CHRISTMAS LUAU POOL PARTY

Collegedale CAYA Youth, in partnership with the Children’s Ministries Development Team and Family Life, is hosting a Christmas Luau Pool Party at Southern’s pool on Saturday night, Dec. 15, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The movie “Soul Surfer” will follow at 10:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

We will be playing Family Survivor, a game inspired by Survivor and The Amazing Race. Family Survivor Rules:

- Attendees can participate in all Luau activities without playing Family Survival.
- Families can sign up any time before the event up until the night of the event. Contact Pastor Will at hwilliam@southern.edu or 396-2134 ext. 19.
- At least one youth and one parent must participate in games to receive points.
- Students whose parents choose not to come can still play with their youth group family.
- Travel to any station in any order at any speed to earn points.
- Parents can play games separately with their own children of different ages. Best score for each game will count.
- There is not just one winning family. Any family that participates and reaches a certain number of points is in the winning group!

Other activities include sundown worship, open swim, Christmas family portraits, pool games, and hula dancing.

Dress in your best Hawaiian outfit. Bring a modest swimsuit and a beach towel or chair. Also, bring food according to your last name:

A-F Vegetable tray
G-L Cookies/brownies/other dessert
M-R Fruit tray
S-Z Banana/pineapple/or other bread

REFLECTIONS VESPERS

by Cherie Smith

When someone we love has died, it may seem that the holidays will never be happy again. Whether the loss was recent or years ago, the holidays are, for some, a stark reminder of the empty place at the table and in their hearts.

To provide some quiet, reflective time to remember those that we miss and to remind us of the blessed hope God has provided, the pastors are planning a special one-hour vesper service on Friday, Dec. 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Recently, as I shared a memory of a long-deceased friend with someone, tears welled up in my eyes. It was a reminder that whether a loss was recent or 30 plus years ago, we miss the people who are no longer there for us to share life with. It is our prayer that the music, Scripture, homily and time to share memories will minister to ALL who attend the vespers -- no matter how long ago their loss occurred.

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FELLOWSHIP MEALS
by Dave Smith

On September 27 I conducted a focus group on the subject of fellowship meals. Attendance was sparse but enthusiasm was high. Those who attended the meeting expressed their conviction that our Church should provide a way for church guests to have a Sabbath lunch. This, of course, could happen in many different ways, including providing meal tickets for Southern’s cafeteria, offering meals in the homes of church members, providing fellowship meals at the Church, and so forth.

While I appreciate the effort made and ideas shared by those who attended the meeting, the sample was small. So on Sabbath, Dec. 8, a survey will be distributed during the Church service to seek responses from our members. We need to know who would be willing to help with fellowship meals, who would be willing to help lead a fellowship meal team, how frequently members would be willing to help with this ministry, and contact information for anyone interested in helping. Pray about this ministry and come Sabbath, Dec. 8, prepared to indicate your response to this ministry need.

In time, provided there is enough interest in helping with fellowship meals, we may call another meeting to discuss practical considerations such as when to offer a fellowship meal when there are three services, how to organize and schedule fellowship meal teams, and when and how to include students and Church members in the fellowship meal experience.

I want to thank those who attended the September 27 meeting and those who could not attend but sent me their opinions. I am looking forward to December 8 when I can hear from the rest of you.

FAMILY LIFE

Our modern culture tells us co-habitation is a great alternative to marriage and divorce is a convenient solution to difficulties—consider what some current research reveals:
http://www.frc.org/marriwebsite/162-reasons-to-marry

Children from intact married families are most likely to earn mostly As in school.

Engaged? Build a marriage to last a lifetime through thorough preparation! Contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu six months prior to wedding for more information.

Married? Plan to invest in your marriage by participating in The Art of Marriage on Wednesday evenings in the new Youth Room at 6:30 p.m. January 16 through February 20. This is an excellent new DVD curriculum produced by FamilyLife.

FELLOWSHIP FOR SENIORS
by Shelly Litchfield

Would your family be interested in a place for senior citizens to enjoy fellowship during the week? Many families have elderly parents who are living with them. The joys of having an extended family under one roof can sometimes be dampened by long days for the seniors while the rest of the family is at work or school. Some seniors who are independent also feel the need for fellowship.

Our Church has wonderful resources such as rooms that are available during the week, but even more valuable, this Church and this area have wonderful people who could make a “Seniors Day Out” a place of fellowship and activity.

No formal plans have been made other than to propose one day a week for seniors to come together for a lunch and varied activities such as guest speakers, games, Bible study, films, music, etc. This project will only move forward if there is enough interest to warrant it, so your response is important. If you are interested in participating, planning, or helping with this project, contact Shelly Litchfield at shelly.litch@gmail.com or (423) 413-1954.

Reflections
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There will be a time during the service when the twenty-four members of our Church family who died in 2012 will be especially remembered. Just as your presence comforts friends and family during funerals and memorial services, be assured that your presence during this service will be meaningful to those who attend.

Plan to join the pastors for this short but meaningful service for our Church family.
ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHURCH

Pastor Dave, in his sermon on November 10, called us to “Don’t ask what your church can do for you but ask what you can do for your church.”

