

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter of the ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

SHREVEPORT ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OPENS

The final months of summertime saw a push to get ready as the Conference made preparation to open the doors of the new school in what was formerly the Adventist Book Center and most recently was being used by the Shreveport Spanish SDA church as a meeting place. The Spanish Church was finally able to close on a sanctuary of their own to meet in, and renovations began to get the school ready. A Teacher/Student Dedication Ceremony was held on September 3 and classes started on September 6, the day after Labor Day. We are grateful to have been blessed at the last hour with our teachers, Derrell Ezell and his wife, Delecia. We have eight students in grades K-8 and we are delighted to be a light in this community and a stronghold for Jesus as we prepare another generation to go forth boldly and light up the world in His name.



A lot of work went into moving all the books and shelves and curriculum and other supplies from the old school to the present location.

Thank you to all the staff and church members who helped to move, set up, and make the new facility ready! And thank you to our new teachers for their service and positive attitudes.



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SHREVEPORT SPANISH IS NOW BOSSIER CITY SPANISH

In a celebration of the new facility on the one hand, and several “new lives” in Jesus on the other, the Bossier City Spanish SDA Church held their dedication in their new church home on Sabbath, September 10th along with a number of baptisms. This marks a glorious beginning, with more activities, as well as more baptisms to look forward to in the near future. Thank you, Pastor Leonardo Melendez for all that you do! And thanks to all who participated. We anticipate many blessings for the days ahead.



Pastor Ronald Costa and wife, Patricia are installed in West Bank and New Orleans Spanish Churches.



JONES CREEK ADVENTIST ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW TEACHER



The Baton Rouge SDA Church and the Jones Creek Adventist Academy are thrilled to welcome Mr. Marcos Cruz Arellano to our church family and to the staff of JCAA! Mr. Cruz comes to us from Mayagüez, Puerto Rico where he received a B.A. in Theology from Antillian Adventist University. He is currently working on his Master's degree at Andrews University, has experience with tutoring and teaching on the high school level and describes himself as a creative teacher. Mr. Cruz attended the Arkansas-Louisiana 2022 Teacher Training at Ozark Adventist Academy along with his JCAA colleagues. Since that time, he has firmly established himself with his new Baton Rouge family and has already signed on to teach in the Adult Sabbath School class, participate in JCAA Friday devotionals and to bless us with a Sermon! As teacher for Grades 5-8, Mr. Cruz is looking forward to building relationships by engaging with the students, parents and other teachers. Welcome Marcos, we pray to be a blessing to you as you are to us!

Submitted by Tracy Francis, Communications, Baton Rouge

90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR AUBREY FAUTHEREE IN BATON ROUGE

On May 19, 1932 Aubrey Fautheree was born into a loving Christian home in Smackover, Arkansas and eventually made his way to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Aubrey continues to live a Christ centered life. Over the years, Mr. Aubrey has served our nation in the Army, worked as an Industrial Electrician by trade for power plants and other businesses and served our Savior at the Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years, over time, as Head Elder, Head Deacon, School Board Chair, and Sabbath School teacher. He has been a friend to all, with his fantastic memory serving him well. Friend Bill Wilson recounts a story of them sitting in Sabbath School talking to a lady who was a new believer and Mr. Aubrey mentioned her birthdate and year. The lady's eyes widened and she didn't know what to make of him having that knowledge. She learned that Mr. Aubrey has a memory unlike most people and he blesses others by reminding them of upcoming family member's birthdays and anniversaries.



Mr. Aubrey was given a 90th birthday party by his wife of 20 years, Joycelyn and their combined 5 children and more than 30 grandchildren and great grandchildren. The Baton Rouge church family and many friends were invited to help celebrate his special milestone.

Submitted by Tracy Francis, Communications, Baton Rouge



“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity”

(Proverbs 3:1-2)

Vacation Bible School

Around the Conference

Mountain View VBS: Jasper Canyon

The Mountain View SDA Church in Arkansas held the Jasper Canyon VBS program June 24-29. This was the first VBS program the church held in nearly 15 years, and the members knew it was far past time for it to happen. This church loves children, but finding a handful of people who could commit to a full week in the summer has been a real challenge. However, this year, the mere mention of VBS caused a good number of members to quickly volunteer. The program was a great success with VBS reaching 23 children, including some from the community. The VBS staff were very creative, with many enjoyable activities, and even the sharing of their rock collections by some. The children were quick students and memorized *1 John 4:7-8* by Wednesday, so they then they went on to memorize another verse, *2 Timothy 1:7*. On the final day, Sabbath morning, the VBS theme was continued into the worship service where the children and youth carried out the entire service, including a full report of their week. The children raised monies for the ADRA water kiosks for Mozambique and also picked up offerings on that Sabbath morning, raising an astonishing \$324.00!



