FALL FESTIVAL
by Joanna King

A beautiful, clear, crisp autumn evening greeted the approximately 600 people who came to the annual Church Family Fall Festival on Sabbath evening, Nov. 8. Praise God for the beautiful, mild weather! Sundown worship began as Pastor Chris Massengill’s praise and worship team of Collegedale Academy students led the group in song. Pastor Tabor Nudd led the group in a
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“THE BLESSING” FATHERS AND SONS RETREAT
by Marty Miller

During the October 31-November 2 weekend, a group of 50 fathers and sons convened at Booker T. Washington State Park to experience something God ordained: a weekend focused on building relationships between fathers, their sons, and their heavenly Father; and focused on an intentional blessing of their sons, simply called “THE BLESSING”.

Though sponsored by the Collegedale Church, the retreat also attracted participants from the Ooltewah, McDonald Road, Collegedale Community, Village Chapel, Bowman Hills, Standifer Gap, and Chattanooga First Churches.

Although the weekend blew in blustery and cold it was perfect for embracing “manly” activities such as fire building and energetic hiking!

Friday evening after dinner the group participated in a symbolic oil lamp-lighting ceremony. Fathers filled their oil lamps with olive oil, and then, from their own lamps, poured oil into the lamps of their sons. Next the fathers’ lamps were lighted and then from their flame their sons lamps were lit. This symbolically represented that all blessings come from our heavenly Father. And that if an earthly father is to give
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ADOPT-A-Student picnic

by Carole Verrill

The Adopt-A-Student picnic on Saturday, November 1 was a blessed event for all in attendance. The weather was cool and blustery so the picnic was moved from the Student Park to the Fellowship Hall of the church. The room was soon full to overflowing with students and their adopted families. More and more tables were brought out as people poured in for this special time of food and fellowship.

There were also quite a few families who invited their students to their own homes on that day in lieu of attending the picnic. It was estimated that approximately 300 people participated in this event and that positive connections were made and relationships were built. We encourage our families to continue meeting together as time and schedules allow and will look forward to planning another family picnic event in the spring.

After worship, everyone enjoyed a meal of hotdogs, chips, vegetables with dip, caramel apples and cookies. This year there was a special line for families with children under the age of five. Because there were more food lines, the entire group was fed in 30 minutes!

During the evening, a bluegrass band played and sang for the group. The music was fun and a fantastic backdrop for the evening’s festivities! There were plenty of activities for all ages including hay rides, face painting, pumpkin decorating, balloon animals for the kids and games in the field. For the tiniest attendees, there was a special play area surrounded by hay bales. The hay bales kept the kids corralled, and there were plenty of toys for playing while moms and dads visited together.

Many thanks go to all those who made this evening possible. First of all, a big thank-you to Franklin and Tamatha Farrow for their gracious hospitality! The evening was an amazing partnership between the Children’s Ministries Development Team led by Pastor Carole Verrill and Ronna Barker, the GCSS Home and School volunteers and the great helpers from the church’s Deaconess Team.

Fall

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Interactive worship activity that allowed attendees of all ages to fellowship and worship together.

We Are Going To...Nicaragua

March 5-15

Our youth ministry is going to help local missionaries who minister to orphans and street children.

How you can help:

1. Pray that God will continue to bless us as we share Him outside of our bubble.

2. Donate. Each student needs to raise $1250.
   a. Donate through “online giving” at www.collegedalechurch.com
   b. Mark your tithe envelope “Nicaragua Mission Trip”

3. Go! If you are interested in going, contact Pastor Will at (423) 414-8569/hwilliam@southern.edu.

Visit our information website at www.friendsoforphans.com
The Blessing
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a blessing to his son he must first be filled to overflowing with the blessing of the Holy Spirit. The sight of 50 oil lamps brightly burning as the group sang “This Little Light of Mine” was a beautiful and memorable experience.

After the oil lamp ceremony the group went outside and engaged in an exciting fire-building contest and a follow-up night hike through the fields and forests. As the clouds cleared and the moon shone brightly, one group could be heard howling at the moon. Male bonding at its best!

Sabbath morning, while the boys went outside to explore God’s creation, Marty Miller led a discussion on the state of manhood in the church and called each one to become stronger spiritual leaders of their homes. Using the parable of the prodigal son as a reference, dads were then able to share their personal journey with God. It was powerful and moving.

