

CONNECTING | IMPACTING | CELEBRATING

VISITOR

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Making
Connections

**Why Weymouth Spence
Came to CUC**



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www.columbiaunion.org

About the Cover: Weymouth Spence was photographed at CUC by James Ferry.

Welcome, Dr. Spence

At the November 12 Columbia Union College Board of Trustees meeting, we voted to invite Weymouth Spence, EdD, to serve as president of our college. After bathing the invitation in prayer, he accepted the opportunity.

We welcome Dr. Spence to our administrative team. We appreciate the experience and skills he brings to the position, his passion for Adventist higher education, and his philosophy on learner-centered education. Such a focus will be a true boon for our college as we continue providing quality higher education in the 21st century.

There were other reasons why the board chose Spence from among the many candidates we met in our search process. Our college is at a critical crossroads. We have wonderful opportunities, and, at the same time, some debilitating threats.

One of our greatest opportunities is the people who work at Columbia Union College (CUC). We have a very dedicated team of educators who embrace their calling to teach and equip our young people for service in the worldwide community. As you'll read in this issue, several have served for more than 25



years, demonstrating real commitment to our educational mission. Another strength is our location. Our eight-state territory is home to 50 million people and 10 of America's 25 largest cities. With 125,000 baptized members, we are the third largest union in the North American Division. We have the opportunity to prepare our members for the workforce and educate those who will provide many types of services in both the public and private sector. What's more, recent studies predict huge needs in certain fields, and we have the opportunity to meet those needs. There's so much opportunity for ministry in the Columbia Union territory, and we benefit greatly from having a strong Adventist college here.

CUC's threats are present as well, and we face some huge challenges. They range from misperceptions surrounding our urban campus setting to substantial concerns regarding the financial viability for our college. These challenges are not new, but they must be addressed effectively, rendering a positive outcome in order for us to maintain and advance our college.

In light of this, we looked for a president who understood the importance of the following:

Spiritual Leadership – Above all of our criteria, we wanted a leader who demonstrates a living trust in God and will encourage students and faculty to experience a meaningful relationship with Him.

Transformation Ability – We wanted a leader who has demonstrated the ability to facilitate change in higher education and position our institution to effectively embrace the changes necessary to further its mission.

Execution of Strategic Plan – We wanted a leader who would oversee a concerted effort to implement our strategic plan and other developing initiatives.

Financial Viability – We wanted a leader who would seek beneficial partnerships and make the adjustments necessary to attain financial solvency.

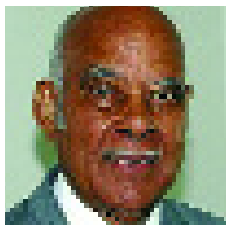
We believe we have found that leader in Dr. Spence and want to offer him all the support he needs to develop a stronger future for our college. As you read this issue about CUC, we ask that you'll pray for our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and for our new president.

Dave Weigley (dweigley@columbiaunion.net) is president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of the Columbia Union College Board of Trustees. Visit his photo blog at www.columbiaunion.org.

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Former Associate World Church Treasurer Dies

Frank L. Jones II, 81, retired pastor and former associate treasurer for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church,



died recently following a brief illness. Jones, the first African-American elected to

this position, served at the Adventist World Headquarters from 1977 to 1990. When it was decided to move the headquarters from its longtime facility in Takoma Park, Md., to its present site in nearby Silver Spring, Jones was appointed to oversee the building construction and transfer of employees.

“From his days as an associate treasurer and even during his retirement years, he was always supportive of those of us who were ‘wet behind the ears’ in treasury work,” recalls Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer. “He was a perfect example for those of us who are following in his footsteps as financial leaders in God’s church.”

Jones is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and three adult children. His funeral service, held at Oakwood College church in Huntsville, Ala., drew Adventist leaders from around the United States, and was streamed live on the Internet. In addition, regional conference leaders have set up a scholarship fund in his name to help students pursue their business education endeavors.

Radio Program Dedicated to Homeschool

The Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA), in partnership with Griggs University (Home Study International), recently launched a radio talk show dedicated to home-based education.

RHPA’s education specialist, **Rose Gamblin**, and children’s religious education coordinator and *Kids Ministries Ideas* editor, **Candy DeVore**, host the hour-long show, *Homeschool Companion*, from Hagerstown, Md. It airs on the LifeTalk Radio network.

“One thing we have noticed in our work with Children’s Ministries and Education is that there is a need for solid networking amongst home-based educators. Our hope is that this radio program will allow long-time homeschool educators to share their wealth of knowledge from hands-on experience and that those who are new to the homeschool environment



won’t feel alone,” say DeVore and Gamblin (above). Listeners with questions or comments can call (800) 775-4673.

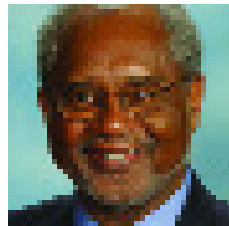
The program airs Wednesdays at 11:05 a.m. on the following Columbia Union area stations: WJHE-LP 98.7 FM (Heath, Ohio); W220CO 91.9 FM - Satellator (Carbondale, Pa.); and WRAR 1000 AM (Tappahannock, Va.).

To listen live or via podcast, visit www.lifetalk.net.

Potomac Member Named Chest Physicians’ President

Alvin V. Thomas, Jr., MD, was recently inducted as president of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP). Dr.

Thomas is presently chief of the Pulmonary Division and associate professor of Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Medicine at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He also serves as graduate faculty representative on the Howard University Board of Trustees.



As ACCP president, Thomas will focus on disparities in healthcare. “I’m honored to be the newest president of the ACCP,” said Thomas, who is a member of the Potomac Conference’s Rockville (Md.) church. “My hope is that, together with our members, the ACCP will continue to grow and flourish, both in the medical and public sectors.” He has been a member of the ACCP since 1973 and has served in many capacities.

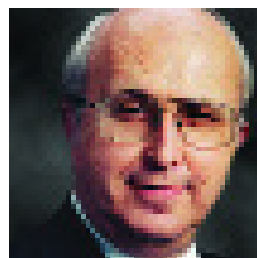
Thomas’ wife, Zorita, will chair the Chest Foundation’s Ambassador’s Group. This is the philanthropic arm of ACCP, which provides resources to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases of the chest.

The ACCP represents 17,000 members who provide clinical respiratory, sleep, critical care, and cardiothoracic patient care in the United States and throughout the world.

Adventists to Commemorate 150th Anniversary of “Great Controversy” Vision

The Ohio Conference, Kettering Medical Center, and the Columbia Union Conference are co-sponsoring a convocation to commemorate the 150th anniversary since Ellen White experienced the vision that led to the publishing of the bestselling prophetic work *The Great Controversy*. The May 10 event, themed “Love of the Ages,” will be held in giant tents on the grounds of Ohio’s Kettering church and Kettering Medical Center. It will feature several Adventist leaders (some pictured) who will serve as keynote speakers. In addition to the youth and young adult programs provided, there will be a

Guest Speakers:
Jan Paulsen,
Jim Nix,
Roscoe Howard,
José Rojas,
Charles Bradford



concert featuring Grammy-winning recording artists Take 6; The Heritage Singers; and Ponder, Harp, and Jennings. For more information on the program, contact Hubert Cisneros at (740) 397-4665.

WRAPT IN A VISION

It was March 1858, in Lovett’s Grove, Ohio, when White received a two-hour vision about the cosmic conflict between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels, and how it would end. “Heaven, sweet heaven, was the magnet to draw my soul upward, and I was wrapt in a vision of God’s glory,” wrote White, who was age 30 at the time. “Many important things were there revealed to me for the church” (*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 265).

From that experience and several visions that followed, White penned and periodically updated *The Great Controversy*. In 1911, just four years before her death, she published the final edition, totaling 42 chapters and 678 pages.

COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

This important milestone is also the focus of the 2008 *Visitor Calendar*. Themed “Wrapt in a Vision of God’s Glory,” it features selected passages from *The Great Controversy* for each month of the year. It also reveals the story behind the publishing of this important work. Columbia Union president Dave Weigley,

executive secretary Neville Harcombe, and treasurer Seth Bardu, included an introductory letter urging members to “dust off your copy” of *The Great Controversy* and read it with your family, church, or small group. “This vision greatly enhanced our understanding of the events that will occur at the end of Earth’s history,” notes Weigley. “With Christ’s return so near, we would do well to read this enlightening book again and again and keep it at the forefront of our minds.

We know that the last events will be rapid ones, so we must be vigilant in our study and preparation.”



Even the calendar’s artistic theme of water came from the pages of this inspired book. *Visitor* art director Kelly Butler Coe says the idea sprang from White’s description of a group of believers as they studied the Holy Scriptures: “As travelers perishing from thirst welcome with joy a living water spring, so did these souls receive the message of heaven” (p. 215). To request additional free copies, email Sandra Jones at sjones@columbiaunion.net or call (888) 4-VISITOR.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN OHIO

In honor of the anniversary, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee will meet in Ohio May 9, so members can participate in the historic Sabbath program.—*Raj Attiken and LaVerne Henderson*

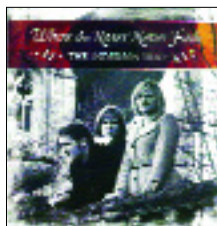
Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Music > Where the Roses Never Fade The Anderson Trio

Potomac Conference's Melissa Anderson, along with siblings Gregory and Heidi, are simply following in their parent's footsteps to record this first album. "My mom and dad,



Clinton and Leah Anderson, and his family recorded a tape years ago when we were young," reports Melissa, choral director and vocal music teacher at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.

This CD of hymns includes the song "Homesick for Heaven," which is a collaboration of the siblings with their parents. "Our hope is that people will let the words and harmonies draw them to Jesus Christ and strengthen their relationship with Him," adds the May 2007 graduate from Andrews University (Mich.), where her siblings now attend. She also notes that the CD is a live recording—no tracks—with Melissa on piano and Gregory on guitar.

Order a copy through Anderson at andersonm@sva-va.org or (920) 344-7797.

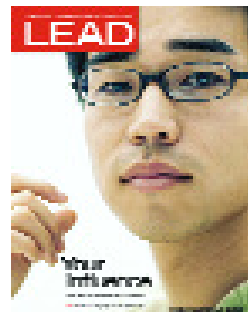
Magazine > LEAD

The monthly *Sabbath School Leadership* magazine that readers have depended on for years, recently got a makeover and name change. *LEAD*, a quarterly journal, is the newest ministry resource published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., to help administrators and local leaders fulfill the goals of evangelism and discipleship through local churches.

LEAD (Leadership, Education, Advent, and Discipleship) will be 100 pages chock full of information from Children's, Disabilities, and Personal ministries, as well as community services. The publication now carries two full Bible studies based on the *Adult Bible Study Guide* manuscripts, two full sets of programs for adults—the

standard format carried over from *Sabbath School Leadership*, plus "A.M. Buzz," prepared for and by postmodern 18- to 35-year-olds. There are also numerous sections for growing and training Sabbath School leaders.

Order a yearly subscription through your local church Sabbath School superintendent or Adventist Book Center. Editor Faith Crumbly can be reached at fcrumbly@rhpa.org or (301) 393-4094. Writers wanted.



WholeHealth

Heart Hazards of Loneliness

When considering risk factors for heart disease, loneliness rarely comes to mind. However, researchers at the University of Chicago have found that those who scored highest on measures of loneliness also had blood pressure readings as much as 30 points higher than nonlonely

people. They also discovered higher levels of epinephrine, the "fight or flight" stress hormone. Designed for emergency responses, epinephrine also increases the heart rate, elevates blood sugar levels, makes blood platelets more likely to clot, and has a suppressive effect on the immune system.

