Mar 7-9—Celebration of Life Weekend—Cohutta Springs Conference Center

Mar 8—Youth Day with Samuel Green—Hiram Church, GA

Mar 9-23—Honduras Mission Trip with Laurelbrook Academy

Mar 14-15—GCA Academy Days—Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA

Mar 14-15—Centurion Bible Health Ministry—Hiram Church, GA

Mar 14-16—Women's Spring Retreat—Cohutta Springs Conference Center

Mar 14-16—Teen Girls' Spring Retreat—Cohutta Springs Conference Center

Mar 15—LEAD Evangelism Training—Smoky Mountain Church, Sevierville, TN

Mar 16—Pathfinder Drill Event—Lee University, Cleveland, TN

Mar 16-25—10 Day Diabetes Program—Eden's Pathway Lifestyle Center, TN

Mar 17-21—CA Week of Prayer—Collegedale Academy, TN

Mar 17-22—GCA Week of Prayer—Georgia-Cumberland Academy, GA

Mar 18—Health and Diet Seminar with Melody Prettyman—Jellico Church, TN

Mar 20-21—Preview Southern—Southern Adventist University

Mar 22—Prayer Ministry Day—Knoxville First Church, TN

Mar 22—Leadership Training—Health & Personal Ministries—Kingsport Church, TN

Mar 22—Youth and Young Adult Festival—The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA

Mar 22—Will Clinic—Fayette Church, GA

Mar 23—Will Clinic—LaGrange Church, GA

Mar 23—R.I.S.E. Sports Program Training—Knoxville First Church, TN

Mar 24—Will Clinic—Griffin Church, GA

Mar 25—Will Clinic—Thomaston Church, GA

Mar 26—Will Clinic—Warner Robins Church, GA

Mar 27—Will Clinic—Oglethorpe Church, GA

Mar 28—Will Clinic—Tifton Church, GA

Mar 28—A Mighty Fortress Live Concert—Dunlap, TN

Mar 29—Health Rally—Rossville Church, GA

Mar 29—Will Clinic—Moultrie Church, GA
Mar 30—**Will Clinic**—Thomasville Kenyon Memorial Church, GA
Mar 30—**Adventurer Family Fun Day**—Cohutta Springs (camp side)
Mar 30—**R.I.S.E. Sports Program Training**—Standifer Gap School, TN

Apr 1—**CA Academy Day**—Collegedale Academy, Collegedale, TN
Apr 4—**Day of Prayer and Fasting**
Apr 4-5—**GCA Alumni Weekend**—Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA
Apr 4-5—**Prison Ministries Convention**—Southern Union Conference, Norcross, GA
Apr 4-5—**South Georgia Camp Meeting**—Savannah Church, GA
Apr 4-6—**Athens Women’s Ministries Retreat**—Townsend, TN
Apr 4-6—**Camp Turnaround**—Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA
Apr 4-6—**Hispanic Children’s Ministries Convention**—Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA
Apr 5—**Leadership Training**—Health & Personal Ministries—Crossville Church, TN

Apr 6—**Women’s Spring Tea**—Marietta Church, GA
Apr 11-12—**Power PAC Youth Rally**—Peachtree City Church, GA
Apr 12—**Personal Ministries Rally**—Newton County Church, GA
Apr 12—**LEAD Evangelism Training**—North Knoxville Church, TN
Apr 12-13—**Master Guides’ Leadership Convention**—Conference Office, Calhoun, GA

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**CONFESSION EVENTS**

**Save the Date for Camp Meeting 2014**

April 4-5—**South Georgia Camp Meeting**—Savannah, GA
May 16-17—**Korean Camp Meeting**—Cohutta Springs Conference Center
May 21-24—**Collegedale Camp Meeting**—Southern Adventist University
June 5-8—**Olde Time Camp Meeting**—Deer Lodge, TN
Aug 6-10—**Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting**—Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Aug 22-24—**Hispanic Camp Meeting**—Cohutta Springs Conference Center

**Celebration of Life Weekend**—March 7-9

The registration deadline for this event is February 20. The event will be held March 7-9 at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. This weekend is designed for cancer patients currently receiving treatment and those who have completed treatment within the past year, their immediate family, and/or primary care giver. Dr. Farris Jordan (psychologist/author/humorist) will present "Laughter is the Best
Therapy.” Cost: $50 per family. Register by mail with check or online with credit card at cohuttasprings.com/CoL-2014. See your pastor for more details/registration form.

