

CAROLINA ACTION



ISSUE 4, 2020



Labels and Ingredients



A Centennial Ebenezer

The organized work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Carolinas was established in 1901 with our first president, J.O. Johnston. With the encouragement of Ellen G. White, it was organized in Hickory, North Carolina.

In 1904 the North Carolina Conference was organized separately with T.H. Jeys as its first president. Three years later in 1907, the South Carolina Conference was organized with R.T. Nash as its first president.

A little over a decade later in 1918, these two territories began merging under the leadership of J.W. McNeil, the first president of the organized and incorporated Carolina Conference. One hundred years ago in 1920, the merger was completed and signed as an official incorporation of



the Carolinas. While the two conferences were in the process of being merged, an English colporteur by the name of Walter Brightman went to Charleston. It was the last year of World War I, and as Brightman went about his work, he caught the attention of a law enforcement officer who then arrested him under suspicion of being a German spy. When

Brightman was brought before the judge, he gave the judge his canvass of the book he was selling. The judge ended up buying the book and dismissing all the charges against him. In the first 10 months of 1920, \$102,718.95 worth of truth-filled literature had been sold in the newly merged Carolina Conference. In today's dollars that would be equivalent to nearly \$1.4 million!

Just over a century ago a strain of influenza known as the Spanish flu crossed from birds to humans in 1918 and claimed an estimated 50 million lives during its deadly march around the globe. Many of the cities in the Carolinas were under quarantine, and all public meetings, including Sabbath services, were stopped.

Thirty-six presidents have been elected as God's leaders in the Carolina Conference since J.W. McNeil finished his post of duty in 1920 after serving for only two years. One hundred years have come and gone. We've faced our past and present challenges with faith and courage as we proclaim the message of the everlasting gospel from the shores to the mountains of our beautiful Carolinas.

Millennia ago on a battlefield where years prior they had suffered defeat, Israel pled with God for help, and He granted them a miraculous victory. Their priest and leader, Samuel, set up a monument to remind them of God's strong hand in their triumph, and Samuel named the pillar "Ebenezer," saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us," 1 Samuel 7:12. This stone pillar was to cause God's people to recall often the time when God turned things from bad to blessed. Each time an Israelite saw the Ebenezer stone,

they remembered God's help in the past, God's help available in the present, and God's help assured for every tomorrow. The Ebenezer was a "picture" of the Lord's readiness to hear their cries and save them, and it served to remind them not only where to turn for their strength and power but also Whom to thank for their deliverance.

Despite the challenges of this past year and the uncertainties of what tomorrow may bring, may this centennial year for the Carolina Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church be our Ebenezer to remind us that

God has guided our church in the past and continues to do so in the present;

Adventism is a movement of prophetic destiny rather than just another Protestant denomination; and

the greatest danger we face going forward is forgetting our identity and thereby losing our purpose and reason for being.

Your servant leader,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Louis".

Leslie Louis
Carolina Conference President

NOTE: The historical information presented in this article was derived from the book Taking the Gospel Beyond the Mountains: The history of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists by Herman Eugene Davis Sr., published by Mountain Church in Alexander, NC. © 2005.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S PEN

Adventurer Fun Day in a NEW WAY!

The Carolina Adventurers did not let a pandemic deter them from having their Fun Day. Instead, on July 17-19, 2020, Adventurer Fun Day was presented online for the first time, and instead of just one day, was extended to three days. It provided the Adventurers and their families the opportunity to participate in the event while staying safe. Hector Gonzalez, Carolina Conference youth director, and Zuri Scroggins, the department secretary, took on the challenge with the Adventurer council team to transfer everything online.

Typically, Adventurer clubs in the conference travel to Nosoca Pines Ranch on one of two dates in April to participate in activities like hayrides, obstacle courses, crafts, and a parade while dressed up in costumes to fit with the Fun Day theme. When the event went online, the Adventurer council was determined that the kids be able to still participate in similar activities, so they provided a list of materials to parents ahead of time so they could prepare.

The theme this year was, “Paint Your World With Love,” based on 1 Corinthians. The crafts were kept simple and used items normally found at home; like sun catchers made with paper plates or an indoor obstacle

course. Other activities included a nature scavenger hunt and science experiments.

“The turnout was awesome,” said Scroggins. “Lots of parents joined their kids for the activities and it was so great to see all the photos on Facebook, to see all that hard work materialize into spiritual blessings for the families.”

