



THE CONNECTION

Keeping You Connected with the Capitol City Church Family!

A Quarterly Newsletter published by the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church

Vol. 1, Issue 1 — Spring 2015

Taking Sacramento For the KING!

Pastor Damian Chandler—Up Close and Personal

By Melody Germany-Wilson

On January 10, 2015, the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed its new pastoral family, Pastor Damian Chandler and first lady Tanzy Chandler. Excitement was in the air as we anticipated their arrival. Dr. Marc Woodson, Executive Secretary, and Dr. Leon Brown, Sr., Coordinator/Director of African-American Ministries, represented the Northern California Conference in an official ceremony as Pastor Chandler was installed as Senior Pastor. The morning's message was clear and poignant declaring that from the back door to the pulpit, we are all "Messed Up!" It was truly a high day in the Lord!



Dr. Marc Woodson, Executive Secretary, Northern California Conference

PHOTO CREDIT: STACEY DIROSSETT



Dr. Leon Brown, Sr., Coordinator/Director of African-American Ministries, Northern California Conference with Pastor Damian Chandler, wife Tanzy, and children: Zoe, Salem, and Levi.

PHOTO CREDIT: STACEY DIROSSETT

THE MAN

We have had an opportunity to read his resume, see some of his accolades and even read about his academia, but, "Who is Damian Chandler?," one might ask. Well, he's much more than his resume can pronounce on a page or two. You see, he is the "son" of Grace and Rupert Chandler, "brother" of Danica Chandler, "husband" of Tanzy Chandler, "father/daddy" of Zoe, Salem and Levi, and he is the Senior Pastor of the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist church, right here in Sacramento, California! More importantly, Damian Chandler is a man of God, a worshiper, and an encourager of God's people because, **He wants "you" to be the best "you" God desires you to be!**

As a child growing up, he knew he had the love of God in his heart and an increasing affection for the Word of God! This was confirmed at the young age of 16 when he realized God's calling on his life to minister to God's people. He had a yearning to be close to God. **"JESUS IS A PART OF MY FABRIC,"** he says — "It is simply a part of who I am."

A WORSHIPER

Damian Chandler truly embodies the worship experience! He is a lover of music, which is evidenced in his talents and gifts through composing, arranging, directing choirs and leading in praise and worship par excellence! He can be heard from Sabbath to Sabbath singing praises to God prior to the spoken Word, engaging the believers to join in and become a part of the worship experience.



"Worship is a COMPLETE GIVING UP OF YOURSELF and requires two things — YOUR presence and GOD'S presence!"

As the spirit moves, he moves and the musicians follow; hence the emergence of a powerful praise is poured out from a grateful heart with unlimited worship to the King of kings! "Worship", he says, "is a **COMPLETE GIVING UP OF YOURSELF,**" and requires two things — "YOUR presence and **GOD'S presence!**"

MINISTRY

Jeremiah 20:9 articulates it best, **"but his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones..."** "I've never been too ashamed to run to Him," Pastor says. "I am a product of daily life, not so much the ministry" as it were. Ministry is not merely a word that is used, but rather

continued on page 2

Taking Sacramento For the KING!

Pastor Damian Chandler—Up Close and Personal
continued from page 1

an action - an opportunity to transform and impact lives through the “SIMPLE WORD” of God!” You see, “WHEN YOU WALK WITH GOD, MINISTRY HAPPENS.” “In fact,” Pastor Chandler believes, “we are all ministers.” He says it’s not just pulpit ministry but rather what God says to him personally. “I’m not pointing the finger at other’s but it is poured out of a personal experience with God! He is passionate about ministering for the cause of Christ, for the building up of the Kingdom of God, for the salvation of mankind, not just in our church here at Capitol City but for the city of Sacramento. He has been known to stop in the midst of a service to pray for someone in need. He is caring, personal, and intentional in his ministry and in everyday life. In order for us to do this we must be connected to the source, Jesus Christ. You see one of the lessons we learned is about Intercession. Intercession is intervening on behalf of someone else. This takes work, it requires grappling, continuous, passionate, outside of yourself kind of love. When was the last time you were intentional about intercessory prayer for someone else? That’s real ministry!

