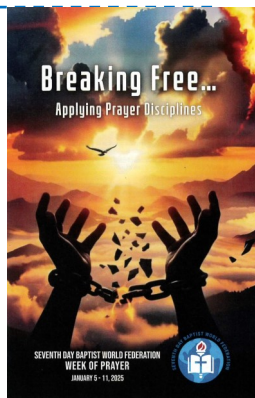
- Goals for 2025 and beyond
- 2024 Goal Results
- Leadership Election
- Financial Report and Voting on the 2025 budget
- Celebrate New Members

Watch for an agenda and handouts at the Welcome Center as we get closer to the meeting.

SDB World Federation Week of Prayer January 5 – 11, 2025

Theme: *Breaking Free...
Applying Prayer Disciplines*
By: Pastor Kevin Carter, Jamaica

Pick up a devotional booklet in the Welcome Center or go to sdbwf.org to download a copy.



Joining together in devotions and prayer is a fitting way to launch a new year of the Federation's work – to provide increased communication, to promote projects of mutual interest, to stimulate fellowship, to receive and evaluate statements of need, and to provide leadership training – among SDB Conferences on 6 continents.

Check out the website: sdbwf.org

Contributions to this work can be sent to:
World Federation Treasurer
PO Box 581
Silver Creek GA 30173-0581
Or PayPal: treasurer@sdbwf.org



2025 Winter Virtual Delegate Forum January 5, 1:00 p.m. via zoom

This is a virtual forum for individuals participating in SDB churches to virtually gather together for the purpose of receiving information from and giving feedback to the SDB General Council and the Conference Directors.

Registration is required. You can find the registration link and more information at www.seventhdaybaptist.org/wvdf.

Check out the bulletin board in the Welcome Center for an informational letter and budget details from our SDB General Conference.



Collision Sabbath will be on January 25th. There will be planned rehearsals throughout the month of January.

The End Of The Year Retreat was December 29th- January 1st
"Created For More" Ephesians 2 10

January Bulletin Board



- 3 Phil & Lois Watson
- 4 Ryan Holbrook
- 6 Sophia Kersten
- 6 Jeremy Lade
- 8 Amanda Sykora
- 8 Doneta Osborn
- 8 Nate Crandall
- 8 David St. Clair
- 8 Elijah Geske
- 10 Addison Pethtel
- 17 Sondra Muench
- 23 Katie Lubke
- 23 Kathleen & Ryan Holbrook
- 24 Josiah Lubke
- 25 Lillian Holbrook
- 26 Jim Lyke
- 27 Barbara Jones
- 30 Verne Wright

Scripture Memory Program

Each year, the SDB General Conference elects a new president. That president as part of their duties chooses a theme the coming year, including a list of Scriptures which fit with their theme! This year's Conference President, Tom Davis from Marlboro, NJ, has selected "Shouldn't It Be Obvious" as his theme for our sessions in 2025.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well." Acts 4:8-10 ESV




Men's Chorus

January 18
Rehearsal at 8:00 a.m.
Singing at 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, January 14
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's.
Ladies are invited to come for a time of relaxing and fellowship!

January	
1	No Club – Happy New Year
8	Club
15	Club – Glow Night 
22	Club
29	Club – Valentines for Seniors

January Children's Church

January 4


Unit 24: Session 3

The World is Against God:
Ephesians 6

January 18

Unit 25: Session 1

People Welcomed Jesus as King:
Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;
Luke 19:35-46; John 12:12-19

January	
1	No Collision – Happy New Year
6	Roller Skating w/ Koinonia Youth Ministries
8	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision 
15	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Pizza Night
22	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision
25	Youth Sabbath – Watch for rehearsal schedule
29	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision

Focus on Funds

as of November 30, 2024

General Fund Balance	\$29,875.67
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$27,325.50
Nov. Undesignated Inc.	\$21,401.62
Nov. Total Income	\$26,328.90
Nov. Expenses	\$22,634.61
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 5,592.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 6,524.38

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>Jan. 3 4:36 p.m. Jan. 4 4:37 p.m. Jan. 10 4:43 p.m. Jan. 11 4:44 p.m. Jan. 17 4:51 p.m. Jan. 18 4:52 p.m. Jan. 24 5:00 p.m. Jan. 25 5:01 p.m. Jan. 31 5:09 p.m. Feb. 1 5:10 p.m.</p> </div>			<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>No Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study zoom No Youth Bible Study, Awana or Collision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship – Communion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>9:00 Annual Business Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship – Collision Youth leading the service</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p>	



**January
2025**

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ARISE, SHINE, FOR
**YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME,**
and the glory of the
Lord rises upon you.

ISAIAH 60:1, NIV



Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel.
Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link.
We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.