The guest speaker this year was Youth Director Hector Gonzalez, with a special appearance by Ben Roy, well-known science teacher from 3ABN’s Kid’s Time.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, over 20 clubs were represented, and the Adventurer families were

blessed with a spiritual and fun-filled weekend!

—Natalie Boonstra



Photos contributed



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CONTACT: 2701 East W.T. Harris Blvd. • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, N.C., 28215 • P (704) 596-3200, F (704) 596-5775 • www.carolinasda.org

ADMINISTRATION: President, Leslie Louis: llouis@carolinasda.org • VP for Administration/Executive Secretary, Gary Moyer: gmoyer@carolinasda.org

Associate, Deborah Hutchinson • VP for Finance, Rick Russell: rrussell@carolinasda.org; Undertreasurer, Chad Grundy: cgrundy@carolinasda.org; Associate, Marlene Morgan

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY: Adventist Christian Book Center: Stanley Shireman • Adult Sabbath School: David Wright • ASI/Religious Liberty: Leslie Louis • Auditor: Judy Schlicht

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ACTION STAFF: Editor/Layout design: Rebecca Carpenter • Asst. Editor: Courtney Herod • Copy Editor: JoAlyce Waugh • Secretary: Mary Romero • communication@carolinasda.org

Heather Grasby opened a chapter of God's Closet in Thomasville, NC, in 2017. The organization provides the community with like-new clothing for kids from age 0-18. Typically the God's Closet chapter in Thomasville has hosted a God's Closet "shop day" with up to 200 people attending every three to four months. People can come and browse the clothes and find what they need. "Before Covid, it was much easier to get a huge turnout for help, including students from Tri-City Academy, and church members could help in

asville is working hard to meet the spiritual needs of the community as well. Every person who comes in to get clothes also receives a *Steps to Christ* or similar Christian literature. Grasby even witnessed a volunteer giving a Bible away to someone who was interested in learning more about God.

"I liked the staggered event we did this year, because less people at a time means more meaningful conversations," said Grasby. "It's almost hard for me to want to go back to the way we did it before."

taneously allowed to shop for their children—a win/win for moms and for God's Closet! Once clothes were sorted, shoppers could sign up online and place their orders, which were then filled and readied for pick up.

The first stop in the drive through was a dress boutique. Moms could browse a large variety of fancy dresses for their daughters while workers pulled their order. At the second stop they received a piece of literature, such as *Steps to Christ*, and were offered a prayer for the burdens of their heart. As in High Point, the calmer experience offered more one-on-one personal time with the mothers.

When COVID-19 required closure of indoor activities, the Spartanburg, SC, God's Closet chapter was also forced to regroup. With the tremendous amount of clothing that had been donated, they couldn't wait long. Around 30 volunteers showed up to help. They were able to provide 4-7 large bags of children's clothing to 363 family units (606 individuals) facing difficult times. Some had lost their jobs due to the virus, some had been evicted from their homes and a couple of families had lost everything in a fire. Volunteers shared that they will always cherish the experience of meeting families and praying with them in the parking lot.

There are around a dozen chapters of God's Closet in the Carolina Conference, with the two newest being in Franklin, NC, and Rutherfordton, NC. The latter will be the first God's Closet exclusively for ladies. The prayer of each volunteer is that as they help people through difficult times, they will witness the love of God and His mercy towards them.

—Natalie Boonstra

GOD'S CLOSET

ADAPTING TO THE PANDEMIC

areas that they felt excited about," said Grasby. But with the coronavirus restrictions, Grasby and her team had to get creative for their summer event.

"I really wanted to be able to meet the physical needs of the community, especially during this time," said Grasby. People were asked to sign up for a time slot with up to eight shoppers to enter the building and look for clothes; boys in one area, and girls in another. She also extended the event from one day to a three-week period. "To get the word out I advertised on Facebook and mom groups and yard sale pages," said Grasby. The turnout from this social-distancing-friendly version of God's Closet was equal to if not more than pre-covid events, and included some added blessings.

"We even had some help from the outside community; the town's 8-year-old 'Miss Thomasville' and her mother heard about our event and donated a bunch of food, which we were able to give to those in need," said Grasby.