HIS PASSION

It has been said that gifts, talents and strengths are evident when others can also witness the same. You can see the passion he has for his family. You can even see the passion he has for the believers and membership at Capitol.



PHOTO CREDIT: STACEY DIROSSETT



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Rupert and Grace Chandler with their daughter, Danica Chandler, and their son, Pastor Damian Chandler and family.

However, when asked, what he was most passionate about, his answer was simply — “Jesus Christ is my passion.” How fitting, then, that he is an instrument in the hands of this Jesus to help transform lives for mature discipleship, which stems from a daily walk with Christ. He calls it “developing an intentional life change.” He desires to be available for the “everyday life events” of his membership — from birth to marriage and all else in between.

During divine worship service on any given Sabbath you will hear Pastor Chandler declaring, “Let’s Take Sacramento for the King!” What do you say church family? Are you ready church? “Lets Go!” At Wednesday night Prayer Meeting, you can witness his passion for the Word of God! And yes, even on Facebook, his daily posts are a testament to the goodness of God through everyday living! He ends his testimony of God’s mercy and grace through his daily encounters with “#SimpleLife!” We find that God has wrapped himself up in everyday life. “We fight against God’s desire to be known.” Clarity...simplicity. The revelation of God is not hard to understand. “WE MAKE IT DIFFICULT, GOD MAKES IT SIMPLE.”

Finally, Pastor Chandler says this, “THE GENIUS OF GOD IS DEPOSITED IN THE SIMPLE THINGS!” and he further declares, We Will “TAKE SACRAMENTO FOR THE KING!” You better believe it!

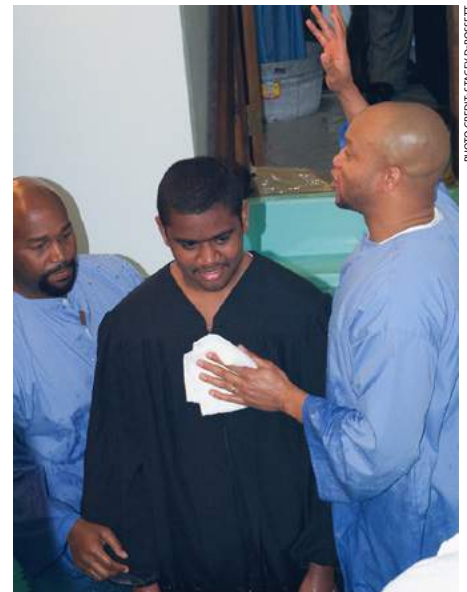


PHOTO CREDIT: STACEY DIROSSETT

Pastor Trevor Barnes and Pastor Damian Chandler baptize new member Sosi Tuibua.

We here at Capitol City are grateful for the blessings God has bestowed on us in bringing Pastor Damian Chandler! Truly he is God’s man for this season in the city of Sacramento. Ride on, KING Jesus! For we are preparing to “Take Sacramento for the King!” We partner together with God’s manservant Pastor Chandler, as he is lead by the Holy Spirit to finish the work God has set before him. We desire to work together; side by side in preparation of God’s soon return to take us home to live and worship Him throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. ■

The Importance of Sabbath School

Written by Kathy Whiteside for the Sabbath School Department

“*Ring-a-ling-a-ling Sabbath bells are ringing; Ring-a-ling-a-ling children sweetly singing,*” was one of the songs from my childhood that still fills my heart with joy. As a child Sabbath school was a special place for me. I fondly recall singing my little heart out, proudly reciting my memory verse, gently placing felt cut outs on the board depicting various bible scenes, listening intently to these stories. Bible stories that provided life lessons, laying a solid foundation for my moral compass that consistently sees me through my daily encounters.

Christ gave wonderful lessons. Whenever he would visit with Mary, Martha and Lazarus he would take the time to sit and talk with them. We know of one such occasion as told in Luke 10: 38-42. Martha was busy providing for the comfort of her guests (a needed gift) while Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus. This perplexed Martha and she went to Jesus saying, “Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. Jesus answered her, “Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things;

but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken from her.” We should never neglect an opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear his word for our lives. When we neglect Sabbath School we miss just such an opportunity.

