

CAROLINA ACTION



ISSUE 2, 2024



LAKE JUNALUSKA

Remembering the fun and fellowship of camp meeting 2024! pages 4-5

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Waiting with Joy Next month (August) marks a very special milestone memory for my brother Lester, my sister Lorraine, and me.

Sixty years ago, the three of us arrived together in America on August 9, 1964, with our mom. After waiting for almost three years for Dad to raise the funds and procure our visa documents, we were finally reunited with him in our new homeland, leaving behind our heritage home of India. I remember that April day of 1961 when the ship carrying my dad left its harbor port, and we bade farewell to him, hoping to be reunited as a family soon. The days became weeks; the weeks became months; the months became years. We had no phone at our mission school where my mom worked as a teacher. The Internet was unheard of, and the only form of communication was by letters (usually an aerogram since it was the least costly). Occasionally, we were thrilled to receive a package of goodies and surprises from America on special occasions such as Christmas or birthdays.

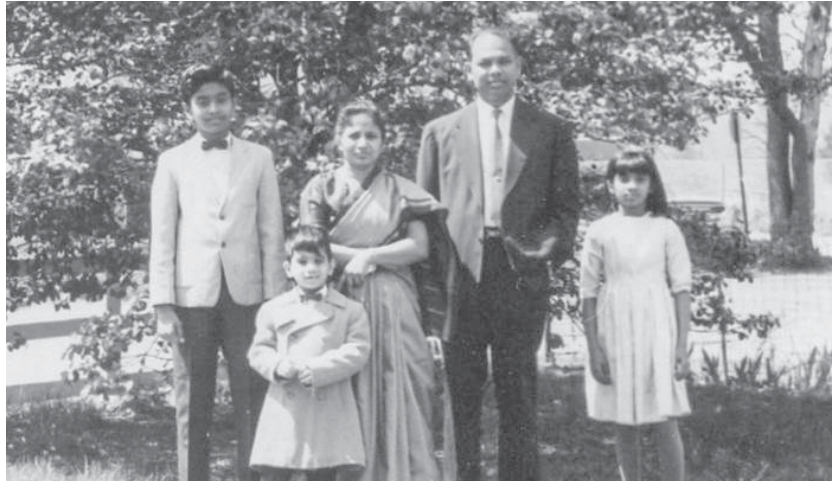
The separation and the waiting time were difficult and often discouraging. We live in a time of instant expectations. Waiting is often a difficult pill to swallow in the rapid pace of our societal climate. We send an email and expect a response that same day. We send a text message and hope to get an instant reply. From fast foods to rushed routines, we live in a time that is antithetical to waiting. Daily technological advancements are fulfilling the ancient prophetic words of Daniel 12:4 that at the end of time “Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

The Bible chronicles several

stories of waiting—of individuals, of a nation, and of the early church. Noah waited for the rain to begin and the floods to subside; Abraham and Sarah waited for a son; Joseph waited to be reunited with his family; the Israelites waited to be freed from slavery, to enter the promised land, to be

God in unfamiliar territory. Every blessing they experienced was found not only at their destination but all along the journey.

That’s why the song written by Stuart Hamblin, entitled “Until Then,” is one of the favorite songs that Carole and I love to sing together:



Leslie Louis (front) and his family soon after arriving in America in 1964.

freed from exile, and for the Messiah to save them. Hebrews 11, usually referred to as “The faith chapter,” lists many individuals throughout biblical history who by faith waited but “did not receive the things promised,” only seeing “them from a distance” (v. 13). Today, we as Adventists are waiting for Christ’s return and an end to sorrow, pain, and death. We’re longing for “a better country”—heaven (v. 16). The author of Hebrews tells us to “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful” (10:23).

Yes, while we wait as pilgrims on our journey, that waiting can be a joyful journey rather than a painful pilgrimage. The British Celtic Christians saw their pilgrimage differently. They set out directionless into the wild or let their boats drift wherever the oceans took them. Pilgrimage for them was all about trusting

*My heart can sing when I
pause to remember
A heartache here is but a
stepping stone
Along a trail that’s always
winding upward
This troubled world is not my
final home.
But until then, my heart will go
on singing
Until then, with joy I’ll carry
on
Until the day my eyes behold
the city
Until the day God calls me
home.*

Let’s wait on the Lord with joyous expectation! He’s coming, coming soon I know!