About one in five Americans are lonely. More people are moving around, living alone, and

living a greater distance from the support of caring family members. And our 24/7, work-focused culture leaves little time for social interaction with friends.

Look around. Who do you know who lives alone, has few friends, lives far from family, or perhaps is facing illness, unemployment, marital struggles, or financial stress all alone? Pick up the phone, and give them a call. Sit with them at lunch.

Invite them to your home or church. These simple actions could have a protective effect on their heart and yours.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center

You're invited to Potluck! Send your CDs, books, and other samples, with contact information, to Columbia Union Visitor, 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

Keeping Score

Membership of Largest Adventist Churches in North America

- Loma Linda (Calif.) University Church – 5,708
- Pioneer Memorial (Mich.) – 3,438
- Collegedale (Tenn.) – 3,172
- Forest Lake (Fla.) – 3,133
- Atlanta Maranatha – 3,032
- Sligo (Takoma Park, Md.) – 2,950
- Keene (Texas) – 2,879
- Oakwood College (Ala.) – 2,828
- La Sierra (Calif.) – 2,724
- Atlanta Berean – 2,627
- Walla Walla (Wash.) University Church – 2,290
- College View (Tenn.) – 2,110

Source: Center for Creative Ministry

In the Spotlight > VOP Bible Study Graduates

A few of the first young graduates of the Voice of Prophecy's (VOP) *KidZone Bible Guides*, the new Bible correspondence course for kids, are from the Columbia Union. With stories, illustrations, bright colors, and a writing style directed at youngsters aged 8-12, these juniors studied topics such as creation, the fall, salvation, baptism, prayer, the Ten Commandments, health, death, the second coming, and heaven.

Courtney Lattimer of Newark, Ohio, is the first graduate from any of the 2,400 locally operated Discover Bible Schools across the United States. Courtney's older sister, Keyatta, enrolled her in KidZone after completing the *Discover Bible Guides* herself. When Courtney received her diploma, she then enrolled her younger sisters, Brittany and Hope, in the program. All of the Lattimer sisters, who are not Adventist, attend Newark's Old Country Church.

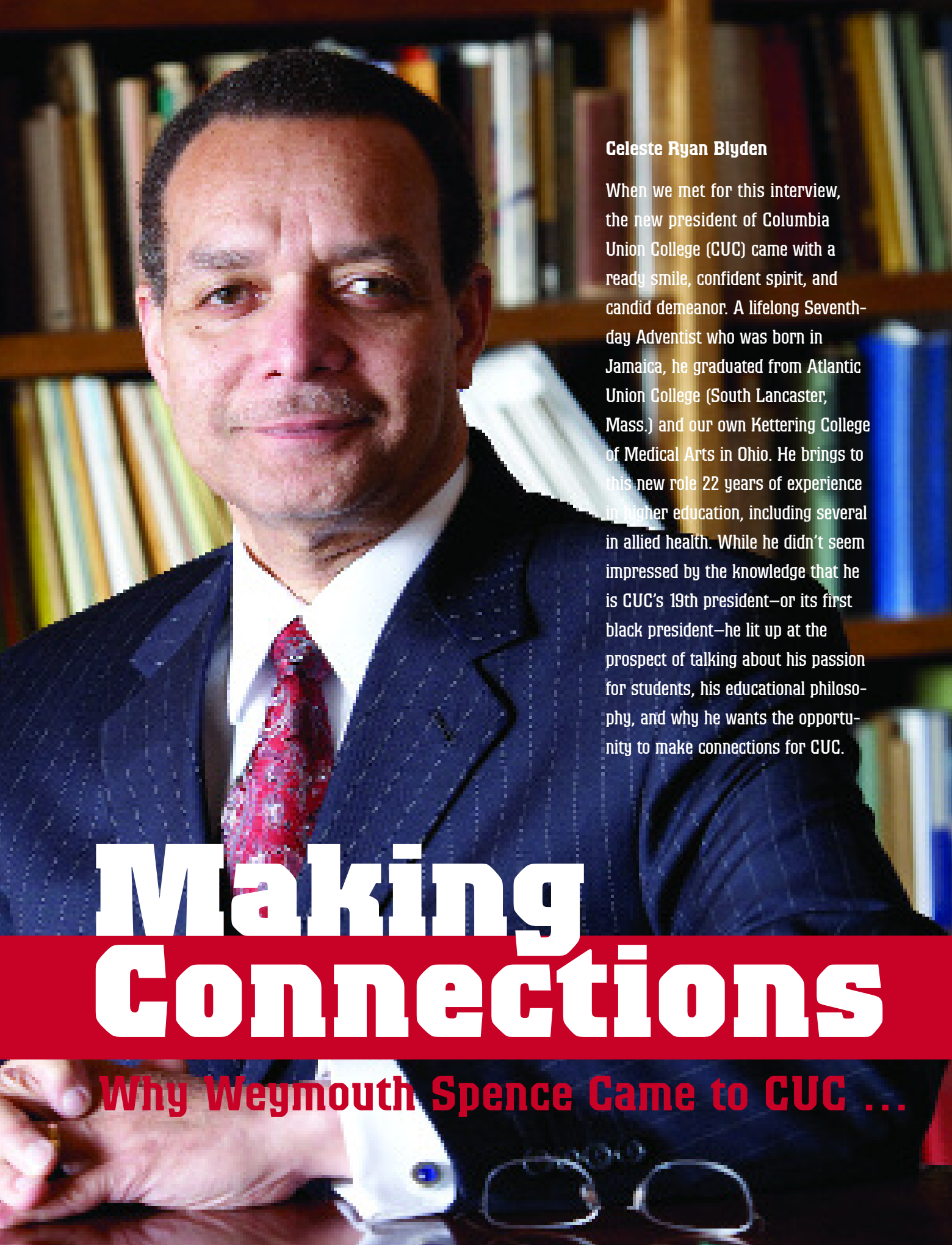
Upon completing KidZone, Camille Worix, of the Beckley (W.Va.) church, said, "I loved the stories. They were exciting and taught good lessons." Brothers Tymere Taylor and Jac Quan Watson, members of Sharon Temple in Wilmington, Del., also recently received KidZone diplomas. Taylor said he enjoyed learning about God and Jesus and how the world was created.

KidZone is designed to be used by Vacation Bible Schools, baptismal classes, and elementary schools, as well as for sharing door to door. Every guide includes an appeal to accept Jesus. Besides a response sheet to be returned to an instructor, each lesson also features an activities page with games, puzzles, and other fun things to do.

KidZone is available free through the VOP website, www.kidsvop.com. The site also highlights additional activities for kids that are not included in the lessons.



The Lattimer sisters (back row) Keyatta, (front row, left to right) Brittany, Hope, and Courtney proudly display their graduation certificates from Voice of Prophecy courses.



Celeste Ryan Blyden

When we met for this interview, the new president of Columbia Union College (CUC) came with a ready smile, confident spirit, and candid demeanor. A lifelong Seventh-day Adventist who was born in Jamaica, he graduated from Atlantic Union College (South Lancaster, Mass.) and our own Kettering College of Medical Arts in Ohio. He brings to this new role 22 years of experience in higher education, including several in allied health. While he didn't seem impressed by the knowledge that he is CUC's 19th president—or its first black president—he lit up at the prospect of talking about his passion for students, his educational philosophy, and why he wants the opportunity to make connections for CUC.

Making Connections

Why Weymouth Spence Came to CUC ...

Why did you accept this challenge?

First of all, I feel it's a call from the Lord. Secondly, having looked at the strategic plan, I think my experience in higher education and some of my accomplishments are a good match for the needs and goals CUC has identified.

What qualifies you to be president of CUC at this pivotal time?

I've had previous success at other institutions in terms of restructuring, looking at financing, assessing programs, and putting together a viable plan that yielded student satisfaction. For example, I led the transformation of an underperforming college targeted for closure, and saw it become a high-performing school. I've also led major reorganization efforts that produced sizable savings, yielded viable partnerships, and substantially increased enrollment.

What strengths and values will you bring to CUC?

I operate on 10 principles of excellence (see p.11) as well as a personal statement of leadership and educational philosophy, which states that a good leader values people, is results-driven, has strong business acumen, and is skilled at building coalitions and communications. I also embrace the concept of learner-centered education that identifies learning styles, emphasizes outcomes, and encourages every individual to be a strategic thinker. To be effective, I believe that leadership must continually adapt to changing situations and develop new goals and objectives to meet those situations. I also believe in making connections. Connecting to the community is important, as is being connected to all the stakeholders—students, faculty, staff, parents, board members, and church members.

Connect With Dr. Spence

Tel: (301) 891-4028

Email: wspence@cuc.edu

Web: www.cuc.edu/president

What strengths have you found at CUC?

During the interview process, I had the opportunity to interact with students, and they are passionate about our college. I also noticed the energy level and concerns of faculty, which demonstrates their level of commitment. In addition, I was impressed with the strategic plan that the board and administration have worked on, and I want to recognize and thank past leadership for the foundation they established.

But CUC faces some daunting challenges, including mounting debt, decreasing enrollment, failing infrastructure, and a growing disconnect with constituents. How will you address this?

The situation we find ourselves in now is really not unique to Adventist or other colleges. Many tuition-dependent schools nationwide are facing similar concerns. As a community we need to get together, work on the opportunities that exist, and—as a united front—move forward with the blessings of the Lord to make improvements and turn things around. Most of all, we need to continue to support Adventist higher education.

and Why He Wants You There Too

How will this tangibly play out?

It's going to be a challenging and difficult task. After all, it's frightening to talk about change. But we need to be market-driven and offer programs that attract more students. We also need to look at our offerings and make sure they are meeting the needs of the [Adventist] Church and other employers of our graduates. The key here is to provide quality education to our students and graduate global citizens who are prepared for life and work. If they are satisfied, that enhances our sustainability.

Why do we need an Adventist college in the nation's capital?

Ellen White said that our colleges will be fertile grounds to prepare workers for the field. From our location students are able to work in the capital of the free world, which many do. They also can work at our church's world and local headquarters, as a number of current students and alumni do. And they can work in our hospitals, churches, and schools, which many do. By our presence here, we are able to connect with the community and model for them the life and teachings of Christ. I think we can also be a resource for the other Adventist schools and teachers who can utilize our location to enhance their education.

responsible positions nationally and internationally. Seeing their transformation gets me excited!

What would you say to seniors trying to decide where to attend college this fall?

Come to CUC! We offer a strong, nurturing Christian education. We have a passion to see you develop into positive community citizens. We'd love to connect with you through worship, study, play, and dialogue. And we can't wait to see the outcome of your learner-centered education at CUC.

What will CUC look like in five to 10 years?

We will have a much-improved infrastructure. Teachers will use the latest technology in the classroom. Surveys will reveal that students are satisfied with their educational progress. And when we survey employers, we'll find that they're also pleased that our graduates have the necessary skill sets to enhance the workplace.

Where will you begin?

As I begin, I'd like to thank the [CUC Board of Trustees] for their kind offer and call to serve in this union. It is a humbling experience. My entire presidency is going to be based on making connections. First, I need to have a vertical connection with my Lord, Jesus Christ. Second, I need to be horizontally connected with students, faculty, staff, parents, churches, elementary and secondary schools, and alumni. It is essential that we make connections and seek partnerships as we build a future for CUC and take it to the next level. In fact, I would like to invite everyone to share questions and comments with me anytime on email (wspence@cuc.edu) or my president's webpage (www.cuc.edu/president). I will personally respond.

