SMITH ACCEPTS SENIOR PASTOR POSITION
by Sherrie Williams

Dave Smith, President of Union College, has accepted the position of Senior Pastor of the Collegedale Church.

Dave and his wife, Cherie, are no strangers to Collegedale. They lived here for 17 years, while Dave chaired and taught English from 1981 to 1998 at Southern Adventist University and Cherie served in the Student Finance Department, Public Relations/Alumni Office, and as the Administrative Assistant for three academic deans at the University and then later as Community Chaplain at the Church. Dave accepted the position at Union College in 1998.

Over the years Dave has been approached with the idea of going into pastoral service, but had always told people that was not his calling. Three to four years ago he and Cherie discussed it and set up several criteria that would have to be met...they placed out a fleece.

Several weeks ago Dave received a call, unrelated to the Collegedale Church pastoral search. During the call the position came up, and the caller addressed each and every criteria, continued on page 2, Pastor

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP TRANSITIONS TO MINISTRY OF GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE
by Eric Johnson, Executive Director

For the past 9 years, Kids in Discipleship has been a local ministry of the Collegedale Church that works to train parents and mentors to be intentional about discipling their children to Christ. Don MacLafferty, an associate pastor, has been the director of the ministry during this time. God has blessed in a mighty way during this time and families in our community have been able to develop a closer walk with God as a result of participating in the K.I.D. ministry.

During the last few years, God has opened the door for this ministry to expand beyond our local community and impact thousands of families around the world. The Holy Spirit has been moving in a mighty way as more and more people both young and old are being called to a deeper discipleship journey with Jesus Christ. Because of the expanding nature of our ministry, the leadership of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference believes the time is at hand to transition Kids In Discipleship to a ministry of the Conference. Effective May 1, Don will transition from being a pastor of the Collegedale Church to a pastor of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, assigned to the ministry of Kids In Discipleship. Although our ministry will fall under the umbrella continued on page 3, K.I.D.
SONRISE REACHES 8,000

photos by Baron & Sherrie Williams

Over 8,000 people attended SonRise 2011. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen. Go to www.collegedalechurch.com and click on the SonRise link to see more photos.

Pastor

continued from page 1

almost verbatim to Dave and Cherie’s conversation.

They came to Collegedale April 23-26 for interviews with the pastoral staff, Conference, Search Committee, and University. The Search Committee voted 100% to extend an invitation. On the evening of April 27 we received the good news that Dave accepted our offer.

Dave sent the following message to the Search Committee: Cherie and I were impressed by your questions, encouraged by our interaction, and inspired by your vote and invitation. Convicted that God wants us to come to Collegedale for ministry, we accept your invitation for me to be the senior pastor of the Collegedale church and, when the appropriate process is applied, for Cherie to serve as an associate pastor. We look forward to working with each of you and to experiencing the significant things that God will do. To the degree we all place our trust in Him, He will bless the church and each member.

Dave and Cherie plan on making a transition to Collegedale near the end of July.

The Senior Pastor position has been vacant since August when John Nixon vacated it to become a professor in the School of Religion at Southern. Gordon Bietz, University President assumed the role of interim Senior Pastor until the end of April.

COOL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being accepted for COOL Camp, the Collegedale Church’s summer day camp for ages 6 to 13. Applications are available at the at www.coolcamp.org, the Church Office, and A.W. Spalding Elementary School.

The camp runs Monday through Friday, May 31 through August 5.

Registration is Sunday, May 15, from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. and a Parent Orientation from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Church. You are encouraged to pre-register either online or by turning your completed registration form in to the Church Office before then.

Call Co-Directors Ryan Irwin at 615-9FUN or Brandon Lasley at 505-9402 with questions.
The 55+ Club will hold its May meeting on the third Sunday, May 15, instead of the usual second Sunday, due to Mother’s Day.

The meeting will be in the format of a readers’ theater entitled, “A Strange Kind of Love Story” to be presented by some of the 55+ Club members. Participants will be George and Imogene Akers, Lynn and Helen Sauls, and Eugene and Ruth Merkels. The classic short story by Mary Wilkins Freeman about rural life in a small New England town at the end of the 19th Century has been adapted by Lynn Sauls for the production. He is also serving as director.

Lynn has taught and administered at several institutions of higher education where he specialized in English and journalism. Both he and Helen have been prominent Adventist educators and thought leaders, as well as editors and published authors, and have played in or directed a number of dramatic productions.

Ruth Merkel has served as executive secretary to four university presidents, and has authored a six-volume series, Hannah’s Girls, about six generations of Adventist girls—six girls, in one family, in one church. These books begin with Ruth’s great-grandmother who witnessed the star shower of 1833 and ends with Ruth’s granddaughter, now a student at Andrews University. Eugene, a Certified Public Accountant, has done auditing and financial consulting through the years, as well as costuming American patriots at public events, a hobby they both enjoy together.