Sabbath School is designed to provide interactive teaching and learning of God’s word for adults, youth, teens, and children. The Bible is the foundation of our knowledge, and this knowledge is power. The end goal of Sabbath School is to prepare every member to be a disciple for Christ. Matthew 28:19-20 “*Go...teach... preach and make disciples; a disciple is one who learns and then lives up to what was learned.*”

“*The Sabbath School offers an opportunity to do just that, as it gives us a time of real study and Christian development as we seek to live as Jesus would have us live.*” (NEC Beulah Plunkett)

Time in Sabbath School strengthens our moral compass and equips us for daily life. ■

THE CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR

Beverly McGhee
Communications Leader

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Giwanía Banta
Elsie Baptiste
Pastor Trevor Barnes, Jr.
Pastor Damian Chandler
Melody Germany-Wilson
Dorothea Simmons
Kathy Whiteside

COLUMNS & FEATURES

Allana Chamber
Michaela Herbert
Carol Herbert

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jean Doyle
Darryl White

PHOTOGRAPHY

Stacey DeRossett

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Beverly McGhee

This newsletter is available on our church website:

www.capitolcitysda.org

If you have problems finding it, please call 916.635.7317

For Announcements, email:
announcements@capitolcitysda.org

To submit a item for newsletter, email:
communications.leader@capitolcitysda.org
or call 916.635.7317

Deadline to submit articles for the next issue - 2nd Quarter, Summer 2015:
June 1, 2015



6701 Lemon Hill Avenue
P.O. Box 245156
Sacramento, CA 95824
916.381.5353
Fax 916.381.3428
www.capitolcitysda.org

Did you Know ...

The 2015 weekly Adult Sabbath School Quarterly is available online. To view, download, and/or print a copy, visit the **Adult Bible Study Guide website** at <http://absg.adventist.org/standard.htm>



The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has a Sabbath School and Personal Ministries website where Sabbath School Teachers, parents or kids can get Sabbath School lessons, podcasts and other Bible resources. They also have for **Sabbath School lessons on PowerPoint for children ages 10-14**. What a great resource this could be for our church family! Visit their website today at <http://www.juniowerpowerpoints.org/>



2015 Conference Highlights

By Dr. Ella Tolliver

God calls upon every Christian—pastor and layperson, male and female, old and young, to employ their gifts, talents, and influence to lead others into the Kingdom of God. God equips every member with certain spiritual gifts, enabling them to build up or edify other believers so they can perform the soul-saving mission of the church.

With this premise in mind the Capitol City SDA Church in Sacramento planned and coordinated their first **LeaderShape Conference**. This event was the vision of our newly installed Pastor Damian Chandler, Senior Pastor of Capitol City Church. The weekend experience was held March 6-8, 2015. The event began on Friday, March 6th, with a powerful message on “*The Leader’s Character*” presented by Dr. Jesse Wilson, Associate Professor of Religion at Oakwood University, Director of PLEC. He served as the keynote speaker for the weekend. On Sabbath, Dr. Jesse Wilson delivered a powerful sermon to empower individuals to follow the biblical model of leadership.

After a healthy and delectable lunch prepared by the Church’s Hospitality team under the direction of Serita & Andrae Katz; over 150 members and visitors were able to relax as they viewed a video entitled “*The Creation: The Earth is a Witness*.” A panel discussion followed with Dr. Emil Peeler,



Dr. Jesse Wilson, Friday night speaker.

as the Facilitator, as he raised challenging questions to the presenters and guest Dr. Leon Brown, Sr., Coordinator/Director of the NCC African American Ministries/ Inner-City Department.