On the Web: To hear more from Dr. Spence, listen to our February 1 podcast interview at www.columbiaunion.org.



10 Guiding Principles for Excellence in Education

1. Commit to Excellence
2. Measure the Important Things
3. Build a Culture Around Learning
4. Build a Culture Around Service
5. Create and Develop Leaders
6. Focus on Faculty, Staff, and Student Satisfaction
7. Build Individual Accountability
8. Align Behaviors with Goals and Values
9. Communicate at all Levels
10. Recognize and Reward Success

—Weymouth Spence, EdD, RT



PHOTOS BY JAMES FERRY

I need to be horizontally connected

with students, faculty, staff, parents, churches, elementary and secondary schools, and alumni.



What can Columbia Union parents expect from you?

They can expect outcomes—positive outcomes. I am here to represent our constituency making sure that the objectives we establish are met, that their students are educated in a Christ-centered environment, and that we produce graduates who represent Christ and display top-notch skills wherever they work. When they come to us they may be green and rough around the edges. But within a short period of time, we'll prepare them to take up

Meet the Professors

Tanisha Greenidge

For These Four, it's all About the Students



the body's complexity with students. "The complexity of nature teaches us about our amazing creator God," she states.

She also encourages senior science majors to develop hands-on activities that teach science to middle school students. Ekkens Villanueva formed a partnership years ago at G. E. Peters Adventist School in nearby Hyattsville, Md., and coordinates these activities along with CUC professor Marlon Rhem.

Tanisha Greenidge is CUC's public relations specialist.

Anthony Futcher Keeping Watch

"I have witnessed many changes in collegiate education and the learning patterns of students during my 40-year teaching career," says CUC alumnus Anthony Futcher, PhD. As a professor of biology, Futcher often took students away from the concrete to observe nature and wildlife on hikes and walks.

"Trips outside the classroom open students' eyes to something they've never seen before," says Futcher, who has guided many young minds in the pursuit of higher learning since 1968. His love for biology and outdoor observations can be attributed to his passion for bird watching. He builds from this to show how creation and so-called "evolution" apply to the Bible. Futcher currently teaches one biology class a semester in addition to his full-time position as director of records, which includes evaluating transcripts for incoming students and advising general studies majors. ▼



Serhii Kalynovs'kyi Producing Independent Thinkers ▲

Guided by his passion for the study of the ocean and atmosphere, Serhii Kalynovs'kyi encourages students to broaden their scientific knowledge and develop critical thinking skills. They enjoy hands-on learning through boat trips to the Chesapeake Bay, where they engage in physical, chemical, and biological data collection and interpretation. Lectures from experts at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction add to their learning experience.

Kalynovs'kyi, an associate professor of physics and engineering coordinator at the college, also enjoys the diversity of the students who have entered his classroom since his first day on campus in 2003. Born and raised in the Soviet Union, Kalynovs'kyi worked in research for several years before becoming a teacher. His strong passion for Christian education propels him to draw excellence from his students. "My primary goal is to make them independent thinkers and learners."

Davenia Lea Championing Christian Education ▲

Davenia Lea became a full-time associate professor of English in July 2007 after two years of adjunct teaching. "My number one goal is to foster a community of highly qualified educators who have a deeper walk with Christ, who are committed to teaching and preparing children and youth, who are service oriented, and who dream big and work hard to fulfill those dreams," she says.

Her specialized training in working with diverse families, and children with disabilities, will provide future educators with the knowledge and skills to teach in a plethora of settings while meeting the individual needs of a wide range of children.



Melinda Ekkens Villanueva Integrating Science and Spirituality ▲

Using science stories found in the news, assistant professor of biology and CUC grad Melinda Ekkens Villanueva encourages students in her microbiology classes to apply their classroom knowledge to real-life issues.

An instructor since 2005, she discovered a passion for science when she took a class in immunology as a CUC student. From that moment she was hooked and continues to share her enthusiasm of

25 Years ...

Tenured professors play an important role in the educational atmosphere at Columbia Union College (CUC). Listed below are dedicated instructors who have served, and ministered, at CUC for more than 25 years. Their wealth of knowledge contributes to campus life and enriches the learning experience of students:

Gladstone Gurubatham, PhD, is a long-time history and psychology professor. The honorary alumnus began his career in 1964 and has 43 years of service.



Lee Marie Wisel is a professor of Library Science and director of CUC's Theofield G. Weis Library. She is an alumna of the college and has taught since 1981.



Deborah Brown is an associate professor of English who began her career in 1982.



Grant Leitma, PhD, is the Department of Psychology chair. An alumnus, he has taught students the relationship between the mind and behavior since 1982.



... and Counting

“Home Away From Home”

Columbia Union Students Say Why They Chose CUC

Compiled by
Tanisha Greenidge

From the earliest days of my childhood, I always liked to argue. When I heard that CUC had a mock trial team that successfully competed against some of the top schools in the nation, I knew there was no other choice for my Adventist education. Three years—and an undefeated season—later, I know I made the right choice.—*Tyson Shaw, senior, Political Studies and Religion, Worthington church, Ohio Conference*

What really caught my attention at CUC were the Acro-Airs, the Department of Music, and the countless events in Washington, D.C. And Washington Adventist Hospital is a huge asset to the nursing program. Our small student population allows people to get to know each other better and create stronger relationships.—*Brittani Bissell, freshman, Nursing, Hershey church, Pennsylvania Conference*

CUC gave me the opportunity to enhance my knowledge, skills, and abilities at a Christian school in a metro area. Even though I was pressed to attend other colleges, I know CUC was the perfect match for me.—*Jennifer McCall, sophomore, Social Work, Temple of Praise church, Allegheny West Conference*

Living so far away from home, I really appreciate the family atmosphere that CUC offers. I will always remember the good friends that I have made so quickly at the college. CUC is truly a home-away-from-home experience.—*Glendys Rosa, freshman, Elementary Education, Hoboken Spanish church, New Jersey Conference*

As a Social Work major, CUC affords me great opportunities for internships and jobs. It is really easy to make friends, know your teachers, and be active on campus. God has blessed me so much, and I will always be thankful for the experiences that I have had.—*Desireé Dixon, sophomore, Social Work, Shiloh church, Allegheny East Conference*

I chose CUC because it is a Seventh-day Adventist college with God at its core. The unity among the student body is very strong. No matter where you are from, what you do, or where you are going, we all look at each other the same way.—*Steev Yovan, freshman, Biology/Premed, Burnt Mills church, Potomac Conference*

I came to CUC as a result of prayer. I asked God to provide a scholarship large enough to defer some of the costs of tuition. At my high school graduation I received the exact amount that I prayed for. I knew then that this was the place for me. I have had the opportunity to meet so many people from so many different cultures. I will always appreciate the time that I have spent here.—*Michelle Wantz, freshman, Nursing, Summersville church, Mountain View Conference*

I chose CUC because it is the only Adventist college on the East Coast located in a highly populated area. The honors program gives me the foundation to explore academic opportunities, and the mock trial class has helped me explore work in a political field.—*Roberta Plantak, freshman, Political Studies, New Hope church, Chesapeake Conference*



Tyson, Ohio



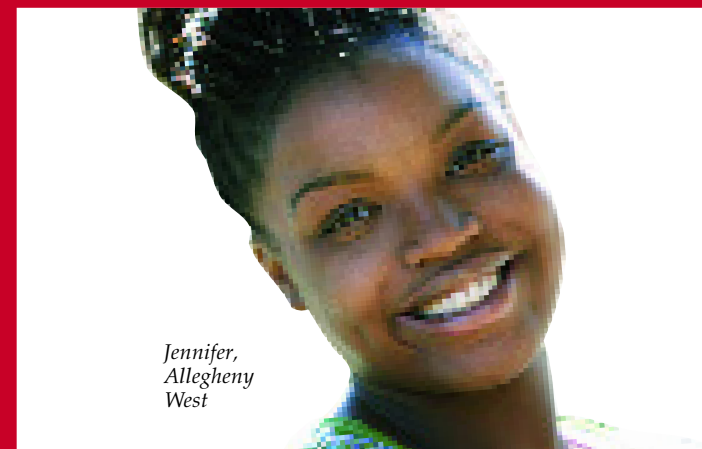
Desireé,
Allegheny
East



Brittani,
Pennsylvania



Steev,
Potomac



Jennifer,
Allegheny
West



Michelle,
Mountain
View



Glendys,
New Jersey



Roberta,
Chesapeake

Celebrating Change: Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Dedicates New Patient Tower



The community has changed drastically around Shady Grove Adventist Hospital since it opened in 1979. Many of the patients and their families are now suburban and shopping centers, the underground system have filled in. The hospital has responded to the needs of this rapidly growing community with a three-year, \$100 million expansion, including a new patient tower.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on November 1, 2007 with a ceremony and dedication for the new patient tower. Wind and weather forced the event indoors, but an impressive turnout, but it rained as if they only added to the festive, celebratory atmosphere. Several hundred people, including city leaders, community residents, clergy and community leaders, physicians, patients, and patient families, helped fill the space with joy and appreciation and added patients.

When fully operational, the tower will provide separate space for several patient care units, including neurology/orthopedics, vascular medicine unit, and patient care gym. The facility will house the

100,000 square foot Hospital Wellness Department, which is scheduled to open in February 2008. It will feature 16 state-of-the-art aquatics centers with the latest technology, such as three open steel floors and the ability to project medical images onto flat screen monitors.

The patient care units in the new tower reflect modern concepts in their design and fit-out. One prominent design element is the clean, minimalist design theme. The new patient care units have one and small meeting rooms positioned throughout the area. This allows the care unit staff to see and check in their patients at all times. A computer for the doctor's workstation is placed near the patient's head side, improving accuracy and efficiency by reducing the number of steps to patient information. The latest medical device is called rate diversity based care, it enables the patient and family sit at the center of a caring, healing environment.

All the elements of this environment were thoughtfully and carefully chosen to create a calming, therapeutic space that also takes care of the lighting.

The patient care units designed to be

more homelike, with a warm, comforting atmosphere. These are family-friendly spaces where family and friends can spend time together. The images have a Mother and father families can prepare food for patients. Because there's nothing like the familiarity of a familiar food to make you feel better. There are computers, so that the patients and family members can see, and the video screen has two medical tables and rooms.

The patient rooms in the new tower are all private and more than double the size of the previous main patient rooms. The rooms are furnished with desks and recliners and televisions. And much of the hospital equipment is hidden behind movable screens.

The rooms in the new main hallway will create a home where the new family can rest and get acquainted. The baby can stay right in the room, and there is a photo album everybody can take home, making the baby more. There is even a quilt and socks, you a new daddy or grandma can say something. "Welcome a baby into the world at one of life's most important moments," says Shady Grove President Dennis Hansen. "It deserves a very special space for the entire family."

The mother/baby unit was the first unit in the new tower to open, on November 19, and the nurses and patients are thrilled. If you aren't able to come see it in person, you can take a 360° virtual tour by going to www.shadygrove.com/visitvirtualtour and clicking "Take a Virtual Tour."

One of the final components of the expansion will be an outdoor Healing Garden on the tower's second floor. The garden will be visible from many of the rooms on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. Patients, visitors, and staff members will be able to sit on a bench and enjoy a relaxing environment, surrounded by plants and water.

At Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, keeping pace with the demanding pace of technology and the desire for people who work there never leave behind the old-fashioned values and the high quality, compassionate care. The expansion continues the tower in demonstrating God's love by expanding the health of people and communities through a ministry of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.



The Happiest Place

Jodi Pross, the Clinical Nurse Manager for the mother/baby unit, has worked at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for 27 years. She has observed firsthand the change that has taken place at the tower. "The new tower has proved to be the hospital. And the care really personally to the happiness experienced by the patients and their families as they sit in the room, see and hear the mother."

The mother/baby unit was the first patient care unit to move from the main patient tower at Shady Grove, and things are very different in the new space. And "space" means to her really, the right word. "I love the place, it's warm. Every room is a private room, and they are more than just a room. The whole family can fit into the room, so, just saying, as they check in to make to the hallway and take time to see the mother and baby. Consequently, there were needed hallways are possible and quiet."

Visitors also have the option of relaxing, as the family has provided an area and a way to rest, with tables, chairs, and cribs. "The nurses are encouraged to sit the lounge area," Jodi says. "That gives them a chance to get to know the families, and the families have the opportunity to sit together."

The focus is not on what is most convenient for the nurses to work, but on the patient and the family. The layout of the new unit fosters an open relationship between the patient and the nursing staff. There is now a centralized nursing station. The nurses are assigned several rooms that are done together, and the charts are right there. The staff understand the clear right way, Jodi says. Not only is it more with care, it improves safety by keeping the nurses really close to their patients.

"The doctors are also saying, it's new area," Jodi says. "I hope it will be baby

rooms at the mother's bedside. This gives them a chance to see their baby in the room. When babies were even go to the nursery."

The new mother/baby unit is a beautiful place. "It's lovely," Jodi notes. "Everything is in natural colors. We have modern floors everywhere." It is also very welcoming for patients and their families and friends. Even little ones—the new baby, brothers and sisters—are welcomed with open arms.

Jodi thinks that the mother/baby unit is the happiest place in the hospital. For many patients it is an unforgettable place. "And Jodi knows it's a great place to work. It's nice to be here with them to help them. The whole process was put in place to be better, and we do pay for the best of the grandparents and friends. It's really working."

And the lovely new environment makes it all even more satisfying.

Imagen de cambio: Shady Grove Hospital dedica nueva torre para pacientes

La comunidad ha sentido el cambio de imagen desde que Shady Grove Adventist Hospital abrió sus puertas en 1991. Muchos de los participantes en el evento de inauguración y servicio conmemorativo el hospital ha respondido a las necesidades de una comunidad que ha crecido y se ha diversificado. El nuevo edificio de pacientes es un ejemplo de cómo el hospital se está adaptando a las necesidades de la comunidad.

El nuevo edificio es un proyecto de inversión de \$10 millones que incluye un nuevo ala de pacientes y un nuevo ala de admisión. El nuevo edificio también incluye un nuevo ala de admisión y un nuevo ala de admisión. El nuevo edificio también incluye un nuevo ala de admisión y un nuevo ala de admisión.

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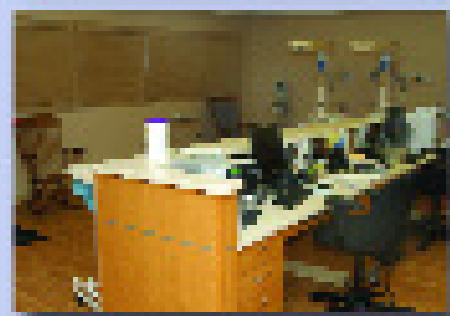
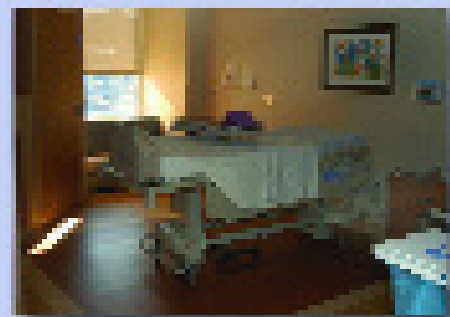
Todos los elementos en este ambiente fueron diseñados para brindar una experiencia

conveniente para los pacientes y sus familias. Los pacientes de pacientes fueron diseñados para brindar una experiencia conveniente para los pacientes y sus familias. Los pacientes de pacientes fueron diseñados para brindar una experiencia conveniente para los pacientes y sus familias.

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ALLEGHENY EAST Exposé

FEBRUARY 2008

PFA, BMA Unite in First Joint Worship

There are few yet amazing times when we find ourselves willing to step out of our "life boxes" to worship with those who look and act differently than us. One such time took place recently at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa. For the first time, students of both PFA and Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., decided to step into a world where all are "Unified in Christ."

Although BMA and PFA are located within 30 miles of each other, they had never held a joint worship service. The service was designed to enable the students to bond with people who are from different schools and backgrounds. It was filled with music representing various worship styles, skits, and powerful and thought-provoking sermons. Ricardo Woolcock (left),



PFA's assistant dean of men, was the guest speaker.

The event was a success due to diligent prayer and planning. The goal to form a bond between the two academies was met, but far beyond that, a bond was created that will prepare all attendees for eternity. Being unified in Christ is not something that is achieved by faith alone; it also takes work and effort. The students and faculty of both schools realized this fact and decided that they were going to put their faith into action. Both schools are planning to worship again soon to continue building their new bond.—Alexandra E. Arnold



Pine Forge Academy (PFA) freshman Edwyn Cain presents a devotional thought during PFA and Blue Mountain Academy's first joint worship.

PHOTOS BY NATALIE WILLIAMS

Liberty Educates Community on Health Laws

Members of the Liberty church in Baltimore recently treated their community to a health fair, garnering positive responses from attendees. The fair featured the eight laws of health with table displays on each. The Baltimore County Health Department provided vision screenings, while Liberty's own doctors and nurses performed health screenings and body fat analysis. Free religious material and school supplies were also distributed. Wrapping up a poster contest, four Liberty young people received awards for their portrayal of one or all of the eight health laws. Liberty's choirs and soloists shared their talents too.



Liberty member Pat Richardson (right) performs a blood pressure check on a Baltimore resident.

According to a survey the church conducted, attendees found the event quite helpful. The Raymonds said the displays on fruits and vegetables, the blood pressure check, and advice on appropriate body weight were most helpful. Sinait Neskai brought her parents because one suffers from diabetes and the other from hypertension, yet neither have health insurance. She appreciated the much-needed advice the doctors and nurses provided on how to care for them. Zora Robinson, Liberty's Health and Temperance leader, said she was excited to see the church's different departments come together to make the fair a success. She plans to make next year's event even better.



Many of Liberty church's departments came together to make their Baltimore health fair a success.

Conference Hosts Sisters in Ministry Unity Day

Allegheny East Conference Women's Ministries (WM) has been hosting a biannual retreat for its ladies for years. But most recently, the experience was divided into two separate events. In October 2007, the department joined Operation ReachBack, Inc. on their "Black Boys at Risk" symposium held in Cozumel, Mexico. Attendees enjoyed the enlightening and empowering presentations. The second, most recent event was the WM Leadership Council's unity in worship service titled "Sisters in Ministry Unity Day."

Sisters in Ministry Unity Day was a special Sabbath hosted by the women of Berea Temple in Baltimore. Women from around the conference joined the Berea family in worship, where all got to experience encouragement, fellowship, and spiritual enrichment. The day's key emphasis was the significance

of women developing and sharing their time, talents, and resources to the glory of God.

Berea's WM committee, led by Armada W. Grant, made considerable efforts to assure the day was spirit filled. Melva Brown, MD, from the Liberty church in Baltimore, started the day by teaching the Sabbath School lesson. A collective praise team and choir (below), accompanied and directed by Sharon Saunders of Miracle Temple, set the tone for a day with beautiful music. Minnie McNeil, conference WM director, introduced Carla Baker, WM director for the North American Division, who praised the ladies for their commitment and promised them that their work *does* make a difference. Children's author and Liberty member Bernice Webster captivated attending children with a true story about her son.

Clinical psychologist Joyce Woods, an elder at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., was the guest speaker for the retreat. She spoke about spousal relationships, particularly addressing the need for couples to include Christ in the relationship. She admonished attendees to stop holding onto the small stuff in their lives that creates division and learn



Directors for Women's Ministries, Armada W. Grant of Berea Temple in Baltimore (left) and Carla Baker from the North American Division, share a light moment during the retreat.

forgiveness. Local recording artist Paul Heflin summed up the message with his rendition of "Were It Not for Grace," which was also the event theme. In the afternoon, the ladies reflected on Woods' message through a heart-to-heart discussion, led by Berea's Phyllis Edmonds.

Another goal of Berea's WM group is to renovate their church kitchen in order to operate a soup kitchen. Attendees were asked to bring a special offering to assist in this endeavor, and proceeds from an afternoon concert featuring Heflin and the Messengers, a local quartet, benefited this goal as well.—*Armada W. Grant and Minnie McNeil*



Kids All Smiles During Southwest Philadelphia VBS



"Farmer Hunter" talks about farm animals and the fruit of the spirit during Southwest Philadelphia church's recent VBS.

More than 50 children, including some from the community, recently converged at the Southwest Philadelphia church to experience Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "Heaven's Orchard: The Fruit of the Spirit." Participants got to see Galatians 5:22-23 come alive when "Farmer Hunter" described the characteristics of a farm animal and related its behavior to a fruit. For example, the dog stood for love; the goat for joy; the lamb for peace, etc. The children got the opportunity to rotate between stations and extend their knowledge of the lessons. At evening's end, each had visited Noah's ark, the farm, the arts and crafts station, and the game room. After closing with scripture, songs, and prayer, the children got to partake of real fruit. Many thanks go to the staff members for putting smiles on so many young faces.

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Maranatha, Emmanuel Witness Success in Unity

Due to the joint efforts of the Maranatha and Emmanuel churches of Cincinnati, Ohio, there are 18 new believers in our Savior, Jesus Christ! The congregations, both shepherded by Pastor Lloydston Burton, recently merged their efforts to execute a successful four-week Revelation seminar at the Emmanuel church.

Following a nontraditional flow, the seminars were held on Wednesday and Friday evenings, with an additional two sessions held on Sabbath. The officers and members of both churches supported the seminar to its end with their prayers, attendance, transportation, special music, Sabbath lunches, and distribution of supplies. Pastor Burton's wife, Sheila, and sons, Lloydston Jr. and Cameron, supported the seminar by making sure all electronic equipment was working properly for each session. Pastor Burton's power-packed preaching, coupled with the Holy Spirit's convicting power, yielded a glorious harvest!—*Debbie Howard*



New converts pose with Pastor Lloydston Burton (far left) following a successful Revelation seminar jointly run by the Maranatha and Emmanuel churches of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Temple Emmanuel Member Accepts Military Honor

Jesse Alli Sr., a member of the Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, was recently honored for his service in the Red Ball Express, the codename for one of World War II's largest logistics operations. The special day was marked with family, friends, and governmental dignitaries.

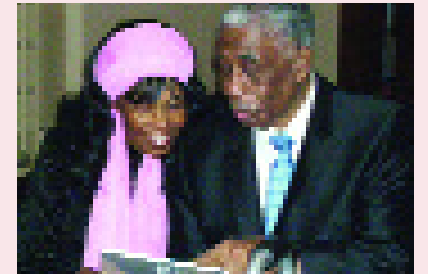


Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department's Donald Lockett Post in Youngstown, Ohio, salute Jesse Alli Sr. during a special ceremony held in his honor.

