



# SACA NEWS

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## WHERE'S EVERYBODY GOING?

It seems we live in the generation of "trends." With so much information about generational differences, cultural engagement, and the latest church growth strategy, it can all begin to become white noise and we are tempted to ignore it all. But one of the recent phenomena of our era relating to church attendance and involvement is the number of folks who align with our churches, but whose attendance at our weekly worship services can be described as spotty at best. They have not left the church, they just do not seem to prioritize this gathering.

We do live in a time of a lot of angry voices directed at the church. The number of folks deconstructing their faith has exploded in recent years. Deconstructing faith has been described by Brian Zahnd in his book *When Everything Catches Fire*, as "a crisis of Christian faith that leads to either a reevaluation of Christianity or sometimes a total abandonment of Christianity." Deconstruction of faith often leads to what is called deconversion, or walking away from faith entirely, but they are not synonymous. Deconstruction is driven by many diverse issues such as disillusionment and distrust of institutional structures, burn-out of the hyper committed, and over emphasis on political activism over gospel focused ministry.

Another group leaving the church are called "exvangelicals." As the name

## Ministry Happenings . . .

A new Advent Christian church plant, in the Southern Region, **Redemption Community Church**, will be launching April, 2024. Rev. Dan Karl is the church planter. The church is located on Hwy. 42, Clayton, NC. Check out information regarding the church plant by clicking here:

[Redemption Community Church](#)



## LIMITLESS FAITH 2024—CAMP DIXIE

Dear Camp Supporter,

As you probably already know, Camp Dixie is an impactful and exciting place for adults and children in our community. Camp Dixie helps people of all ages grow in their faith and make memories to last a lifetime. Over the years, this ministry has blessed countless lives and communities. We are passionate about providing this experience and want to upgrade this experience to children with unique needs and abilities.

We are in the process of developing a new camp program to provide more opportunities for children with special needs to have a wonderful camp experience. Our vision is to offer a weekend retreat in May of 2024 for children ages 7-12 who meet our qualifications for this modified camp program.

Each camper would have a one on one volunteer or family member in attendance. A family can opt for a trained volunteer to accompany their child for the weekend. Our goal is to provide this as a blessing to families with special needs children at little to no cost to them. For this reason, we are seeking your prayerful support and generosity.

Our fundraising goal for this coming year is for every participant in the retreat to be sponsored at \$96 per person, which would include a maximum of 50 campers, their volunteers, and the staff needed to meet the needs of a modified camp weekend. We would like to begin publicizing to the community in January to get the word out and build excitement.



If you, your organization, or your church community feel led to help us meet our goal, please send donations to Camp Dixie PO Box 288 St. Pauls, NC 28384 attention 'Limitless Faith Retreat.' Thank you so much for your continued support of Camp Dixie and our efforts to be "A place where faith and community grow."

Sincerely,  
**Faith Seamon**  
 (910)-431-5833

### SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting.

Registration information will be available soon.

#### SACA Triennial Convention 2024

**April 23-25, 2024 - Dowling Park, Florida**

#### "PRESSING ON TOWARD THE GOAL"

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



suggests, this is a reactionary group defined more by the rejection of traditional evangelicalism as tainted than by the actual embracing of a particular mindset or structure of beliefs.

But that brings us to the group that is even more puzzling, the sporadic attender. They completely identify with your church, they just rarely attend, or at least are very inconsistent in their participation. Why are they so unreliable? Why are they staying away? Church consultant Cary Nieuwhof says the problem is “indifference. Many people didn't leave your church, they just aren't coming.” The problem with indifference is that it is neither hot nor cold, not driven by hate nor love, in fact is isn't driven at all. It listlessly meanders. I am reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, <sup>15</sup> *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!* <sup>16</sup> *So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*” (Revelation 3:15-16)

What is the answer to indifference? Passion! Helping our people renew their passion for the mission of the church, rather than our methods. Nieuwhof also said, “moving from a church that simply gathers to a church that equips and sends can renew a congregation’s passion.” May the Lord guide us in a renewal that drives us to deepen our passion for His Word and how we can impact our communities with the lifechanging message of the gospel.

Rev. Joe Pritchett

**Ministry Happenings . . . (continued from page 1)**



The Julius Parker Memorial Golf Tournament  
 “The Pastors”  
**April 26-27, 2024**  
**Augusta, Georgia**  
**Contact Brent Ross at:**  
**678-234-5838 to register**  
**(\$75 total - Tee off Fri. at NOON)**  
*Augusta Municipal Golf Course*

**United AC Church, Wilmington, NC,** Over the course of the next couple of months the church is working on the first phase of a Community Garden which will provide a much needed resource to many of the apartment dwellers in the immediate area around the church.



**GEORGIA CONFERENCE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING**

139th annual meeting of the **Georgia Conference of Advent Christian Churches** was held Friday, January 26th and Saturday, January 27th at Holton Chapel Advent Christian Church, Soperton, GA.

Officers were elected:

- J. Brent Ross-President
- Nate Dean-Vice President
- Clint Hutcheson-Secretary
- Brent Ross-Treasurer



Georgia Conference officers and ministers following their installation service.  
 (photo credit: Leslie Burke)



Rev. Joe Pritchett, Southern Region Superintendent; Rev. J. Brent Ross, GA Conference President

# SACA

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## Coming Events...

February 22-25	Big Ski, Beckley, WV
February 24	ENC Conference Annual Meeting, Lee's Chapel, Four Oaks, NC
March 9	South Carolina Conference Annual Meeting, Ridgland, SC
March 23	Florida Conference Annual Meeting, Dowling Park, FL
March 31	Advent Christian Village Sunday
April 23-25	SACA Triennial Meeting, Dowling Park, FL

### **Philippians 1:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.