Attendees were able to select 2 seminars to attend on the following thought-provoking topics: **Leading Worship** by Pastor Damian Chandler, Senior Pastor of Capitol City Church; **Pursuing Excellence in Leadership** by Dr. Jesse Wilson, Associate Professor of Religion at Oakwood University, Director of PLEC; **Building Effective Ministry Teams** by Dr. Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr., Founding Pastor of Center of Praise Ministries, Church Growth and Leadership Connection in Sacramento; **Organizing for Success** by Brenda (Darcel) Lee, the Executive Director of the California Black Health Network; **Elders/Deacons/Deaconess & Spiritual Leadership** by Dr. Emil Peeler, Associate Professor of Religion at Loma Linda University and Director of Church Growth and Leadership at the Capitol City SDA Church; and, **The Leader’s Call to the Community** by Pastor Trevor Barnes, Jr., Associate Pastor and Pastor of Administration at Capitol City SDA Church. Presenters were well versed on their topic and provided cutting edge insight and materials to empower leaders and laity



Pastor Damian Chandler, Senior Pastor, receiving prayer of dedication from pastoral staff and elders board.



Dr. Jesse Wilson, keynote speaker for the LeaderShape Weekend.



(left to right) Dr. Jesse Wilson, Pastor Damian Chandler, and Dr. Leon Brown, Sr.



Sabbath Afternoon Panelists: (left to right) Pastor Trevor Barnes, Jr., Dr. Jesse Wilson, Pastor Damian Chandler, Dr. Leon Brown, Sr., Brenda (Darcel) Lee and Dr. Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr.



Dr. Emil Peeler, Panel Facilitator

for greater success in their leadership roles.

As members enjoyed the afternoon training, the children were also engaged in LeaderShape training through our Children's Ministry Department under the guidance of Jermaine Erby, Children's Ministry Leader and a local Educator, along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

A candlelight dedication service culminated the evening's program. At this service, Pastors and Elders anointed the hands and head of each attendee. This was a powerful reminder that we should not take our office and service lightly, but rather "...do all to the glory of God." Each attendee received a commitment form that challenges and reminds them about their commitment to



Dr. Emil Peeler and wife, Brenda, accept the call to join the Pastoral staff as Director of Church Growth & Leadership.



Panelists: Brenda (Darcel) Lee and Dr. Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr. respond to some of the thought provoking questions.



Pastoral staff and elders anointed all who attended the Commitment to Discipleship service on Saturday evening.



Pastoral Chandler discussed Commitment to Discipleship with Dr. Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr.



Conference attendees listen to Dr. Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr.'s seminar on "Building Effective Ministry Teams."

God, their church and each other to serve in example, thought, word and deed. All left with Ephesians 5:1 on their heart to: "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children." NLT

The entire weekend response and spiritual emphasis was amazing. All left inspired and with cutting edge tools for application, change and spiritual growth. Some of the comments stated: "classes were great; but I wanted more time"; "very, very helpful, continue to do this"; "the conference was very influential and encouraging as a ministry leader"; "more time it was challenging to attend and having to choose only two seminars." All who attended stated they would return again. The Planning Committee is already putting plans in place to make this an annual event!

Leadership is about the responsibility entrusted to every member to employ his or her spiritual gifts, talents, and influence. However, training is an essential component for success in these last days. Our united efforts as pastors, administrators, and laity are truly our greatest asset today, tomorrow and the future. As trained leaders, we have the potential and vision for developing effective ministries in light of God's commission. Together, we can hasten God's return! ■



Pastor Chandler addresses church ministry leaders and team members at Sunday morning LeaderShape session.



Members enjoy breakfast, fellowship and discuss strategies.



Hospitality Ministry leader prepared a delicious and healthy breakfast for those who attended the Sunday session.



Attendees greet one another and look forward to getting their ministries moving forward.



LeaderShape Conference attendees being blessed by the efforts of all of those who participated in the weekend events.

Senior Spotlight

Sis. Ethel Lewis

By Dorothea Simmons

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

"I was born in Canute, Oklahoma on January 26, 1928. I was the last of nine children. My sister Anna Paul and I were the only two born in Oklahoma. All my other siblings were born in Texas. When my family lived in Texas, my father was falsely accused of a crime. Although the man he worked for spoke up for him saying my father didn't do it, the police were still threatening to kill him. My father decided to move the family in the middle of the night. Back then, they didn't have electricity, so my mother got a large sheet and placed it in the middle of the floor, gathering all she could in the dark, and placed it on the sheet. She picked up the four corners of the sheet and carrying what they could, my family boarded the train and headed for Oklahoma, where my aunt lived. The only thing that saved my father was God and the man he worked for."

