

AEC Youth Ministries Constituency Report 2008

The Youth Ministries Department of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists to promote, empower, encourage, reach and facilitate youth programs and activities. Our goal is to motivate the leaders of tomorrow, hastening the Second coming of Jesus Christ through the promotion of the spiritual gifts among God's youth.

Youth Ministries in Allegheny East Conference carries an extensive portfolio for serving our youth. We serve constituents from birth to age 35 & above. We accomplish this monumental task through such organizations and activities as:

- Adventist Youth Society (AYS)
- Adventurers
- Children's Ministries
- Eager Beavers
- Little Lambs
- Pathfinders
- The National Serviceman's Organization (NSO)
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Youth Federations
- Young Adult Ministries
- Camp Davis

Each February the annual **African and African-American History Bee** is held in conjunction with Black History Month. It represents our determined efforts to enhance the African-American's accurate knowledge of their rich heritage and proud history. This ministry has continued to challenge, educate and enrich the lives of both youth and adults as they view God's anointing upon this event.

YOUTH GAMES

When spring arrives, the youth doff their winter blues and rally for the AEC Annual Youth Games. As many as 3,500 spectators usually attend. They cheer the participants in every event. Track and field events, of course, are the great favorites. Yet each year the Annual AEC Youth Games adds a new special competitive event which stirs great interest. This helps to assure the success of the event,

Our youth have responded to the Prince Georges Sports Complex as the site of our youth games with tremendous attendance. Our attendance counting both participants and spectators has hit the 4000 plus mark and growing. In fact we have grown to the place where we have had to rent an additional facility, Prince George's Community College. We are looking forward to expanding our events to include swimming and possibly gymnastics in the future. Despite the present difficulties this ministry has encountered, we look forward to this ministry assisting in the growth of our youth as we make the necessary changes to make this program flourish again.

MINI YOUTH CONGRESS / Federations

The City of Atlanta was targeted by our youth as an area to enrich with Gospel Fire. With more than 4000 delegates and hundreds of youth from the across the nation attended the United

Youth Congress at the Atlanta Convention Center, held April 23-26, 2006. Themed "No More Chains," the Congress's main purpose over the four-day event, was to facilitate community outreach and provide spiritually, physically, mentally, and financially enriched programs for all participants. To say that the congress was a success would be an understatement. The youth who attended the seminars, and who did outreach ministries went back to their churches on fire to share Christ to their community. They prayed. They knocked on doors. They visited the sick. They held rallies; all because of Christ and the challenge He gave us. To the thousands in the city of Atlanta it was truly a blessing that we were there, I extend thanks to the Allegheny East Conference and the youth of the conferences and from across the nation for making it the success that God would have ordained it to be.

ALLEGHENY EAST CAMP MEETING

The first Friday night of each yearly Camp Meeting brings the talented, spirit filled youth to the Youth Pavilion to hear preaching by their peers. Astonishing results have made this event a great favorite at the annual AEC Camp Meetings.

Who can look at a teenage boy or girl, or even younger children, and predict which ones may become faithful pastors or dynamic evangelist? We never can tell. Virtual reality here doesn't work. How much wiser it is to allow for real life training exercises, in real time, at Camp Meeting!

This is the "Train Them Now" philosophy sparking "New Blood Preach-Out!" It has brought many Spirit-filled messages from the lips of youths who clearly have a love for Christ irradiating in their hearts.

Youth Ministries is responsible for coordinating services and activities for the Senior Youth, Young Adult, Teen and Junior Youth tents as well as all 5 areas of the Children's Division. The Lord has blessed the Youth Ministries Department with truly spirit led speakers such as Terry Buxton, Wesley Knight, Rupert Bushner, Kwame Ronnie Vanderhorst, Jonathan Rolle, Paula Fils-Aime', Robert Davis, Maceo Bailey, Jerome Hurst, Roscoe Howard, David Ferguson, Sergio Mendez, Michael Kelly, MyRon Edmonds and Andrea Trusty-King.

