

MANNA

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Newsletter of the
McDonald Road Seventh-day Adventist Church

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“So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him...”

- Jeremiah 18:3-4

Awaken the Dream

McDonald Road Youth Explore God’s Creative Power

Be True. Be Real. Be Love. Be the Change.

These are the challenges that the McDonald Road Youth meet each week when they come to Sabbath School. The youth room has a fluid, creative café style atmosphere with inspiring quotations and artwork on the walls challenging the youth to allow God to breathe life, creativity and heavenly dreams into their spiritual journeys.

Using the metaphor of the artistic process, the youth are engaging in a yearlong quest to allow God to “Awaken the Dream” in their lives. When God awakens the dreams He has for us, our lives begin to take on great beauty and new life—like the clay on the potter’s wheel or the streaks of paint on an artist’s canvas.

During youth church in January, artist and filmmaker Terry Benedict (*The Conscientious Objector*) challenged the youth to embrace their “Creative Spirit.” We are artWORKS in the process and God is the creative and imaginative artist at work in us. To help the youth tune into this creative process they are given the opportunity the first week of each month to tune into the “Creative Spirit” God has given them. Painting, working with clay and creating things—the youth explore the spiritual truths of being true, being real, being love and being the change.

Because like the messy streaks of paint on a canvas, spirituality is not a neat and clean and tidy experience, the youth are also exploring the concept of “Messy Spirituality” inspired by Pastor Mike Yaconelli’s book by that title. What does it mean to be real as a Christian? Do Christians have problems? Yes. Do Christians have doubts? Yes. So let’s stop pretending to have it all together as Christians, Yaconelli challenges, and start being real about life and asking the tough questions and supporting each other on this complex journey called “life.” And that’s what the McDonald Road Youth’s monthly discussion cafes are all about—discussing the tough issues in a safe, loving, creative, Christ-centered environment.

A quiet revolution of love, compassion and creativity is taking root in McDonald Road Youth. It is time to BE true. It is time to BE real. It is time to BE love. It is time to BE the change we wish to see in the world.



Photo by Melissa Turner

Lorraine Rollins and Anastasia Oliver embrace their creativity. Visit the Youth Room to see more creations.

- Melissa Turner, youth leader

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.

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The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

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Submissions Deadline: The third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise specified. Submit items in writing at the church office; by fax (396-3433); by e-mail manna@mcdonaldroad.org; or by mail at 5440 McDonald Road, McDonald, TN 37353. Submissions by phone are not accepted.

Electronic Submissions: Submissions may be made via e-mail with the following attachment formatting: Word or WordPerfect documents, text files, and graphics or photos saved as jpeg, bmp, or gif files. Please submit electronic files by e-mailing them to: manna@mcdonaldroad.org.

“Uplifting Jesus”
 McDonald Road
 Seventh-day Adventist Church



Pastor's Challenge

We Are Getting There!

God has blessed us greatly. In just 7 years you have sacrificed to pay down the debt for our New Children's Sabbath School Wing. We have raised \$1,392,400.00 since 2001. This leaves us only \$491,000.00 left to raise (as of 1/1/08). To state this another way, you have raised 74% of the total cost which leaves us only 26% to go until we reach our goal. We are way over the big hill. At the beginning our interest cost was \$3,229 per month. Now the interest cost is \$2,051 per month. Soon we will reduce this to ZERO.