The Temple Emmanuel Pathfinders and Drum Corp kicked off the ceremony with a procession. Dignitaries from several governmental agencies took their turns presenting proclamations and sharing their appreciation to Alli and his wife, Lula Mae. Among them was Jean Smith, representing Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan; Richard Atkinson, representing Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams; commissioners Anthony Traficanti and David Ludt; as well as Chaplain Earl McAway from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department's Donald Lockett Post.

The Red Ball Express was comprised of 75 percent African-American soldiers who were not permitted in

combat units. They were in charge of a fleet of more than 6,000 trucks and trailers that delivered over 412,000 tons of ammunition, food, and fuel to the Allied forces in the European Theater of Operations, between August 25 and November 16, 1944. For members of the semi-mobile 225th AAA Searchlight Battalion, like Alli, being a "Red Ball" trucker meant that you were charged with driving battalion trucks to the Red Ball depots and picking up supplies and then ferrying them back to positions at forward airfields along the West Wall. Read more at www.sky-lighters.org/red-ball/index.html.



Lula Mae and Jesse Alli admire the proclamation he received from the mayor for his service in the Red Ball Express.

During the ceremony, Alli commented on the fear associated with being a part of the Red Ball Express and shared some of his experiences. He served for more than two years in the Army and was discharged as a corporal. "Knowing that he was a part of this operation and history, and that he put his life on the line, makes me feel extremely blessed and proud of him," said daughter Cheryl Alli, conference administrative assistant to the executive secretary.

Dale Wright Memorial Hosts Interdenominational Service

Members of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, recently spent a spirit-filled Sabbath worshipping with another Sabbathkeeping congregation from Dayton. Twenty members of the Church of God and Saints of Christ church journeyed with their pastor, J. Ellis Millerton, and his wife,



Carolyn, to spend the entire Sabbath with the Dale Wright Memorial congregation.

The visitors arrived early in order to participate in a joint Sabbath School lesson. During the divine worship hour, the Church of God's a capella choir provided special music followed by Pastor Millerton giving a brief

history of the founding and work of their church. Founded in 1896, Millerton explained that they similarly follow God's command about the Sabbath as well as the eating practices as outlined in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. They also operate mission fields in Africa, and are looking forward to the return of Jesus

Christ. "It was truly a pleasure to host the Church of God and Saints of Christ congregation and their pastor," said Derek Adams (left), Dale Wright Memorial pastor. "It was wonderful to witness two congregations coming together, from such diverse theological backgrounds and beginnings, to proclaim their love for Jesus Christ."

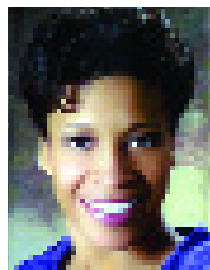
Following the church service, all enjoyed good fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by the members of both congregations.—Verna West



Members of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, share a day of worship with the Church of God and Saints of Christ from Dayton.

Cleveland Women Share "Intimate Moments With God"

Women's Ministries leaders throughout the Cleveland area recently converged their efforts to launch "Intimate Moments with God." This series of bi-monthly meetings being held at numerous area churches has the dual purpose of helping individuals develop a deeper relationship with God and bringing unity among Cleveland women.



Series creator Carolyn Henry Hurst, DPM (pictured), founder of Going GodWard Ministries, says that she hopes the meetings will "strengthen and deepen an individual's relationship with God through activities that will allow the participant to talk and listen to God." She adds, "This is a gala affair where the beauty of the sanctuary service is shared in a unique and powerful way."

The first of six meetings was held at the Bethel church, where nearly 100 people came to be blessed. The guest speaker was Hurst's husband, Jerome, pastor of the Southeast church. He shared how to build intimacy through God's messages in Psalms 27. Hurst will address her peers at the remaining locations and dates:

- February 29 at the Southeast Church
- May 2 at the Maranatha Church

- July 11 at the Southeast Church
 - September 5 at the Glenville Church
 - November 7 at Temple of Praise
- Plan now to attend one of these uplifting sessions, which run from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Calendar

February

8,9 Brazilian Revival, Columbus

March

8 Men's Conference, Westside Church, Cleveland

9 District Lay Leadership Training Workshop, Pittsburgh

15 Education Rally, Ephesus Church, Columbus

28-30 Abuse Awareness Training, Columbus

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Why Pray When You Can Worry?

That question was painted in eight-foot-high letters on the side of a four-story warehouse-turned-church facility on the main street of the town where I grew up. While the obvious and subtle sarcasm was aimed to catch many commuters' attention, it was a very fundamental and important question. Why is it that we are so prone to worry about the details of life rather than simply taking them to God in prayer?

In the most natural and simple way possible, we learn to pray by taking up the ordinary events of everyday life and giving them to God. We share our thoughts, our hurts, our joys—freely and openly. We begin where we are—in our families, on our jobs, with our neighbors and friends, etc. Now, I wish this did not sound so trivial, because on the practical level of knowing God—it is the most profound truth we will ever hear. To believe that God can reach us and bless us in the ordinary junctures of daily life is the stuff of prayer.

In the beginning stages of our experience, we are very much the subject and center of our prayers. But in God's time, and in God's way, a revolution takes place in our heart. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, there is a shift in our center of gravity. We pass from thinking of God as part of our life to the realization that we are part of His life. Wondrously and mysteriously God moves from the periphery of our prayer experience to the center. A conversion of the heart takes place, a transformation of the spirit. And worry evaporates!



Rob Vandeman
President

Middletown Valley Set to Expand

Nearly two years after approaching an architect, 18 months after applying for a building permit, and more than a year after the groundbreaking ceremony, members of the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., have their new building permit in hand. They are finally moving forward with a major expansion to their facility.

With the construction work now slated to begin this spring, the congregation hopes to be worshipping in their new sanctuary before the end of the year. This second phase of their long-term vision includes a 5,000 sq. ft. worship center with a seating capacity of more than 200. It will also include a children's room, a pastor's study, and restrooms. The lower level of the new wing will be roughed in for the anticipated third phase, which will include a full-size kitchen, more bathrooms, and a large fellowship hall. The estimated construction cost for phase II is approaching \$850,000, partially made possible through a loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund.



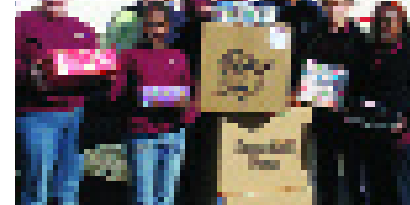
Middletown Valley pastor Dick Thomas has considerable building experience but admits the difficulties and delays in the permitting process for this project have tested his patience. Yet he remains confident and optimistic that the Lord will see this church family realize their dream.



Robbin Calfo, Carol Thomas, Pastor Dick Thomas, treasurer Anita Milam, and building committee member Colby Bledsoe of the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson, Md., join county inspector Cate Hartssock in joyfully holding the long-awaited building permit for their church expansion project.

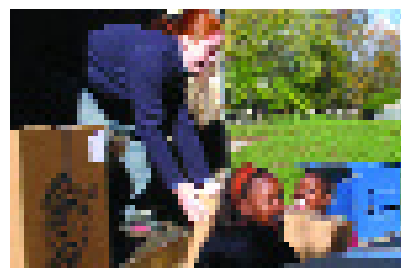
Wilmington School Participates in Shoebox Ministry

For the past five years, Wilmington (Del.) Junior Academy (WJA) has been a drop-off point for Operation Christmas Child, a program that collects and distributes shoeboxes filled with gifts for children in need. The program, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, targets children around the world who have been ravaged by the effects of disaster, war, famine, poverty, or disease. A typical shoebox holds small toys, combs, pens, books, and other creative gifts. This was a banner year as WJA students collected 10,471 shoeboxes, which filled two tractor-trailers.



Wilmington (Del.) Junior Academy eighth-graders load a tractor-trailer with shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child.

The students see this ministry as an opportunity to make a real impact on the lives of young children and as a tangible way of expressing the love of God to those in need. No shoebox is sent away without a prayer being said for the young boy or girl who will receive it. This annual program is a cooperative venture of the WJA students, the Wilmington church, and school families and friends from the surrounding community. Plans are underway for next year's project to target a specific area, such as Calcutta, India, or Johannesburg, South Africa.



WJA eighth-graders Katie Hewlett, Josleen Omani, and Emma Jogoo are happy to make a difference in children's lives.

Hispanic Company Opens in Annapolis

Following a pageant with a youth dramatization of the first Christmas, more than 120 members of Chesapeake's Spanish-speaking constituency gathered in Annapolis, Md., for an organizational meeting. At the meeting, the conference leadership team organized its first company of Spanish-speaking believers in Annapolis with 41 charter members. Another 80 attendees came to wish their fellow believers well and to encourage their continued growth.

The Spanish work in Annapolis has developed over the years thanks in great part to the efforts and commitment of Luis Ventura. During the meeting, Ventura read the group's history and paid tribute to the people involved from its beginning. When he first moved to Annapolis, the El Salvadorian native could find no other Seventh-day Adventists with whom to worship. He

eventually traveled to Baltimore and was encouraged by Israel Ramirez, then pastor of the Baltimore Spanish church, to start a work in the state capital.

The company now functions under the local lay leadership of Saul Gutierrez and Samuel Cristancho. It is aligned as part of a district with the Washington-Spencerville Spanish church in Spencerville, Md., and the Laurel (Md.) Maranatha Spanish company. Juan Carlos Sicalo is the district's pastor. He and the others have already laid plans to plant another church in Bowie, Md., by the end of 2008.

Just a few years ago, Chesapeake's only Spanish-speaking congregation was in Baltimore. Today a dozen Spanish congregations are part of this expanding ministry within the conference.



District pastor Juan Sicalo observes as members sign on to join the first Spanish-speaking company in Annapolis, Md.



A choir performs for a Christmas pageant that preceded the organizational meeting of the new Annapolis company.

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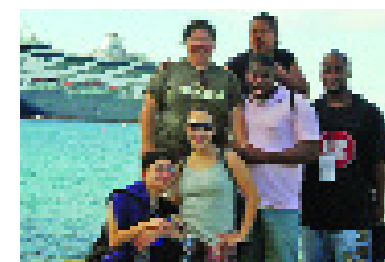
Students Conduct Mission Projects During Cruise

Columbia Union College (CUC) students recently joined more than 1,000 young people from across the nation for Cruise With a Mission. The national mission project took the volunteers to various countries in Central America during Christmas break.

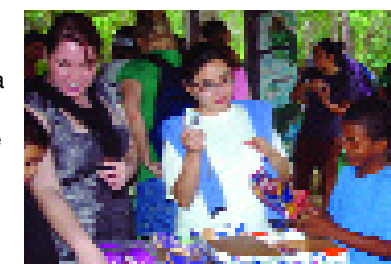
During their week aboard the cruise ship, the CUC students got to know teammates through small group sessions, sharing testimonies, and attending worship programs. "The trip gave us an opportunity to discuss our mission as Christians, and we were able to witness to young people on the trip and

in the countries we visited," said Lorena Martinez, a group sponsor and administrative assistant to the chaplain.

During their stops in Belize and Guatemala, the cruise participants spent time with children living in orphanages. While in Guatemala, they taught children the love of Jesus during a Vacation Bible School program, painted and performed ground maintenance at various schools, and delivered Christmas gifts to children in their homes.—PR Staff



CUC students and staff prepare to board their Cruise With a Mission ship.



