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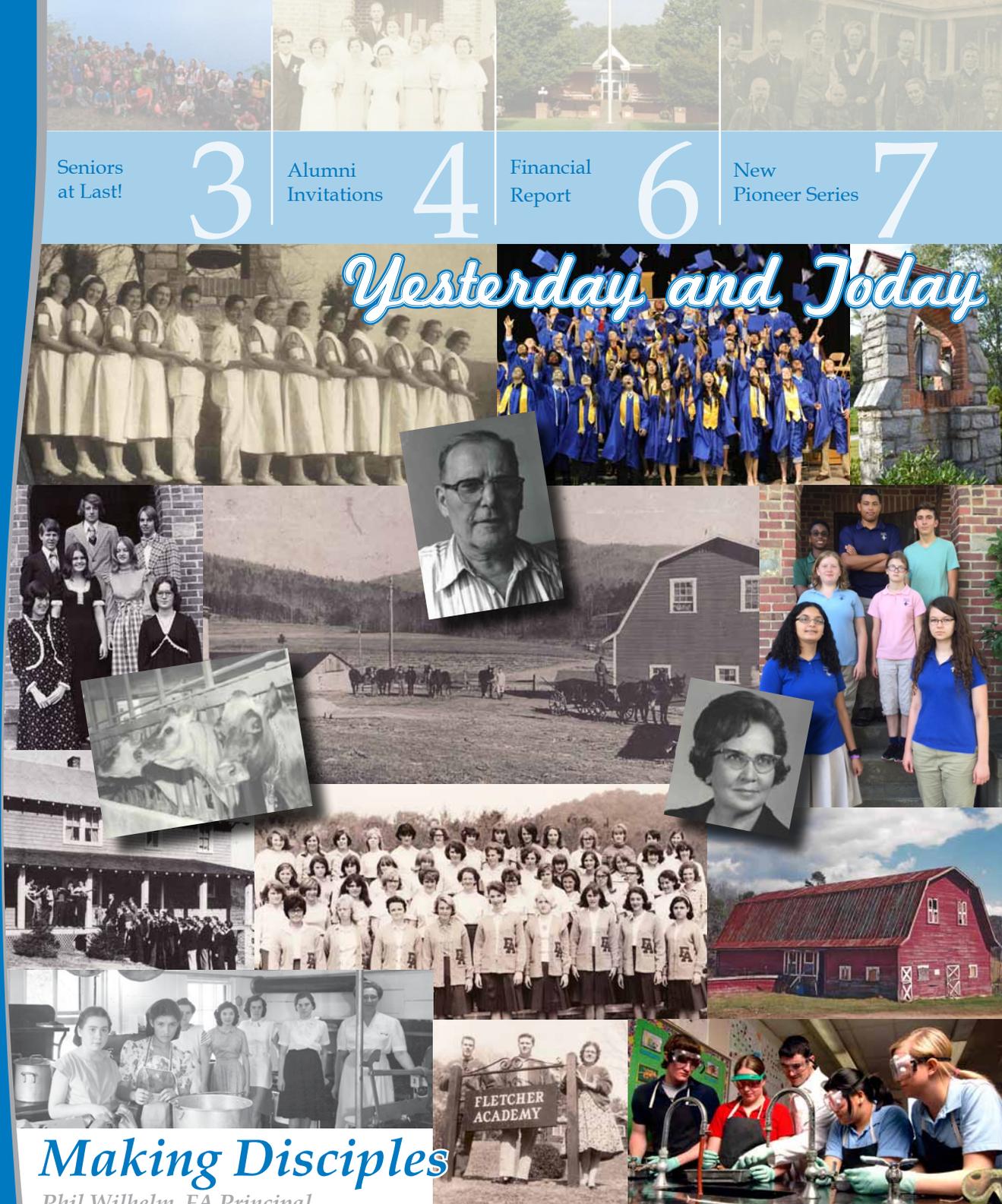
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Making Disciples

Phil Wilhelm, FA Principal

It has long been the mission of Christians to "Go and make disciples of all nations." Adventist education was founded on the idea of training youth to fulfill that mission. Fletcher Academy has a rich heritage of graduating young people equipped to enter the Lord's vineyard as laborers together with Christ for the salvation of souls. Faculty and staff have sacrificed their lives in service for that very cause.

