AFFIRMING PASTOR CAROLE
by Dave Smith

A commissioning service for Pastor Carole Verrill will be held on September 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All church members are invited to attend what is considered one of the most significant services in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The commissioning of a female pastor by the Adventist Church constitutes recognition by the denomination of the pastor’s calling and to ministry within our world-wide church family. Initiated by the local conference and voted on by the union executive committee, this service acknowledges what God has done through the candidate and invites the Lord’s continued blessings and empowerment for her ministry.

After recommending Pastor Carole for commissioning, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference appointed an interview committee to evaluate Pastor Carole’s readiness for commissioning. The committee determined that she more than meets the criteria which include following Jesus and serving others in a way that reflects Jesus’ love and character, understanding the Word of God and living by its principles and leading ministries which bear fruit as evidenced by God’s blessings.

When the commissioning service is conducted in a local church, it provides church members the opportunity to affirm the ministry of the candidate and to support and encourage her future ministry. By our attendance we will show our appreciation and support of all Pastor Carole does for our church family, particularly her leadership in children’s ministries and our worship services.

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IT’S MINISTRY FAIR TIME
by Ken Norton

This Sabbath, Sept. 7, the Fellowship Hall is going to look a little bit different. Brightly colored tablecloths, sign up sheets and handouts, ministry leaders anxiously waiting to talk to you, and tables loaded with…cookies. If for no other reason than the cookies, you really need to step into this room on Sabbath where passion for ministry hangs in the air like the signs dangling above each grouping of tables – Children’s Ministries, Youth Ministries, Community Outreach Ministries, and Church Ministries.

The Ministry Fair is not just a colorful sideshow with a few sugary snacks. It’s an opportunity provided once a year for you to prayerfully consider how God wants to use you to bless the lives of others through service. Ministry leaders from over 30 different church ministries will be available to answer questions on how you can get involved in helping others through their ministries and to share some of their passion about making a difference in the church and community. This is your time to step out and see what rewards God has waiting for you through service. And while you are stepping out, grab a cookie. It’s just a little taste of what God has in store for those who dedicate their lives to ministering for others.

The Ministry Fair will be open from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
CHURCH ADDITION? MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
by Wolf Jedamski

For the past year and a half the Pastors have used the tag line “Care & Connect” to describe and to influence everything we do. Our goal, as a Church family, is to raise the level of caring for each other and to connect with each other and our community.

One of the best things we as a Church can do to increase that fellowship and caring for each other is by connecting in smaller groups. Sabbath School classes and small groups provide the heart of fellowship for Church members. Therefore, creating more adult Sabbath School meeting spaces has been one of our goals. Sabbath morning is the optimal time for that to happen. However, we have been painfully aware that we need more space for classes and small groups to meet. During

the prime time slot coinciding with the Adoration II worship period, every room in the Church is used. We also have numerous classes that meet in those same rooms during the other two time/worship periods.

A proposal has been brought before the Church Board to build a Church addition which will consist of a more secure and safer children’s wing. The current children’s Sabbath School classrooms would then be remodeled to accommodate adult meeting spaces. In other words we would be addressing two needs for the price of one. Depending on the design elements we would gain an additional 12-15 adult rooms and at the same time provide a better environment for our children’s classes.

Because this is a huge step forward which will also involve a capital campaign to raise the funding, we want input and support from the entire Church family. The Church Board has called for a business meeting in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24. We will share this vision, look at conceptual plans, answer questions and listen to feedback from you the church members. We want to encourage all members to come and give their input.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

English as a Second Language classes begin September 10 in the Earliteen Room. Classes for all levels meet each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. during the school year for about an hour and a half. Child care is available.

Volunteers are needed to be program coordinators, teachers, assistant teachers, child care providers, and public relations assistants. There is no second language requirement—we speak English only. No special degree is necessary—just a friendly attitude and a desire to share God’s love with others.

Call the Church Office at (423) 396-2134.

MAKE A CONNECTION THROUGH “ADOPTION”

Southern students are back on campus and we welcome them back to our Church family.