Seniors Erika Orban and Lorena Guardado deliver gifts to orphan children in Guatemala.

NEWS

Alumni Weekend Announced

Columbia Union College will welcome back its alumni during a special weekend, April 11-13. The spiritually uplifting event will be filled with activities and a chance to renew friendships. Graduates from honor classes '98, '88, '83, '78, '68, '58, and '48 are warmly encouraged to attend with their spouses and friends.

Visitors Welcome to Spring Open House

On February 24, interested students will have the opportunity to meet with faculty as well as financial aid and academic counselors during CUC's Open House. Students interested in sports will also get the opportunity to meet with athletic program directors. The event starts at 1 p.m. For more information or to make a reservation, call (800) 835-4212 or email openhouse@cuc.edu.

Youth Ensemble Spreads God's Love

Members of CUC's New England Youth Ensemble (pictured) are dedicated to spreading God's message of hope and love through music. They demonstrated this dedication during the holiday season when they presented a program featuring hymns, spirituals, and sacred classical music at various churches in Jamaica, Thailand, and Southern California. The concerts featured solo works



The New England Youth Ensemble, under the direction of Preston Hawes, performs in Bangkok, Thailand.

and combined performances by young musicians who are current students or friends of the college. Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, DMA, and Preston Hawes, an alumnus of the college, direct the ensemble.—PR Staff

Free Seminars Offer Money for College

CUC is now offering free unionwide seminars for parents with children of any age. For more information, call Enrollment Services at (800) 835-4212.

Religion Majors Tour Turkey

Faculty, students, and friends recently toured the cave churches of Cappadocia and retraced the footsteps of the Apostle Paul as part of CUC's Department of Religion Winter Study Tour of Turkey. The trip highlighted the historical church locations that Paul wrote about in his visits to Ephesus and some of the seven churches referenced in the Book of Revelation.

Professor and department chair Zack Plantak, PhD, conducted the tour along with his wife, Lidija, and Communication and Journalism professor and chair David Miller. Senior Theology and Early Education major Lorena Guardado saw the tour as an opportunity to experience what she studies. "Going to some of the sites of the seven churches helped me visualize it more," she commented.

Course options for the tour included Celebrating and Experiencing Scripture, Introduction to Fine Arts, and Christian Apocalyptic Writing: Revelation. Peter Garza, a senior theology major and youth pastor of the campus' Sligo church, was particularly moved by his visit to Ephesus. "Just standing in the coliseum and seeing how big it was, and knowing that Paul stood there and was willing to die for his faith, was amazing," he marveled. "I was inspired to be a more courageous Christian and leader. I also realize there is so much more I can do for my community."—David Miller



CUC faculty, students, and friends enjoy their visit at the Church of the Holy Wisdom, commonly known as Hagia Sophia, during the Department of Religion Winter Study Tour of Turkey.

Student Profile: Megan Boggess

Megan Boggess (below) found her niche at CUC. Originally from West Virginia and a graduate of Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., she chose CUC for its location and close access to political, cultural, and academic events in the area. As a sophomore Mathematics and Education major, Boggess enjoys the academic offerings and challenging coursework that she discovered as a freshman honors student. "The friendships that I have made from our Honors Rhetoric class and Honors Seminar, plus all the activities we take part in as a group, will last forever," she stated.

Boggess' scholastic achievement in the Honors Program is balanced with athleticism. As a member of CUC's cross-country and track and field teams, she enjoys the camaraderie with teammates as they push each other to excel. Both groups offer her a sense of community and friendship.

One memory that Boggess says she will remember forever took place last fall during an Honors Program retreat. At the retreat, graduating seniors got an opportunity to give advice to the underclassmen. The advice was sometimes somber, sometimes comical, but all shared laughter and tears. Then three members from the program gave a special concert. "Their comical and original music had the group laughing so hard," recalled Boggess. "The closeness of the group that night was almost tangible and definitely memorable. It was pretty much the greatest thing ever."—PR Staff



Sophomore Megan Boggess (front row, far left) has found friends and camaraderie through her participation in CUC's track team.

CALENDAR

February

- 1 Black History Month
- 6-9 Columbia Union Band Festival
- 10 Valentine's Banquet
- 20 Success Night, SGPS, Gaithersburg Campus
- 21 Success Night, SGPS, Takoma Park Campus
- 16-18 48-Hour Film Project, Dept. of Comm. and Journalism
- 17 SA College Bowl
- 18 Presidents' Day—Campus Closed
- 24 Open House

March

- 3-6 Midterm Exams
- 7-16 Spring Break

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ www.cuc.edu Weymouth Spence, EdD, President ■ Exec. Dir. of Marketing and Comm., Scott Steward ■ Editor, Tanisha Greenidge

Christian Education on the Rise

I had my own firsthand account of how God has been crowded out of the public school system. Week after week I was enveloped in a godless school atmosphere with the myriad of temptations that existed in the 1970s. Certainly, students today face even greater challenges and temptations than I could have imagined.

The exciting news is that more and more parents and grandparents are realizing that it is not worth the gamble of their child's salvation. Another exciting reality is that a growing number of churches and individuals are going the extra mile to make sure any youth who wishes to attend an Adventist school will have the opportunity to do so. These sacrifices have a great deal to do with the enrollment boom that several of our Columbia Union academies have realized this year.

As we look to the future, challenges will continue to threaten the financial viability of our schools. But the need to guard the spiritual life of our children will continue to grow as well. Won't you join in the battle for the souls of our young people? Are you willing to make a sacrifice to ensure our children get the opportunity to learn in an atmosphere that encourages them to talk to God several times each day? Education is a wonderful tool that will allow our children to succeed here on Earth. Christian education is a gift we can give our children for their journey toward eternity.



Brad Durby
Recruiter, Chaplain,
Athletic Director

NEWS

Academy Days Gets Thumbs Up

Students from several surrounding Adventist schools recently visited Highland View Academy (HVA) during their annual Academy Days. The students were able to experience classes with current academy students, meet the faculty, and find out more about what HVA has to offer. Some visitors also stayed over on Sunday night to experience dorm life. In addition, prospective students—and their parents—were able to learn more about the many aspects of the Campus Ministries program, opportunities they will have to become involved in music and sports, the work program, and scholarships offered.

When asked their thoughts about the event, attendees' replies were positive. "It was really good," said Zack Wasli, an eighth-grader from Frederick (Md.) Adventist Elementary, while giving a thumbs up. "It was really awesome," commented Caitlin Worden, an eighth-grader at Mt. Aetna Adventist



Guests Nick Munro from the Rocky Knoll school in Martinsburg, W.Va., and Marci Corea from the Mt. Aetna Adventist Elementary in Hagerstown, Md., shake hands during an Academy Days mixer.

Elementary in Hagerstown, Md. Even HVA students enjoyed the occasion. "It was really fun, and I thought the kids who visited were cool," said junior Dan Barizo.



Ryan Stough, Danielle Meadows, and Chemutai Kemboi from the Rocky Knoll school enjoy Academy Days.

School Honors Class of 2008

The Class of 2008 was honored recently during a special vespers service, where the perseverance and hard work it takes to reach senior status was recognized. Jennifer Payne, English teacher and class sponsor, and Brad Durby, recruiter and chaplain, were the speakers. Payne skillfully highlighted the unique personality of the class and praised them for their many talents. Durby urged them to be led by God to use their talents for the purposes to which He calls them.

"It was awesome," exclaimed senior Lauren Kawlni. "I enjoyed it very much because everybody was there to support us, especially our families." Senior Jessica Wahlen said of the moment, "I felt like I was officially a senior." The evening concluded with a reception for the honorees, their families, and guests hosted by the Class of 2009.

Students Gain Focus at Bible Retreat

Fifteen HVA students, accompanied by three teachers, recently spent a weekend in Pennsylvania for the annual Bible retreat. The retreats are held at the "Howe's farm," as it is lovingly referred to by many students and faculty. The property, owned by Ted Howe, MD, and his wife, Beth, has been made available to HVA groups on many occasions. Offering a quiet, rustic setting, void of common distractions such as traffic, television, and phone service, it is the perfect getaway.

The event's theme "Hiding God's Word in Your Heart" was based on Psalms 119:11. In addition to study and prayer, other activities used to make the theme practical included writing a song based on a Scripture, presenting dramatic readings of Scripture, and playing a Scripture hide-and-seek game. "I enjoyed the Scripture songs the most," said Alban Howe, an event sponsor.

The weekend also provides time for group bonding by sharing limited space, making meals together, and just hanging out on the porch. On Sabbath afternoon, students visited and sang at the Rest Assured Assisted Living Center, where they were very well received. In the afternoon, the group hiked through the Big Savage Tunnel. "It was fun and it brought us closer to God," commented junior Jaenique Banfield. Junior Ashley Boggess agreed and added, "I had a lot of fun and also learned a lot."

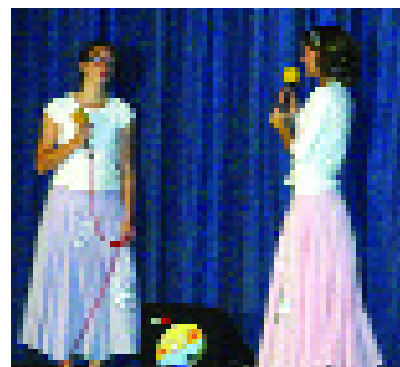


Senior Julie Marques, and juniors Ashley Boggess and Jaenique Banfield lead praise worship during the Bible retreat.

Class of 2009 Hosts 50s Talent Show

The Class of 2009 hosted Highland View Academy's annual Talent Show. The 1950s theme was depicted through the vintage diner, leather jackets, poodle skirts, and root beer floats. It was evident the sponsor class invested a lot of time and energy in the event. "It was amazingly stressful, but totally awesome!" admitted junior Ashley Boggess.

Instrumental and vocal selections, skits, and juggling were among the talents showcased. Kyly Bauer won first place for her piano



The MCs, juniors Ashley Boggess and Laura Boyer, entertain the crowd.

rendition of "Sonata in A." Junior Kevin Issac, senior Lucas Mongare, sophomore John Mongare, junior Mike Nyatta, and senior Walter Umana were awarded second place for their performance of the African song "Mos Mos." Freshman Do Young An received third place for her piano solo on the Gayagm, a traditional Korean instrument.

Junior Mike Nyatta said it best: "It was a pretty exciting experience to see so many people enjoying themselves and laughing."

Members of the Class of 2009 celebrate after hosting a successful talent show.

CALENDAR

February

- 22-23 Chesapeake Bible Conference at HVA
- 24 International Fair, 3-6 p.m., Gymnasium
- 27-Mar.2 Home Leave

March

- 3-8 Student Week of Prayer
- 14-16 Parent Weekend
- 15 Senior Play, 8 p.m., Gymnasium
- 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 21-30 Spring Break
- Honduras Mission Trip
- Scandinavia Music Tour

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The Rescued Need to Become the Rescuers

I recently read *The Called ... The Chosen* by Ken McFarland, a must-read for everyone. If you don't have the book, please contact me for a free copy. McFarland emphasizes God's unlimited resources for the accomplishment of our mission, but points out that Christians often "forget God and lose sight of their high privilege as His representatives" (p. 48).