Throughout my career, I have often wondered if I was fulfilling God's call to spread the Gospel to the world. Working predominantly with Adventists has left me wondering if I should be seeking to work with those who don't know Christ at all. As soon as the thought comes, I am reminded of the sheep in His fold that are wandering away. He has bid the faculty at Fletcher to find His lost sheep, watch over them, protect them, and lead them back to His fold. I count it a blessing to work as one of the shepherds here at Fletcher Academy. God is at work and I see evidences of that every day. Thank you for helping keep this ministry alive until Jesus comes!



FLETCHER Spirit

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Brad Durby, Vice Principal
Janet Novak, Registrar

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Adventist Encounter Curriculum

Eileen States and Arthur Gibbs

Fletcher Academy has begun their second year of using the "Adventist Encounter Curriculum". The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists launched this new curriculum last school year in secondary schools



across the North American Division. Each and every year it is essential that our students take a Bible class that leads them to have a solid, deep, and personal knowledge of the truths of the Bible; to respond to Christ's invitation to live in a lifelong, vibrant relationship with Him; and to be passionate about the salvation of others. Ellen White says that "the teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort" (Education, 186).

Never in our world's history has there been a greater time to make Jesus and His word the focus of our young people in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Consider a Bible class where every student's relationship with Christ is nurtured, based on their solid knowledge of Scripture, so that they can be challenged to make an eternal difference in our world. Think of a learning context where students share in the power of story, then make discoveries for themselves, sense their place in the big picture and grapple with real issues openly; a place where investigation and reflection on God's Word is central. Consider a setting where students from different faith backgrounds can discover truths straight from the Word and where the joy of discovery is meaningfully celebrated. This is our dream for the teaching of Bible at Fletcher Academy.

The Adventist Encounter Curriculum uses the latest pedagogical methodology in the teaching units, encouraging students to be "thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men's thoughts" (Education, 17). The learning activities encourage a solid Biblical knowledge and a relationship with Jesus Christ. The curriculum utilizes the Bible as its textbook; uses Adventist resources as much as possible; promotes and uses the Spirit of Prophecy in all teaching units; explores the 28 Fundamental Beliefs within its teaching units; and strongly promotes the sharing of the Seventh-day Adventist end-time message with the world.

The new Curriculum is seamless and intentional about exploring big-picture, biblical concepts with the goal of making a difference for eternity. It uses the four walls of the classroom to help build a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and uses the Bible as the source of truth. It seeks to develop each student's personal walk with God and reasons for faith, lifestyle choices, and ethical decision-making from an Adventist worldview, all the while nurturing interpersonal relationships and service to others. In short, it seeks to invite our students to be disciples of the Great Commission.



Seniors at Last!

Christina Coston, Senior

As the start of a new school year began, the seniors undertook an event known as Senior Survival. Often associated with Senior Survival is camping and well... surviving. Yet, as the seniors set up camp, went through intense icebreakers, and numerous other activities, it became apparent to everyone that Senior Survival was more. Senior Survival was a time for the class to bond and unite. The seniors worked together to accomplish many different tasks from setting up camp to playing Rock-Paper-Scissors. By the end of the weekend, the class felt cohesive and ready to enjoy their last year at Fletcher Academy.

Luke Bird, Senior

I'm a senior at Fletcher Academy, and coming to this school has been the best decision I've ever made. When I first came here, I was very unsure about how I would do or if I would even have a good experience, but now I couldn't imagine it any other way. Fletcher is a place where you are free to grow and encouraged to do so. I have never seen any other staff and faculty encourage and care for the students like those at Fletcher Academy. The students also develop deep and lasting friendships

with each other that will stand the test of time. I know that I have made friends here that I will have forever.

And now it's senior year for me. Honestly, it's a strange experience to be in this spot. Fletcher has meant so much to me and has helped me grow into the person I want to be. But now I'm in my final year, and I know that I will miss this school dearly. I will miss those I won't see anymore, and I'll miss the faculty members who have treated me like family. But I am also so excited for all the memories yet to be made and lessons yet to be learned from this last year of school. Fletcher has become home. The place I thought would be one of my least favorite places to be has become the place that I don't want to leave.

I will always remember Fletcher as the place where I learned. Where I learned about the school things, but more importantly, where I learned about who I was. Where I learned what friends truly are. And where I learned about who God is.



FLETCHER ACADEMY WELCOMES

Brad Durby as new Vice Principal



Brad Durby has been a promoter of Fletcher Academy for the past 7 years. As the Principal of Eddlemon Adventist School in Spartanburg, SC, Brad created an environment at EAS that transformed a culture that saw very few of their graduates moving on to Adventist academies to one of which even the non-Adventist students move on to one of our academies with a majority of those students attending Fletcher.

