

# SLIGO WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER

INFORM, CONNECT, EDUCATE

Summer 2023

[www.sligowomensministry.org](http://www.sligowomensministry.org)

## MINISTRIES

As followers of Christ, and as women, we are often torn between the Martha and Mary within us. We struggle to mesh our priorities with Christ's. We long to discern His voice and walk closely with Him. Ministry is a way we can show our love and dedication to God. Being involved in church ministries creates a sense of purpose and meaning in life; it provides opportunities to serve others. Church ministries also help us to grow spiritually and develop skills lying hidden within us. In this issue of the Sligo Women's Newsletter, we highlight three ministries led by women: Prayer Ministry, Disability Action Team and New Beginnings. May you find joy as you let the Holy Spirit flow through you and consider new ways to serve.

## RESTORED BY HIS LOVE

by Heather Oliver



Renew. Restore. Refresh - Strengthening the Mind, Body, and Spirit Connection. This was the focus of Sligo Church's recent women's retreat held at the Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, on May 6, 2023. The keynote speaker, Ann Roda, Vice President of Adventist HealthCare, blessed us with her message on how to "Be Still" and experience the presence of God.

There were also breakout sessions focusing on renewing a personal relationship with God and attaining behavioral health and wellness. The presenters for the breakout sessions were Janet Salazar, a teacher and published author, Dr. Rhoda Gottfried Perez, a psychiatrist with Adventist HealthCare, and Dr. Samuel Perez, Department Chair of Biology and Chemistry at Washington Adventist University.

In addition, the women enjoyed a nature walk for prayer and spiritual renewal, a refreshing hour of creative canvas painting with Griselda Jobe, and the inspirational music ministry of a praise team with recording artist Denise Barclay. The goal of bringing the hope and restorative power of Christ was satisfied as some of the women who attended commented:

"What a wonderful blessing we have received today. Truly God was in this place. I could feel His power. Thank Him for this occasion. What a transformation!"

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## WOMEN IN MINISTRY STILL NEEDED

My mother tells me that when I was a child I would sit in the front pew at church and watch the pastor preach. I would be attentive and ask her questions, such as, why was the pastor yelling at us when he preached. I do not remember much of that scenario but I do remember watching Sister Cooper. She was composed and stood tall and confident. She would address the congregation in a manner that demanded attention and respect, and held our interest.

I also remember Sister Noverola, my Sabbath School teacher. She always had our full attention! She maintained order in her classroom and also made sure we had what we needed to succeed as her students. She ensured we had necessities such as our weekly lesson, a Bible, and even books with stories to help us grow. At the time I did not realize how much her ministry and bravery would help shape me as a pastor.

Recently I met Josephine Benton. In 1975 she was the first woman ordained as a local Seventh-day Adventist church elder. She also served as an Associate Pastor at Sligo Church. This is important to me because I too was the first woman ordained as a local elder at my home church and today I am the fourteenth female pastor to serve at Sligo.

Women need to continue being trailblazers, making a significant impact on the Christian Church and the world by continuing to support other women and mentoring them through Women's Ministries and many other ministries.

To learn of Sligo's ministries visit  
<https://sligochurch.org/ministries/>

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY VISION, MISSION, AND PURPOSE

**VISION:**

Glorify God by challenging women to know God personally, to grow in Christlikeness, to discover and use spiritual gifts, to love and serve others, and in all we do to reflect the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**MISSION:**

Empower, nurture, and spiritually uplift women in the church and the community.

**PURPOSE:**

Encourage and support women as they discover their God-given gifts and fulfill their various roles in the church and the community.



## THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

by Myrna Bas

Sligo's Prayer Ministry team believes the words of C. H. Spurgeon: "No [one] can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me." We all feel the need for prayer time and the strength that comes from being prayed for.

This became especially true with the coming of COVID-19. When it began, Sligo Prayer Ministry shifted into high gear and went online to keep praying, serving, building community and making disciples.

What a joy and privilege to welcome those who could not make it to the usual Wednesday night prayer meetings!

Prayer encourages us to enjoy our personal time with God. God's goodness revealed through His love during the day and His presence at night, literally or figuratively, inspires us to share with others about God's goodness (Psalm 42:8).

Prayer Ministry is a support system, spreading the good news about God. Those in despair are comforted when they hear of God's goodness to others. Those in need of prayer are uplifted, knowing they are heard. Prayer Ministry is about discipleship, about being light and salt. Those joining us from various countries know they can leave with hope and can spread that hope. They know that when they cannot attend, they are remembered and prayed for.

