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Church, Conference Honor Former McDonald Road Pastor on Retirement

By Melissa Turner, editor

On Sunday, January 22, church members and conference employees gathered at the McDonald Road fireside room to honor Pastor Jim and Andi Erwin for 31 years of pastoral service.

Pastor Erwin grew up in Erwin, Tennessee. He graduated from Southern Adventist University, Andrews University, and then went on to earn a doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

The Erwins pastored a number of churches, including McDonald Road SDA Church. They have recently rejoined McDonald Road after finishing their pastoral career in Waycross, Ga.



photo by Melissa Turner
Jim and Andi Erwin at their retirement party.

3ABN's "Kid's Time" Hostess Visits McDonald Road for Family Ministries Weekend in March

By Melissa Turner, editor

Brenda Walsh, hostess of Three Angels Broadcasting Network's "Kid's Time" show will be visiting McDonald Road Church on Sabbath, March 11 for a special weekend sponsored by family ministries.

Walsh is the producer and hostess of 3ABN's "Kid's Time" show and has recently authored a book, entitled "Battered to Blessed," sharing her personal testimony.

Walsh will preach both sermons that Sabbath morning, and she will also share her testimony that evening for vespers.

Parents are asked to bring their children into the vespers program at their own risk, as Walsh's testimony does contain some adult incidents.

Cindy Cannon, family ministries director, says there is a need for people who can help with childcare during the evening vespers program. Childcare will be provided for children ages 12 and under. If you would be willing to help provide childcare, please contact Cindy Cannon at 236-5322.



Brenda Walsh contributed photo

**To Grieve Is to Heal"
 A Grief Recovery Seminar Beginning February 8**

A Grief Recovery Seminar, "To Grieve Is to Heal," will be held weekly at our church, on **Wednesday nights**, starting February 8, **7:30 p.m.** and concluding on March 15. It will be held in Classroom 3 (the **Collegiate classroom**). This seminar is designed to help those who are suffering grief, sorrow, or the pain of loss, as well as those wishing to learn how to relate to those who do.

Pastor's Challenge



Pastor Paul Carlson

Thank God for the Children

I'm thankful that God's plan for our world included children. Think of what we would miss out on had there never been babies and children. After all, kids really know how to tell it like it is. At the dinner table, one woman turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say." So the little girl bowed her head and said, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Without children, we would certainly not laugh as much. One day at church a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their

best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Children can say some of the cutest things, can't they? And the Bible says that we are to be like little children. We get that from Jesus. He said, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" (Mark 10:15, ESV).



But then, doesn't the Bible also talk about becoming mature and growing up? Paul and Peter chimed in on this issue. Peter wrote, "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:1-2, NKJV). And Paul added to this. "Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their pow-

ers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:14, ESV). This was one of Paul's frequent subjects, in fact.

I'm thankful for what is implied by God's plan for children. Think about it! He has allowed us to learn and grow, maybe even making mistakes as we learn in the process. It must mean that God values our freedom to choose and even our personalities and our individuality. After all, He did create us in His own image.

And then we come to what Paul said to the Corinthian believers. "Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature" (1 Cor. 14:20, ESV). The lesson must be that while God loves us no matter what stage we are as Christians, He really wants us to become mature, understanding, thinking people. So let's certainly not go backwards. Let's become everything that God intends for us to be. Let's grow up!

Manna

The Manna is the official newsletter of the McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is published monthly and distributed to members and friends of the church. Items of interest to the McDonald Road Church family should be submitted in typewritten form at the church office (see address, fax number, and office hours below) or by email to Manna@mcdonald.southern.edu.

Materials for this newsletter should be submitted no later than the third Friday of each month prior to publication. To ensure accuracy, submissions by telephone are not preferred.

