CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Nov. 27—Thanksgiving Day (office closes at noon on Nov. 26)

Dec. 3—Association Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 6—Health Rally—Waycross Church
Dec. 6—Stewardship Sabbath—Maryville Church
Dec. 22-Jan. 4—Year-End Holidays (office closed)

CHURCH/SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec. 2—Southern Christmas Tree Lighting—Southern Adventist University
Dec. 2—NHS Convocation and Induction Ceremony—Atlanta Adventist Academy (Duluth Campus)
Dec. 4—“Tales of an Itinerant Birder” Presentation—Southern Adventist University
Dec. 5—Kirsten Wolcott Memorial 5K—Southern Adventist University
Dec. 5-6—Bethlehem Live—Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church
Dec. 6—Bible Study Training—Collegedale Church
Dec. 6—Meet Me at the Manger—Bowman Hills School
Dec. 6—John Ashcroft at CCC—Collegedale Community Church
Dec. 6—CCC Christmas Shoppe—Collegedale Community Church
Dec. 6-7—Evangelistic Series—Calhoun Church
Dec. 7—AAA Christmas Party—Atlanta Adventist Academy (Marietta Campus)
Dec. 13—Merry Christ-Mess! Beyond Time...—Macon Wimbish Road Church
Dec. 13—Christmas Concert—Atlanta North Church
Dec. 13—Total Praise—Hiram Church
Dec. 13—Handel's "Messiah" Concert—Southern Adventist University
Dec. 13—AAA Christmas Program—Marietta Church
Dec. 13-14—Drive-Thru Nativity—Augusta First Church
Dec. 14—CA Christmas Concert—Collegedale Academy
Dec. 14-21—Cruise with a Mission—Caribbean
Dec. 20—Peace on Earth—Calhoun Church
Dec. 20-21—One Bethlehem Night—Collegedale Community Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BULLETIN BLURBS

New! Southern Christmas Tree Lighting—December 2
Southern Adventist University will host its annual Christmas Tree Lighting event on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a short program including performances by Deep 6, Southern Ringtones, Expressions of Praise, Collegedale Academy Band, and the Southern Strings and Jazz Ensembles.
Refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public.

**New! "Tales of an Itinerant Birder" Presentation—December 4**
Southern Adventist University will host speaker Daniel R. Jacobson, vice president of Properties and Corporate Services at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hulsey Wellness Center. His presentation, "Tales of an Itinerant Birder," will cover how birding and ornithology, the study of birds, play a role in enhancing daily life and will illustrate the value of learning about the natural world. Jacobson grew up in the Chattanooga area and has spent many days birding locally and across the state. He has traveled to all 50 states, much of Canada, Mexico, and other countries and holds several records for birding.

**New! Southern Student Sarahi Remolina's Art Exhibit—December 4-January 9**
Southern student Sarahi Remolina's collection of 24 digital illustrations about the Great Controversy—conflict between Jesus and Satan that began in Heaven and will continue until the world is destroyed and recreated—opens at 6 p.m. on Dec. 4 at the John C. Williams Art Gallery located in Brock Hall on the campus of Southern Adventist University. The show runs through Jan. 9, 2015. For more information, call 423-236-2732.

**New! Kirsten Wolcott Memorial 5K—December 5**
Southern Adventist University will host its annual Kirsten Wolcott Memorial 5K Run on Friday, December 5, 2014 at 3 p.m. The run is to commemorate the death of Kirsten Wolcott, a junior liberal arts education major, who died while serving as a student missionary in Yap, Micronesia. Participants will be ranked by the top 20 males and females. The run is free for community members and no prior registration is required.

**Bethlehem Live—December 5-6**
This holiday season, experience the joy of the first Christmas by bringing the whole family to Bethlehem Live, the walk-through live nativity, at the Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church. Dec. 5 and 6, 6:30-8:30 pm. The program is free and everyone in the community is invited to witness the true meaning of Christmas. One of the largest outreach projects each year, Bethlehem Live will feature more than 100 costumed actors, including students from Georgia-Cumberland Academy and John L. Coble Elementary. Live animals will bring the Christmas story to life by portraying scenes from the night of Jesus’ birth in the town of Bethlehem. Most of the scenes will concentrate on the Christmas story from the book of Luke in the new testament of the Bible. These actors, and the countless other volunteers behind the scenes, take this outreach project seriously. “We make sure everything in our production sticks to what was said in the Bible,” said Judy Cusick. “We do not want to misrepresent the Christmas story.” For more information, contact Judy Cusick at 706-625-5069 or rcusick@gcasda.org.