God's Closet in Thom-

God's Closet in Mills River, NC, also came up with a creative alternative in August. They decided to hold two drive-through shopping days for their God's Closet shoppers. On their previous shop days they've had approximately 275-300 shoppers, and have offered child care. When the pandemic hit, they knew their facility would not offer the space needed to social-distance shop.

With so many clothes to go through, church members and community volunteers first came together in June and July for sort days. If those volunteers were also moms, in sorting clothes they were simul-



Volunteers prepare for God's Closet in High Point



Families line up outside the Spartanburg

Student Encourages Classmates Through YouTube Ministry

When Bryan Arvelo was eight years old, he attended a week of prayer that changed his life. The Charlotte Spanish Church in Charlotte, NC, hosted guest pastor Arnaldo Cruz. Bryan was inspired by the series' message and intrigued by the outreach videos Pastor Cruz used for his online ministry. As the program concluded, Bryan was baptized. In addition, Pastor Cruz also installed the video editing software on Bryan's home computer and taught him how to use it.

That was the beginning of Bryan's new creative outlet: his own YouTube channel. At first, he mostly posted funny videos like himself goofing off on a trampoline. Gradually his channel also became a witnessing tool as he wrote sermons to share with others on topics like "How to Follow Christ" and more recently "Spiritual Lockdown."

"My Youtube channel helped build me into the person I am today," Bryan says. "I had a bad stutter. It forced me to practice speaking clearly and helped me develop my public speaking skills."

Today Bryan has 12,600 subscribers to his YouTube channel, and he is a theology major with a film production minor at Southern Adventist University. At Southern, Bryan got involved with campus opportunities. He helped coordinate a program called Afterglow, which takes place on Friday nights following vespers. Afterglow's goal is to provide students with an environment where they can continue worshipping together even after vespers is over.

Last school year, Bryan and his

team worked hard to help students celebrate the Sabbath and connect to God in new ways. Every week they offered a variety of activities. Sometimes they held jam sessions where students could play praise music together. Another time they had a pet therapy area where students could play with community puppies for stress relief. Other activities included writing letters to student missionaries, creating art, and watching religious films. Every Friday, 200-300 students would attend. Bryan's team regularly polled students via Instagram to find out what they most enjoyed and what suggestions they had for future sessions.

Due to the coronavirus, the winter semester ended in distance learning. Although Bryan really missed his



Photos contributed

friends and on-campus ministries, he has used this time to return to his YouTube roots and post additional uplifting videos.

"I've noticed that many of my Southern classmates tune in to my

sermons," he says. "I love to see that they are still seeking God, and I'm honored that God is using me in this capacity to help others feel encouraged and stay connected."

— Angela Baerg



VISION VII: EXPAND OUR PUBLISHING MINISTRY

PRAY AND COMMIT to expanding the work of our publishing ministry in the distribution of truth-filled literature by:

- **Promoting** a visible display of a GLOW tract rack in every Carolina church for members to utilize in sharing seeds of truth in every church community;
- **Developing** the Magabook program to include students from our church schools and academies in conjunction with an increased rate of annual sales.
- **Supporting** the work of our dedicated full-time literature evangelists by adding a full-time field district leader.

Does your church have a visible GLOW tract rack display for members to utilize in sharing seeds of truth in their community? What a wonderful, simple way to say, “I believe in Jesus and want to share a special message of His truth with you today.” Jesus’ parable of the sower shows that even

KEEPING A FOCUS ON OUR

a small percentage of the seeds sown yields a harvest of souls for heaven. Sowing seeds of truth is something all of us can and should do as disciples of Jesus.

It’s also our desire to develop the Magabook program to include a growing number of students from our church schools and academies within in our conference territory in conjunction with an increased rate of annual sales. The goal of our Magabook ministry is to provide quality witnessing materials at the best possible prices and to provide students with opportunities and experiences that impact people’s lives and strengthen their own relationship with Christ, all while offering our youth a Christ-centered employment opportunity that can be a blessing to fund their Adventist education.

One of our goals was realized during this quinquennial term (2016-2020) in expanding our publishing ministry and the work of our dedicated full-time literature evangelists by adding a

20/20 VISION

FOR THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE

full-time field district leader as an associate director. We were thankful to realize this during the first few years of this term. However, after the associate chose to transfer to pastoral ministry, we made an administrative decision to not fill this vacant position. With the challenges of escalating health care costs and the COVID-19 crisis this year, we are at peace with our decision for the time being.