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Head of the Church | Jesus Christ |
| Pastor | Don Gettys |
| Associate/Youth Pastor | Kent Crutcher |
| Associate Pastor | Paul Carlson |
| Church Secretary | Kim Rollins |
| Newsletter Editor | Melissa Turner |

The church office is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Visit our church Web site at <http://mcdonald.southern.edu>

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McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church
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McDonald, TN 37353
Voice: 423-396-3462 or 423-396-3433
Fax: 423-396-3433

Sermon Schedule

- “We Are Never Alone” Sabbath, February 4
by Pastor Don Gettys
- “Hymn Fest Love” Sabbath, February 11
by Pastor Paul Carlson
- Guest Speaker Sabbath, February 18
by Stephen Bohr
- “Moses’ Shining Face” Sabbath, February 25
by Pastor Don Gettys

The Dream Never Dies

By Adrian Boyer

“For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear God,” Ecclesiastes 5:7

Determinate Councils
Of mortal assize,
May all come to naught.
But the Dream dies.

Though young Men and Maidens
Exult in their strength--
Their Pride and their Passion
Will expire at length.

However exalted,
The Schemes we devise
They all turn to Ashes,
But the Dream never dies.

The Meek and the Mighty,
The Rich and the Poor,
The Merchant and Miner,
The Minions of War--

The Saints and the Martyrs,
Whoever they be,
Belong to the Throng
That includes you and me.

Those ambivalent Goals
We covet and prize
May never be won,
But the Dream never dies.

Adventurer Club Enjoys Special Ceremony of Blessing

By Tony and Eva Burchard, Adventurer Club leaders

On Sabbath, January 7, the Adventurer Club had a special ceremony of blessing for the families and children. At the ceremony, parents had the opportunity to reaffirm their love and commitment to their children, and to affirm them for the special contributions which they bring to their family. This was a special way for the families to start the new Adventurer Club year.



contributed photo

The Anders Family enjoys some time together at the special ceremony of family blessing put on by McDonald Road's Adventurer Club.

Jay Anders, our worship leader, gave a short talk about the meaning of the family blessing in scripture, then parents and children read some special scripture verses aloud together. Next, the parents read special letters to their Adventurer children, telling them about the special attributes they appreciate in them. We all sang songs of blessings and then we had an agape feast of fruit, bread and drink.

On a sad note, the Anders family is moving to California to work for Amazing Facts. We are so proud of them for answering God's call. We are going to greatly miss them and want to thank them for all their hard work and support of our Adventurer Club.

Feature

Revelation of Hope: The Countdown Has Begun

By John Davis, personal ministries director

The Revelation of Hope series with speaker, Mark Finley, will start May 19, 2006 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. That seems a long way off right now, but it will be here before we realize it. And it is not too late to participate in some of the outreach activities.

Those who wish to join our Intercessory Prayer Group should contact Fred Christiansen at 396-9173.

Our Literature Distribution Group will need lots of help as well. If you are interested, contact Mike & Cindy Hollie or Paul & Paula Burns at 396-9146.

The "Friendship Evangelism" series is open to everyone. It consists of four video presentations by Mark Finley to help us improve our relational soul-winning skills, along with discussion and handout materials. The theme is how to witness informally at home, work or school. The schedule and topics are as follows:

- Feb. 4th Conversational Evangelism;
- Feb. 11th Building Bridges
- Feb. 18th Sharing the Word
- Feb. 25th Prayer Power

Unsealing Daniel's Mysteries home Bible study groups will begin sometime during the second week of February. If you are interested, contact Mike & Gwin Doucoumes at 238-4077. We have about three groups formed, but we would like to have more. For each new group we need someone to host the meeting (have it in their home) once a week for 12 weeks. For each group we also need someone to lead out by showing the videos/DVDs and briefly review the lesson from the previous week. In addition, we need people to support the meeting by attending,

and everyone involved will have brochures to use in inviting friends.

Many of you have noticed that a new literature cabinet is located in the lobby of the church next to the coat rack. In addition

to literature you may share with friends, there are Doug Batchelor videos you may sign out and loan to friends. Many other videos by Mark Finley and others are located in the church library. Let's make the most of our opportunities to witness now!

