SOUTHERN ADVENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

July,2026
Volume 16, Issue 7

In this issue:

- Points to Ponder, pages 1, 2
- Ministry Happenings, pages 2, 3

SACA Executive Board
Rev. Paul Dean
President
Mrs. Penny Wrigley
Secretary
Ms. Julie Barefoot
Treasurer
Rev. John Foister
ENC President
Mr. Alvin Hiers
South Carolina President
Rev. J. Brent Ross
Georgia President
Rev. Randy Henderson
Florida President
Mrs. Penny Batten
SACA Representative
Rev. Joe Pritchett
SACA Superintendent

SACA
Post Office Box 2135
Garner, NC 27529
919-773-4999
sacaministries@gmail.com
sacaministries.org

Points to Ponder

STICKS AND STONES

Early in my childhood, I remember learning this saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." Of course, we find out rather quickly that names, labels, and slurs can be very painful when directed at us with anger and contempt.

Consider how Ephesians 4:31–32 looks very different from the current climate of hateful and rude rhetoric so easily thrown around, even within the family of God. It says, *" 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* This passage paints a beautiful picture of what a Christ-centered life looks like. Paul reminds believers that following Jesus is not simply about avoiding certain behaviors but about allowing God's grace to transform the heart. The Christian life is marked by a continual choice to let go of attitudes that divide and embrace those that reflect the character of Christ.

Bitterness often begins with an unresolved hurt. Left unchecked, it grows quietly until it colors every relationship. Rage and anger can quickly damage trust, while harsh words and slander wound others in ways that are not easily forgotten. Malice, in any form, seeks another person's harm rather than their good. Paul urges believers to put these attitudes away because they are inconsistent with the new life Christ has given them. They keep us chained to the past instead of walking in the freedom of God's love.

continued on page 2

Points to Ponder continued from page 1

Instead, Christians are called to be kind and compassionate. Kindness is more than simple politeness; it is a deliberate expression of God's love through thoughtful words, generous actions, and patient responses. Compassion allows us to see people through the eyes of Christ, recognizing that everyone carries unseen burdens, disappointments, and struggles. Rather than reacting with criticism or resentment, we seek to understand and encourage.

Perhaps the greatest challenge is forgiveness. Forgiving someone does not mean pretending the offense never happened or excusing sinful behavior. Rather, it means surrendering our desire for revenge and entrusting justice to God. We choose not to let another person's actions define our own spirit. This is possible because we remember how much we ourselves have been forgiven through Jesus Christ. God's mercy toward us becomes the pattern for our mercy toward others.

Living this passage requires daily dependence on the Holy Spirit. We will not always respond perfectly, but God patiently shapes us as we surrender our hearts to Him. When conflicts arise, we should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and eager to pursue peace. A gentle word can calm anger, a sincere apology can restore a friendship, and a forgiving heart can heal wounds that have lingered for years. When believers practice kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, they become living witnesses of the gospel. Families become stronger, friendships deepen, churches grow in unity, and communities experience the love of Christ in tangible ways. Ephesians 4:31–32 reminds us that our conduct is not driven by human effort alone but by gratitude for God's amazing grace. As Christ has forgiven us completely, we are called to extend that same grace to others, reflecting His love in every conversation, every relationship, and every opportunity to serve.

Rev. Joe Pritchett

Ministry Happenings ...

Redemption Community Church of Clayton, Clayton, NC, held its 2026 Sports Camp June 15-17.

We wrapped up Sports Camp 2026 last night! What an amazing 3 days as we saw the Lord work in some incredible ways. We had over 375 kids across all 3 nights, with over 140 different children hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with SEVERAL responding to receive Christ, rededicate, or ask for specific prayer. What a blessing it was to see the Holy Spirit move!
We're so thankful for all our incredible volunteers who served with such joy all 3 nights. We couldn't have done it without our brothers and sisters from Community Bible Church in Indiana (pray for their safety back home).
Our last night was our family night—we had the opportunity to meet parents, enjoy fellowship, and eat snow cones!
We can't wait for Sports Camp 2027! Shared from Redemption 's Facebook page

Ministry Happenings ...

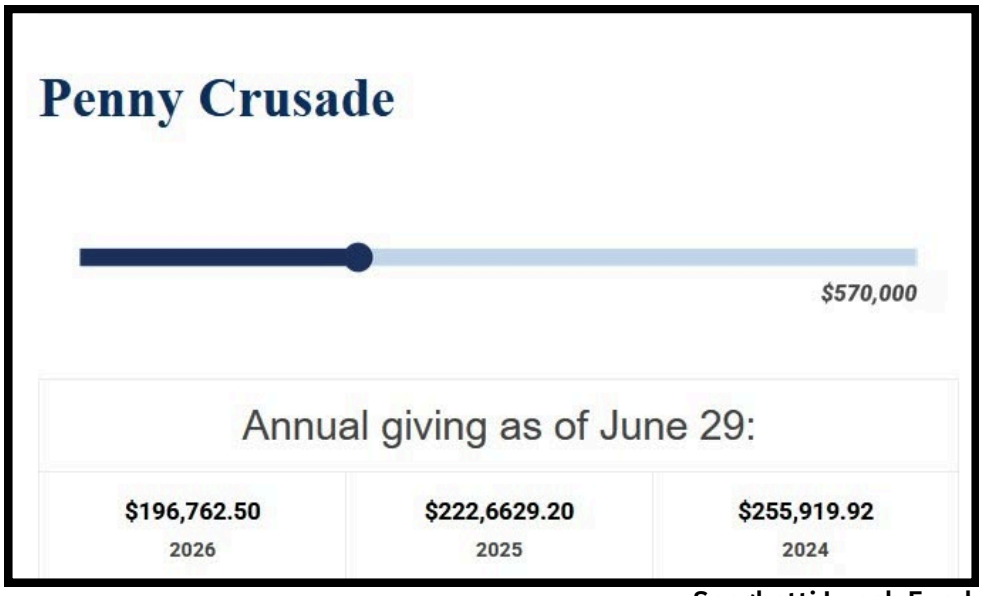
Seffner Community Advent Christian Church, Seffner, FL. held Vacation Bible School June 15-19th. Fun fun fun with Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, a Mission project and some yummy refreshments.

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

IS YOUR CHURCH PARTICIPATING IN PENNY CRUSADE?

Penny Crusade is our primary mission focused fundraiser as a denomination. Thank you to the congregations who faithfully support this world outreach initiative! If your church has not yet participated, please reach out to Advent Christian General Conference at www.acgc.us and request your Penny Crusade packet today with materials to support the effort. There are even free videos explaining our joint mission efforts.



Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser for Playground Remodel Project

Mark you calendars and join **Redemption Community Church**, Clayton,NC, right after church on **Sunday, August 2nd** for a Spaghetti Lunch as they raise funds for a playground remodel project! Bring your family, bring your appetite, and enjoy some great food and fellowship — all while helping us build a wonderful new space for our kids to play. **On the menu:** Spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. (gluten free option as well)

SACA
PO Box 2135
Garner,NC 27529
Phone: 919-773-4999
E-mail: sacaministries @gmail.com

Coming Events. . .

August 17-21	ACGC Triennial Convention
September 7, 2026	Labor Day

Philippians 1:4-6

4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 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.

Your paragraph text