Brad has already forged strong relationships with many of the students. He has officiated and played sports with the students over the years and coached his son Andrew, Class of 2011, and Megan, 2012, Class Picnic teams.

Brad's wife Christy, the K-1 teacher at Tryon Adventist School, is a master-teacher in her own right. She has also supported FA as a host of several students to their home over the years as well as acting as a substitute teacher and Girls' Dean.

Brad has been an Adventist Educator for close to 30 years at the elementary, secondary and college levels. Along with teaching, Brad has experience in recruitment, singing, and preaching. He enjoys sharing Jesus with young people through weeks of prayer and by organizing soccer tournaments for the Carolina Conference Pathfinder Camporee as well as holding summer sports camps.

Brad attributes his wide range of experience to his willingness to follow the Lords leading by helping whatever institution he is associated with fill the needs they have had.

Cheryl Grant as new Food Service Director



Cheryl shares her thoughts in coming to this new position. "Proverbs 3:6 has been my favorite verse of direction and strength for many years. 'Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths (NLT).' At the 2016 Carolina Camp meeting this year a speaker gave a message about God giving opportunities to 'throw us out.' That same day I received news that Fletcher Academy had a Food Service Director position open, and I instantly knew that this could

be a God lead opportunity. Praises to our Heavenly Father, through many family, friends and the staff from FA who prayed to have this position filled for I consider it an honor to now be apart of the FA team.

"With my education in culinary at Guilford Technical Community College, my 5 years of experience as Mount Pisgah Academy's Assistant Food Service Director, and the past 5 years working as the Housekeeping Supervisor at an Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center I can see how God has given me many experiences and skills that I hope will be an asset to Fletcher Academy. I enjoy working with many different personalities, love cooking meals that many people can enjoy, and a bonus is I get to see my daughter daily while she is in her Junior year at FA. My husband and I are praying daily for God's direction and we are blessed and amazed already how God is leading."

YOU ARE INVITED!

Alumni 2016 "Lord of the Harvest"

Jeannie Larrabee, Fletcher Spirit Editor

Consider this your personal invitation complete with gold embossing. Every Alumni Weekend is something to look forward to and this one is no exception! The Alumni officers have been planning and praying for this weekend. Many hours go into preparing a weekend that will be Christ focused! This year we welcome back and honor any staff that have worked here at Fletcher Academy. Staff that without their determination, dedication, and devotion our school would have a very different history. This year's theme, "Lord of the Harvest" is a special one. The fields are ripe for the harvest. How can our school continue to be a part of this harvest? Come be blessed and open your hearts as to how you can continue to be a laborer to bring in the ripe grain. Schedules and more information are on the Fletcher Academy Website. Plan on being there! Don't miss the speakers (see bios below), the music, the fellowship, and the memories.



Sabbath Church Service Featuring Bill Waters

*as Key Speaker 50 Year Honor Class-
1966*

Bill graduated from the Greenville, North Carolina SDA Church School and attended Rose High School his Freshman through Junior years. He was a Literature Evangelist the summer after his Junior year so he could attend Fletcher Academy as a Senior. This was a dream come true that took a lot of hard work. That year was a very special year for him as he continued playing his clarinet in the band, singing in the choir, working by request carrying trays to patients in the Sanitarium, and serving his class as their Pastor. While attending Fletcher Academy he felt God was calling him into the ministry. Never did he dream that his grandkids would be playing with his Fletcher classmates grandkids decades later!

After graduating from Fletcher, Bill attended Southern Missionary College and graduated with a Theology degree in 1970. He married his best friend, Cora Maria, who he named "Sunshine". They have served as Pastoral and Youth Ministry Leaders, but their passion is full time evangelism. After 45 year of denominational employment, he retired in January, 2015.

The spiritual foundation at Fletcher Academy has been an asset to him throughout his life in ministry. Relationships have endured the "test of time" and he says it will be wonderful to see everyone again at Fletcher Academy at his 50th year Alumni weekend!



Friday Night Vespers Featuring Billy Freck

*as Key Speaker
10 Year Honor Class- 2006*

I have a long history in the Fletcher area. I was born at Park Ridge Hospital. I went to Captain Gilmer all 8 years. I graduated from Fletcher Academy in 2006. Shortly after graduation, I felt called into ministry, so I decided to go to Southern to study religion. After 3 semesters there, finances got tight and I had to return to Fletcher. I figured that was God telling me that ministry wasn't for me. After arriving in NC, I began studying engineering, but I was involved in music ministry at some area churches. After a time, God miraculously provided a way for me to pay my outstanding school bill balance and return to Southern to finish my degree.