Please pray for God's blessing on the 30 churches in

the Greater Chattanooga/Cleveland area who are participating in this effort. Also pray for another 44 churches outside of driving distance, who will have their own evangelistic series simultaneously with Mark Finley's meetings. Finally, pray for the students from Southern Adventist University who will be preaching in those 44 churches.



Upcoming Personal Ministries Events for 2006

Lay Bible Instructor Training - At the Chattanooga First Church from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The revised dates for the sessions are as follows: February 6, 13, 20, 27.

Friendship Evangelism Seminar - On February 4, 11, 18, 25 for vespers at 5:00 p.m. in the McDonald Road SDA Church.

Daniel Home Seminars - Starting in Mid-February. The training location and times are to be announced.

Critter Corner

Uncle Burney's

It was in the middle of October when a neighbor lady gave our new friend a small basket of cherries, which she took to her kitchen. She washed and sugared them, probably with jam or jelly in mind. She then placed them in an old canning pot to boil but was sidetracked by her neighbor again. The pot was covered with a magazine and left on the counter.

While she was out, her husband came in and placed the pot on the back porch thinking it was kitchen scraps to be thrown away. After a few days his wife discovered the pot and exclaimed how very forgetful she was and lifted the magazine to peek in. Oh no! Those good cherries with all that sugar had gone to waste. There were bubbles on top and the odor was like dirty socks.

She removed the magazine and sat the pot on the ground outside the back door to dispose of later, hoping her neighbor wouldn't see it. As soon as the pot was on the ground her three pet ducks came over to search the pot for any possible goodies. Looking back as she started inside, all she could see was three white heads in the pot. At least the cherries wouldn't go to waste, she thought, and her neighbor would never know.

Later that evening, when her husband returned from work, he came through the back door as usual. Normally he removed his dirty boots but not this time. He came in with his boots on and a very sad look on his face. Immediately his wife knew that something was wrong.

"What is it honey?"

"How did the ducks die?" he asked.

"What do you mean?" she replied in puzzled voice.

"You mean you didn't know?" he asked sadly.

"No," she replied and went out the back door to see for herself. Sure enough, there were her three half grown ducks all stretched out on the sidewalk, 'limp as a dishrag' and 'dead as a door nail.' Her heart was just broken, as in the darkness, her husband placed the three

"Three Lucky Ducks"

little bundles of white feathers in a box to be buried the next morning.

Early the following morning as she was fixing breakfast, her husband went outside to do what had to be done. "Honey! Honey! Come here," he shouted. Startled, she headed for the back door. With her hand cupped over her mouth, she stopped just short of screaming at the strange sight before her eyes.

It seems that just before they had turned

probably had the worst headache a duck ever had. Standing there in the cold without their clothes, they looked like some cartoon character. In the place of each plucked feather, was a red tipped goose bump. They looked like ducks with the worst case of measles the couple had ever seen.

The couple didn't know whether to laugh or cry. They picked up the wobbly little pets and took them inside to their warm spare bedroom. Now what were they going

to do with three raw-hide ducks? Being the kind-hearted, motherly type, the wife did the only thing a good mother could do; she knitted each one of those ducks a bright red sweater. Each sweater had holes in the sides for the wings and holes in the bottom for the legs (and other purposes). While this did relieve some of her guilt it did little for the ducks' pride.

Now it goes without saying that the neighbor soon saw those ducks in their fine red sweaters. A neighborly visit was in order. The conversation very quickly turned to how and why did the ducks get plucked? Trying hard to

hold back a laugh, she blurted out "Bad cherries. It had to be the bad cherries."

Sometimes life's experiences can really be funny and should be remembered and shared with others. This story has caused me to smile more than once over the years. Solomon, one of my favorite biblical writers, says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," Proverbs 17:22. As you read this story, I leave you today's dose of 'good medicine.' Share your happiness with others and you will be doubly blessed.



in for the night, her husband sneaked out and plucked all the feathers off the ducks to add to their feather collection for a downy quilt. Being a practical man, he saw no reason to let these feathers be wasted. It was a thoughtful and innocent gesture with the exception of one detail: the ducks were not dead. That's right; they were stumbling all over the yard. They bumped into the car, and the flowerpots. For long periods of time, they just stood with their heads on the ground in a tripod position, staring cross-eyed at the grass. Three bluish-pink little quackers, woozy and cold, they were a sight to behold.