He quoted Henry and Richard Blackaby from their book Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God “[Church membership] is your opportunity to invest in the lives of God’s people and to join God’s activity through His people. God knew that your church needed you. That’s why [He] added you to that body. Your involvement is part of the equipping of your church to carry out God’s purposes” (291).

You get the most satisfaction in a ministry by physically being involved, but you can also embrace that ministry by financially supporting it. Over the years SonRise Resurrection Pageant has been blessed with having an independent group donate much of their time and equipment to produce the resurrection scene. Unfortunately this service will no longer be available as the group is liquidating their equipment to invest their money in other ventures. SonRise has been given first rights of purchasing the equipment they are liquidating…equipment that includes stage lighting, cables, and a mixing board among other things. That window of opportunity was small, so we stepped forward and made that purchase.

There are other items we will need…items that we are bringing to the congregation for you or your business to consider sponsoring the purchase of. All donations are tax deductible. Items needed include:

- DBX 1231 Equalizer (3 needed) $360 ea
- DBX 2231 Equalizer (2 needed) $593 ea
- Furman Amp $66
- SKB Cases (2 needed) $141 ea
- Rolling storage cases (4 needed) $200 ea
- 1000 ft of Edison cable $990
- Boxes & receptacles $300
- 1000 ft of microphone cable $950
- XLR Connectors $300
- ClearCom radios (price TBD)
- Glow Tape (2 needed) $11 ea
- Gaffers Tape (15 needed) $16 ea
- 24 ft Blue Rope Light (3 needed) $11 ea
- Lighting Gels (6 rolls needed) $80 ea
- Cyber Light Power Supply $700
- Cyber bulb (5 needed) $150 ea

The items listed are what would be needed to continue presenting the Resurrection scene as it has been in the past.

If you would like to sponsor an item, or make a general donation to SonRise, mark your contribution as such. If you have questions, contact Sherrie at sonrise@southern.edu or 396-2134.

SHARING CHRISTMAS

The Children’s Ministries departments have partnered with Family Promise in adopting four families to ‘Share Christmas’ joy.

In November, each of the Sabbath School rooms, from Nursery – Earliteens, posted a display board that shared the wish list of all the members of one of our four ‘adoptive’ families. These items need to be returned to the classroom it was taken from by Sabbath, Dec. 8, unwrapped.

On December 8 and 15, several of the Children’s Ministries classrooms are hosting a wrapping party to wrap all the gifts for the families and prepare them to be distributed on the afternoon of December 15.

GIFTS FOR JESUS

Just as the Magi brought their gifts to the infant Jesus, so do area people of all faiths bring gifts to the Samaritan Center as Gifts for Jesus during the holiday season.

These gifts are organized and given out to people in crisis throughout the year. Gifts For Jesus will be collected December 22.

It is suggested that you bring your gifts in reusable gift bags. Remember to purchase items for Gifts For Jesus as you do your Christmas shopping. Suggested items include: Toys, Games, Coats, Socks, Pajamas, Slippers, Gloves, Puzzles, Dolls, Shoes, Hats/Scarves, Perfume, and Underwear.
THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be Monday, Dec. 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The one-hour service will include vocal and instrumental music, readings, stories, and scripture. To participate, contact Rhonda Burnham at rvburnham@awspalding.net by December 7 with the number of participants, names and what you would like to do.

ENJOY 9 WEEKS of combining natural foods and exercise to maximize health benefits. Join the Human Performance Lab at Southern Adventist University for a unique study that focuses on opening the door to a life of health principles. If you are a female, 25-35 years old, can walk 1 mile, and has a BMI of 30-35, you qualify. To get involved, contact Crystal Catarama at 236-2591. The deadline to sign up is December 15. An orientation will be held January 10. The program runs from January 15 through March 18.

COME CHECK OUT the small Christian school making a positive difference in the world: Lester Coon Adventist School at 11429 Bates Road, Apison. Kindergarten Round Up is Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served and there will be child-friendly critters and gifts. We are now accepting applications for Winter 2013 semester for Grades K - 8. Visit www.apisonsdaschool.com or call (423) 236-4926 for more information.

A MESSIAH SING-ALONG will take place Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga First Church at 7450 Standifer Gap Road. The open chorus rehearsal will meet Tuesdays, Dec. 4 and 11 at 7:00 p.m. and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 15. You do not have to be a seasoned choir singer to participate in the rehearsals. Chorus books will be available if you don’t have your own.

LIKE US on Facebook at /www.facebook.com/CollegedaleChurch

OUTDOOR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP (OFF) meets the second Sabbath of each month for some afternoon outside activity and potluck supper. Email tamathafarrow1@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

TO HELP THE CHURCH SAVE MONEY, you may subscribe to the online version of Churchbeat by going to www.collegedalechurch.com. Once you subscribe, you will be taken off the mailing list.

YOU CAN GIVE your tithe and offerings online. Visit www.collegedalechurch.com to learn more.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLY can be found online at http://ssnet.org/qrtrly/qrtrly.html.

WE ARE FAMILY: We are offering rides to folks who need transportation to Church, medical appointments, or grocery shopping. We will ask that you help with gas money for the volunteer drivers. We invite you to call the Church Office (396-2134) if you need a ride. We also need volunteer drivers who could help when their schedules permit. Thanks for helping the Church family.