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES?

"My mom was a fascinating woman, with only a fifth grade education, she could recite poetry beautifully. I remember her quoting poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar, "In the Morning" and other Dunbar poems. She always hummed "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Until this day, that has been my favorite song. Mom would tell me, "no ones better than you, and you are no better than anyone else." I can remember God saving me from death many times. I loved playing sports: basketball, softball, and playing jacks with my sister—back then we used rocks."

WHAT TYPES OF JOBS HAVE YOU HAD?

"I worked in the fields picking fruit, grapes, plums, oranges, and cotton, but I wasn't good at it. When I was 15, my sister-in-law and I worked at the Ice Cream Parlor. I would sit my nieces and nephews up on the counter and give them ice cream. When the supervisor found out,



Sister Ethel Lewis at age 26.

I was let go. My sister-in-law said, "if they are going to let you go, she was going too." We both lost our jobs. I felt I should have been let go and not her. I worked as a maid and also provided childcare services. I worked for Sears and Montgomery Ward, the Cannery, and also worked for the Post Office, I had to be there at 6:00 in the morning, not coming or pulling up, but in my place ready to work."

WHICH MINISTRIES HAVE YOU WORKED?

"Youth Leader, Choir, Bible Study Teacher, Mission Worker, Visitation team, Deaconess Co-Leader and Community Services."

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

"I love to write poetry and songs. I think that's from my mother always quoting Dunbar and humming songs. One of my poems is published, "There's a Song in My Heart." I just love to write. I once sent in a song I wrote to James Cleveland. He wrote back saying he liked it and could put music to my song, but it would cost \$250. He might as well said \$1,000. I wasn't able to do it, but I still have the letter. He is one of my favorite singers."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?

"My favorite Bible verse is, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16"

ANY WORDS OF WISDOM TO SHARE?

- Never take life for granted, be thankful for each day you live.
- No one's better than you, and you are no better than anyone else.
- Jesus went to the cross for everybody.

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN ADVENTIST?

"I was baptized three times. I was raised and baptized into the Church of Christ. When I was 19 years old, I became a Baptist. I was there fifty years. I sang in the choir and was a youth leader, a bible study teacher and mission worker. When my eldest son Everett starting dating his wife Emily, they were going along and when things got serious, Emily told my son, if they got married, she would want to raise the kids Adventist. Everett hit the ceiling, 'my mom's a Baptist; we're not raising my kids Adventist.' After a while, Emily got Everett to settle down and he started taking bible studies. He decided that Adventism



THERE'S A SONG IN MY HEART

*There's a song in my heart that's just waiting
To be sung with the sweetest of care
Our Savior His love eyes keep watching
If this song in our hearts we will share*

*Our life each day is like a special song
Sometimes it's so sunny and bright
Then dark clouds roll by and leave us all alone
Then it's hard for us to get through the night*

*This song in my heart is overflowing
The words I can't seem to recall
An echo of love words I keep hearing
Saying peace and goodwill to us all*

*While you have this chance sing your special song
Never keep a sad note in your heart
Sing of love, sing of praise, sing of everyone
So the song in your heart will be heard*

*By Ethel L. Lewis
Anthology of Contemporary Poetry, 1988*

was the way to go. Then they started working on me—I was still Baptist. They would call me at three and four o'clock in the morning—crying for me to take studies. I finally said ok, just to get them to stop. They were serious. They called over to Market Street Church in Oakland. Pastor Wells came by my house to meet me and let me know he couldn't give me bible studies, because he had an appointment out of town, but Elder Nembhard would."

