



Association of Adventist Women

# Arlene West McFarland

— Woman of the Year —

Community Life

1999

Arlene McFarland's heritage in the Seventh-day Adventist Church includes both music and service. Her great-great-grandfather, William Bradbury, wrote the music for numerous familiar hymns such as "Jesus Loves Me," and her grandfather and great uncle founded Highland Academy in Portland, Tennessee.

Thus, it is not surprising that since the age of twelve McFarland has been playing the piano and organ for church and prayer meeting. She also has worked with both children's and adult Sabbath Schools and served on numerous nominating committees.

Outside of her local congregation, McFarland is respected for her volunteerism,

especially with child and family programs and therapy. A registered nurse who has earned a doctorate with an emphasis in family therapy, McFarland presents seminars, writes a weekly newspaper column entitled "Family Matters," provides free marital and family therapy to families who cannot afford traditional counseling,

and counsels desperate people through an Internet ministry, BibleInfo.com. Last year McFarland presented twenty-two seminars in a variety of settings-- churches of various denominations, child-care centers, and schools. She also participated in a regional Baptist Women's Ministry gathering and conducted court-ordered parenting classes.



“McFarland truly receives personal satisfaction in sharing her knowledge and expertise because she genuinely cares about others, and especially children,” says Dot Dunlap Burke, Coordinator of the Parent Education Program of DeKalb County, Alabama.

McFarland’s husband, Tom, is director of the emergency room at Baptist Medical Center in Fort Payne, Alabama, and is a certified family therapist. The couple has five adult children, all college graduates and all active Seventh-day Adventists.

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