Celebration of Life Weekend sponsors are needed for families who are struggling financially. If you are interested in helping, please email missions@cohuttasprings.com or call 706-695-9093, ext. 408. Checks can be made to Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Please put "Celebration of Life Weekend" on the memo.

Women's & Teen Girls' Spring Retreat—March 14-16
If the Shoe Fits—"Walk in love as Christ loved us" (Eph. 5:2): This year's Women's & Teen Girls' Spring Retreat will be held March 14-16 at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. Join us for a spirit-filled weekend that will help you make a difference! Download the brochure from gccsda.com or register online at registration.gccsda.com. Registration deadline is March 6. Questions? Call Donna Crandall at 800-567-1844 (x 342).

Will Clinics Schedule
Les Speer, trust services officer, will be conducting will clinics throughout March, April, July, and August. Please note that worksheets must be completed before attending the clinic. Worksheets are available from your pastor or the conference's Trust Services Department.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22—Fayette Church, GA, 8:00-10:00 pm</td>
<td>19—Auburn Church, GA, 8:30-10:30 pm</td>
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<td>23—LaGrange Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>20—Loganville Church, GA, 10:00 am- 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>24—Griffin Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>20—Athens Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
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<td>25—Thomaston Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>21—Madison Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
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<td>26—Warner Robins Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>22—Dublin Church, GA, 5:30-7:30 pm</td>
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<td>27—Oglethorpe Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>23—Statesboro Church, GA, 5:30-7:30 pm</td>
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<td>28—Tifton Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
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<td>29—Moultrie Church, GA, 8:15-10:00 pm</td>
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<td>30—Thomasville Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm</td>
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-Church & Organization Events-

Engagement and Marriage Preparation Weekend—March 14-16
Couples who are planning on getting married this summer or who are seriously considering marriage are invited to attend a special weekend at Southern Adventist University. Couples will learn the secrets to successful marriage, the importance of a spiritual foundation, how to communicate effectively and resolve conflict, and how to deal with unresolved issues from the past. In addition, there will be practical and fun exercises using a well-established curriculum that has benefited hundreds of couples. The presenters will be Barry and Lilly Tryon and Alan and Nicole Parker. The event will take place from March 14-16, 2014 on Southern’s campus. For details, contact the School of Religion at 423-236-2976 or the chaplain’s office at 423-236-2787.
Camp Turnaround—April 4-6
Camp Turnaround is a bereavement camp for children ages 7 -17 who have experienced loss due to divorce, abandonment (foster care), or the death of loved one. The camp will be held April 4-6 at Cohutta Springs Conference Center. For more information, contact Peggy Hallman at 706-695-0648 or phallman@cohuttasprings.com.

Athens Women's Ministries Retreat—April 4-6
The Athens Church's women's ministries will be having their women's retreat April 4-6, 2014, in Townsend, TN. The theme is "Hope Springs." If you would like to join us, please contact Elizabeth Umphrey 423-920-0651 or Nancy Sanford 407-948-4001. The cost is $60 for the weekend. Reservation deadline is Feb. 8 (money is due by March 15).

2014 SONscreen Film Festival Celebrates Creativity
The communication department of the North American Division is proud to announce that the 2014 SONscreen Film Festival will be held March 20-22 on the campus of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN. The festival is an annual gathering for Christian young adults who have a passion for using film and video for the purpose of creating timely and relevant productions for social awareness, outreach, and uplifting creative entertainment. Since its debut in October 2002, the festival has become the destination for established and up-and-coming Christian filmmakers to share their creative work, gain exposure, and network with other media and film professionals. More information can be found on the festival website at sonscreen.com and on their Facebook page facebook.com/sonscreen.