Your servant leader,

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President



The latest Welcome to the Family event was held on April 26-28, 2024, at Nosoca Pines Ranch, with the powerful theme "To Follow Him – Being a Disciple of Christ." Approximately 150 new Adventist Church members gathered for a spiritual weekend retreat that included activities to help them better understand the church's structure and ministries.

The weekend event, which usually takes place every two years, has been delayed since 2021 because of Covid-19. It is designed as an opportunity for the newest constituents to find community, form relationships, and gain valuable insights into

how the church can best serve them and their needs. Among the activities were horseback riding, sports, swimming, canoeing, wagon rides, soccer, basketball, and shopping at the camp store and the ACBC. "It's exciting!

and a Saturday night movie.

The retreat also included special programming for both children and youth. The children's ministry had fun and engaging activities, including crafting, origami, and nature exploration for ages up to nine years old. They also had special presentations about airplanes and mission trips to serve others in need. The young people, ages 10-18, were introduced to the vast church family and the resources available. They also enjoyed icebreaker activities, a campfire, and rewarding discussions about serving the church.

The next Welcome to the Family event will take place on April 24-26, 2026. This event is for the members who join through baptism or profession of faith from 2024 to Spring 2026. We encourage new members and their families to participate. This is an event they won't want to miss!

—Clarissa Rosario

They go and they're happy to be there and learn to be part of the world Seventh-day Adventist church," said Gary Moyer, VP of Administration at the Carolina Conference. Attendees also enjoyed a special presentation by the Mount Pisgah Academy choir on Sabbath

NEWCOMERS FIND COMMUNITY AND INSPIRATION at the semi-annual 'Welcome to the Family' Retreat



Photos by Courtney Herod

Carolina Action is a publication of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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LAKE JUNALUSKA CAMP MEETING

Where hundreds gather for unity and inspiration...and a lot of fun!



The Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists hosted its annual Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska from May 26 to June 1, 2024. The gathering drew hundreds for a week filled with spiritual enrichment and community. Messages throughout the week aligned with the camp meeting's theme, "When the Spirit Comes," and inspired attendees to invoke the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

Evening sessions from Sunday through Thursday featured Andy Nash (above), who provided impactful messages on practical spirituality and transformative faith, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Dr. Ron Clouzet spearheaded the seminar "Living by the Spirit," em-

phasizing the necessity of a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. Citing Ellen White, he detailed eight conditions for receiving the Spirit, including deep repentance, obedience,

techniques, Bible studies, and strategic planning for church outreach. Their practical advice and anecdotes from the field equipped participants with essential skills for spreading the gospel.

Other seminars were presented by David and Beverly Sedlacek, Erica Smith and Rene Drumm, Sandra Doran, Rudy and Janet Salazar, Michael Harpe, David Klinedinst, Ricardo Palacios and Stephen Bauer. Several of the Carolina Conference pastors took the pulpit for the early morning meetings, including Rick Russell, vice-president for finance.

What would camp meeting be without music? The camp meeting choir, under the direction of Kathy Russell, performed a diverse mix of contemporary and traditional songs during the Sabbath services. The youth orchestra, led by Ellen and Jeremy Francisco, showcased young talents ranging from ages 11 to 22. A myriad of other talented musicians lent us their musical abilities during the week, enhancing the worship experience and bring a closer connection



Ministries and Adventist institutions from around the division shared information with guests in the exhibit hall in Harrell Center.

and persistent intercession for others, offering attendees a roadmap for spiritual growth.

David and Marquita Klinedinst conducted specialized evangelism training, exploring effective visitation

with Heaven.

Children’s programs featured interactive storytelling that brought biblical tales to life. Whether it was a trip to Noah’s ark or a glimpse into the world under the sea, our kids were enjoying learning about Jesus and His amazing love for us.