On the second Thursday all workshops and seminars come to a halt as we have our annual Friends & Family Fellowship Day. This day allows the young and old to come together and enjoy Christian recreation.

CAMP DAVIS

Shortly after Camp Meeting, the Youth Ministries Department brings our youth together for a 2-3 week retreat of spiritual growth and recreation at Camp Daniel L. Davis. Here AEC youth ages 7-16 enjoy an extended version of Camp Meeting. We also solicit the attendance of youth outside of our Conference and denominational sphere to join our youth and our God on the beautiful grounds of Pine Forge. From 1996 to 2008 we have yearly enjoyed witnessing the happiness and fellowship gatherings of more than 400 youth at this event.

Our Camp achieved a new high by being accredited by ACA, CCI and AACCP. These accreditations from national non-Adventist organizations, as well as an Adventist organization, not only verify that we are a safe, organized, reviewed program, but that our staff and facilities also meet or exceed national standards in the camping industry.

In addition to the accreditations, and the spiritual portion of our camp, we have added Canoeing, Boating, Tubing, and Jet Skies to God's arsenal. This combination has produced

youth that we have taken out on Sabbath witnessing adventures to display that when the spiritual and physical come together under the guidance of the Holy Ghost children can witness. We have baptized over 21 campers at camp with an additional 14 back at their home churches.

AEC BIBLE BOWL

The Bible Bowl continues to grow in Allegheny East. The games have added adult divisions as the older youth have expressed interest in the event. AEC continues to sponsor teams to the National Bible Bowl games and is proud of the West Philadelphia team who brought AEC the National Championship in 2001.

NATIONAL SERVICEMAN'S ORGANIZATION

This aspect of the Youth Ministries Department serves the young men and women of our Conference who are enlisted in the armed forces. Their names and addresses are sent in from local churches, as well as from the Chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries of the North American Division. A Serviceman's kit is issued to each person on the list. The kit contains a black leather Bible, Steps to Christ, The Bible Textionary, An Hour with Your Bible, an affidavit of SDA Membership and other witnessing literature. With our youth in harm's way in Iraq, as well as other parts of the world, please support this ministry with your prayers and encouragement.

PATHFINDERS

Pathfinder ministry is the oldest and most stable youth program in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is the basic purpose of the Pathfinder Club to fulfill the Elijah message of Malachi 4:6 in which the hearts of the parents are turned toward their children and the hearts of the children are turned to their parents. As parents and church members work, minister, worship and play together with the Pathfinders, the so-called generation gap disappears in a bond of common experience.

Each year, at Camp Meeting the AEC Pathfinder Fair displays the scientific, mathematical and wilderness survival skills of Pathfinders from throughout the Conference. In 2003 we said a fond farewell to Charles Cason, Metro Area Coordinator and Conference Drill Master as he retired and moved to sunny Florida. Mr. Cason faithfully served Allegheny East Pathfinder Ministry for more than 40 years and touched the live of thousands of youth across this Conference. He will be dearly missed but never forgotten. We also had a few losses since that time. Benjamin Norwood passed away. These men will be dearly missed as their memories linger on.

ADVENTURERS

The Adventurer program strives to assist children in gaining a positive attitude toward the benefits, joys and responsibilities of living a Christian Life. This is achieved through acquiring habits, skills and knowledge needed to live for Jesus in today's society. The annual Adventure Family Retreats seek to focus not only on the child, but the entire family's spiritual needs.

Claude Harris II

As Allegheny East Youth Ministries Director, I serve as the Chairman of the Black Adventist Youth Director's Association (BAYDA). During my pastoral career and tenure as Youth Director, for AEC, I have conducted workshops and revivals, not only in our conference

territory but California, Colorado, Florida, Canada and other parts of the World Church. I have developed a Security and Background check process and procedures for all Youth Ministries personnel. I have acquired National Accreditation from the American Camping Association (ACA) for Camp Daniel L. Davis, as well as, serving as interim pastor for churches or districts within Allegheny East Conference territory. I look forward to serving our youth as we continue to develop Youth Ministries here in Allegheny East Conference and the leaders that enhance the lives of our youth through their service. Thanks for the opportunity to serve in one of the greatest conferences in the North American Division, I also want to thank the youth and their leaders for their cooperation and support as we sought to reflect Christ in all that we did.