The children loved it so much. They have been asking hopefully if we will have another VBS next summer! This was a wonderful way to share Jesus and His love with both the children of Adventist and other local families. Also, it has been a fantastic way to foster relationships between adults and children within the church. The church has been thinking of other ways to serve the children in the community with special events in addition to VBS in the near future.

~ Esther Doss, Mountain View



VBS Explores Jasper Canyon at Tontitown

The Tontitown Church Group held Jasper Canyon VBS July 18-24. The kids learned all about Noah, Abigail, Solomon, Ruth and Elijah at the Gemstone Mine (Story Station). At the Excavation Site (Prayer Station) they dug for gems and artifacts daily. Then on to the Artifacts Station (Craft Station) they made petroglyphs and mosaics. At the Testing Pit (Game Station) the Obstacle Course and Sniff-Sniff Rockhound were the favorite for everyone. After working through Jasper Canyon, everyone came back to the Picnic Station for treats. Over the course of the week the kids learned the Bedrock Verse, Romans 8:38-39. Ask the kids now and they will tell you "I dig it."

~ Monica Thames, Tontitown



"Camp Out" VBS at Slidell

The Slidell Church was so blessed for having a successful and fruitful Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year! The theme was 'Camp Out', and the church was entirely decorated in a camping theme. The kids not only enjoyed games and crafts but they also learned a lot about Jesus through Bible stories, memory verses and Bible songs. We had Angelina Jones as the VBS Leader, and she had several helpers to keep everything on track. On Friday night, everyone came together for Vespers with a bonfire! We are looking forward to next year and we hope to see you all again!

~ Vernella Rogers, Communications Secretary, Slidell



See you all
next summer!



You are invited to join us for a weekend of fun and learning through worship and activities.

**Don't forget to plan for the
2024 INTERNATIONAL
PATHFINDER CAMPOREE**



You can be part of one of the most exciting youth events around the world! The International Pathfinder Camporee is held every 5 years. It's an opportunity of a lifetime; sure to strengthen your relationship with God.

Over 50,000 Pathfinders from around 100 countries come to play, share, learn and worship together.

These events have become a leadership and spiritual right of passage for youth and adults. They have also become a gathering place for world leaders who understand the importance of this generation and their value to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Formerly, this event has been held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The venue has changed! But the spirit of the event remains strong.

Want to attend the next Camporee?

The dates for this International Pathfinder Camporee are August 5-11, 2024 in Gillette, Wyoming. We hope to see you there! For more information, visit this site:

<https://www.camporee.org/>

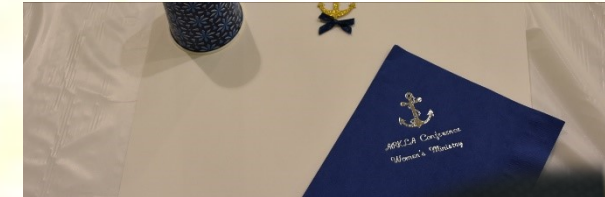


THE ANCHOR HOLDS—2022 WOMEN'S RETREAT

This past month, September 9-11, the Conference Women's Retreat was held in Texarkana. Lanette Bieber, who serves as both Prayer Ministries and Women's Ministries Director, coordinated the event with a lot of help from many wonderful ladies across our two states. It was a joint retreat with both English and Spanish members and friends in attendance. Leading out in the Spanish breakout sessions, was Letty Craig from the Southwestern Union Conference. Dr. Marjorie Belizaire presented to the English group. There was some overlap, of course, and a lot of wonderful, fun interaction during meals, prayer times, music, crafts and so much more. Morgan Martin blessed the meetings with music. We are very grateful to have been able to meet in person for this event and hope to be able to do so much more in the future!



A-nointing
N-oble
C-omforter
H-oly
O-mega
R-edeemer



THE ANCHOR HOLDS—2022 WOMEN'S RETREAT, CON'T...



Greater New Orleans Christian Academy had a Field Day!

... and more



Hand Chimes



Hand Bells



Ukelele Team



Robotics Team

Greater New Orleans Christian Academy has their first go at Lego Robotics.



Direct2U
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2022 Schedule

Eastern Oklahoma/NW Arkansas	October 10 - 12
Arkansas/East Texas	October 24 - 26
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	November 7 - 9
Dallas Route	November 14
Austin/San Antonio/Valley Route	November 28 - December 1
Houston Route	December 12 - 13



Gentry Spanish SDA has Church Dedication



SLIDELL CHURCH OLDEST MEMBER PASSES

Elsie Neyrey was born July 26, 1926, the second child to Joseph Neyrey and Susan Davidson Neyrey. She had one older brother, Joseph A Neyrey, Jr., who became an architect, and sadly he passed away in the late 1990s. Elsie passed away on July 19, 2022.

Elsie went on a blind date, set up by a friend, with Casper P. Gelbke, Jr. They dated and quickly became an item. Elsie went to work at Whitney Bank in the office. The War was moving along and Casper received his draft card. He was going to Dentistry School – but sadly he never was able to come back to it. He asked Elsie to marry him before he left for the war, July 7, 1943. They married at 19.