The teens and young adults took a break from their meetings and each had their own rafting adventure during the week. The earliten outing was a day of tubing at Deep Creek in Bryson City.

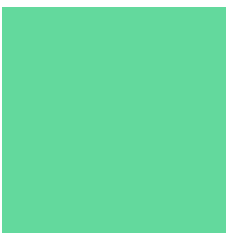
The annual Run for Life 5K race and Fun Run saw a large amount of enthusiastic participation, with Cooper Getchell winning the 5K, followed by Judah Kim and Malcolm Smith. In the Fun Run, Calev Harrold, Matthew Wickham, and Elliot Whitsett led the pack.

Alex Bryant, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered keynote addresses on Friday evening and Sabbath morning, focusing on unity and mission.

Special musical guest Jennifer LaMountain captivated the audience with her Sabbath afternoon concert on June 1. She was followed by a parade and presentation by the Carolina Pathfinders and Adventurers.

Elder Leslie Louis concluded the week of festivities with his Sabbath evening sermon, “A Message from the Empty Chair,” delivering a powerful and reflective message that resonated deeply with those in attendance.

The 2024 Carolina Camp Meeting provided a week of profound spiritual renewal, equipping and inspiring participants for continued faith and service. Please join us again next year!





WITH THE LOVE OF GOD FOR YOUR CHILDREN: The Commissioning of Kathy Russell

A highlight of Carolina Campmeeting was the Commissioning Service of Kathy Russell to Gospel Ministry on Sabbath afternoon, June 1.

Kathy’s road to ministry was rather unusual. Even before starting school, she had ministered to her home church by singing. In college, Kathy studied music education and, in the subsequent decades, served the Lord in His church in a wide variety of responsibilities—as a music teacher, as an elementary education teacher, and in numerous offices for her church.

Even when Kathy was asked by Elder Jim Davidson to serve the Carolina Conference as Children’s Ministries Director, she would not have ascribed to herself the title ‘minister’ or ‘pastor.’ Though she could not see it, others observed her spirit and special calling as the pastor of the children of Carolina. Not only did she plan and direct all of the children’s activities at Campmeeting (while directing the Campmeeting Choir), but throughout the year and in churches across the conference, Kathy disciplined Sabbath School teachers and leaders through area workshops, trained members on how to organize successful Vacation Bible Schools, and shared sermons on how to conduct engaging family worship.

If that were not enough, to reach children at their interest level, Kathy began a global ministry through the worldwide web, reading character-building books to children everywhere on Kathy’s Kids StoryTime (<https://www.carolinasda.org/kathy-s-kids-storytime>).

Even then, she was surprised when Haskell Williams (Ministerial Director) asked her to prayerfully consider the Personnel Committee’s recommendation that she be Commissioned to Gospel Ministry. To that committee, her Gospel calling was abundantly evident. After prayerful wrestling with God, Kathy submitted to His call.

So, on the first Sabbath of June, the

Grace, to sing “My Heart is in Your Keeping” on the same platform where Grace had sung the same song for her father, Rick Russell (Treasurer, Carolina Conference).

After the Commissioning Prayer, the Ministerial Charge was read to her by Gary Moyer (Executive Secretary) and Ricardo Palacios (Director, Hispanic Ministries). Kathy responded to the



last day of Campmeeting, children’s ministry leaders from across the Carolinas and beyond joined Kathy in Stuart Auditorium, with conference ministers and officers, along with leaders from the Southern Union, to lay the hands of commissioning on her. She was introduced as a candidate by Jim Davidson (now Executive Secretary, Southern Union) and recommended to ministry by Sonja Eberhart Puterbaugh (recently retired elementary teacher), Greg & Kim Taylor (Youth Ministries Directors, Southern Union), and Leslie & Carole Louis (President, Carolina Conference).

Kathy was joined by her daughter,



charge—“It is my desire, my resolve, my pledge that I want to spend my life giving to our children, letting them know Jesus.” She concluded with this prayer for God’s help—“And, Lord, I ask You to help me do that.”