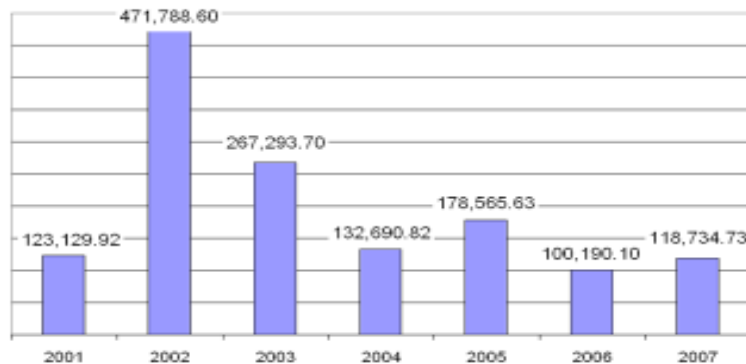


Pastor Don Gettys

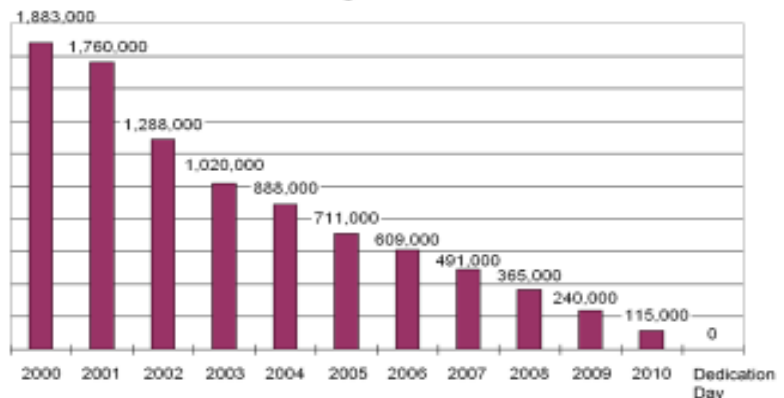
Notice something else. Our giving increased each year and then suffered a steady decline. BUT we have turned that around! In 2007, we gave 18.5% more than we did in 2006. Maybe that is because we are nearing the end of our fund raising. May each of us set our sights on that soon coming day when we can officially dedicate our new facility to God. Could some of you give a hundred thousand dollars? Could some of you give fifty thousand or ten thousand? I want to urge each of your faithful members to do your best in 2008 and let us retire this debt once and for all. Thank you so much for what you have done. Our church plant looks so attractive now. It is a quality tribute to our loving God. Our children have a nice new facility now in which we can help prepare them for Heaven. May that day come soon. May ALL of our children be in Heaven with Jesus.

- Pastor Don Gettys

Building Fund Giving 2001-2007



Children's Wing Amount Still Owed



Reaching In

Old Love

By Adrian Boyer

The Flames of Young Love brightly burn
 with scintillating Blaze,
 And shed their luminiscent Light
 Thru out its Youthful Days.
 But Old Love burns with glowing Coals,
 As smouldering Embers fade,
 For now they only warm the Heart
 With Dreams that once they made.

For when the fading Flames expire,
 Their glowing Coals remain
 A Token of those Yesterdays
 That will not come again.
 Old Love endures the passing Years
 Untarnished and entire,
 And tho its Flame is but a Coal,
 It glows with timeless Fire.

As Old Love basks within the Glow
 Of happy Trysts it knew,
 In Retrospect 'twill live again
 Some happy Rendezvous.
 Too soon the Young Love's Flame
 burns out,
 A Fact we all deplore,
 For Young Love's Flame that blazed
 so bright
 Will brightly blaze no more.

Pathfinder Sabbath Photos

Photos by Grant Tuttle



David Hensel and Sara Honeycutt carry in the flags with Pam Tuttle leading the Pathinders in behind them.



Tyler Hartman is baptized by Pastor David Cook.



Mia Spicer receives her Friend pin from Bob Bogus, Master Guide.

Sermon Schedule

• "Can Dead Bones Heal?" • by Paul Carlson	Sabbath, March 1
• "So What Do You Think?" • by Doug Batchelor	Sabbath, March 8
• Communion Sabbath • "Sprinting Up the Stairs" • by Don Gettys	Sabbath, March 15
• "The Vacant Vault" • by Don Gettys	Sabbath, March 22
• "Standing in the Lentils" • by Steven Bauer	Sabbath, March 29

Reaching Out

Pathfinders Learn Teamwork at Teen Challenge

“You build a team around you with whatever you do in life. It helps you during times that are hard as well as times that are good,” says John Swafford, Pathfinder director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. For this reason, the Pathfinder Teen Challenge held at Cohutta Springs Feb. 15-17 focused on building teams and friendships.

