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 26—Vegan Dinner & Seminar—Grace Church, TN

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 4-6—Leadership Training—Health & Personal Ministries—Crossville Church, TN

Apr 5—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

-CONFERENCE EVENTS-

Youth/Young Adult Festival—March 22
Our annual high Sabbath for youth and young adults and their families is coming up on March 22 at The Church at Liberty Square in Cartersville, GA! Please note, there is no cost for our worship programs except for the evening inspirational concert, which is a campership fund raiser to help kids attend camp. Guest speaker is Sam Leonor and musical artists are Selah, Mark Schultz and J.J. Heller. Let's reach out, connect with our youth & young adults and have an amazing Sabbath Day experience. Meals and concert tickets are available for advance purchase or bring your own sack lunch. The meal purchase deadline is March 17. Concert tickets available while they last for a $7 donation to benefit the Campership Fund. All purchases can be made online at registration.gccsda.com. Please note: This year, our mission initiative "Shirt Off My Back" is for Clarkston, Ga., refugees. They are in need of clothing, linens, toiletries, etc.

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

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.

MARCH
22—Fayette Church, GA, 8:00-10:00 pm
23—LaGrange Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
24—Griffin Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
25—Thomaston Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
26—Warner Robins Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
27—Oglethorpe Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
28—Tifton Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
29—Moultrie Church, GA, 8:15-10:00 pm
30—Thomasville Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm

APRIL
19—Auburn Church, GA, 8:30-10:30 pm
20—Loganville Church, GA, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
20—Athens Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
21—Madison Church, GA, 4:00-6:00 pm
22—Dublin Church, GA, 5:30-7:30 pm
23—Statesboro Church, GA, 5:30-7:30 pm

-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.

Vegan Dinner & Seminar with Chef Melody Prettyman—March 26
Melody Prettyman, a vegan chef, will provide a plant-based (vegan) dinner and health seminar on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:00 pm at the Grace Seventh-day Adventist Church (9123 S. Northshore Dr., Knoxville, TN 37922). Melody Prettyman is a regularly featured cooking expert on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and co-hosts a weekly radio program entitled “Focus on Healthy Foods” on 3ABN radio with Nikki Anderson. Learn more about her at melodyprettyman.com. The event is free but donations will be accepted on site (suggested $10 per person). Pre-registration is required by March 24 and will be limited to 100 attendees. To register, send an email to slowe8206@aol.com or call 865-637-8160.
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).

announcements

Duluth Adventist Christian School Places 2nd in TEAMS Competition
Read the story in the Gwinnett Daily Post

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, 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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**John L. Coble Elementary School Celebrates Mortgage Burning**

Constituents and friends of John L. Coble Elementary School (Calhoun, Ga.), gathered on Feb. 22, 2014, for a mortgage burning to celebrate the school's debt retirement.

[Read the story](#)

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**Greenhaven Participates in BOB**

For the past four years, the Greenhaven Mission Group in Seale, Ala., has been eagerly looking forward to the first Sunday in November. That is the date of the annual Banquet on the Bridge (BOB).

[Read the story](#)

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**Public Health Students Learn About Adventists**

The Community Health and Cultural Competency class for public health students at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) has invited the Johnson City Adventist Church in Tennessee to share its beliefs and philosophy on health in the fall and spring semesters for the past three years.

[Read the story](#)

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**GCA's Staats Wins NAD Ministerial Award**

Ernest Staats, IT director at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) since 1999, was the recent recipient of an Excellence in Ministry Award.

[Read the story](#)
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to gccnews+unsubscribe@gccsda.com.

Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
GOOD NEWS FROM SCHOOLS: GSMST wins TEAM competition

By Keith Farner keith.farner@gwinnettdailypost.com

Students from Britt Elementary visited South Gwinnett High last month where members of the Reader’s Rally Team and Media Center Aides read to them in small groups during the day to celebrate “Read Across America.” (Special Photo)

Student teams from the Gwinnett School of Math, Science and Technology won first place in their categories in the 2014 TEAMS competition recently hosted by the University of Georgia.

Duluth Adventist Christian School placed second in the middle school category.

The competition, which stands for Tests of Engineering, Aptitude, Mathematics and Science, focused on “Engineering Tomorrow’s Cities.”

Under the coaching of Lindsay Stamm, GSMST’s ninth- and 10th-grade team won first-place in the high school category while GSMST’s 11th- and 12th-grade won second, and Mountain View won third-place.

There were two parts with high school students facing a 90-minute, 80 multiple-choice question session and a 90-minute, open-ended, four-question session, while the middle school students had a 60-minute, 40 multiple-choice question session and a 60-minute open-ended, four-question session.

Two 2014 Northrop Gruman Scholarships were awarded to Mountain View High and Duluth Adventist Christian School. The scholarship provides funds for team registration to the event.

Lanier students place at DECA competition

Lanier High congratulated two students last week who recently finished in the top seven of a DECA state competition.

Kelby Jordan, who competed in the job interview category, finished in fifth, while Taylor Lanfear, who competed in sports and entertainment, finished in seventh. Jordan and Lanfear will represent Lanier at the International Career Development Conference and Competition with other winners from around the world.