YOUTH EVENTS 2005 – 2008

2005

January	4 - 13	NAD Ministries Convention	Orlando, Fl
	8 - 9	North Jersey Adventure Training	
	15 - 16	NJ area Training	Orange, NJ
	22 - 23	Bay Area Training	Wilmington, DE
	29 - 30	VA Adventurer Training	
February	12 - 13	VA area Training	Richmond, VA
	19 - 20	Baltimore area Training	Baltimore, MD
	24 - 27	Adventurer Leadership Convention	Portland, OR
	26	African American History Bee	Philadelphia, PA
March	12 - 13	DC Metro area Training	Brinklow, MD
	12 - 13	Del. Val & Bay Adventurer Training	
	13 - 19	Del Val Youth Week of Prayer	Philadelphia, PA
	19	DC Metro Bible Bowl games	
	26	BAYHA Bible Bowl games	
April	2	VA Bible Bowl games Cotillion - Botillion	
	3	(Emmanuel/Brinklow)	MD
	9	Bay Area Bible Bowl games	
	16	Del Val Bible Bowl games	
	22 - 24	Pathfinder Staff Training	Pine Forge, PA
	23	NJ Bible Bowl games	
	30	VA Youth Federation	Richmond, VA
May	7	Bay Area Youth Federation	Dover, DE
	15	Youth Games - Lehigh University	Bethlehem, PA

June	16 - 19	Mini Youth Federation (Del Val)	Pine Forge, PA
	30 - July 9	General Conference Session	St. Louis, MO
July	1 - 9	General Conference Session	St. Louis, MO
	17 - 31	Camp Daniel L. Davis	Pine Forge, PA
August	4 - 7	Pathfinder Camporee	Pine Forge, PA
	12 - 14	Adventurer Family Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
September	23 - 25	Youth Ministries Vision Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
	30	Metro Area Federation	Takoma Park, MD
October	1 - 2	Metro Area Federation	Takoma Park, MD
	1	Children's Sabbath	
	7 - 9	Pathfinder Staff Training	Pine Forge, PA
	28 - 30	National Bible Bowl	
December	11 - 22	Mission Trip	Bangkok, Thailand

2006

January	8	VA Area Planning Meeting	Tidewater
	14	VA Area Youth Rally	
February		Adventurer Staff Basic Training	Virginia Area
	23 - 26	NAD Youth Ministries Convention	Jacksonville, FL
March	25	Afro -American History Bee	Philadelphia, PA
	11	Metro Area Adventurer Fun Day/Night	
	18	Metro Bible Bowl Run-off	
	24 - 26	Pathfinder Staff Training	Pine Forge
April	25	BAYHA Bible Bowl Run-off	
	1	VA Bible Bowl Run-off	
	8	VA Area Youth Rally & Parade	
	8	Bay Bible Bowl Run-off	
	9	Cotillion/Botillion	Greenbelt, MD
	15	Del Val Bible Bowl Run-off	
	19 - 23	BAYDA United Youth Congress	Atlanta, GA
22	NJ Bible Bowl Run-off		
	29	Bible Bowl Metro vs. VA	

May	1	PFA Academy Day	
	6	Bible Bowl BAYHA vs. Bay	
	13	Bible Bowl Del Val vs. NJ	
	21	AEC Youth Games	
June	28 -	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
	- 8	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
July	2	Pathfinder Fair	Pine Forge, PA
	6	Friends Family Fellowship Day	Pine Forge, PA
	16 - 30	Camp Daniel L. Davis	Pine Forge, PA
	11 - 13	Adventurer Family Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
	18 - 20	AEC Pathfinder Camporee	
August			
September	16	Young People for Jesus Gospel Rally	Washington, DC
October	7	Children's Sabbath	
	8	BACA Meeting	Oakwood College
	27 - 28	BAYDA National Bible Bowl	AEC
November	10 - 12	Pathfinder Staff Training	
	29 - 3	AACP	Pine Forge
December	1 - 3	AACP	Pine Forge
	9	VA Area Christmas Party	
	10 - 21	Thailand Mission Trip	Bangkok, Thailand