Testimonies and devotions from our sisters and brothers across states and oceans uplift and encourage us. It is humbling and empowering, as a woman, to lead and pray with a faithful and creative team for the victory and peace of one another. Our pastors, elders, board members, young adults, attendees, team, leaders from the GC, NAD, WAU, professors, pastoral interns, and TA students share with us weekly how to experience and live a life of prayer.

We are family. The e-cards, e-mails, texts, digital celebratory and intercessory prayers, calls for prayer beyond prayer meeting, hospital visits, home visits to ensure that the computer is working to be able to attend prayer meeting online, the comfort of seeing God at work in another's life, and ministering alongside other ministries, these make us family - an online prayer family which extends to God's children from here to Europe to the Caribbean to Africa, to family zoom visits from India!

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). This is our weekly invitation to you on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. EDT, and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. EDT.

For more info go to

<https://sligochurch.org/prayer-gathering-at-sligo-church/>



## DAT NEEDS YOU!!

by Kathy Roy Johnson

The Disability Action Team (DAT) is a vibrant ministry at Sligo! And we need you! Read on and I'll explain. About fourteen years ago, I was asked to chair a committee to promote awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities. I gladly agreed because I had experience with disability policy.

So, what does DAT do? The sole purpose of DAT is to enable persons with disabilities and their families to participate in the congregational life of Sligo. Examples of past DAT accomplishments include:

- Sensitivity training of Sligo's Youth to explain some of the problems faced by persons with disabilities.
- Providing input into the renovations of the Greenwood Entrance to make it more accessible.
- Assuring that those with hearing disabilities have access to assistive technology so that they can hear the worship service.
- Sponsoring Disability Sabbath annually to highlight the needs and contributions of persons with disabilities within our faith community.

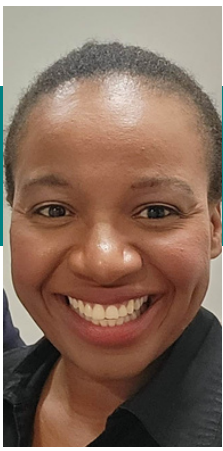
Recently, DAT members took part in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats training. SWOT allows an organization—even this little ministry we call DAT—to take a step back and think about what your purpose is and how you plan to realize your objectives.

While DAT is still mulling over the results, guess what the number one goal of the SWOT was? Team building so that we attract new DAT members! And that's where YOU come in. I can hear what you're thinking. (*I'd love to help with DAT. But I know nothing about disability. Where on earth would I begin?*) Yet, remember last year when you hurt your ankle and used crutches for six weeks? And didn't you help your aunt get to some appointments because her glaucoma means that she can no longer drive? And the little boy who lives next door who has Downs Syndrome who sometimes plays with your kids in the afternoon. The truth is that we are ALL impacted by disability—either personally or by association. Aging, of course, teaches its own lessons in disability policy!

Let me leave you with this fun fact: when we meet in person, DAT provides free pizza! Plus, we're a fun group to get to know.

Think about joining us—you just might be surprised.

For more information go to  
<https://sligochurch.org/disability-action-team/>



## NEW BEGINNING

by Franica Bissereth

It's a familiar phrase. In Matthew 25, the Son of Man, coming in His glory, "sets on His right hand"...those who "visited me in prison."

This is the call to prison ministry. The Sligo Prison Ministry team serves inmates, re-entry individuals, and their families. Inmates as a group are marginalized and often forgotten. Here at Sligo Church, we are privileged and blessed to be able to serve them in the New Beginning Prison Ministry.

Sligo's Prison Ministry team conducts Sabbath Worship Services inside the facilities. Bible Studies are offered during the week to inmates and their families. And this ministry also serves in other ways, such as counseling, mentoring, and letter writing.

New Beginning also partners with other organizations, such as Angel Tree through Prison Fellowship. This ministry offers opportunity to pray for inmates, re-entry individuals and their families through Prayer Warriors.

Praying for and with incarcerated persons is a simple way of responding to Matthew 25:36. You are invited to join Sligo's Prison Ministry team as we bring hope and encouragement to these precious souls.