After a short church service everyone loaded into vehicles and drove over to Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness for a rugged hike. The trail passed through a rugged canyon of inspiring beauty and grandeur. Coal mining tunnels and stonework provided opportunities for both imagination and exploration.

After two miles of hiking the group came to the special place where the blessing would be performed. There in this secluded spot, nestled in gigantic boulders, fathers and sons experienced a sacred time together where fathers read a blessing to their sons and then prayed together.

A special commemorative token made from black walnut was also exchanged between fathers and sons to remember “The Blessing”. It was truly a weekend in which all were blessed!

Dads, if you missed out on the retreat this year don’t fret. Plans are already being made for next fall during the weekend of October 30-November 2. Also, there is a “Priceless Treasure” Father-Daughter Retreat in the works for the weekend of April 10-12. Good times ahead! 🌊
CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 26
10:00 a.m.  55+ Activities
Adult Sabbath Schools
10:15 a.m.  Adoration 2:  Dave Smith
Sabbath Schools
11:35 a.m.  Connect: Andy Nash
11:35 a.m.  Renewal: Dave Smith
Offering: Church Family Budget
5:29 p.m.  Sunset

Thursday, November 27
Office Closed

Friday, November 28
Office Closed

Sabbath, November 29
9:00 a.m.  Adoration 1: Sam Chetty
Adult Sabbath Schools
10:15 a.m.  Adoration 2:  Sam Chetty
Sabbath Schools
11:35 a.m.  Connect: Ossie Olivencia
11:35 a.m.  Renewal: Sam Chetty
Offering: Conference Ministries/Ebola Crisis
5:29 p.m.  Sunset

Tuesday, December 2
10:00 a.m.  Women’s Bible Studies
6:30 p.m.  Women’s Bible Studies

Wednesday, December 3
10:00 a.m.  55+ Activities
6:30 p.m.  Pathfinders
7:00 p.m.  Intercessory Prayer Group

Thursday, December 4
10:00 a.m.  55+ Bible Study

Friday, December 5
8:00 p.m.  University Vespers

Sabbath, December 6
9:00 a.m.  Adoration 1: Dave Smith
Adult Sabbath Schools
10:15 a.m.  Adoration 2:  Dave Smith
Sabbath Schools
11:35 a.m.  Connect: Andy Nash
11:35 a.m.  Renewal: Dave Smith
Offering: Church Family Budget
5:29 p.m.  Sunset

bulletin board

MAKE YOUR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY APPOINTMENT for December 9 by either calling the Church at (423) 396-2134 or going to www.collegedalechurch.com and click on “Pictorial Directory Sign-ups” on the bottom right to schedule an appointment. We need you to make our directory as complete as possible.

AN OLIVE GARDEN STYLE AFTER-CONCERT TAKEOUT will be available December 13 after the School of Music Christmas Concert at the Church. Enjoy salad, pasta, breadsticks, and sparkling cider. $10 minimum donation, tax deductible. Food orders begin after sunset, or you may preorder at www.friendsoforphans.com, or call (423) 396-2134. Donations are for the Youth Nicaragua Mission Trip.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE is Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The one-hour service will include vocal and instrumental music, readings, stories, and scripture that help reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

SOUTHERN’S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in front of Wright Hall. The community is invited to attend.

HANDEL’S MESSIAH will be performed by Southern’s School of Music on Sabbath, Dec. 13, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented at Evensong on Sabbath, Dec. 6, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

RIDE NEEDED: Helen Hurt is looking for a ride to and from volunteering at the Samaritan Center Monday-Thursday; the store on Tuesdays; and to get her hair done on Fridays. Call her at (423) 396-2392 if you can help on any of those days.

COLLEGEADENT YOUTH IN ACTION (CAYA) is sponsoring a mission trip to Nicaragua during Spring Break to bring the hope of Jesus to those suffering from the effects of poverty in Managua and surrounding area, March 5–15. Cost is approximately $1250. Final price will be set after airline tickets are finalized. There’s a $50 non-refundable deposit (applied to your trip fee) due with your application. Contact Pastor Will at (423) 414-8569.

IN MEMORY

Randy White passed away November 23. Services are November 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Visitation is in the Atrium at 1:00 p.m.

The mother of Liane deSouza passed away November 5 in Brazil.

Florence Fleischmann, mother of Mike Fleischmann, passed away October 29. Services were held November 15.

Carolyn Babbitt, mother of Wes Babbitt, passed away November 14. A private family service was held.