Leslie Louis welcomed Kathy to Gospel Ministry. And so, on the same date on which Kathy’s husband had been ordained 11 years earlier, the mantle of pastoral responsibility was placed on her shoulders and she was warmly welcomed by her ministerial colleagues.

—Haskell Williams, Ministerial Director

JOINING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

The Community Services and Adult Sabbath School Retreat

“Follow Me” was the theme of the 2024 Adult Sabbath School and Community Service Workshop.

Each spring, leadership from around the conference convenes at Nosoca Pines Ranch to sharpen the saw in ministry. This year, we had 54 leaders representing multiple churches around our conference. Our keynote speaker was Joe Reeves, the Assistant Director of the General Conference for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries. Pastor Reeves challenged the overall group to think more about discipleship-making strategies and spoke about the Global Total Member Involvement movement and what is happening around the world to finish the work. All were motivated to do their part as part of the larger world initiative.

In the adult Sabbath school break-outs, he gave practical suggestions on how to make adult Sabbath school come alive, revitalize mission and outreach, teach the Word with power, and be a super superintendent.

For the community service break-outs, Derrick Lea, NAD ACS Director, (pictured below) shared invaluable insights into the collaborative efforts between the church and the community to fulfill Christ’s mission. Collette Newer, NAD ACS Associate Director, vividly illustrated how our desire to change the world aligns with God’s call to service. She emphasized service’s profound and transformative power, stating, “Through service,

we recognize our incompleteness and God’s completeness.” It was powerful!

Wynelle Stevens illuminated the importance of older adult ministries

brought attention to our communities’ escalating mental health challenges. She emphasized the role of individuals as community coaches in providing care and support to those in need.



Photo by Forrest Watson

in churches, showcasing numerous opportunities for meaningful evangelism. David Graham, Carolina Conference ACS Director, delved into the profound theological implications of knowing and sharing



Jesus as our Servant and Friend, highlighting how this understanding improves our service.

Andrea Simms, a licensed clinical counselor,

Another vital part of the weekend is the cross-pollination over meals, boat rides, and walks around the camp. It is always wonderful to hear people share their stories, successes, and challenges, and to hear new insights to move forward in God’s work.

As the retreat drew to a close, participants left with more than just knowledge and inspiration. They were equipped with practical tools and profound insights, enriching their understanding and shaping their future ministry efforts. From understanding the theological significance of service to addressing pressing mental health issues in communities, each session offered a unique perspective. As attendees return to their respective congregations and communities, they are not just empowered and enriched, but also deeply committed to making a tangible difference in the lives of others throughout the Carolinas.

—David Graham, CS Director; David Wright, Adult SS Director



Photos by Courtney Herold



Photos by Becky Carpenter



RECEIVING THE MANTLE OF MINISTRY Three Pastors Ordained at Mt. Pisgah Church

One of the great joys of doing full-time ministry for the Lord is the friendships that are forged along the way.

Every pastor has the blessing of developing friendships that often last a lifetime and often reach beyond the time of service in a district. There is also a need for pastors to have colleagues to whom they can turn for counsel, mentorship, and support. In the Carolinas, we encourage our pastors to network with one another and to look for those special opportunities where they can work together and support each other in ministry.

On Sabbath, June 15, at the Mount Pisgah Academy Church,



three of our pastors had the blessing of sharing a milestone in ministry as they were ordained to the Gospel Ministry within the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastors



Josue Sanchez, Jonathan Mairena, and Josias Flores gathered with conference leaders, family, friends, and many loving church family members for their ordination service.

The Lord has graciously sent us

many kind, loving, hardworking, Christ-like pastors, and those qualities shone through as each candidate was recommended for ordination, challenged by conference leaders,

and stepped forward to accept the challenge to be like Jesus in all they do for Him. Pastors Josias and Jonathan both come from pastoral families and have followed in the footsteps

of their dads. Pastor Julio Flores was present to recommend his son for ordination, but Pastor Mairena's father is resting in Jesus. However, Elder Smith Castillo, Associate Director of Education for the Texas Conference, recommended Pastor Mairena and

presented him with his dad's Bible and guitar. Tears of joy streamed from Pastor Mairena's eyes, and everyone present was touched by the amazing gesture. Another Carolina pastor, Ross Knight of the Raleigh Church, wholeheartedly recommended Pastor Sanchez as he spoke of their friendship and ongoing ministry together in the Raleigh area.