In Mountain View, we have been blessed with the dawning light of those "unlimited resources" so readily available to us if we are willing to dedicate our lives to Christ's high calling. Some of us may feel inadequate to represent God, but He reminds us that man's impossibilities are God's limitless possibilities (see Matthew 19:26). God is ready to bless us with "every imaginable blessing" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 288) if we will open our hearts to His purpose. During this new year, the possibility of doing exploits for God is as sure as His promise: "Every soul whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost. In this work all the angels of heaven are ready to co-operate. All the resources of heaven are at the command of those who are seeking to save the lost. Angels will help you to reach the most careless and the most hardened" (p. 197, with editorial emphasis).

In 2008 let us pray for dedicated lives, share God's love, and invite others to accept a powerful God who loves them and whom you know and represent. If you have been rescued, God is asking you to become a rescuer.

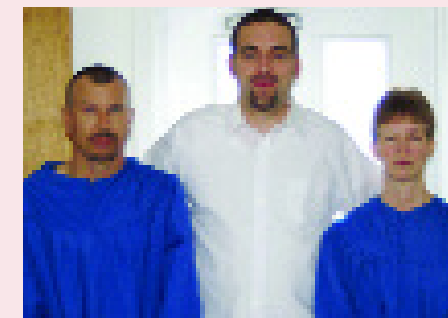


Larry Boggess
President

New Morgantown Member Shares Conversion Story

A recent Sabbath consummated a two-year voyage from darkness to light for Deborah Bosley, with God at the helm. Here, in her own words, is an account of that remarkable journey to truth and salvation:

"I wasn't raised in a particular religion, but my family attended Methodist and Pentecostal churches during my childhood.



Morgantown pastor Geoff Star (center) happily prepares to baptize new converts Rick and Deborah Bosley.

Through books and tracts, I had been studying different religions. Frustrated and confused with the diversity of ideas in print, I was almost ready to give up, but decided

instead to pray that God would show me the truth.

"At this time, through my study, I already knew about the state of the dead. I really felt I was being led to read certain overlooked Bible truths. I read about the seventh-day Sabbath—a real shock—but kept praying

amidst my uncertainty. During this time I saw a commercial for Sky Angel satellite and ordered one. One day I watched "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" by Pastor Leo Schreven on 3ABN. The sermon really touched me and brought me to tears. I called Sky Angel and asked them what religion the people on 3ABN were. I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists before. Still not putting this together, and still praying, I went to a local bookstore and asked if they had any books in stock on this religion. The cashier said no. However, she informed me that a co-worker, John Zerme, belonged to the Seventh-day Adventist church, but he was not in at the time. I contacted him, and he let me borrow a book about the 27 fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church.

"Zerne attended the Adventist church in Morgantown, Va. It took us two years, but on the first Sabbath in September 2007, my husband, Rick, my daughter, April, and her two sons, Noah (7) and Nathan (19 months), started attending the Morgantown church.

"My husband and I were baptized November 17, 2007. Evangelist Rich Cavaness helped us prepare and was present for our baptism. He read our vows while Pastor Geoff Star performed the baptism. We want to thank Cavaness, Schreven, our pastor, and all of our Morgantown church family for welcoming us. Special thanks goes to God who led us here."

Weirton, Wheeling Youth Aspire to be Missionaries

“There’s the missionary!” squealed 5-year-old Rebekah Jones as my wife, Barbara, and I walked into the Wheeling, W.Va., church,” recalled Homer Trecartin, Adventist Mission planning director at the Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. Rebekah had come with her parents—Wheeling pastor Brian Jones and his wife, Elizabeth—to the Weirton, W.Va., church the night before. She had watched and listened intently



Homer Trecartin (center), Global Mission project director, and his wife, Barbara (fourth from left), enjoy wearing hats from around the world with Rebekah Jones (front) and other teens from the Wheeling (W.Va.) church.

for the entire hour and a half that Trecartin showed pictures and told about the people and work in Central Asia.

In the afternoon, Trecartin presented material on a different mission program. “When I finished, they begged me to do the one from the night before,” he laughed. “The young people all listened closely to my presentation on the call to sacrifice and commitment in God’s service. They were especially intrigued with the hat I was wearing, so we dug into our exhibits box and pulled out the other hats we had brought along. They put them on and posed with Barbara and me—a whole group of missionaries!”

All the young people present seemed deeply stirred by the Holy Spirit to commit their lives to God as His ambassadors, to take the light of present and eternal truth to whatever part of the world the Lord sends them. Trecartin told them they are already missionaries, but also admonished their parents to be preparing their hearts for the day when some of their children may decide to go halfway around the world on a mission for the Lord.

Lewisburg Comes Alive With Sounds of Music

The Lewisburg (W.Va.) church was recently blessed to hear sounds of music come alive under the skillful fingers of Calvin Taylor, DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts). Taylor is a music publisher, concert performer, and recording artist who holds several degrees in music from various prestigious universities. He has also authored several music books, including *Spirituals for Piano and Sacred Classics*.



Guest musician Calvin Taylor, DMA, glides his hands over the piano’s keys as he performs for the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church’s afternoon concert.

Taylor’s morning program consisted of Scripture reading and beautiful renditions of familiar hymns that brought to life the passages he read. He played such tunes as “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” “Jesus Loves Me,” and “In the Garden.” If you closed your eyes, you could even imagine the ocean waves as he played “Master, the Tempest is Raging.”

In the afternoon, Taylor performed again. This time the community was invited by way of radio and newspaper announcements. As Taylor again brought the piano keys to life with “The Holy City” and other inspiring selections, 10 community guests and nearly all the Lewisburg church members sat spellbound.

After the concert, church members served refreshments and attendees were able to talk personally with Taylor and purchase his CDs. Guests were also given an opportunity to sign a registry to for notification of future concerts at Lewisburg church. A very friendly man, Taylor even consented



Taylor gives a few piano-playing tips to 9-year-old Jessica Pepper after the concert.

to giving a few tips about piano playing to those who stayed by to help him pack up his materials.
—Kathy Pepper

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Teaching Students About God’s Sufficient Grace

Experiencing a week of prayer led by students is one of the most rewarding opportunities. During the recent student-led event, as the teens discussed different biblical figures who came to Christ despite their flaws, I started to think about the message we, as educators, send our students. The biggest challenge we face is helping a teenaged mind realize the grace that exists solely as a result of the love of God. How do we help students meet and accept a Savior without conditions? How do we bring them to a place where grace is foremost and the distinction of works is clear? The fact is, there is no clear template for guaranteed success in conveying this message.

In any school setting, it is difficult to help students appreciate the rules without them feeling restricted by those rules. This same thought is true at home, work, or anywhere one is held subject to the law. As faculty and staff, we are challenged to help students understand that God’s law was not established to save us, but to help us develop the character of Christ. He does this by revealing the areas where we still fall short. All of us at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) have been challenged by our students to remain focused on sharing the message of the grace that saves and a law that reveals. Simply put, His grace is sufficient, and our goal is that all of our students embrace it.



David Daniels
Principal

Week of Prayer Challenges Students to “Come as You Are”

While MVA has two weeks of prayer, one in the fall and one in the spring, a week of spiritual renewal is also planned during the winter. The academy recently completed this annual Student Week of Prayer. Instead of inviting a guest speaker, the students prepared and delivered the messages to their peers. The young speakers this year were sophomore Jeanmark Kessler, junior Jennifer Mangena, senior Jonathan Charles, junior Kristy Riley, senior Danika Ouzounian, freshman Allegra Jenkins, junior Devin Large, junior Ricky Woodruff, and junior Bruce Cuevas.

The chaplains and student speakers spent a week-end prior to the event at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio. The group spent time in prayer, study, reflection, and preparation. God worked in some mysterious and wonderful ways



During Student Week of Prayer, senior Jonathan Charles discusses how Paul came to Christ.

to inspire the students with a specific message for their friends.

The benefits of having student speakers are numerous. For one, many students admit to being more receptive to hear-

ing the gospel presented through the voice and view of one of their peers. The speakers also mention the joy they discover in sharing their faith with others.

And the time these young presenters spend studying and preparing for their talk helps them develop a more intimate relationship with Christ.

This year the speakers examined the life of different Bible characters, men and women like David, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Saul, and Zacchaeus. There was a common theme throughout the week. Each Bible character was said to have “messed up,” and while their sin may have had unintended consequences and painful effects, God did not give up on them. God, in His great mercy, was able to reach through the gloom of their failures and put them back on solid ground. The message to the students of MVA was that we can come to Christ as we are, despite our insufficiencies, and He will heal us as well and place us on solid ground.—Tim Soper



Student Week of Prayer provides students an opportunity to be blessed with messages from their peers.

Success Through “Search and Give” Earns Recognition



While using the Internet for research, junior Lance Downing donates money to Mount Vernon Academy through “Search and Give,” a fund-raising program.

Mount Vernon Academy is participating in a new fund-raising opportunity. Microsoft and Scholastic Books have partnered to create “Search and Give,” a Web-based fund-raising program that allows participants to raise money through searching or playing educational games.

To participate with Search and Give, individuals must create an account and choose their charity of choice (i.e., Mount Vernon Academy). Using the search engine donates one point to the charity, while playing the educational games donates various points. At the end of the year, donated points turn into money.

Currently MVA has only 65 supporters, many of whom are staff and students. Even so, the school has earned more than 45,000 points, ranking MVA third among schools in the nation and seventh for charitable organizations. Scholastic Books recently recognized MVA’s achievement and will be featuring the school’s accomplishments in an upcoming article.—Aaron Myers

UPCOMING EVENTS

Academy Days Opens Doors

On April 13 and 14, MVA will host Academy Days for prospective students in grades 7-11. This annual event gives visitors an opportunity to experience academy life through a kaleidoscope of activities. They will participate in events designed to familiarize them with each other, the campus, and current students and staff. Attendees

will also join shortened classes in order to meet the teachers.

Prospective students will be able to complete financial aid applications and audition for several music and sports scholarships, which will be

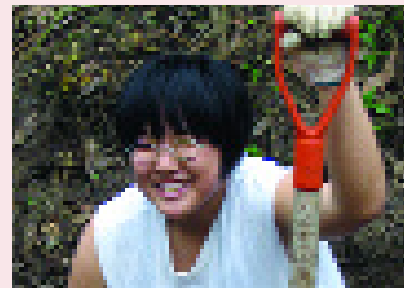
awarded to several guests in grades 8-11, may be applied toward tuition the following year, or later, at MVA. Plan now to attend this action-packed extravaganza. For more information, visit www.mvacademy.org or email information@mvacademy.org.

Juniors, Seniors Prepare for Missions Abroad

In addition to the many local service and outreach projects MVA participates in each year, willing students and staff are also given the opportunity to serve others beyond our country’s borders. This year more than 50 juniors and seniors will simultaneously travel to two different locations where they will perform mission work from February 22 through March 2.

Participants from MVA’s junior class will travel to hurricane-ravaged Belize to build a church and assist with

the clean up and repairs still needed as a result of Hurricane Dean, which hit in August 2007. Seniors will travel to another, yet undetermined, country and perform mission work during their senior class trip. Please keep all participants in your prayers as they serve others.



Soogie Choi helps dig a plot for a new church in Belize during the 2007 junior mission trip.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 17 Student Association Banquet
- 22-Mar. 2 Junior and Senior Mission Trips
- 27-Mar. 2 Home Leave

March

- 5-7 Midterm Exams
- 10-14 OGT Testing
- 19-23 Echolier/Handbell Tour
- 28 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 28-Apr.6 Spring Break

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Are We Still the “People of the Book”?