Elsie went to work for Higgins in the office. Higgins built boats for the war. When Casper finally came back – he could not keep his mind on his school work. So he tried selling things: insurance and several other things until he got a job at Jax Brewery. He made a wonderful salesman. Elsie and Casper became parents to their first child in 1950, a boy, Casper Phillip III, and before two years were up, another boy, Kenneth Joseph in 1952. A baby girl came a bit later in the end of 1958 – the girl they were waiting for, Susan.

Elsie started working outside the home again, at Scalfani's in the office. She always loved entertaining and cooking and having dinner parties, which she did often. When Casper, Sr. passed in 1991, 31 years ago – it devastated her. Depressed, she was able to get thru by making new friends and traveling – China, Alaska, Europe and Panama Canal. She was an excellent seamstress and even made all the bridesmaid dresses for a friend's wedding.

Elsie attended a Revelation Seminar at the New Orleans First Church in the late 1980's, and became a member. She would tell everyone about Jesus and his love. She later moved to the Northshore and joined the Slidell Church where she had her membership until her death. She held many offices in the church during her time there. She loved hosting the monthly Women's Ministry Prayer Breakfast. She always sent in articles for the Slidell monthly newsletter and as her health failed, and the Pandemic came along, she missed being able to attend church and see the members. She did get to come one last time to the Slidell Church's 50th Anniversary service in March 2022. She was so happy to be able to be with her church family on such a high day.

Elsie is predeceased by her parents, her husband and son Kenneth. Elsie leaves to mourn, one son, Casper Phillip, one daughter, Susan, in laws, grandson and many, many friends and church family members.



2022 Arkansas-Louisiana

TEEN PRAYER CONFERENCE

Camp
Yorktown Bay

Oct. 28-30

Registration fee:
\$65/person

TO REGISTER
SCAN HERE



EMPOWERED

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

- Ephesians 6:10



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are excited to announce that baby Whitley Elaine Craig was born August 14, 2022. She weighed 7 lbs 5 oz. Her proud parents are David and Brittany Craig and her two brothers are Wylds and Charlie. Brittany and baby are doing great. Welcome to the family, Whitley! (David Craig is our Youth Director at the Conference)

October 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Instituto Virtual Hispano de Evangelismo: Enoc Ramirez Module 3</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				GC: Annual Council Oct. 6-12		
9	10 	11 Pastoral Continuing Education	12	13	14	15
		GC: Annual Council Oct. 6-12		Adventurers Family Camp @ Camp Yorktown Bay		
16	17	18	19	20 9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting	21	22
Adventurers Family Camp @ CYB						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
NAD: Departmental Pre-meetings for Year End				Teen Prayer Conference		
				NAD: Year End Meetings (through Nov 2)		
30	31					
NAD: Year End Meetings (through Nov 2)						

November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		NAD: Year End Meetings				Instituto Virtual Hispano de Evangelismo: Ronald Costa Module 4	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
UNION: Year End Meetings		VOTE Week of Prayer			UNION: Executive Committee	VETERANS DAY	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
						Virtual Evangelism Training English Pastor Steve Brooks	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
K-10 / OAA Thanksgiving Break				Happy THANKS GIVING			
			Office Closed				
27	28	29	30				

2022 — EVENT LIST

FOR CHURCHES IN THE ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



OCTOBER (Children's Month & Pastor Appreciation Month)

- Oct 1 Instituto Virtual Hispano de Evangelismo, Module
- Oct 6-12 GC Annual Council
- Oct 10 Columbus Day
- Oct 11 Pastoral Continuing Education
- Oct 17 Boss's Day
- Oct 20 ARKLA Executive Committee
- Oct 28-30 Teen Prayer Conference at Camp Yorktown Bay "Empowered"

NOVEMBER

- Nov 5 Instituto Virtual Hispano de Evangelismo
- Nov 7-11 K-10 Week of Prayer
- Nov 19 Virtual Evangelism Training/English
- Nov 20-26 K-10/OAA Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 25-26 Conference Office Closed
- Nov 30 OAA Musical Festival begins (through Dec 3)

DECEMBER

- Dec 1-3 OAA Musical Festival
- Dec 8 ARKLA Conference Executive Committee
- Dec 21-Jan 8 K-10/OAA Christmas Break
- Dec 25-31 Conference Office Closed for the Holidays

CONFERENCE HOURS

Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays. Our office workers do put in full-time hours; and the officers and department directors are often on the road serving our churches and communities over the weekend. So, if you can't reach us during our normal working hours, please leave us a message, or email us at: info@arklac.org We will continue to keep all of you in prayer. (We meet for worship daily, so let us know if you have special needs and we will add you to our prayer list.) God bless you all!



Celebrating 90 years (1932-2022)

The newsletter is also available for viewing on our website.

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of SDA

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www.arklacsda.org

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