Elder Hector Gonzalez (left), guest speaker and Carolina Conference Youth Director, brought the message of the evening. As he addressed each pastor, he assured those in attendance that the future of the Carolina Conference is in good hands because of the faithfulness of each of the three pastors being ordained.

Elder Leslie and Mrs. Carole Louis welcomed the pastors and their wives to the worldwide body of ordained ministers and encouraged them to stay faithful to the Master, to know the message He has given them, to know the moment of God's perfect timing in ministry, and to know the unique mission of the Adventist Church.

Ordination does not confer special



holiness or elevate our pastors above any other member of the church. It is simply the church saying that we recognize the unique calling of God upon the lives of our pastors and authorizing them to perform ministry anywhere within the world field. They must do so in harmony with scriptural teaching and the established protocols

of the Adventist Church. Alongside these newly ordained pastors, may each of us take up the mantle of discipleship and work together to take this "gospel of the kingdom" to "all the world as a witness to all nations" (Matthew 24:14).

—Darryl Bentley, Assoc. Ministerial Director



Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

MEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT



Unite in commitment to God and our duty as faithful servants.

September 27-29, 2024
Nosoca Pines Ranch

SCAN HERE to register.
Deadline September 15, 2024



www.carolinasda.org

FREE T-SHIRT
if registered by August 25, 2024

A NEW ERA FOR SINGLES MINISTRY: Retreat Celebrates Community and Spirituality



Photos by Courtney Herod

After several years hiatus, the Singles Ministry held its first retreat supporting its ongoing mission to foster a supportive and understanding community.

This year's retreat featured a spiritual focus and attracted 54 attendees. The weekend was packed with various activities designed to foster community and camaraderie, including icebreakers, games, painting sessions, horseback riding, walks, hikes, and a banquet. The diversity of activities ensured that there was something for everyone, catering to different interests and fostering strong connections among attendees. The participants, primarily in their 30s and up but inclusive of those in their 20s, enjoyed a fun and social weekend, leaving with newfound friendships that continue even after the retreat.

Since 2021, the Singles Ministry has organized four Single Ministry Sabbaths every year, creating a welcoming environment where individu-

als can connect, find support, and embrace God's plan for their lives. The ministry encourages participants to focus not on finding a partner but on building meaningful connections and letting God take control.

Historically, the Singles Ministry faced negative perceptions, often viewed as merely a matchmaking ministry. Pastor Eli Rojas Jr., the current director, and his team are working hard to reverse this stigma, emphasizing that the ministry is not

solely about marriage. The recent retreat exemplified this shift, providing an environment where like-minded individuals could forge connections without the pressure of romantic expectations. The ministry aims to serve those who join, offering spaces for various interests, from sports and Bible study to outdoor activities, potential community service projects, and mission trips.

Pastor Rojas shared a profound reflection from his experience climbing Mount Sinai, where he realized how negative perceptions can distort reality. He emphasized that God's message is one of trust and reassurance, reminding us that God is with us through every season of life. He encouraged attendees to ask themselves what God can do through them, drawing parallels to the disciples' panic during a storm when they doubted Jesus' presence. His message was clear: don't be afraid, don't worry, because God is in control.

The Singles Ministry is dedicated to continuing the growth of its community, aiming to serve and support individuals in their spiritual journeys. By providing a space where people can build relationships and feel understood, the ministry hopes to alleviate the common discomfort associated with singleness. Trusting in God's plan, the ministry looks forward to many more retreats and opportunities to serve those who come to the table, reinforcing the idea that everyone is welcome and valued.