Approximately 300 Pathfinder teens attended the weekend event. When it was time for the challenge activities, they were split up into teams that rotated through stations located around the youth camp. At each station, the teens were faced with a challenge, and they had to work together and use each others skills to complete the tasks. Challenges they met included the Electric Fence, which consisted of a rope tied to four trees making a box at about shoulder level. The teens were contained by this fence and had to figure out how to escape without touching the rope and using only a board and their own skills. Staff leaders at each of the stations were there to support and encourage the teens, but they were instructed not to coach the teens on how to complete the task – each team had to figure it out through teamwork.



Photo by Rebecca Brooks

McDonald Road Pathfinders Heather Peel, Girean Miller, Ashley Myers, and Catriona McCallum spend time together at the Pathfinder Teen Challenge.



Photo by Rebecca Brooks

Spiritual messages were shared with the teens by Ted Struntz, associate pastor of the Knoxville First Adventist Church, throughout the weekend.

“It’s a lot of fun to be with everybody and to get to know different people and of course worship God, that’s always great,” says McDonald Road Pathfinder Heather Peel.

Worship time with spiritual messages shared by Ted Struntz, associate pastor of the Knoxville First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., was another highlight of the weekend.

As Swafford shares, the weekend was made possible due to the weekend coordinators: Ron and Marlene Derrick, David and Sandra Holt, Lawsey and Marion Thomas, Andi and Jim Erwin, and the numerous staff volunteers. “We rely very heavily on our volunteers to help coordinate a big weekend like this,” says Swafford. “You can’t do it all by yourself, which again illustrates the great importance of teamwork.”

- Rebecca Brooks

Health Unlimited Newsletter Available

A new resource is available through the North American Division Health Ministries Department. It is a monthly newsletter called *Health Unlimited*, available in English and Spanish. You can find these newsletters on the Georgia-Cumberland Conference website under Health Ministries at www.gccsda.com.

- Shared by Martha Dutterer

Kids' Corner



Jungle Jaunts with Jack and Jerry

It is noon, so Jack, Jerry, mom, dad, and Oscar park under a tree to eat the picnic lunch they brought. Not many of the animals are out in the heat of the day, so it's a good time to take a break.

"I'm starved," says Jerry. "It has been a long time since breakfast."

"Did you bring some of your good oatmeal cookies? I think I could eat a dozen of them all by myself," exclaims Jack.

"I sure did, and there are plenty for everyone," admonishes mother. "Here, have one of these good sandwiches Oscar. "We have enough food for an army."

"She's right," says dad. "With these growing boys, it takes a lot of food to fill them up. I think they have hollow legs."

"Well, we don't eat as much as the elephants or giraffes," says Jack. "You would need a pickup truck of food for them, wouldn't you, Jerry."

"Sure would, Jack," Jerry replies.

"This lemonade hits the spot," says Oscar. "I sure picked the right folds to be a guide for today."

After taking care of their lunch, the group starts driving again. The trees are getting denser and the boys wonder what kinds of animals they will see in this jungle. "Look over there," says Jerry. "Did you see those colorful birds?"

"Those birds belong to the parrot family," explains Oscar. "I am hoping to find something I think you will like. They live in this area up in the trees. They don't come down to the ground very often, so look close and maybe you can spot them."

Jack and Jerry get out their binoculars and scan the tree tops. "Hey, Jerry, look over in the trees on the right. I see some monkeys, do you see them? They are up in that big tree."

"Sure do," replies Jerry. "What kind of monkeys are they, Oscar?"

"They are called Blue Monkeys," explains Oscar. "Their faces aren't really blue, but all the fur around their face gives a blue cast to it."