The Lanier DECA chapter also had Eric Jorgensen, Frank Martinez, Will Penland, Austin Warchol compete at the state competition.

Arcado Elementary student earns ‘Yes I Can Award’

Arcado Elementary student Jose Edmonds will receive a 2014 Yes I Can Award from the Council for Exceptional Children at the Yes I Can Award ceremony on April 11 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia as part of the CEC 2014 Convention & Expo.

“The Yes I Can Awards were developed to recognize the accomplishments of students with disabilities who have achieved remarkable things,” CEC President Robin D. Brewer said in a press release. “Jose is most deserving of this award for his hard work, perseverance and successes.”
Jose was born with Alpert syndrome and has multiple disabilities, is learning speech and sign language and uses an augmentative and alternative communication device to read and write. When he enrolled at Arcado last school year, he was not able to identify letters, recognize words, or read, and was not able to understand spoken or signed language at a level that allowed him to learn academic skills.

But he's had a positive attitude and support from his family that has led to accomplishments that are above what anyone expected from him. Jose is reading at an early elementary level, using his AAC device to read simple sentences from his books aloud.

Each year, the Yes I Can program recognizes the accomplishments of 21 students in seven categories: academics, arts, athletics, school and community activities, self-advocacy, technology and transition. Jose was honored in the academics category.

**Snellville chorus students visit State Capitol**

Snellville Middle Advanced Chorus students, under the direction of teacher Travis Smith, recently performed at the Georgia State Capitol building. Students also toured the Capitol and took pictures with Gov. Nathan Deal.

**Gwinnett Transition Fair**

GCPS will host the Gwinnett Transition Fair for students with disabilities, their parents, and educators from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 15 at Peachtree Ridge High. Participants may attend up to three 45-minute breakout sessions about Medicaid waivers, navigating Social Security benefits, estate planning and guardianship options, vocational rehabilitation services, vocational and community programs during and after high school.

Interpreters for Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean families needing assistance will be on hand. Attendees may visit with representatives of various agencies and organizations from across metro Atlanta regarding employment support, residential services, day programs, recreation and leisure and other resource organizations.

For more information, contact Allison Vernon or Gary Glenn at 678-301-7121, or email allison_vernon@gwinnett.k12.ga.us or gary_glenn@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.

**Certified Teacher Career Fair**

The district will host a Certified Teacher Career Fair from 8 a.m. to noon on March 22 from at the Gwinnett Center at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth.

The district is searching for certified applicants in math, science, special education, speech language pathology, Spanish, French, IT programming/engineering, computer science, elementary with endorsements in ESOL, gifted, reading, math or science, or elementary certified candidates that are highly fluent in Spanish or French with a complete mastery of the vocabulary necessary to teach elementary content in Spanish or French. Register online at gcpsjobs.org.

**Wedding of the Blends**

Woodward Elementary teacher Laura Baynard will host a “Wedding of the Blends” as a unique way to teach kindergarten students about letter blends. At 8:45 a.m. on March 27 in the gym, the letters BL, SH and QU will unite together in matrimony with the Honorable Brian Walker, assistant principal, presiding.

Constituents and friends of John L. Coble Elementary School (Calhoun, Ga.), gathered on Feb. 22, 2014, for a mortgage burning to celebrate the school’s debt retirement.

The current 95-student school sits on the same land as Georgia-Cumberland Academy, where the Hurlbutt Farm School first opened its doors in 1915, with A. W. Spaulding as principal. Later, in 1964, the Academy Elementary opened after the Hurlbutt School closed in 1959. The next year, John L. Coble became the principal and served in that capacity for 23 years. In 1993, Coble received the honor of having the school renamed after him. A groundbreaking in 2006 for the new John L. Coble School took place and the following year, students occupied the 26,500 square-foot complex.

On hand for the celebratory event were officers of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, with Kevin Kossick, vice president of education, presenting the main address. Kossick commended those who helped erase the school debt.

“At a time when finances are the biggest obstacle to accessing Christian Education, the Calhoun Seventh-day Adventist community has re-energized their commitment to children by retiring this debt and tangibly demonstrating their continued support of Christian education,” Kossick said. “This debt retirement is a perfect example of a community of believers coming together to assure the future of local Christian education.”

“In addition,” Kossick said, “children are great imitators, so the retirement of this Coble School debt gives them an example of healthy stewardship to imitate for life.”

Church and conference officers signed the mortgage document in September 2007, following more than a $1 million dollar fundraising effort—and this mortgage burning of a $2.1 million dollar debt resulted just six-and-a-half years later.

“This mortgage burning is an opportunity to honor God because the gifts (money) came from Him,” said Ric Stizer, current school principal since 2000.

Gary Rustad, senior pastor of the Calhoun Church enthusiastically noted, “This is a day we have waited for! It happened because of the Lord's blessings and faithful friends and members of the Calhoun and Georgia-Cumberland Academy Seventh-day Adventist churches who sacrificed.”