-Clarissa Alberto

Romance at the Ranch is
**CALLING ALL
LOVEBIRDS**

2025 Couples Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch

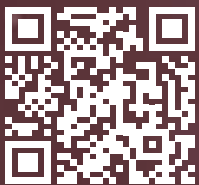


English:

February 7-9

Spanish:

February 14-16



To Register: Scan the
code or visit
www.carolinasda.org

Featured Speakers
**Roger and Kathy
Hernandez**

*Presentadores
Especiales*
**Ruber and
Ketty Leal**



EDUCATOR, ADVOCATE, FRIEND, MENTOR

On Thursday, March 21, 2024, countless individuals mourned the loss of George Grow, an icon in the history of Mount Pisgah Academy. Although many have heard about his passing, few knew him as intimately as his friends, coworkers, and students.

George Lee Grow was born on August 13, 1945 in Columbus, Ohio to George and Louise. During his childhood, his family took a road trip from Ohio to Florida, stopping to spend the night at Mount Pisgah Academy. The beauty of the campus, as well as the Great Smoky Mountains, and the kindness of the people there, left a lasting impression on George that years later played a factor in him choosing MPA for his first employment.

After graduating from Mount Vernon Academy, George went on to study chemistry at Andrews University, in pursuit of one day becoming a science teacher. In the spring of his senior year, he received job offers from four academies, ultimately choosing MPA because of the positive feelings he still had from his childhood visit there.

After his then girlfriend, Linda Freese, graduated from Andrews University in August, the two were married in Alma, Michigan before rushing down to MPA where George would begin his first year of teaching. It was difficult at first, but he learned that he truly enjoyed being a teacher, and he was determined to keep at it. While at Mount Pisgah Academy, George taught a total of fifteen classes at various times. Through all of this, George earned his Master of Arts in Education from Western Carolina University in the summer of 1979. As the years went by and he became a popular teacher, calls would come from other schools; however, he and Linda were committed to MPA and refused all invitations.

From early on in their relationship, George and Linda mutually agreed that they would choose not to have children. One main reason in George's mind was that he wanted to be able to devote himself to his students. He felt that if he had children of his own, they might detract from the time he could give to his students – or vice versa.

George had many interests outside of the classroom including cars, music, birdwatching, and photography. He was often seen with a camera in hand, capturing moments in nature.

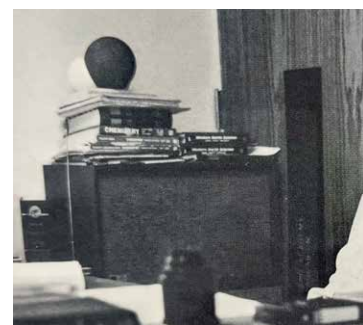
In 2011, George retired after 43 years of service to Mount Pisgah

cal church, community, and throughout the conference. His deep concern for young people has left a lasting impression. George leaves behind his loving wife, Linda, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to John Ratzlaff for excerpts from his Life Sketch, which can be seen at <http://bit.ly/3TLggWz> — Abby Ackerman & Tammy Vaughan



Photos contributed



Academy. He was honored with a retirement banquet that April, at which time it was announced that the lab classroom in the Ad Building would now be called the "George Grow Science Lab."

George's influence will be greatly missed not only at MPA but in our lo-



The Legacy of George Grow



Photo by Bob Vaughn

MYRTLE BEACH CHURCH HOSTS INSPIRING UPGRADE REVIVAL WEEKEND



Photos contributed

Former Myrtle Beach Pastor Tom Hughes, James Reid IV, and the current pastor, José LaPorte Jr.

The Myrtle Beach Church held a transformative “UPGRADE Revival” on April 12-13, 2024, featuring Pastor James Reid IV, Chaplain and Bible Teacher at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine. This was the debut presentation of Pastor Reid’s message, inspired by personal spiritual struggles in late 2023.

The revival began Friday evening with a session titled “In Jesus.” The congregation was moved by Randalyn Skidmore’s testimony, followed by an extended prayer session led by B.C. Williams and others. Pastor Reid’s message, based on John 15:1-8, emphasized the importance of being “IN Jesus” rather than merely in proximity to Him. “Just as the branch of a vine must be attached to



the vine to grow and thrive, so we must be attached to Jesus and abide in Him,” Reid explained. The worship included congregational singing led by the “Hallel Barkhi Nafshi Group” with the theme song “Wonderful

often seen as merely a conclusion to prayers. He discussed obstacles that prevent answered prayers, such as a lack of repentance and forgiveness, and emphasized the need to get out of the way and let Jesus lead.