Of the 59 conferences in North America, we are one of only four conferences that has a strong team of literature evangelists. Let’s pray for these soldiers of the cross who are God’s boots on the ground as they continue to knock on doors and follow up on lead cards as they share our publications containing Heaven’s truth.

—Your Servant Leader,
Leslie Louis

Students Create Day Camp at Asheville-Pisgah Christian School

When COVID-19 derailed Jake Miller’s summer internship plans, he decided to use his experience to fill the need of childcare in his local Asheville community. A junior business major at Southern Adventist University and veteran staff member at Nosoca Pines Ranch, Miller called upon three camp friends, Caleb Raymond and Nicole and Katie Robinson, to help him launch a day camp at Asheville-Pisgah Christian School (APCS).



Photos contributed

Miller’s home church, Asheville Foster, donated funds to cover the insurance. They also partnered with Nosoca Pines Ranch

The camp opened on June 15, with about ten kids. The kids rotated through socially-distanced activities like worship, crafts, treasure hunts, and sports like kickball and dodgeball.

for worship resources and APCS pitched in with supplies.



All four staff members were volunteers, not only making no income, but some even paid out of pocket to provide materials.

“I’m so glad I’m working with people I can trust,” said Miller. — Natalie Boonstra

I was standing in the checkout line at my favorite international supermarket when I saw them. Large bags of jackfruit chips. They make jackfruit chips? You need to understand that jackfruit is one of my favorite tropical fruits in the whole world. Jackfruit chips! And they were on sale at a really good price.

No... wait a minute. At that price they've got to have added sugar and a ton of salt. They're probably junk. Too bad. Forget it. How disappointing.

Waiting in line longer than I had expected, my gaze fell back on the bags of jackfruit chips on the shelf. Why not? I have time to kill. I picked up a bag and read the ingredients: jackfruit and a hint of vegetable oil. That's it? No tons of salt? No added sugar? I was more than pleasantly surprised; I was excited. I bought a bag and I was not disappointed. They were really tasty and healthy to boot! What I had haphazardly labeled as junk food, upon closer inspection turned out to be a much higher-quality product. Imagine if I had not picked a bag off the shelf and taken time to read the ingredients.

I was reminded of John 9 where the man Jesus had healed of blindness was being grilled by the Pharisees. "This man is not from God," they conjectured, "for he does not keep the Sabbath." (vs. 16) At least He didn't keep it the way they thought it should be kept. The Pharisees had mislabeled Jesus.

Label: Not of God

Ingredients: God Himself!

Later in this pharisaical fiasco, as the formerly blind man tries to convince his accusers that they had mislabeled Jesus, they rail back at him: "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" (vs. 34) Then they threw him out. More mislabeling. Because he had been born blind, their convenient, haphazard theology pegged him as more sinful than themselves. In reality they knew very little about this man who had suffered blindness for years, but their assumptive label helped them justify casting him away.

How many times have I simply labeled people, rather than taking the time to read the ingredients of their

lives, to understand who they really are and what's made them who they are? How many times have I thought or said:

Democrats are all...

Republicans are all...

Muslims are all...

Catholics are all...

Liberal Adventists are all...

Conservative Adventists are all...

Whites are all...

Blacks are all...

Cops are all...

Vegans are all...

Assigning these labels allows me to shrug off spending time getting to know someone who I might not agree with or am too busy to minister to. Since I know what "those types of people" are like, I don't have to bother with them. They're disqualified from receiving my attention. Conveniently categorized, I can leave

Enter the Savior. John 9:35 says: "Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?'" Verse 38 then records the man responding, "Lord, I believe." The one whom the Pharisees had labeled and cast out, Jesus took the time to search for until he was found. And the categorized castaway found a meaningful, saving relationship with the One who tears off labels and reads the ingredients of the heart.

Thankfully, this story had a happy ending. And the beautiful thing is, with Jesus living in each of us through the Holy Spirit, we who have the eyes of God—to see past the labels—also have the ingredients of many more happy stories to come.

—Gary Moyer, VP of Administration
Scripture references are from the NIV.

Labels and Ingredients

them on a shelf somewhere, like I almost did with the jackfruit chips. And when I do, I miss the blessing.