Retool Your School—Oakwood University Competes Again for Home Depot Grant
Oakwood University has been announced as a finalist in The Home Depot's 2014 RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL Campus Improvement Grant Program. One $50,000 Tier I major grant, 13 Tier II $10,000 grants, and three $25,000 campus pride grants for the schools that receive the most online votes and social media activity, as assessed by The Home Depot®, will be awarded. The Home Depot® will announce the winners on or around May 2.

In 2013 Oakwood won the Tier 1 grant, which allowed the University to construct an outdoor pavilion. Because of last year's victory, Oakwood is not eligible to win in the Tier 1 category. However, Oakwood is eligible to win in the campus pride category, which will allow the University to re-seed the softball and soccer fields as well as install sprinkler systems.

From February 17 to April 14, supporters can visit www.retoolyourschool.com to vote for Oakwood University's campus improvement project. "We need everyone's support to help Oakwood win this grant," said Kisha Norris, executive director for advancement and development for Oakwood. Oakwood is only Seventh-day Adventist university in the competition.

The winning school of the Campus Pride Grant will be selected by a combination of the applicant's social media activity and voting score. The three applicants with the highest votes and most social media activity...
activity, as determined by the sponsor during the voting period, will be awarded with the Campus Pride Grants.

Oakwood University had the most votes last year! Let's do it again. Go to www.retoolyourschool.com and vote as often as possible - and from all of your personal computers and devices. You can also Tweet about the competition using #OakwoodTHDRYS

And be sure to tell your family and friends to do the same.

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**Heritage Academy Helps with Harvard Emergency Drill**

Harvard University held an emergency medicine conference Oct. 26, 2013, with participants from around the globe. Heritage Academy (Monterey, Tenn.) was invited to be a part of this conference to train and participate in an emergency drill.

[Read the story](#)

**GCA Student Presents at FETC**

Landon Stoner, a junior at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, recounts his opportunity to travel with GCA IT director Ernest Staats to a tech conference in Orlando, Fla.

[Read the story](#)

**Annual Retreat Welcomes New Adventists**

About 130 new Adventists attended this year's Welcome to the Family Retreat, a weekend designed specifically for those who have joined the church during the previous year.

[Read the story](#)

**Baptisms Celebrated in Decatur Church**

The Decatur (Tenn.) Church had a baptism on Nov. 16, 2013, as a result of a successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) program.

[Read the story](#)

**CA's Old Laptops Provide New Blessings**

This year, because Collegedale Academy (CA) students received updated technology, a new purpose needed to be found for the fifty-five old laptops still in the school's possession. Each laptop was worth $50, but Michael Peel, CA's IT director, discovered that the computers could provide a benefit to mission fields that is
Heritage Academy Helps with Harvard Emergency Drill
Harvard University held an emergency medicine conference Oct. 26, 2013, with participants from around the globe. Heritage Academy (Monterey, Tenn.) was invited to be a part of this conference to train and participate in an emergency drill.

During the conference, Heritage students trained Harvard medical students and professors in moulage, the art of creating mock injuries on people for the purpose of emergency drills.

For the drill, 100 victims were placed within the drill site on the Camp Edwards Military Base (Mass.), and emergency personnel along with doctors and professors responded using the tools on hand and the crude facilities provided. The purpose of the drill was to train and prepare the personnel to respond to emergency situations in countries suffering mass casualties as a result of disasters or terrorism.

“Being able to go to Boston for a huge disaster drill was a real privilege,” said Sierra Manestar, a sophomore at Heritage Academy.

“Though the 17-hour one-way drive was long, it was definitely worth it. We rose about 5 a.m. on Sunday and went to work. It was so much fun working with a great team of experts. Everyone looked great, and the observers and responders were very impressed. At the last minute, we were asked to be victims ourselves and that was my favorite part. Although I was so incredibly tired on the way back, it was the chance of a lifetime.”

by Dee Casper

photos contributed
Georgia-Cumberland Conference

I recently had the amazing opportunity to go to a tech conference down in Orlando, Fla. FETC is a tech convention dealing with technology in the classroom. It is currently the second largest educational tech conference in the country, with the largest being the national. Thanks to its size, there were some big playing companies that showed up. Some of the big companies included: Microsoft; Lenovo; and my personal favorite, Google. The staff from these companies worked on the show-floor, most of the conference was filled with labs and lectures, and I even got to present for a lab.