Apparently, those cherries had gotten just a little too ripe and those poor ducks had consumed just about all that potent mixture in the pot. Not only had they almost gotten themselves buried alive, but now they

New Teen Books Are Available at Church Library

GREEN DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL
CAR Carlson, Melody
Mom has cancer, Boyfriend not Christian, How can life be normal?

GREEN BEYOND THE IN-A-PINCH GOD
ESM Esmond, Dwain
Esmond shares personal experiences that touched his life.

GREEN YOUNG WOMAN
GAL Gallagher, Jonathon and Anna
A young woman's guide to teenage sexuality.

GREEN FRESH FAITH
KEL Kelnhofer, Sarah
Open a window on Bible truths as seen through the eyes of 27 young adult authors.

GREEN LIFESTYLE
PRO Proserpi, Whitney
Real perspectives from radical women in the Bible.

GREEN SPIRITUAL TOUCHDOWNS
SAC Sacino, Sherry
Inspirational profiles from the NFL.

GREEN UP 2 U
STA Stanley, Andy
By asking one simple question, you can avoid regret.

Find these books and many more teen books (with green dots) in the story section. Also, parents and teachers of tweens and teens can check out helps in the 305.23 section.

Media Ministry Update

By Dean Saunders, media ministry director

A new DVD recorder and a DVD duplicator have been added to our Media Ministry department. The last few weeks we have been making video recordings with the video camera that we received the previous Christmas. We have been able to produce video DVD's that have already been dispatched to shut-ins! We could even start planning to show the live video of the church service in the Fireside Room for the overflow of those who cannot find a seat in the sanctuary. Of course, in order to do that, we would need some more equipment. However, we could plan to video every service.

If you would like to gain experience in operating our church video camera as you serve the Lord, and help the shut-ins and others all at the same time, contact Dean at the Media Ministry department. This could be a ministry that could expand into helping many more people well beyond our local church. Would you like to be involved? Please pray about it and please pray for this new ministry as we strive to bring the Lord's message to as many people as possible in this new millennium.

Parnell Awarded Prestigious Wright Brothers Award

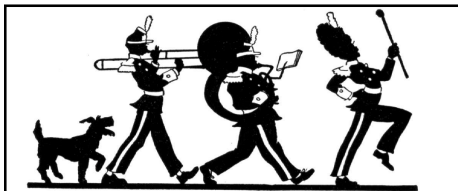
McDonald Road church member, Jack Parnell, 80, was awarded the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award by the Federal Aviation Administration Thursday, January 12. He is only the 198th recipient to have received the prestigious



Jack Parnell

award. He was given a plaque and a Master Pilot pin, and a news clip was written about the event in the January 14 Times Free Press.

Having piloted for 61 years now, Parnell has clocked 19,000 hours of flight time, 3,000 more hours than most retired pilots. He has worked as a corporate pilot and flight instructor, an aviation accident investigator, an FAA designated pilot examiner and he is mentioned in "Who's Who in Aviation and Aerospace," among other accomplishments.



CA and Spalding Music Departments Present "The Music Man"

By Jeffrey Lauritzen, CA choir director

The music departments of Collegedale Academy and A. W. Spalding Elementary School will present Meredith Willson's classic musical, "The Music Man," February 11-14 in the Collegedale Academy auditorium. This charming story, a page out of turn-of-the-century Midwestern America, is actually a recollection of life in Meredith Willson's own hometown of Mason City, Iowa.

The February 11, 13 and 14 shows will be at 7 p.m. and the show Sunday, February 12 will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are for reserved seating and will be \$10, \$12 and \$15. They are available at Collegedale Academy by calling 396-2124. Proceeds will benefit the participating musical organizations, especially their travel budgets.