The truth is, those Democrats, Republicans, Muslims, Catholics, etc. all have much more in common with me than I recognize—ingredients I can only find in the fine print. Their lives contain joys, fears, needs, strengths, weaknesses, talents...*just like me.*

Just like me they have been created in the image of God, yet marred by sin; loved by God, and the reason for his substitutionary death on Calvary. *Just like me* they need to be understood in meaningful, loving relationships. But when I slap a label on them, meaningful, loving relationships stay on the shelf.





THY WILL Be Done

Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting • May 30 - June 5, 2020

SPEAKERS:

Sun-Wed Evening Speaker: Michael Goetz

Thurs-Sab Evening Speaker: Mark Finley

8 am Speaker: Mark Witas

11 am Speaker: Pavel Goia

FOR RESERVATIONS AT LAKE JUNALUSKA,
CALL: **1-800-222-4930**

SEMINARS:

Health: Mark Sandoval

Family: Richie & Tamari Brower

Men's Ministry: John Earnhardt

Prayer: Rick and Cindy Mercer

Outreach: Gerald Babanezhad & Grant Agadjanian

Wellness: Teenie Finley

Singles Ministry: Dr. Jeffery Brown

Generous Living: Jeff Wilson

Food Preservation: Jan & Richard Garver

Designer Science-Creation: Loren & Scheryl Herbert



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MPA Begins the New Year



Photos by Abby King

Although the coronavirus is still present in the United States, Mount Pisgah Academy has prayerfully opened their doors for the 2020-2021 school year. High priority is being placed on the safety of MPA's students and faculty to promote a healthy school year. The administration team at MPA, with consultation from health authorities, worked prayerfully and thoughtfully through the summer to develop their plan. The plan was created with consideration of

the very real risks that exist in society today, while maintaining the values of education.

All students and staff members are wearing masks throughout the day,



unless outdoor social distancing is possible. Daily temperature checks and surveys are being conducted each morning before students are cleared for classes and work. Additionally, air filtration systems have been added to the classroom buildings, while also encouraging students to sanitize their desks and cafeteria tables after each use. MPA's teachers are also working tirelessly to ensure that all students—both in-person and distance learning—are receiving the instruction they need to excel in the future.

Despite these guidelines, MPA's students are still finding ways to have fun and enjoy social interaction with their peers. The Mount Pisgah Academy family is looking forward to the rest of a great school year and praying that these guidelines can soon be removed. If you are interested in reading more about their safety plan for the 2020-2021 school year, please visit www.pisgah.us/covid-19

—Abby King

STEM Program Expands @ MPA

Mount Pisgah Academy is known for being a technology-driven school. In 2012, they jumped on board with the Apple iPad program. Each student was given an iPad where they would read e-books, complete assignments, and turn in homework. Additionally, all buildings on campus were wired with fiber optics to increase internet quality. They also have a computer lab in the administration building, computers in the library, and desktops in each dormitory. In 2014, Louie Parra attended an EXCEED symposium at Loma Linda University to introduce the school to rockets as part of physical science classes. It was an introduction which led to exploring adaptable field for increasing their aptitude in STEM.

MPA is blessed to be given this opportunity and have the talent to expand

our STEM (Science, Technology, Electronics and Math) program. After receiving a \$10,000 STEM grant from Versacare and two matching grants, MPA's STEM classes officially started in 2018. The initial focus was coding, electronics, 3-D printing and robotics. When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, it was obvious students were not going to have a conventional school year. STEM has a very collaborative teaching structure, and with long distant learning they could not work in teams to complete the robotics assignment. Instead, each student was mailed a robot to build for the class and all students completed the assignment.

This year, the school expanded the STEM space to a larger classroom in Waller Hall. With this new space, they are adding networking and possibilities for circuitry and electronics.

Although they are still finalizing a few aspects, the classroom is almost ready to be used for instruction. The vision is to eventually add virtual reality and augmented reality. MPA will be again



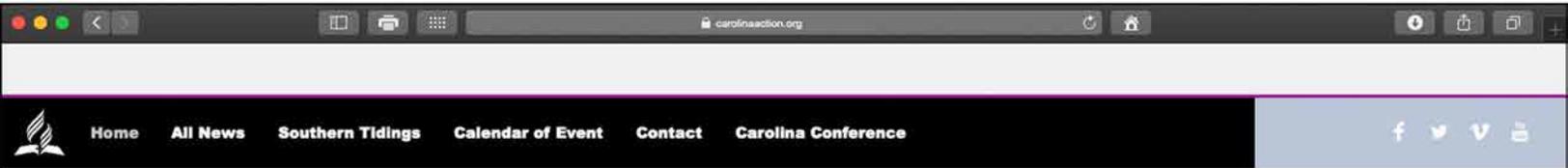
looking for future grants and donations to continue to expand these classes.