Pastor Reid’s message was clear: “We must live in the AMEN, embracing God’s plans and destiny for our lives. Amen is not a period but a jump-off point toward a narrow way of faith.” He encouraged the congregation to let go of control and trust in God’s way, truth, and life.



Merciful Savior.” Saturday’s service, “Part 2: Name,” highlighted the power of Jesus’ name and the necessity for spiritual growth. Pastor Reid stressed that as we mature, so should our prayers. “We must

awaken to the power of Jesus’ name, which causes demons to tremble and hearts to change,” he urged.

The evening session, “Part 3: Amen,” included a powerful testimony by Kevin Green and a reflective prayer session led by Head Elder Pete Resz. Pastor Reid delved into the deeper meaning of “Amen,”

The three revival sessions were live-streamed and are available for viewing on the Myrtle Beach Church’s YouTube channel. Attendees and online viewers were encouraged to share their experiences and “like” the videos to spread the message further.

The UPGRADE Revival marked a significant spiritual milestone for the Myrtle Beach Seventh-day Adventist Church community.

— *Gena Malcolm*



Carolina Obituaries

DANNER, WENDY KAY, 63, born May 20, 1961, in Pittman, NJ, died June 2, 2024, in Fletcher, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher Church. Wendy was born to Kay Annette Hitchner, of Ohio, and the late Curtis Hitchner. She spent her childhood and college years in Toledo, OH. She married David Danner while he was in the Coast Guard and they moved to North Carolina, where she spent the majority of her days raising her two children. Wendy was baptized on September 5, 1987. She is survived by her husband, David Danner; son, Aaron Danner (Cydney Huntley); daughter, Shaina Danner Hosley (Joe); granddaughter, Brynlee Hosley; brother, Curtis Linwood Hitchner (Rita); her mother, Kay Hitchner; one niece, Carrie Hitchner González; and a nephew, Tim Hitchner.

DEAN, SHIRLEY, 71, born October 30, 1952, died March 28, 2024. Shirley lived in a care home for several years. She was baptized on January 1, 1967. She was preceded in death by her mother and sister. She is survived by her co-guardians, Trudy Workman and Carl Swafford.

ELLIS, ALBERT M., 90, born January 23, 1933, in St. Louis, MO, died November 29, 2023, in Asheville, NC. After graduating from Union College and receiving theological education at Andrews University Seminary, Albert began his pastoral ministry in the Potomac Conference as a singing evangelist with his wife, Elaine. The couple then pastored churches in the Columbia Union, the Atlantic Union, and the Southern Union. Following their retirement in 1998, Albert served in interim pastoral ministry with the Florida Conference for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; son, Gregory (Jeanine) of Orlando, FL; daughter, Tammy (Bob) Vaughan of Asheville, NC; three grandsons, Tyler Ellis, Matt (Emily) Vaughan, and Luke Vaughan.

FLINT, DEAN E., 91, born August 18, 1932, in Whitefish, MT, died February 29, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. Dean was the second of four children born to Roy and Sadie Flint. He graduated from Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, MT, in 1953, where he gave his life to Christ. After graduation, he served two years in the U.S. Army as a medical records specialist, stationed in Panama. Upon completing his military service, he attended college and graduated from Andrews University. Dean taught in Adventist elementary schools in Jackson, MI; Calgary, Alberta; Raleigh/Durham area, NC; and Nashville, TN. After retiring as a

teacher, he continued his service as a volunteer director of the Adventist Community Services Center in Madison, TN, for several years. His last years were spent at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. He was preceded in death by his son, Dale; siblings, Luella, Raleigh, and Robert. He is survived by his son, Douglas, of Garner, NC; daughter, Deanna (Stephen) Berrier, of Charlotte, NC; former wife, Donna; and several nieces and nephews.