**New! Former Attorney General John Ashcroft at CCC—December 6**
You are invited to Collegedale Community Church (CCC) to hear former Attorney General John Ashcroft lead us in a study of God’s Word. He will speak at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 6. We encourage you to come at either 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. as the 11:30 a.m. service is usually full.

**Total Praise—December 13**
Hiram Music and A/V Ministries present “Total Praise” on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Hiram Church in Hiram, Ga. You are invited to come worship God in spirit and in truth through music from our very own. Enjoy an entire day of uplifting music from the divine worship hour, fellowship lunch, homecoming-style music evangelism program at 4 p.m., and musical social fun for the entire family starting at 5:30 p.m.. Invite your friends for a unique opportunity to witness through song and plan to spend the entire day
enraptured in heavenly music and fellowship. Email Getzie Lamar at hiramsdamusic@gmail.com for more info.

**New! Handel's "Messiah" Concert—December 13**
Southern Adventist University will host its School of Music Christmas Concert on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, at 4 p.m. The concert will feature the Choral Ensembles and the Symphony Orchestra who will perform George Frederic Handel’s “Messiah.” This event is free and open to the public.

**New! Atlanta Romanian Church Christmas Concert—December 13**
On Dec. 13 at 5 p.m., the Atlanta Romanian Church will be performing a full-scale Christmas concert complete with music that is both traditional and worshipful and in both the English and Romanian languages. This concert will be approximately an hour and half in length and will feature the Atlanta Romanian Choir conducted by Manuela Butuc. The performance will be held in the sanctuary of the Atlanta North Church (5123 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30338). Free admission for all interested in a night of celebration and Christmas worship.

**New! Drive-Thru Nativity—December 13-14**
Come take a drive through Bethlehem. The Augusta First Church is presenting a live drive-thru nativity Dec. 13-14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each evening. Bring back the true meaning of Christmas!

**Cruise with a Mission 2015 (Alaska)—July 26-August 2**
Are you a young adult looking for a service opportunity without having to travel far distances? If so, Cruise with a Mission may be just the right opportunity for you! Cruise beautiful Alaska in 2015, recharge your spiritual batteries, and share a heart for service during this annual meaningful adventure. Cruise with a Mission offers an opportunity to release the tensions of life in the context of Christian community. Join other young adults during our return to the Alaska. The ship sails from Seattle, Wash., July 26-Aug. 2, 2015. Currently registering guests at www.CruiseWithAMission.org. Register before January and save!

**"The Blueprint" to Air on PBS in December**
Martin Doblmeier's documentary "The Blueprint" on Adventist education will be shown almost 800 times in close to 126 markets across the United States. This film has recently been picked up by PBS World, which could give us a viewing market of up to 60 million viewers. Click here to see the airing schedule. Please spread the word with your students, church members, family, friends, and community!

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**NEWS**

**Hats Off to Ronald McDonald House**
Women's ministries of the Murphy (N.C.) Church and friends of Clay County Knitting and Crochet group recently sent 152 tiny hats and 25 small pillows to families of "preemies." Read the story
Ladd Springs/Bowman Hills Churches Combine for Let's Move Day

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the Ladd Springs and the Bowman Hills churches in Tennessee partnered to conduct the first-ever "Let's Move!" Day for Cleveland and Bradley counties. Read the story

SouthEast Bank Presents Scholarships to Southern Students

In 2011, SouthEast Bank began partnering with Southern Adventist University. Three of its students—junior Katarina Weekes, sophomore Caitlyn Bennett, and freshman Joelle Kanyana—were recently awarded scholarships of $7,000 each. Read the story

McDonald Road Church Burns Mortgage and Dedicatees Children's Wing

The church had been working to pay off the mortgage since members decided to add a new children’s wing, which opened in 2003. Read the story

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to gccnews+unsubscribe@gccsda.com.
Hats Off to Ronald McDonald House

Support for families, particularly those with premature babies, continues through Ronald McDonald House of Chattanooga, Tenn. Women's Ministries of the Murphy Church in North Carolina, and friends of Clay County Knitting and Crochet group, recently sent 152 tiny hats and 25 small pillows to families of “preemies.” The cute, colorful items are actually therapeutic.

“Warm hats insure that body heat is not lost, and pillows help prop sleeping babies in a safe position,” says Corky Cook, Women's Ministries leader, Murphy Church.

by Joan Bilbo, Murphy Church Communication Secretary
On Sunday, September 21, the Ladd Springs and the Bowman Hills churches in Tenn. partnered to conduct the FIRST ever "Let's Move!" Day for Cleveland and Bradley counties. Over 100 children participated in the "Let's Move!" Day activities (plus their parents).