The lab was led by my boss, Ernest Staats, Georgia-Cumberland Academy IT director, who asked me to come along and present with him for his hacking/security lab. I was both thrilled and floored by this prospect and hastily said yes. The lab was filled with people who knew what they were talking about. Presenters ranged from various large public schools to small Christian schools. There was even one gentleman there managing 60,000 laptops on a one-to-one program on his network.

The lab itself ran for a little over six hours. It covered everything from seeing what your network looked like, to totally tanking a network. Now the lab itself was about knowing the problems and then fixing the holes. I spent a good deal of time as a lab assistant, running around fixing errors on the computers, replacing corrupt files, and re-explaining various steps. The rest of the time, however, I was presenting.

I was on the “seeing your network” end of things. I talked about a tool called Opsview, which is used to create visual maps of a network. I went through the process of building a basic map. I explained how we used the maps to speed up our response time, “To make us a Verizon commercial.” as my boss puts it, and to raise people’s opinions of us and what we do. “When people see our network map they see how much we actually manage, and it automatically raises how high they think our IQ is,” this was one of the major points that I hit on throughout the presentation.

The presenting was only half of the conference. The other half we spent jumping through various lectures, giving one of our own, and hitting the show-floor. Our time on the show-floor was spent looking for tools to better our current network, and replacements for our current laptops. We got to look through everything from crazy powerful android tablets, the best and the worst of Chromebooks, Lenovo laptops announced that very day, and software ranging from digital textbooks, to student collaboration software, and even Minecraft for education. My purpose of being on the floor was to analyze from a student prospective, but also weigh in the work of the IT department. I also joined several customers of Aerohive, and a few engineers and members of corporate, for dinner at Maggiano’s to discuss the latest features and network trends.

As a whole the trip was an amazing opportunity. I got to meet a few people up in high places, and even get my name tossed around a bit. I learned a lot on the trip and felt that I provided valuable insight to Staats, those in the lab and lectures, and those who I met on the show-floor. I feel incredibly blessed that I was able to experience this trip.

by Landon Stoner, Georgia-Cumberland Academy junior
About 130 new Adventists attended this year’s Welcome to the Family Retreat, a weekend designed specifically for those who have joined the church during the previous year. The event was held at Cohutta Springs Conference Center on Jan. 17-19.

Presenters throughout the retreat included Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University, who led the Sabbath School lesson study, and Greg Harper, conference ministerial director for the southern region, who spoke for the worship service Sabbath morning. The retreat also featured a ministry expo where conference directors met with new members to share ways for them to get involved in their local churches.

While most attendees were new to the Adventist faith, some were returning members, having previously left the church. Newlyweds Kenneth and Sharon Buckingham from Calhoun, Ga., are an example. Sharon is new to Adventism while Kenneth grew up in the Adventist faith.

“We met on the internet and started dating,” Sharon said. “I was in the Baptist church at the time. When we first got married we were going to church both Saturday and Sunday.”

While praying about it, Sharon started searching online and felt convicted that to grow their ministry as a couple and to continue to grow as a Christian, she needed to join the Adventist church. Kenneth was raised an Adventist but had gone through difficult times, including a divorce. He believes God led him to Sharon.

Another attendee was Charlotte Wilson-Thompson from the Conyers (Ga.) Church. Her journey started when she married an Adventist. But things did not work out, and the couple divorced. Still, her ex-husband would take their four-year-old twins to Sabbath School on his weekends with them.

“I just felt like I was missing out,” she said. “I wanted to make sure the children were getting the same teachings at my home as they were getting at his. I didn’t want to confuse them.”

A fellow member from the Conyers Church, Rickie Holmes grew up with an Adventist grandmother. As an adult, he joined the military and attended the Baptist church. The Baptists sent him to seminary, and he became an army chaplain. He also spent time serving as a pastor for the United Methodist Church and as a bishop for a nondenominational church.