Presently, I'm the youth leader at Standifer Gap SDA church near Southern. I live with my beautiful wife, Emily, and our outrageously handsome baby boy, Noah. I believe we're living at the end of this earth's history and it is now more important than ever to be proclaiming the final warning to the world through the 3 angels' messages. I have a passion to mentor young people and prepare them to stand in the last day when Jesus comes to take us home.

Celebration of Life Service for Brent Yingling

Jon Smith, Corporate Secretary



During Alumni Weekend there will be a Celebration of Life Service for Brent Yingling on Sabbath October 8, 2016 at 2:30 pm in the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mr. Yingling taught at Fletcher Academy for over 40 years and the imprint of his positive Christian influence has played out in the lives of many Fletcher Academy students and staff.

This Service will include a musical tribute to Mr. Yingling. Any alumni or staff who are string players are invited to participate. If you are interested in joining the string group for the service please email Sue Yingling at yinglingsue@gmail.com. Those wishing to participate in this musical tribute need to attend the 1:30 pm rehearsal which will take place at the Fletcher SDA Church just prior to the Celebration of Life Service Sabbath afternoon.

Please note that at the request of the Yingling family, space at the Lelia Patterson Center is being reserved Friday night and Sabbath of Alumni Weekend so that alumni and staff may share their memories of Mr. Yingling via videotaping. Signage in the rotunda will direct you to the room where the messages will be recorded. These taped messages will then be shared with the Yingling Family. More information as to the taping location and hours of operation will be available during Alumni Weekend.

The Brent Yingling Memorial Scholarship is being created and will be awarded to students of proven academic excellence who participate in one of the school music groups. Established in honor of Brent Yingling's dedication to a relationship with God, his family, French, music, fitness, and Fletcher Academy students as evidenced by 43 years of active service.

Fletcher Academy is grateful for the powerful and consistent Christian witness and call to excellence that characterized Mr. Yingling's life. Though he will be missed, his influence will continue to play out in the lives of his former students and co-workers. Indeed, Mr. Yingling's impact and influence on the young lives entrusted to his care is the ultimate example of Fletcher Academy's motto of "educating for eternity" in action.

The Full Impact of Giving

Bethany Johnson, FA English Teacher

"The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest." ~ John 4:36-38



For many students, Adventist education is a possibility because of behind the scene sacrifices. Educators, families, community and church members are continually investing their time, prayers, and financial resources in the eternal future of our young people. While the return for these investments is worthwhile, not all are given the opportunity to see the results of their sacrifice. The work of supporting Adventist education is a work of planting seeds, and as Christ reminded His disciples, planters rarely get to do the harvesting.

Many years ago, church members in a Southern community planted seeds that began a chain of events that now influences Fletcher Academy. Time and time again, God used the generosity of others to open the way to Adventist education for one family: a single mother with three children. One of these children is now our principal, Phil Wilhelm.

As Phil was growing up, his mother maintained a very spiritual home and worked hard to provide for her children, often working late into the hours of the evening. Although she desired an Adventist education for the children, it was not always possible to pull together the money to send three children to Adventist schools.

For a time, a church member covered the cost for all three children to attend the local Adventist school. However, when the family moved to a different state, Phil eventually had to return to public school because of finances. By the time Phil reached ninth grade, his mother decided that she wanted him to be in an Adventist school and away from the public school environment for high school. Phil began working during the summer and continued to work hard from that point on to help cover his school costs. Although worry about paying the school bill or dealing with other larger costs was not a burden that was constantly on Phil's mind, worry about paying for smaller needs did cause him stress. When asked to pay for his gymnastics team uniform, Phil knew that even the small amount of money asked for this could not be spared. One kind person stepped in and paid for the uniform, allowing Phil to feel like a normal kid who was a part of the team. Even a small donation like this made a big difference for him.

By the end of his Senior year, Phil knew a substantial bill waited for him after graduation. He would not be able to continue on to college until his transcript was released, which would not be until after his school bill had been paid. An anonymous person paid the bill in full, allowing Phil to continue on to college uninterrupted.

In college, Phil was able to work and earn scholarships that made it possible to continue his Adventist education. Since the type of scholarship opportunities offered to college students are not made available to high school or middle school students, the financial support given to students like Phil is often the only way they can afford to be a student at an Adventist academy. Those who gave to Phil and his family may never know the full impact of their donations, but we at Fletcher Academy are reaping the harvest they planted. As Phil now sacrifices his own time and resources for the cause of Adventist education in our community, a new crop of seeds is being planted.