"The purpose of Let's Move Day is to prevent childhood obesity and the resulting issues by showing children the importance of exercise and that fitness can be fun," says Becky Carlson, one of the event organizers and member of the Ladd Springs church.

Volunteers for the event came from six different area churches.

Local businesses also helped support this event by hosting activity stations and providing services, give-aways, and prizes.

Thank you to the following organizations for helping make this event possible: 5ive Point Yoga, Ace Hardware, Air Bounce Cleveland, Apple Valley Orchard Aubrey’s Ocoee Xing, Bi-lo, CHI Memorial Convenient Care, Cleveland Skate Place, Collegedale Academy, CVS, Emmalee Designs, Fresh-n-Low, Georgia Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Gold’s Gym, Great Clips, Howards Martial Arts, Kingsway Press, Lee University, Leisure Time Bowling, Scott's Bikes, Staples, Subway, Tiger Rock Martial Arts, Walmart, and Workout Anytime.

by Becky Carlson and Lori Futcher
SouthEast Bank Presents Scholarships to Southern Students

SouthEast Bank, which began in 2002 and now includes 11 locations in Tennessee, participates in a scholarship program to support local students each year at various colleges across the state. In 2011 they began partnering with Southern Adventist University. Three of its students—junior Katarina Weekes, sophomore Caitlyn Bennett, and freshman Joelle Kanyana—were recently awarded scholarships of $7,000 each.

Lloyd L. Montgomery, III, president of SouthEast Bank, and Linda Roark, senior vice president of SouthEast Bank, envisioned the program making a difference in the lives of students and considered the money an important way of giving back to the community. Scholarship recipients must have a composite score of 23 on their ACT or a high school cumulative GPA of 3.25. Students receive the gift each year for four years as long as they maintain a 2.5 GPA while enrolled full-time at Southern. The funds, which have additional criteria beyond grades, are generally given to students majoring in business, finance, or accounting.

“I’m grateful for the scholarship because I can now focus more fully on academics instead stressing about my financial burden,” said Weekes, a business administration and public relations major.

Southern Adventist University is a private, Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education located on a 1,300-acre campus in Collegedale, Tennessee. It enrolls approximately 3,300 students and offers studies ranging from associate’s to doctorate-level degrees. The university consistently ranks as a “Top Tier” institution by U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” guide.

by Lucas R. Patterson, Editorial Manager, Southern Adventist University
McDonald Road Church Burns Mortgage and Dedicates Children’s Wing

Pre-Kindergarten Sabbath School class. Photo by Rebecca Brooks.

(From left) Former Pastor Don Gettys, Pastor Fred Fuller, Warren Oliver (church member/fundraiser), and Ken Oliver (church member) watch the mortgage burn.
From left. Pastor Paul Smith, Pastor Don Gettys, Pastor Fred Fuller, Warren Oliver, Pastor Kent Crutcher, Pastor Chris James all check out the special cake with an image of the church created just for this occasion.

The McDonald Road church, new children’s wing on the right. Photo by Rebecca Brooks.

“Normally fires are bad, but when they burn up mortgages they’re great!” shares Don Gettys, who pastored the McDonald Road Church in McDonald, Tenn., from its organization until his retirement in 2011. “I am so thrilled that this church is out of debt and that this building belongs 100% to God.”

The church had been working to pay off the mortgage since members decided to add a new children’s wing, which opened in 2003. Church members completed payments on the $775,000 debt in January 2014, which was five years early. A special service was held May 10, 2014 to burn the church’s mortgage and dedicate the children’s wing.

“What a wonderful opportunity it was to celebrate the dedication of the children's wing, built especially for our young people and youth,” says Fred Fuller, church pastor. “I appreciate the hard work and faithfulness of more than one thousand people working together to accomplish this goal.”

Sara Turk leads the pre-kindergarten Sabbath School for ages 2-4 and says, “The Sabbath School rooms have been a wonderful addition. I was teaching before the addition and the rooms were so small and so crowded and children didn't really have room to stretch out. The hallway was narrow and the children just really had a hard time getting to and from [Sabbath School].

“As a church, we have just made our children a priority and made sure that they have the resources they need to love to come to Sabbath School. They really feel like they are an important part of our church with this addition,” says
Turk. “It's a really vital and important part of our church.”

by Rebecca Brooks