Rustad pointed out that one of the aids that enabled members to be aware of the school debt-reduction’s progress were posters that provided visuals of the school layout. As funds were brought in, it helped to have appropriately drawn rooms and filling them in with colors, indicating the countdown to the debt payoff. Students colored in the rooms on Sabbaths mornings.
“It constantly put the mortgage in people’s minds as they came to church each week,” Rustad said. “Christian education is of vital importance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and to be debt free enables us to do more for our students and the Calhoun community.”

The mortgage-burning event included the Coble Kids Bell Choir and the Bel Canto Choir. In addition to the conference officers who were present, former students, teachers, and principals attended.

One of the factors that helped erase the school debt was that Coble School entered into a leasing license with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and was able to garner extra funds by selling to cell companies.

Stitzer echoed other speakers of the event—that the students, teachers, and volunteers are all school assets, and that one of the pluses he sees in the school’s graduates is that “they’ve gone on to have their own strong Christian families.”

by Betty Kossick

photos by Dennis Starkey
Georgia-Cumberland Conference

For the past four years, the Greenhaven Mission Group in Seale, Ala., has been eagerly looking forward to the first Sunday in November. That is the date of the annual Banquet on the Bridge (BOB). BOB was the brainstorm of a handful of college students from several area churches in Columbus, Ga.

The idea of BOB sprang from Luke 14:12-14—when you throw a banquet, don't invite your rich friends, but invite the poor and needy, who cannot return the favor. Give for the joy of giving. Serve for the joy of serving. Also, it was designed as a unity meal where anyone, from all faiths, or no faith at all, could come and sit and enjoy a meal together.

The event is held on a bridge between Columbus, Ga., and Phenix City, Ala. The bridge is shut down for the day for the community-wide event and long tables are loaded with free food. Rows of tables cross the bridge and about 1,000 people come to enjoy the meal.

Over the years, Greenhaven has passed out hats, gloves, socks, books, and hot drinks. They have brought two fire pits where people enjoy roasting marshmallows for S’mores, something everyone looks forward to. The church group also sings songs, with Doug Shears on the guitar and Thomas Mellette on the windpipe. Often people stop and join in the singing.

Greenhaven has given out T-shirts made for the event with their name and website listed. The local media cover the event and this year, Greenhaven was mentioned in the newspaper.

They are already looking forward to next year when they will again have the privilege and joy to serve others.

by Sheryl Shears
The Community Health and Cultural Competency class for public health students at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) has invited the Johnson City Adventist Church in Tennessee to share its beliefs and philosophy on health in the fall and spring semesters for the past three years.

They open the 75-minute class with two or three of the church members giving their personal testimony for Christ and healthful living. Next they watch 10 minutes of the film, *The Adventists*, and then are introduced to the founding of the church, Ellen White’s role in promoting health, and the key doctrinal beliefs. After a Q & A session, the C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N. Health acronym is used to share the principles of healthful living.

This planting of seeds makes a deep impression on some of the students. One young woman shared that she had just about given up on Christianity before hearing our group speak.

“If I ever join a church some day, it will be the Seventh-day Adventists,” she said.
All of the students write a feedback paper on the presentation and these are then forwarded to the church members by the teacher. Most of the feedback is quite positive and when they learn that Adventists live eight to 10 years longer, they are impressed.

by Paull Dixon, pastor of the Johnson City Church

photos contributed
Ernest Staats, IT director at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) since 1999, was the recent recipient of an Excellence in Ministry Award. This award, given for “continual outstanding excellence” in various areas of ministry, is given out only two times every five years when the North American Division (NAD) holds its Adventist Ministries Convention.

Nancy Lamoreaux, director for Information Technology Services for the NAD, presented the award to Staats at the Monterey, Calif. meetings this past January. Lamoreaux noted that this is the first time an academy IT director has received this award. “Ernest demonstrates a very high commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist church with the work he has done and is doing at GCA.” She also noted his work in providing resources to the church in the area of security, as well as his training of GCA students in “best security practices as well as general computer best practices.”

Lamoreaux and Staats both see IT work as an important ministry within the church. Lamoreaux says that IT services should deliver those they serve the “best software, hardware and service that we can provide.” Staats observed that, “Everything in the church runs on technology. Technology is expanding the ways people receive the gospel through streaming, social media, and other ways of sharing information.”

Staats was surprised and honored that he was recognized with the Excellence in Ministry Award. “I am humbled that I have been able to contribute to the ministry of the church,” he said. “I am pleased that my team of young staff and I are able to facilitate the ministry of the church.”

Passionate about working with and protecting young people using technology, Staats is a frequent presenter at professional meetings, as well as church-related programs. His presentation at the NAD meetings focused on how
churches can stream services and set up a wireless network. It was entitled, “The Streaming and WIFI Best Practices on a Budget.”

Staats has earned Bachelor of Science degrees in computer science education and business management from Union College and a Master of Science in information assurance from Norwich University. He is married to Carrie Staats, who is a GCA teacher, and is the father of Nuriah and Asa.

by Nancy Gerard, GCA development director

photo contributed