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# Gardner-Webb Plans "Celebration Week" Featuring Alum Carl Cartee

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Office of University Communications

January 23, 2013

## *Student-Led Ministry Week Focuses on Spiritual Formation*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. –Gardner-Webb University prides itself on its commitment not only to higher education, but also to worshipping and serving Christ. That component is seen each year when Gardner-Webb's Campus Ministries United hosts a student-led Celebration Week. The 2012-13 academic year's Celebration Week will be Tuesday, Jan. 29 through Thursday, Jan. 31. The theme for this year's Celebration Week is "worship."

"Sometimes our understanding of worship can be limited to participating in a service, or most likely, equated with singing songs," said Neal Payne, associate minister for student ministries. "Those things can be worship, but the Biblical understanding and God's desire for us to know what it means to worship Him is so much more."

Celebration Week will consist of five services in three days. There will be two Dimensions programs offered on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:25 a.m. in Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center. The speakers for Tuesday's program will be Gardner-Webb alum and Dove Award winner Carl Cartee, and his wife Heather. Cartee is a professional writing and recording artist, as well as a renowned worship leader. Thursday's Dimension program will consist of a mini-concert by Cartee.

"One of the things I love and appreciate most about Carl Cartee is his authenticity. Whether he is leading worship, sharing his testimony, writing a song, or spending time with his wife and four sons, his faith shines through in a very genuine way," said Dr. Tracy Jessup, vice president for Christian Life and Service at Gardner-Webb.

Student-led services, which will include student testimonies, scripture reading and prayer, will take place in Stewart Hall each evening at 8 p.m. There will also be a worship band leading in music, as well as a message each night. Thursday night's lineup will feature Cartee, as he leads the audience in different ways what true worship is, including participating in Communion.

"While we offer student-led worship every week on campus, Celebration Week is a special time to not only encourage our students to focus on God and grow a deeper relationship with Him, but to be intentional about focusing on our campus and growing in deeper relationship with other students, especially those who may not know Christ in a real, personal way," Payne said.

A short prayer service will be offered for students on Monday night at 8 p.m. in Stewart Hall, located in the Tucker Student Center. The prayer service will be for students to gather and pray in preparation for the coming week.

In addition, Celebration Week will also double as a 24/7 prayer week beginning at midnight Sunday, Jan. 27 and ending at midnight Sunday, Feb. 2. Students will sign up to commit to praying for at least one hour that week in either the Chapel in the Tucker Student Center or the Dover Chapel Student Prayer Room. The goal is to have every hour filled where a student is praying continuously for the campus the entire week.

Student organizer Anna Hulsey believes that the week will help establish students' priorities. "Celebration Week is first and foremost about glorifying Christ," said Hulsey. "While we spend the week listening to musicians and speakers, the result should be that we leave with a sense of the greatness of God. We are celebrating Jesus' death, resurrection and great love for us. I pray that the week will not be about who spoke, who provided the music or who planned it, but about the person of Jesus Christ who we worship."

*Located in Boiling Springs N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).*



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