—Lucy Hall

NEW Carolina Action News Blog

MORE Timely News

Easier to share with family and friends!



ACTION

CAROLINA

Embracing the Carolinas with the Compassionate call of Christ.



Current News:

News



Check it out at:
carolinaaction.org

Carolina Obituaries

HAAS, BETTY JANE (TUM-LINSON), 94, born November 16, 1925, in Oakland, CA, died March 4, 2020, in Asheville, NC. She was married to the late Richard Warren Haas for 60 years, she worked as a nursing and public health educator for many years. She was member of Fletcher church. She's survived by one daughter, Judy Lynn Brauer (Marvin); one son, Richard Haas; two granddaughters, Cassandra Brauer Krause (Reed), and Sashenka Jessica Brauer (Alvaro Chauca); and one great-grandson.

SCHULEMAN, RICHARD JOHN, 92, born August 23, 1927, in Wilmette, IL, died April 13, 2020, in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher church. Richard attended Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) to study business. There he met

and married Juanita Berg. They were married for 70 years. He worked briefly in construction in Evanston, IL. When Juanita's father passed away, they moved to her parents' farm at Shabbona, IL, in 1951. They worked on the farm for 20 years. During that time they gave birth to two daughters. The family moved to another farm in Mendota, IL, which they owned and operated for 40 years. Richard and Juanita retired to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC, in 2011. He is survived by his loving wife, Juanita (Berg) Schuleman, of Hendersonville, NC; two daughters, Jeanette Gividen (Scott), of Dorchester, SC; Carol Scranton (Kenneth), of Bolingbrook, IL; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WHEELER, BETTY JANE, 91, born February 9, 1929, in Grafton, WV, died August 3, 2020, in Hendersonville, NC.

She was member of the Fletcher Church. Betty's was a life of service to her local church ministries, to her K-12 teaching career and students (in public and parochial schools) over a 30-year period in MI, NY, and SC. Betty started a K-8 multi-grade Adventist school in Aiken, SC, in 1986 and served as principal, then for several years as an administrative secretary. After retirement in 1998, Maynard and Betty joined the Collegedale Church, then moved in 2013 to the Fletcher Church. Betty is survived by four children: Robin Pratt (Perry), of NC; Marilee Jeffeaux (Bryan), of SC; Wendy Taylor (Mark), of GA; and Maynard Wheeler II (Kristi), of TN; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pastor Maynard Wheeler, in 2015.

Save *the* date

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ROMANCE @ THE RANCH

HISPANIC
19-21 FEB

Speaker: Eli Rojas Sr.

Annual Married
Couples' Retreat

at
NOSOCA PINES RANCH
Liberty Hill, SC

Speaker: Dr. Edgar Vyhmeister

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG

Carolina Conference Calendar

Subject to cancellations. See website for COVID-19 calendar updates.

OCTOBER

Virtual Evangelism Series with Steve Vail—Weekends in Oct. See our website for more information.

Virtual Pathfinder Camporee—23-25. See our website for more information.

NOVEMBER

Virtual Women's Retreat—6-8. See our website for more information.

Ministerial Spouses Retreat—13-15. NPR.

DECEMBER

Winter Magabook Program—13-Jan 7, 2021.

**Please visit our website for updates on whether COVID-19 will negatively affect these events.*

www.carolinasda.org.

The Carolina Action

Carolina Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists

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Charlotte, N.C. 28215-0043

Jesus Lives at Mount Pisgah Academy. He Lives Within Our Hearts!



MOUNT PISGAH ACADEMY

APPLY NOW FOR 2ND SEMESTER!

We are having an incredible first semester and we want you to join us for our second semester! We still have plenty of room for students who are interested in receiving in-person education in a Christian atmosphere. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we continue to offer our students whole-person instruction by focusing on the mental, social, physical, and spiritual elements of education. We would love to tell you more about our campus, so we encourage you to call or email us! We also encourage you to please view our website for more information about our school and our safety guidelines for the school year. See you soon!

75 Academy Drive, Candler, NC 28715 | www.pisgah.us | 828.667.2535 | abby.king@pisgah.us