To join New Beginning Ministry contact Pr. Hazel Marroquin ([hmarroquin@sligochurch.org](mailto:hmarroquin@sligochurch.org))

## NAD CONFIRMS ITS FIRST WOMAN TREASURER, JUDY R. GLASS

On June 29, 2023, the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church's General Conference (GC) executive committee confirmed Judy R. Glass as the treasurer for the North American Division (NAD). Glass is the first woman to serve in that capacity. She had served as NAD's under-treasurer since November 2019. In that role, she helped manage the division's budget and oversaw the day-to-day operations of the NAD treasury and its staff. Previously, Glass served as the chief financial officer of AdventSource, leading the ministry to pay off its debt and build a building, among many other accomplishments.



Glass received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1991. In 2008, Glass earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Maryland.

We congratulate Judy and we all are praying that God will bless her and guide her as she takes on the leadership role of treasurer.

For more <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/judy-r-glass-named-north-american-division-treasurer>.

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"God showed up and showed off the whole day. I witnessed God's miracle and revelation of Himself through every presentation."

"I needed to be reminded of being still, reducing stress from every day. I am truly blessed. I am walking away feeling restored, refreshed, and renewed. Thank you so much and God bless!"

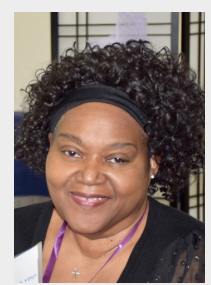
The women were young and old and came from near and far. Over one hundred and fifty women attended; some were non-Adventist, and one-third of the attendees were non-Sligo members. What a witness to the goodness of God. We live in a noisy world and are distracted constantly by so many things: the cellphones in our pockets, the 24/7 newsreel, social media, having to do multiple tasks at once, and so many activities that divert our focus and suppress the need to hear God's small, quiet voice.

The retreat indeed was God calling us to step away from our routine activities and to address the need of our souls to be quiet, calm, and alone before Him while in community with others. God's spirit certainly fell on all of us. Yes, our souls were thirsty, and we needed a refreshening. Indeed, we, all of the women who attended and participated, were granted a blessing on that Women's Retreat Day.

*"Be renewed in the spirit of your mind." Ephesians 4:23*



# RETREAT PHOTOS



For more photos go to <https://sligowomensministry.org/retreat-album>



**CONNECTION CENTRAL** | 9:15 AM  
EVERY SABBATH IN SLIGO ATRIUM

## ONLINE EVENTS

**SLIGOCIZERS** | 10:00 AM  
EVERY SUNDAY WITH LOUVINA JOSEPH

**WOMEN OF THE WORD** | 9:30 AM EVERY  
SABBATH LED BY WOMEN

**PRAYER GATHERING** | 11:00 AM EVERY  
SUNDAY AND 7:00 PM EVERY WEDNESDAY

**BOOK CLUB** | 7:00 PM  
2ND WEDNESDAYS WITH KAY ROSBURG

## CALENDAR



### September 16

Heartlifters: Grief Seminar  
Presenter: Pastor Hyveth Williams



*Save the Date*

### September 26 to November 14

Tuesdays 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Health Ministry: Full Plate Living Seminar

### October 21

Disability Awareness Sabbath



### WM Newsletter Team Members

Elizabeth Abel, Joan Francis, Carolyn  
Kujawa, Elma LaTouche and Leida Martinez

## WOMEN OF THE BIBLE



### ONE FEARLESS PRINCESS

Many know of good king Joash, king of Judah, but do you know of the brave princess Jehosheba who saved his life?

It was a time of violence and political unrest in Judah. Families were fighting, the northern and southern kingdoms were at odds, and wickedness was all around. Israel, which was united during Solomon's reign, had split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Neither nation followed God.

After Jehoram, king of Judah, died, his son Ahaziah reigned for one year and then was killed. At his death, Athaliah, Jehoram's wife, took control as ruler and killed anyone with a royal claim.

However, princess Jehosheba, a daughter of Jehoram, also decided to take control, but in another way. Without regard for her own safety, Jehosheba snatched Joash, the baby son of Ahaziah, who should have been king, and hid him for six years in the temple.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehosheba and her husband, the priest Jehoida, made a plan to install Joash as king and destroy the evil queen Athaliah. Thus Joash, rightful heir to the throne, became king - because of the bravery of Jehosheba. Seeing a crisis, she rose to the occasion. Courageous princess Jehosheba saved the life of Joash and thus preserved the line of David. (Read the entire story in 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22.)