Jerry gets out the Wild African Animals book and reads, "The blue monkey doesn't really look blue; the fur sometimes gives it a blue appearance. The fur is short and a brown color, except for its face. It is a native to various parts of Africa. The east, central, and southern regions are where most of them live. They are typically about 24-33 inches in length, not including their tail, which is almost as long as their body. They weigh from 8-16 pounds with the males being longer and heavier than the females.

"Females give birth every two years during the onset of the warm, rainy season. It takes about five months for the baby to develop and they are born with fur and with their eyes open. Blue Monkeys live in groups of 10-40. Most of the group is made of females or young monkeys. Only one adult male lives with the group.

"Blue Monkeys are found in rain or bamboo forests. They are very dependent on humid, shady areas and they must have a lot of water. They eat mainly leaves and fruit, but will eat small animals. They prefer to live in the tall trees and very seldom come down to the ground. They are hunted for bush meat."

Jack takes out his note pad and writes, "Blue Monkeys."

"We are getting quite a list of animals," he says. "I wonder what will be next. Will we see any lions?"

Starting at the left, count every five letters and write them on the line below:

A C F K M
D Z
N L
Y P
B G X O E

- Janice Parker

What's Happening

Conference-wide Exercise Workshop: March 16 the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Health Ministries department will sponsor an exercise workshop seminar from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Iles Auditorium. Learn about the physiological and practical aspects of exercise. The seminar is FREE and lunch will be provided, but you need to register by March 12. Call 1-800-567-1844, ext. 338. The new conference exercise program will also be introduced.

Instrumentalists Needed: A gospel bluegrass band based from the Calhoun Seventh Day Adventist Church is looking for a couple of dedicated Christian instrumentalists. Our greatest needs are for a bass player and a lead instrumentalist playing dobro, fiddle, guitar, or mandolin. A good tenor or soprano voice would also be a plus. Call Mike at 770-598-0727.

Room In The Inn: Would you like to become a mentor for one of the ladies at *Room In The Inn*? You could be a great help to these women as they work on building a new life for themselves. If you would like to help with this new program or would like more information, please contact Sheryl Baker at 396-4220 or 987-6882 or leave a message with the church office.

2nd Annual International Medical Missionary Convention: March 27-29, Thatcher Hall Chapel, Southern Adventist University. Learn how to combat diseases naturally. Be inspired by medical missionary experts and evangelists. Pre-registration required: Call 618-521-8676.

Faith Summit 2008 - Come be renewed, revived, and inspired! Beginning Friday, March 7 at 7:00 P.M., Pastor Doug Batchelor of Amazing Facts will be holding an enriching Faith Summit weekend at the McDonald Road Church. The meetings will continue March 8 at 8:50 a.m., 11:25 a.m., and 4:00 p.m.

Regular Programs

Weekly Worship Services

First Service
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.

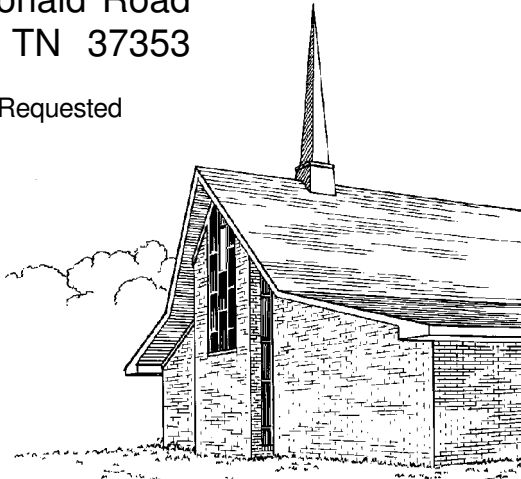
Second Service
Saturdays at 11:25 a.m.

Sabbath School
Saturdays at
10:00-11:20 a.m.

Prayer Meeting
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

McDonald Road
Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Return Service Requested



"Uplifting Jesus"