At the Renewal service on August 31 they were presented with welcome bags and were given the opportunity to sign up to be “adopted” by a Church family. On Sabbaths, Sept. 7 and 14, you will be given the opportunity to adopt one or more students for the school year.

By adopting a student you commit to the following:

1. Praying for your student(s).
2. Planning at least two interactions with this student(s) per semester. These interactions could include the following:
   a. A visit to your home to get to know each other
   b. A note of encouragement
   c. Hosting a Sabbath lunch and time of fellowship
   d. A small gift or care package during exam time
   e. Assistance with a class the student may be struggling with
   f. Prayer or Bible study meetings together
   g. Or any other way you are able to connect with your adopted student.

The most important part of this project is to prayerfully and wholeheartedly enter into these relationships with an open mind to have a heartfelt relationship with your student. The blessing potential of this ministry could be great! However, its success is totally dependent upon your willing participation!
RELATIONAL CHRISTIANITY: REASONS FOR YOUR FAITH

by Sam Chetty

Older kids and young adults are leaving the church because they are not equipped with confident answers for reasons for what they believe. Occasionally intellectual doubts may arise about faith, especially when considering some of what popular science teaches. Feeling stuck in the middle of faith and vocation may be especially important for high school and college ages that are considering careers in the science related fields.

In the 2011 book You Lost Me, author David Kinnaman addresses reasons why young Christians are leaving the Christian church which parallels happening in the Adventist church. New research by the Barna Group shows that 59% of these twentysomethings drop out of active church involvement. (p 24)

One reason for dropping out is that modern science is perceived by millions of young Christians to be in opposition to Christianity. To illustrate, Kinnaman tells of a prominent scientist at a dinner party:

“Every week I am contacted by young Christians who tell me that their faith cannot survive their interest in science. They feel the church has forced them into an either–or decision. They can either stay true to the Christian faith or become an intellectually honest scientist. That’s a false choice of course. . . If we aren’t helping young Christians pursue their calling in science in a way that affirms both science and faith . . . we’re going to lose a generation of scientists and a generation of Christians”

The Barna Group found that 29% of 18 to 29 year olds who have a Christian background felt that churches were out of step with the scientific world we live in, and a quarter of them felt Christianity was antiscience (page 137). In another survey, half of 13 to 17 year olds say they plan to pursue a science related career including medical, other health related careers, engineering, and research science.

There is a disconnect between faith and science minded youth. Kinnaman tells a story about Mike, a young atheist that spoke to a group of clergy: “It was tenth grade. I started learning about evolution. It felt like my first window into the real world. To be honest, I think that learning about science was the straw that broke the camel’s back. I knew from church that I couldn’t believe in both science and God so that was it. I didn’t believe in God anymore.”

One fourth (23 %) of 18 to 29 year olds have intellectual doubts about their faith. Christian apologetics are still important but a shift from traditional apologetics to a more conversational, relational approach may be more appropriate rather than trying to “win” an argument. Doubts about these questions seem to arise in the junior and senior years in high school and in college (p. 189). But unexpressed doubt is not always the churches fault as more help is available than some twentysomethings realize.

Being intellectually honest with ourselves and having evidence that our world view is reasonable is important. If we don’t have reasonable answers, then the questioning junior high kids and twentysomethings among our membership will just walk away along with the other 59% that have left the Christian church.

That’s why “Relational Christianity – Understanding Creation” was developed. The class starts Sabbath Sept. 7, at 10:15 in Hulsey Wellness Center, 3rd floor amphitheater. To pre-order a textbook, email Pastor Sam at samchetty@southern.edu. Cost is $10.

Commissioning
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In 2008 Pastor Carole joined the Collegedale pastoral staff as a part-time Children’s Ministries pastor. At the end of the 2008-09 school year she began working full-time in this capacity using her energy, creativity and enthusiasm to support the eight Sabbath Schools (Nursery through Junior aged children); oversee staff in the annual week-long Vacation Bible School; be the pastor liaison for the Adventure Club; staff and direct the summer COOL Camp program; help plan activities like the annual Fall Festival and the monthly OFF program; create ministry outreach opportunities for children; and work with the Children’s Ministries Development Team. She is constantly seeking ways to help children know Jesus as a Friend.