GROW, GEORGE LEE, 79, born August 13, 1945, in Columbus, OH, died March 21, 2024, in Asheville, NC. He was a member of Mount Pisgah Academy Church. George graduated from Andrews University and embarked on his educational career at Mount Pisgah Academy in NC where he taught for over 43 years. He inspired students with his passion for chemistry, biology, and the natural world. While teaching, he completed his master's degree, graduating in 1979 from Western Carolina University. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Linda; nephews, Cliff Freese (Joyce), John Van Eyk (Kellie); nieces, LeeAnn Van Eyk-Smith (Steve), AnnJanette Van Eyk Moreno (David); several great-nephews and great-nieces.

ROBERTS, EULA GREY WOLFE, 99, born March 30, 1925, in Lee County, VA, died May 10, 2024, in Gaffney, SC. She was a member of the Gaffney Church. Eula joined the Adventist Church over 70 years ago after an evangelist held meetings in a tobacco warehouse in Lee County. She, her mother, and two sisters became charter members of the Pennington Gap Adventist Church (now Powell Valley Church). In her later years, Eula supported the establishment of the Gaffney Company in Gaffney, SC. She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd Roberts, and a grandson, Starrett Roberts. She is survived by her six children, Edwin Starrett Roberts (Phyllis) of Woodleaf, NC; Priscilla Sue Burgin (Bobby) of Campobello, SC; Floyd Ronald Roberts (Patti) of Greeneville, TN; Janice Kay Moore (Mike) of Chestertown, MD; Kathy Lynn Breedlove (Ricky) of Gaffney, SC; Melanie Baker of Gaffney, SC; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; a niece, Mary Elizabeth "Ikey" Devasher (Bernard) of Madison, TN; and a friend and caregiver, Faye Baker of Gaffney.

THURLOW, BARBARA HELEN, 89, born June 10, 1934, in Stoneham, MA, died March 17, 2024, in Hendersonville, NC.

She was a member of the Fletcher Church. Barbara attended Browning Memorial Grade School through the 6th grade. Her family then relocated to Takoma Park, MD, where she finished grade school at Sligo Elementary School and graduated from Takoma Academy. She attended Washington Missionary College and graduated with a BSN in nursing. Barbara's first missionary assignment was at Oneida Mountain Hospital in Kentucky, where she served as a "Jeep nurse," working in various capacities. She later served in Nicaragua at a small hospital and school of nursing near LaTrinidad, mastering Spanish en route. Barbara returned to the U.S. to pursue her master's in nursing at Loma Linda and then taught at Bella Vista Hospital in Puerto Rico. She later earned her MSN from Vanderbilt University and continued teaching and serving in various nursing roles in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Barbara's career spanned multiple states and countries, demonstrating her dedication to nursing and education. She was preceded in death by her parents, Burr and Malcolm Thurlow, and her sister, Cynthia Wetmore. She is survived by her brother, Malcolm Thurlow Jr., of Gaithersburg, MD; nieces, Dr. Deborah Thurlow (Recardo), of Silver Spring, MD, and Dolly Sills (Eric), of Lenhartsville, PA; nephews, Don Wetmore (Susan), of Hendersonville, NC, David Wetmore (Verna), of Spokane, WA, Calvin Wetmore (Carol), of Greeneville, TN, and Thomas Wetmore (Heidi), of Silver Spring, MD; nine great-nieces and great-nephews; and several great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Carolina Conference Calendar

AUGUST

International Pathfinder Camporee —

5-11 — Gillett, WY

VLP Training Weekend — 16-19. NPR

Adventurer Leadership Council — 23-25. NPR

SEPTEMBER

Master Guide Backpacking — 6-8. TBA

Retiree Retreat — 15-19. NPR

APEX Pathfinder Outing — 20-22. NPR

Hisp. Men's Retreat — 20-22. NPR

Eng. Men's Retreat — 27-29. NPR

Revive Youth Rally — 27-29. TBA

OCTOBER

Women's Retreat — 4-6. NPR

Sp Women's Retreat — 11-13. NPR

Eastern Harvest IMPACT — 11-

13. Raleigh

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