The Annual Report Of Giving 2015-2016

Arthur Gibbs, Director of Development & Alumni Relations



Fletcher Academy is enormously grateful to everyone who supported us this school year. We are thankful for the generous giving and tireless volunteer efforts of our trustees, alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends. This support is a testament to the strong belief in Fletcher Academy's God-given mission and inspires everyone who lives and learns at the school of the mountains.

We are both proud and grateful to report that Captain Gilmer Christian School started the year with 100 students and then graduated fifteen 8th graders. Fletcher Academy started last year with 190 students enrolled at the academy and we graduated 54. According to Southern Adventist University in 2015 we had the second highest percentage of graduates enrolled of all the academies in the Southern Union! There is no question that Fletcher provides an academic experience that prepares students for college and career.

Fletcher raised \$739,637 this year through individual and organizational gifts. Impressively this total came from 760 donors. Our most popular fund is clearly student assistance which is enables students to attend

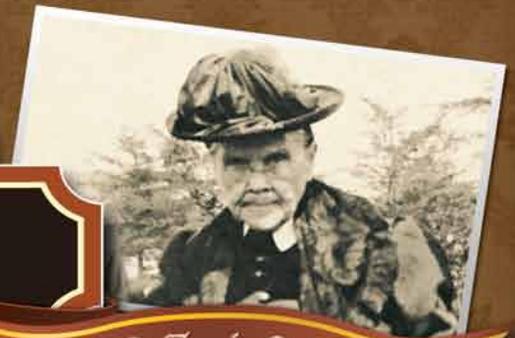
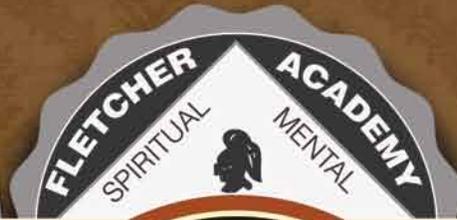
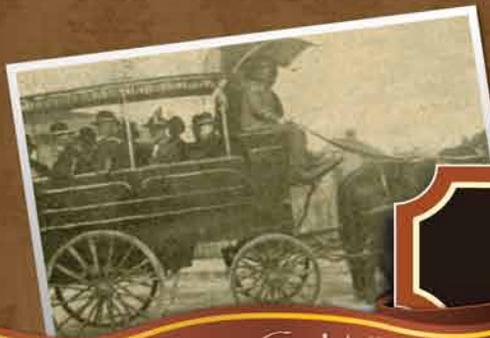
Fletcher that would not be able to without financial aid. This is becoming even more needed as the "Pathways Scholarship Program" is coming to an end (over 100k for the 2015-2016 school year). Pathways was a partnership with the Bainum Family Foundation that has provided generous scholarships for many of our students for many years. We believe a young person who is committed to developing their God-given talents and enhancing their relationship with Jesus should not be turned away from Fletcher Academy because of finances.

Our most flexible fund is the Fletcher Annual Fund giving

unrestricted support to the academy's areas of greatest need, as determined by the principal and administration. This fund has a direct and immediate impact on all areas of life at Fletcher. Each dollar is critical to supporting our students' academic, artistic and spiritual endeavors, and indeed their daily lives. The annual fund can also be used to address any emerging capital needs. We hope you will join us by making it a regular part of your giving plan.

Thanks to the wisdom of past leadership, Fletcher currently has several businesses that allow us to help support the costs of the educational work here at FA and provide the financial stability that few independent academies are able to have without direct support from an Adventist conference. As you can imagine with a campus this complex, we have many ongoing capital needs, evidenced by a recent leak in our roof on the Administration building that caused some minor damage in our library. That portion of the roof has been replaced but we urgently need to finish repairing our roof and replace our single-pane windows in the Ad building. The Lord has blessed us with subsidies that have allowed us to install new LED high-efficiency lighting systems which will reduce our power bill immediately. Every gift supports a Fletcher Academy experience. Thank you for making each one possible.