Pastor Carole also has taken on the responsibilities for coordinating our Adoration and Renewal worship services. She works with worship teams to plan each element of those services, and coordinates with the musical groups.

Pastor Carole’s love for God and joy in serving Him has blessed our congregation for 5 years. We look forward to the special commissioning service as a time to celebrate her calling. Please pray for Pastor Carole as you plan to attend this service.
The Samaritan Center’s Stock Their Lockers program was a huge success this year thanks to you, our community, who overall provided $25,000 worth of school supplies to 223 local children. Each child received a backpack with school supplies, new socks and underwear, a Samaritan Center thrift shop gift certificate for school clothes, and a bible. Sharon Smith-Hensley, pictured with six happy students, is the Social Services Director at the Center and runs the STL program. “The knowledge that these children are starting the school year right, and that we have helped parents shoulder the significant cost of school supplies, is a blessing to this community,” Sharon said. Thank you for your continued support!

Childcare provided for each date, come enjoy the fun and make one of your best investments ever!

- Sept 8: *Whitewater rafting on the Ocoee 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sept 19: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the Church then design your own exclusive date
- Nov 14: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the Church then design your own exclusive date
- Jan 9: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the church then design your own exclusive date
- Feb 13: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the church then design your own exclusive date
- Feb 14: *Valentines Dinner & seminar Understanding Your Intimacy Styles 6 p.m.
- Feb 15: *Seminar Understanding Your Conflict Resolution Styles 3 p.m.
- March 13: Video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the church then design your own exclusive date
- April 10: Video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the church then

SUCCESSFUL STEPFAMILIES

Approximately one-third of all weddings in the U.S. create a blended family. The challenges stepfamilies face are unique and complicated which is one reason two-thirds of blended family couples divorce.

Join Ron Deal, president of SmartStepfamilies.com and Director of Blended Family Ministries at FamilyLife, December 6-8 at Winshape Retreat in Rome, GA as he helps you discover key steps to building a healthy stepfamily and overcoming unique and complex challenges.

This weekend retreat is ideal for stepfamily couples, empty-nest remarried couples, couples about to enter a stepfamily and stepgrandparents.

Cost: $535 per couple (Includes program, meals, lodging and applicable taxes).

Call 877-977-3873 to learn more.

*RSVP at the Church Office and small fee required. For more info, contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860.

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Learn the design!

- Saturday mornings at 10:15 a.m.
- A.W. Spalding downstairs Classroom
- Weekly, starting September 14
- For more info: contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860

Cost: $535 per couple (Includes program, meals, lodging and applicable taxes).

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Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older, he will not depart from it.” Well, school is back in session in the GCSS and the training in school goes hand in hand with our partners, the home and the church. In order to provide the best opportunities for our children and youth to become vibrant and active life-long leaders in our church, we need to work together closer than ever.

School began August 8 with approximately 780 students from the Montessori Early Childhood Center to 12th grade at Collegedale Academy. We’ve had a very good start to the school year and are excited about the journey before us.

We are now starting into special weeks of spiritual emphasis with the CA Week of Prayer from August 26-30 with Pastor Ken Norton as the guest speaker, AWS 3rd-5th Grades with Pastor Litch, AWS K-2nd grades with Pastor Carole Verrill, and finally CAMS during October 21-25 with Pastor Alex Harter. Please remember these important events in prayer that the Holy Spirit will work in a mighty way on the hearts and minds of our young people.

Major changes this year include the addition of a second Montessori Early Childhood classroom at AWS. At CA, a one-to-one iPad program is in place and for the most part things have gone very well with the new technology. In addition, CA has revamped the daily schedule moving to a seven period school day from a four period school day. We’ve also built a new system website, a one-stop place to get general information about the Greater Collegedale School System. The site can be found at www.gcss.org. From this site you can easily access the individual school websites for more detailed information.

Joining the GCSS faculty this year at Collegedale Academy is Ms. Roberta Bishop. She will be taking over the choral music program and has already had her Opus choir sing at the Collegedale Church. She joins our team from Mile High Academy in Denver.