George and Imogene Akers have given their entire careers to teaching and administration in Adventist education, at five high schools and four colleges/universities. George’s last tour of duty was at the Church’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, as Director of Education for the world field. Imogene, M.A. in music, taught both piano and voice, and was at times an administrative secretary, and teacher of secretarial science. George is the producer of the show.

The program will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m., preceded by a potluck luncheon at noon, with food brought by 11:30 a.m.

Food Assignments:

**K.I.D. continued from page 1**

of the Conference, Kids In Discipleship will continue to be completely responsible for raising the necessary funds needed to operate this ministry. We believe this message of discipleship needs to go far and wide and because of that, our trainings are offered tuition-free. We are completely dependent on God to provide the necessary means for our operation.

Although the ministry will officially be Conference based, we will continue to work out of our office at Spalding Elementary and to partner with the Collegedale Church in efforts to intentionally disciple every child, youth and family to Jesus Christ. We are so very grateful to the Church for their tremendous support over the past nine years and look forward to working closely with the church and school system in the future.

As God continues to provide us with amazing opportunities to share this message both locally and around the world, we are in need of individuals who feel called by God to give of their time for Him. We would welcome you to stop by our office at Spalding Elementary and learn more about the amazing things God is doing right now to advance this message of intentional discipleship around the world.

**IN MEMORY**

**Alice Austin**, wife of Wiley Austin, passed away April 20. A Memorial Service will be held May 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Gospel Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation, 200 Oceangate, Suite 830, Long Beach, CA.

**Cathy Benedict**, sister of Brenda Trace and cousin of Karen Reed and Vicki Mullins, passed away April 26. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Food Assignments:

A-B: Vegetables
C-G: Potatoes/Rice/Pasta
H-K: Salads - Tossed/Potato/Macaroni
L-O: Entrees
P-R: Dessert
S-Z: Sandwiches/Bread/Rolls

Any one 55+ is welcome to attend as a guest and hopefully become a member. Dues are $6 per year, pro-rated. For further information contact President Erling Odell at 591-4779 or George Akers at 396-2717.
STEVE AND JENNIFER JOHNSON welcome their new baby girl, Rylie Sedell Johnson, to the family. She was born March 26 and weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. We appreciate all the prayers and support from family and friends during this special journey.

THE KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY CENTER has a need for a volunteer, part-time, experienced bookkeeper/office assistant. Please contact Eric Johnson @ 423-463-1616, or ejohnson@kidsindiscipleship.org.

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP invites you to attend a Visioning Seminar and Dinner on Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Let us share with you the exciting details about the many ways in which God is leading and opening doors for this ministry. RSVP no later than May 30 by contacting Eric Johnson @ ejohnson@kidsindiscipleship.org, or calling 423-463-1616.

THE MOMS BIBLE STUDY GROUP is beginning a new study “The Hurried Family.” This video directed study explores symptoms of a hurried family and provides counsel in restoring calm and giving the gift of rest to others. A Biblically based, 8-part study, led by Dr. Tim Kimmel, begins April 14. The Mom’s Bible study group meets every Thursday morning 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and childcare is provided. Call the Church at 396-2134 for contact information.

VBS 2011: KINGDOM of the SON is coming June 20-25. We will be focusing on the Lord’s Prayer for ages 4 to 13 years. Calling all volunteers! Starting at age 14 you can support this ministry. Help us defray cost by saving your paper towel and toilet tissue inner rolls, as well as empty egg cartons. Your prayers are always needed. Contact Sharon Mohr at 605-1779.

YOUTH INTERESTED in receiving CAYA text updates and announcements such as breakfast times, upcoming baptisms, and event reminders, email or text your first and last name, cell number, cell phone carrier, and the year you graduate to Ame Fowler at 595-4299 or amefowler@gmail.com.

STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS are available in the Church Office for members needing financial assistance to send their children to the Greater Collegedale School System. Return applications by June 20.

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP: Before long, school will be out, summer will be under way and Cohutta Springs Youth Camp will be in all its glory, with 85 amazing staff whole-heartedly ministering to young people! Register by April 30 for the early bird discount. For information or to register, go to cs-yc.com, or contact 800-567-1844, ext. 346.

A MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL for children ages 3-5 (turning 5 after August 31) is being established by Southern Adventist University at AW Spalding Elementary. Call AW Spalding at 396-2122.

COLLEGECADE ACADEMY is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. Visit www.collegedaleacademy.com or call 396-2124 for more information