Pioneer

Ellen G. White

1827-1915

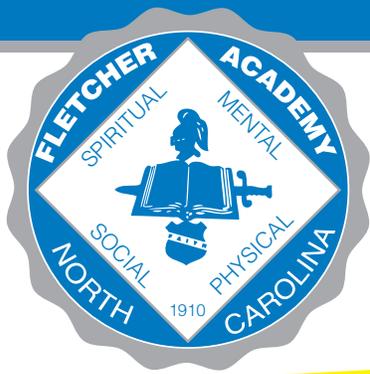
More than a century ago, Ellen G. White inspired and guided the foundation of many Adventist educational institutions. Based on the Bible and her teaching, the core Adventist philosophy has become that education should be redemptive, for the purpose of restoring human beings to the image of God. Ellen G. White championed the now widely used "whole person" approach to education that encompasses mental, physical, social, and spiritual health, intellectual growth, and service to humanity.

In 1904 Mrs. White was one of the founding members of the Nashville Agricultural Normal Institute, later named Madison College. It was formed as a self-supporting institution, but closely allied to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It would grow to include a school (grades 1-16), a sanitarium-hospital, and a farm of more than 800 acres. This became the only time where Mrs. White agreed to officially be a member of a board of trustees. The goal was to have a school whose doors would swing open to any young man or woman of worthy character who was willing to work. The large tract of land was needed to provide facilities for this student self-support. The training here would include not just ordinary book studies, but also how to solve practical problems having to do with daily life. Nearly 40 small outpost schools and centers were started from this model.

In 1909, at the age of 81, Mrs. White made the long trip from her home in California to Washington D.C. While her chief purpose was to attend the quadrennial session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, she also made it a point to stop by Nashville and encourage the faculty and staff as well as at several other Adventist schools and colleges.

Along her journey, Ellen White preached in Asheville, NC and was able to meet for the first time, Martha Rumbough, the daughter of a successful inventor. Sister Rumbough was studying to become an Adventist but had already built and given to the conference a commodious meeting-house and parsonage. She was also personally supporting the pastor of the Asheville Church at a salary of four dollars per week. During the visit Mrs. Rumbough asked Mrs. White, "What more can I do with my share of my family's wealth to further the cause of God locally?" Mrs. White answered in the familiar and oft quoted words, "the Lord would be pleased if you would start a medical and educational work in the vicinity of Asheville." The next year Mrs. Rumbough would provide the money for the initial purchase of the property in 1910 that would later become Fletcher Academy and Park Ridge Health.

Ellen White was a woman of remarkable spiritual gifts. During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books. She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Her life-changing masterpiece on successful Christian living, *Steps to Christ*, has been published in more than 140 languages. Her writings cover a broad range of subjects, including religion, education, social relationships, evangelism, prophecy, publishing, nutrition, and management. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Mrs. White was more than a gifted writer; they believe she was appointed by God as a special messenger to draw the world's attention to the Holy Scriptures and help prepare people for Christ's second advent. Throughout the remaining years of her life, she maintained a deep interest and concern for the church work in the southern States.



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JOIN US FOR

Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2016

“Lord of the Harvest”

October 7,8,9

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

10:00 am

8th Annual Alumni Golf Classic Tournament

Register at: www.fletcheracademy.com/alumni/golf

5:00 pm

Register in the Main Lobby of the LPC. Come and get your name tag and your Weekend Program of Events.

6:00 pm

Reception that features a delicious supper with a Harvest Theme this year. Don't miss the pumpkin soup!

7:30 pm

Vespers in the LPC - by the
10 Year Honor Class - 2006

SABBATH, OCTOBER 8, 2016

8:15 am

Prayer Breakfast at the LPC

9:30 am

Sabbath School in the LPC - by the
25 Year Honor Class - 1991

10:45 am

Church Service in the LPC - by the
50 Year Honor Class - 1966

12:30 pm

Honor Class Photos and Potluck in the LPC
(Please remember to bring a favorite dish to share with all)

SABBATH AFTERNOON & EVENING ACTIVITIES

1:00 pm

Fletcher School of Nursing Reunion in the LEC

2:30 pm

Brent Yingling Memorial Service at the Fletcher SDA Church

4:30 pm

Heritage Room & Administration Tours
Administration building and the Heritage Rooms will be open for self-guided tours.

7:30 pm

Vespers at the Chapel - Hosted by 40 Year Honor Class - 1976 at the Fletcher Academy Chapel

8:00 pm

Traditional Alumni Football, Basketball & Co-ed Softball Games on the Athletic Field & Basketball at the Lelia Patterson Center

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

9:00 am

Alumni Breakfast and Business Meeting at LPC
Don't miss this fabulous breakfast and get the latest updates on the news of Fletcher Academy!

HONOR CLASSES

1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981,
1986, **1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011**

Special Recognition to above classes in bold print.

For more information please call 828-209-6800 or visit www.fletcheracademy.com