2007

February	2-4	Adventurer Basic Staff Training	Pine Forge, PA
	9 - 11	Adventurer Basic Staff Training	Virginia Area
	9 - 11	Bay Area PF Staff Training	Bay Area
	24	Afro - American History Bee	Philadelphia, PA
	27 -	NAD Youth Prayer Congress	Dallas, TX ABC in Tacoma Park
March	3	VBS Training	Dallas, TX
	- 4	NAD Youth Prayer Congress	VA
	11	CM / VBS Training	Balt. & DC
	18	CM / VBS Training	
	24 - 25	AECAA March Madness Tournament	
	31	Del Val Youth Mission Trip	New Orleans, LA
April	1 - 8	Del Val Youth Mission Trip	New Orleans, LA
	6 - 8	Haitian Youth Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
	15-21	VA Area Youth Federation	VA
	20 - 22	Pathfinder Staff Spring Training	Pine Forge, PA
	27 - 29	Children's Ministries Training	Pine Forge, PA

May	5	Bay Area Youth Federation	DE
	7	PFA Academy Day	Pine Forge, Pa
June	28 -	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
July	- 7	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
	1 - 6	AEC Youth Softball Tournament	Pine Forge, PA
	15 - 29	Camp Daniel L. Davis	Pine Forge, PA
August	8 - 12	Columbia Union Pathfinder Camporee	Front Royal, VA
	17 - 19	Adventurer Family Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
September	28 - 30	Bay Area PF Camp Out	
October	6	Children's Sabbath	
	5 - 7	Metro Area PF Camp Out	
	26 - 27	BAYDA National Bible Bowl	New York
November	9 - 11	Pathfinder Staff Fall Training	Pine Forge, PA
	21 - Jan		
December	5	2nd World Conference on Youth & Community Service	Taipei, Taiwan

2008

January	11 -13	Adventurer Staff Training	Metro/Liberty
	20	Youth Min./ Young Adult Training	Metro/Baltimore
	27	Youth Min./ Young Adult Training	Virginia
	26 - 27	Adventurer Staff Training	Pine Forge, PA
February	3	Youth Min./ Young Adult Training	North Jersey
	9 - 10	Adventurer Staff Training	Newport News, VA
		NAD Youth Ministries Leadership	
	14 - 17	Summit	Dallas, TX
	14 - 18	Young Adult Summit: Ignition	Dallas, TX
	23	Afro - American History Bee	Philadelphia, PA
March	2	Youth Min./ Young Adult Training	Bay Area
	2 - 8	Youth Week of Prayer	NAD
	9	Youth Min./ Young Adult Training	Delaware Valley
		Children's Ministries Conf. Wide	
	14 - 16	Training	Pine Forge, PA
	16 - 23	Katrina Mission Trip	New Orleans, LA
	21 - 23	Oakwood College Alumni Weekend	Huntsville, AL
	21 - 23	AEC Annual Haitian Youth Retreat	Pine Forge, PA
April	6	Brinklow Botillion/Cotillion	MD
	18 - 20	Pathfinder Staff Spring Training	Pine Forge, PA
	28	PFA Academy Day	
May	3	Bay Area Youth Federation Day	Delaware

	3	Children's Ministries Mini-Training	Bay Area
	17 - 19	Children's Ministries Mini-Training Pine Forge Academy Graduation	Metro Area
June	23 - 25	Weekend	Pine Forge, PA
	26 -	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
	29	Pathfinder Fair	Pine Forge, PA
July	- 5	AEC Camp Meeting	Pine Forge, PA
	13 - 27	Camp Daniel L. Davis	Pine Forge, PA