“All the time, I was trying to observe the Adventist church rules and laws. Finally, my brother and sister stayed on me, and I came under conviction.

I decided I would go back to the Seventh-day Adventist church to punch that ticket and thought, Now that I have done that, maybe the conviction will leave.”

But the conviction only grew, and Holmes said he felt like he had finally come home sitting in the pew of his Adventist church. He is now taking courses at Southern Adventist University with the intention of becoming an Adventist pastor.

by Tamara Wolcott Fisher, communication director

photos by Tamara Wolcott Fisher
Baptisms Celebrated in Decatur Church

The Decatur (Tenn.) Church had a baptism on Nov. 16, 2013, as a result of a successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) program conducted by leaders Ellen Crosby and Kerrie Sue Crosby.

Decisions were made for Christ and five of the young people who attended each night were baptized. These five held personal Bible study lessons at home in preparation for their baptism. Don Shelton, pastor, met with each of the young people to review the things they had learned.

In addition to the five young people, three adults were also baptized, one being a rebaptism.

Zeke and Sharon Hartson had attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church some thirty years ago in New England. They started attending the Decatur Church about a year ago and Shelton began Bible studies with them. Old truths they had embraced years ago became clearer
and dearer to them as they made their journey back home to God's remnant church.

As a special baptismal Sabbath was planned and talked about, Yvonne Dozier began to feel convicted to be re-baptized. Sabbath, Nov. 16, Yvonne joined Zeke and Sharon Hartson, Alana Crosby, Lindy Dixon, Kinotis Lotis, Rachel Proffitt, and Elizabeth Taylor.

Indeed, it was "High Sabbath" for the Decatur Church family!

by Don Shelton
This year, because Collegedale Academy (CA) students received updated technology, a new purpose needed to be found for the 55 old laptops still in the school’s possession. Each laptop was worth $50, but Michael Peel, CA’s IT director, discovered that the computers could provide a benefit to mission fields that is worth far more than $2,750.

When asked why the school chose to give the laptops away rather than sell them, Peel responded, "We believe that the eternal value gotten from them in the mission field will be infinitely more than any amount we might have been paid."

Four of the laptops went to Thailand, where they were distributed by CA alumni, Marianne (Nafie) Krause and Raymond Krause, to missionaries and teachers. While in Thailand, the couple taught a basic computer class to enthusiastic learners, including Thara Timothy, a language teacher, and his wife PawGaDoo.

"Thara Timothy and his wife were very eager to learn even though they thought that they would never own a computer," Marianne said. They had no idea that they would soon be granted their own laptop. "When we gave them their computer, [PawGaDoo] actually cried. It was such a great experience to give something so life changing to this precious family," Marianne said. The laptops in Thailand will be used for learning, listening to music and sermons, and communicating with loved ones.

Six more were sent to the Philippines, where pastors use them along with small projectors given to them by their conference. Those pastors plan to host evangelistic meetings in the countryside, and the laptops provide an additional tool that will enhance their presentation of the Word of God. Peel plans to donate more laptops to the Filipino people in the near future.

Some laptops stayed in the Western Hemisphere.

"We sent twenty laptops to a school in Haiti, transported by the Bertus family," Peel said.

According to Nadele Bertus, a high school senior, the laptops were well-received by the Haitian people. The students who received them are ten to twenty-year-olds who take life skills classes, and the laptops provide them with the opportunity to add basic computer skills to their life skills curriculum.

"When my mom arrived in Haiti with the computers, the students were really excited and invited more of their friends to the classes," Bertus said. With these laptops, students will gain knowledge that will assist them in future jobs and will better equip them to present God's word to others. "We want to help the students to become leaders and make a difference in this world," Bertus said.

As for the laptops that remain, Peel promises that they "will be taken on CA's next mission trip" regardless of what the location turns out to be.

1 Peter 4:10 states, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” (NIV). The act of supplying these mission fields with the laptops, rather than selling them, is a demonstration of the principle of
good stewardship. Enabling the Thai, Filipino, and Haitian people to better serve God through these laptops will bring about an everlasting profit.

by Joelle Kanyana, Collegedale Academy senior and editor-in-chief of the Echolier