This year we will be continuing our strategic planning initiative at the GCSS Board level as we work towards sustainability and future growth of the school system here in Collegedale.

Please keep all the children that we serve in your prayers as we begin the new school year.

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**55+ CLUB TO LEARN ABOUT ORIGINS EXHIBIT**

55+ Club members, and anyone who is 55 and over, are invited to their Sunday, Sept. 8 meeting. The presenter will be Carol Raney, Origins Educator at Southern Adventist University. Her main responsibility is to create educational resources for elementary and middle school teachers and students about issues related to creation and evolution. She will give a brief description of the Origins Exhibit located in Southern’s Hickman Science Center and share a sneak preview of some of the Origins resources being created for schools.

Members are encouraged to bring their food ready for serving by 11:30 a.m. to the Fellowship Hall. The 1:00 p.m. program follows the vegetarian potluck luncheon which begins at 12 noon. Visitors are encouraged to RSVP for seating arrangements and do not need to bring food.

Vegetarian Food Assignments:

- A-C: Entrees
- D-G: Vegetables
- H-J: Bread/Rolls/Sandwiches
- K-O: Macaroni/Potato/Tossed Salads
- P-S: Dessert
- T-Z: Potato/Rice/Pasta Dishes

For further information or reservations, contact Erling Odell at (423) 591-4779.

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**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES**

**James** (inductive Bible study), a study geared for moms but open to anyone, begins Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Wing. (Childcare provided for Tuesday morning studies.)

**A Woman’s Heart, God’s Dwelling Place** (DVD based study) begins Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Wing. (Childcare provided for Tuesday morning studies). A second session will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Gospel Chapel.

**I & II Peter and Jude** (inductive Bible study) begins Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m., in the Senior Center.

**Jonah** (a DVD based study) begins Sabbath, Sept. 28, at 10:15 a.m. in Room 103 at Collegedale Academy.
MEN’S WHITEWATER RAFTING TRIP—Sunday September 15. Meet at Church at 1:00 p.m. Cost is $20. To RSVP timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860. For those who would like to camp the night before contact Jon Davis at jonmelldavis1973@gmail.com.

LADIES, SAVE THE DATES! The Women’s Ministries Prayer Breakfast will be Sunday, Sept. 15, and the Women’s Ministries Fall Bible Studies begin Tuesday (mornings and evening options), Sept. 17, and Sabbath mornings, Sept. 21. Watch for more information.

NEW ENGLAND ADVENTIST HERITAGE TRIP scheduled for September 27-October 7 will take you to the homes of our pioneers where stories of God’s leadership will be told at each site by Adventist historian, Alice Voorheis. Visit Hiram Edson’s cornfield, Ascension Rock at the William Miller Farm, James and Ellen White’s childhood home sites, and many more interesting historical places. Call Tarrie Geiger at 423-802-9617 or e-mail tarriegeiger@gmail.com.

HOW IS GOD WORKING through our church’s youth ministry? Find out by visiting our youth ministry website, www.cayayouth.com. You will find current photos, videos, and short stories that will impress you with how God’s Spirit is working—in the present! You will also find calendars, schedules and links for our many youth ministry activities. www.cayayouth.com

ENJOY THE DAY with family and friends, Sunday, Sept. 29, from 12:00 - 4:00 pm, at Lester Coon Adventist School’s Annual Fall Festival located at 11429 Bates Road, Apison, TN. There will be a flea market, games, food, prizes, animals, car wash, and lots of smiles. Call Anita at (423) 505-6573 to reserve a booth if you have items you would like to sale.

IN MEMORY

Ronald L. Pyke, father of Tom Pyke, passed away. Services were held August 24.

Dale I Pickett, father of Annette Crowe and Rebecca Triplett, passed away Friday, Aug. 16, in Buffalo, NY. Services will be held Monday, Sept. 9, at the Byron, NY Cemetery.

Mary Lou Battle Hemingway, mother of Hue Washington, passed away August 20. Services were held September 1.

Elder Jesse (J.G.) Gardner Henderson, Jr., father of Joel Henderson, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 21. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge, 12810 Magnolia Dr, Tampa, FL 33612; Attention: Barbara Twible.