"I called my Baptist minister and said I'd like you to be here when this Seventh-day Adventist comes to give me bible studies, so you two can talk. I wanted him to say why he attends church on Sunday and Elder Nembhard to explain why he attends church on Saturday. But instead, my pastor gave me scriptures to give to Elder Nembhard, and he left it like that. It dampened my spirit a little. I knew he didn't know how to drive, but I felt my pastor should have been able to find a way to get to my house and take up for me—fight for me as a member of the Baptist

"Once my youngest son, Ronald, came home on leave for a visit and heard Elder Nembhard giving me studies. Afterwards, my son asked who that man was. I said he was from the Adventist Church. Ronald told me that when he got home to Washington, he was going to find an Adventist Church so they could give him bible studies. He was baptized March 31, 1979. "

"My husband, Edward, told me his mother became a Seventh-day Adventist before she died and he had twin brothers that went to Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and he would send money to them. But he wasn't practicing being an Adventist, so I was not interested in becoming one. You can't persuade me to do something you're not interested in doing. After my studies Edward became an Adventist. He passed away on June 24, 1997."

"I became a baptized member of the Market Street Seventh-day Adventist Church on March 1, 1979. We moved to Sacramento in 1989 and became



Celebrating 80th Birthday with children: Debravon Lewis-Miller, Ronald Lewis, Everett Myers, and Brenda Myers-Love.

church. I gave the scriptures to Elder Nembhard, and he sat down with me and explained every one of the scriptures so beautiful and clear, that I could not miss the meaning. So from then on I was hungry for knowledge. I took bible studies from Elder Nembhard for ten months."

members of Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have been an Adventist for 36 years and loving every minute of it."

Sister Lewis has 10 grandchildren, 13 great grand, 2 great-great grand... soon will be three. ■

E.G. WHITE ON . . .

True Education A Missionary Training

Provided by Giwania Banta

Excerpt taken from "MINISTRY OF HEALING," *Happiness Digest Series*, pages 166-169

"True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellowman; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education... Let the youth be impressed with the thought that they are not their own, they belong to Christ. They are the purchase of His blood, the claim of His love. They live because He keeps them by His power. Their time, their strength, their capabilities are His, to be developed, to be trained, to be used for Him... The highest of all sciences is the science of soul saving. The greatest work to which human beings can aspire is the work of winning men from sin to holiness. For the accomplishment of this work a broad foundation must be laid. A comprehensive education is needed... Something more is called for than the culture of the intellect. Education is not complete unless the body, the mind and the heart are equally educated. It is a duty to cultivate and to exercise every power that will render us more efficient workers for God... Every child and every youth should have a knowledge of himself. He should understand the physical habitation that God has given him and the laws by which it is kept in health... And, as they learn, let them impart their knowledge. It is thus that their minds will acquire discipline and power. It is the use they make of knowledge that determines the value of their education. To spend a long time in study with no effort to impart what is gained often proves a hindrance rather than a help to real development... Whatever his calling he is to be both a learner and a teacher as long as life shall last..." ■

INTERNATIONAL DAY

The Celebration & Parade of Nations - Feb 28th



Written by Carol Herbert, Program Coordinator



INTERNATIONAL DAY is a major day of the "Celebration of Nations" at our church. This is the day that all nations who worship in our congregation, including our guests, get to display their cultural food, wear their native garments and parade with their countries' flags. This year we had twenty countries participating in the **Parade of Nations**. Following Divine worship, we had a taste of the special dishes from twenty countries. What a beautiful sight it was as we watched all Nations parade to the song, "Love in any Language." Praise God for our Nations!

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS By Stacey DeRossett

Friday Night Fusion

By Michaela Herbert

Friday Night Fusion is an evening worship. We decided to start this program because during the winter months, the sun sets early and there is really nothing to do on Friday Night. So we thought it would be fun to have a little get together with friends for fellowship and bible study. We would go to different church members' homes each time, bring snacks and drinks and discuss various topics. Some of the topics we discussed were prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. We will soon be announcing spring/summer events. Fusion will return in the fall.

For more information about other youth events, contact Allana Chambers.



Event Calendar

APRIL:

Reconnecting Ministry

Breakfast Meet & Greet..... April 4

Miracle Sabbath..... April 4

Holy Communion April 11

MAY:

Women's ConferenceMay 1-3

JUNE:

Men's Conference June 5-7

For more information, check the weekly bulletin or visit the church website.