The clearest manifestation of the great revival prophesied for the last days of Earth’s history, before the second coming of Jesus is this: A genuine return to the study of the Bible with a powerful spirit of prayer that will lead God’s children to live a pious life in harmony with the only rule of faith and practice, the Holy Bible.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been recognized in the past as “the people of the Book,” but are we today? I sometimes ask myself where in our movement did we drop the Book? Why did reading the Bible annually, memorizing the Bible text from the morning devotional, and studying the Sabbath School lesson seven days a week disappear from many of our homes?

Sadly, many talk about other things but not the Word of God. Some have started labeling us sarcastically as the “fathers of the modern discussion.” For this and many other reasons, I invite all the members of the New Jersey Conference family, and all who read this editorial, to return to the Bible! Let us study this Book every day. Remember, by the grace of God, we can still be the “people of the Book.”



José Cortés
President

Conference Votes Five-Year Initiative

The New Jersey Conference Executive Committee recently voted the following initiatives for the next five years:

- In the area of evangelism, the conference voted that each church will hold spring and fall evangelistic meetings, and will host public awareness events in their communities. There will also be one conference-wide evangelistic effort each year.
- In the area of empowerment, conference departmental leaders will provide “Train the Trainers” seminars to empower the laity in the following areas: Bible studies, small group leadership, preaching, worship and music, and spiritual gifts.
- Under Christian education, the conference would like to see increased enrollment and better marketing of its schools. The leaders also voted to explore the achievability of offering high school education once again.
- In the area of communication, the conference would like to expand the communication network between itself and local churches, implementing different modes. It would like to upgrade Web resources, and encourage local churches to have multimedia

capabilities with the intent of accessing multi-media resources for evangelistic purposes.

- Utilizing the power of prayer, the conference voted that it will be a haven of prayer to all nations and cultures. They also plan to train local church prayer leaders in various prayer-based ministries.
- Under community services, the committee decided to train and monitor local church leadership to implement one or more community-improvement programs, for example, a food bank, clothing distribution, etc.



Peter Anderson (left), elder at the Newark English church, leads out in one of the strategic planning groups where church leaders answer the question, “Where do you see your conference in five years?”

Laurelwood Baptizes New Members



The Laurelwood church recently added four new members to its congregation: Stephanie Thomas, Robert Hunter, Ron Holzer, and Cindy Staab. The four new believers studied with Pastor Mike Gill for some time, and were eager to be buried with the Lord in baptism. They all got their wish at the conclusion of a prophecy seminar conducted by Jack Dubosque at their church.

New convert Cindy Staab is elated following her baptism by Laurelwood pastor Mike Gill.

Meadow View Students Shine

We take the opportunity of the Christmas season to minister to our community by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through drama, music, and by providing necessary goods for the needy," explained Meadow View Junior Academy principal Sadrail Saint-Ulysse. In lieu of a gift exchange, the school family adopts several needy families in the Chesterfield area and provides them with clothing, toys, and food.

Saint-Ulysse explains that their annual Christmas program also gives them the opportunity to share the gospel with nonbelievers. The students demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm during their recent production of *Miracle on Main Street*. It was directed by Deborah Strang, volunteer choir director, and Melanie Freeth, bell choir and first- through third-grade teacher. The gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives, and friends who were delighted by the production.



Students at Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield delighted friends, relatives, and visitors during their recent performance of *Miracle on Main Street*.

Students reflect the rich rewards for the parents' sacrifice.—John Hakizimana with contributions by LNS seventh- and eighth-grade students

Lake Nelson Students Present Holiday Program

Every year students at the Lake Nelson School (LNS) in Piscataway host a Christmas program to share the meaning of Jesus' birth with the community. Appearing before a packed auditorium, nearly all LNS students took part in the memorable production, showcasing their God-given talents, and attesting to God's blessings on the school.

The role of a shepherd took center stage again in *The Miracle of Christmas*, the story about a Roman centurion who, walking alone one night, encountered a shepherd on her way to meet fellow shepherds. Having overseen Christ's crucifixion, the centurion started believing in Jesus, but still doubted because Christ was gone. The shepherd, a follower of Christ, recounted the Savior's life in a narrative that flashed back to the miracles of the

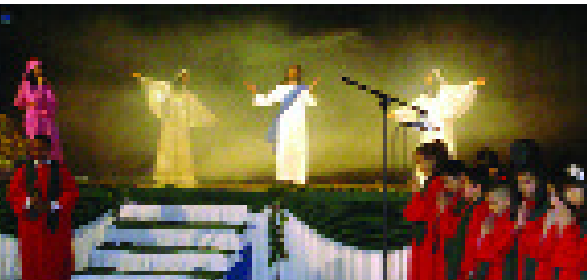


Lake Nelson School kindergarten students portray an angel announcing, "Be not afraid, I bring you good news," to the shepherds.

ascension, resurrection, passion, crucifixion, and—the biggest miracle of all—the nativity.

The LNS choir—encompassing nearly every student from first-through eighth-grade—added another dimension to the events being portrayed on stage, filling the auditorium with angelic voices. For the grand finale, during a nativity scene with live animals, all the characters joined the choir in singing "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

During closing remarks, LNS principal Elisa Maragoto expressed heartfelt thanks to the team that made it all possible. Similarly, J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, superintendent of schools, affirmed that performances like this and the high academic achievements of LNS



Students portray the opening scene of *The Miracle of Christmas*, depicting the ascension of Jesus Christ.

dates NEW JERSEY

February

8-10 English Lay Evangelism School, *Tranquil Valley Retreat Center*

10 Family Ski Day, *Big Boulder*

22-24 Spanish Lay Evangelism School, *TVRC*

March

7-9 Couples Retreat, *Egg Harbor*

15 "Go Wide!" Northern NJ Youth Rally, *TVRC*

28-30 English Women's Retreat, *Cape May*

29 "Heal our Land" Prayer Conference, *Robbinsville Church*

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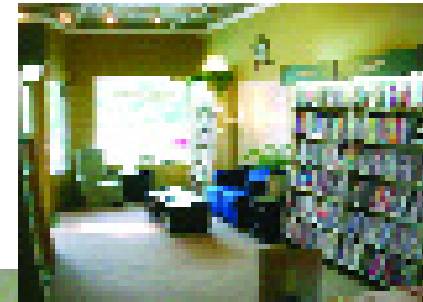
Mission Movers: Agora Bookstore

Under the direction of Pastor Gianluca Bruno, the Village church in Mason opened Agora in May 2006 with the goal of establishing a community action ministry. Now, nearly two years later, many of the original goals have been realized and more continue to unfold.

Located strategically in a business storefront in downtown Mason, Agora is a nonprofit organization that has, at its center, a vibrant used bookstore. It helps support the organization and emphasizes an artistic, cozy atmosphere. Comfortable chairs, like a living room, are appealing to people seeking quiet reading time or informal conversation. And the walls act as a showcase for original local art. However, Agora encompasses much more than just the bookstore. After hours the store becomes a meeting space for clubs, conversation groups, workshops, films, and literary readings. For instance, in partnership with the Rotary Club, Agora sponsored a live singer/guitarist in connection with the downtown Mason Christmas festival.

Operating by the mission statement to "create an environment that fosters personal growth and facilitates community development," Agora follows three simple strategies: create friendships, welcome new

ideas, and facilitate the implementation of those ideas. As a result, they do not push prepackaged programs, but



Cultural nights at Agora feature food, art, and entertainment with an ethnic theme.

instead allow their community contacts to create ideas associated with a need. Their monthly Turning Pages Book Club and Creativity Circles artistic development group were started in this way.

None of this could be accomplished without the generous support of volunteers, both in terms of time and money. They do clerical work, sort and stock books, manage the bookstore, and help with events. Though community members donate the books sold at Agora, Agora mostly relies on donations to cover their operating expenses and fund events.

This focus on their community has also had a positive effect on the Village church. Being involved in ministry together has helped the members bond and commit to allowing God to work in their lives. With the church being more alive and active, it has attracted more people; people interested in being part of a congregation that is outwardly focused.

Agora has generated a lot of interest from the community. "People ask, 'Why are you doing this?' and it gives us an opportunity to share about our church," Pastor Bruno states. "From a secular standpoint, it is changing the reputation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mason, and has given the church a much bigger presence in the community." He adds, "Business and community leaders now know the Adventist Church and what we are doing, and they can see the church is benefiting them."

Plans for 2008 include developing more health-oriented events. This will be a good way to present the church's health message to secular people through a nonthreatening venue, and will open the door to a bigger picture of the gospel. For more information go to www.masonagora.com.



The Children's Corner is a popular spot in the facility.

CLIMB Attendees Learn About Children's Ministries

The Ohio Conference Child and Family Education Ministry, under the direction of Cindy French, recently offered three regional opportunities to experience CLIMB (Children Learning Innovative Ministry Basics). The CLIMB team is made up of lay leaders who are intentionally focused on nurturing the spiritual development of children aged 5-12. More than 200 adults and children participated in workshops on puppet ministry, creative family worship, community ministry, resiliency, and make-and-take Sabbath bags. Participants were pleased with the content. "Every idea was wonderful and my spirit was uplifted," and "I appreciated the emphasis on bringing our children into mainstream church," were a sampling of the positive feedback.

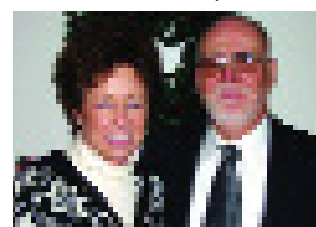


Children and adults enjoy learning about puppet ministry at a recent CLIMB event.

Conference Welcomes New Pastors, Auditor

John Hall – Pastor Hall and his wife, Marilyn (below), were welcomed recently as the new bi-vocational pastoral couple for the Findlay church. Hall has experience serving a local church in a variety of positions such as lay minister, elder, Sabbath School leader, school board member, finance committee member, and organist.

In addition to his new pastoral duties, Hall is employed as a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections at Allen Correctional Institution. He is also a member of the Critical Incident Support Team of the State of Ohio, a team activated when a critical incident within the Department of Corrections takes place.



If that wasn't enough, the Halls also operate their own business, Hall Enterprises. It provides education in two areas: a Victim Awareness Program for court ordered offenders, and Hands for Your Heart for those seeking CPR, Basic First Aid, and other certifications. They volunteer in their local community EMS—Pastor Hall as a paramedic and Marilyn as an EMT. They have four grown children and seven grandchildren.

The Halls feel that all of their prior experiences and education have been very instrumental in preparing them for pastoral ministry. They look forward to providing spiritual encouragement and direction to those in Findlay.

Jerry Chase – Pastor Chase and his wife, Brenda (above, right), were welcomed as the new pastoral couple for the Akron church. Raised a pastor's kid, Chase lived in Brazil for nine years, where his parents served as missionaries. During that time, he developed an appreciation for different cultures and gave his heart to the Lord.



Pastor Chase majored in music education at Southern College (now Southern Adventist University) in Tennessee, but also took classes in Biblical Greek. He taught music at the elementary and secondary levels before heading to Andrews University Theological Seminary (Mich.), graduating with a Master of Divinity in 1999. He then worked at Adventist Frontier Missions as Research Project director, and most recently was a Geographic Information Systems Specialist for a nonprofit organization in Berrien Springs, Mich. Pastor Chase was actively involved at the Village church in Berrien Springs in a variety of positions, such as interim youth pastor and head elder.

Brenda is currently finishing a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from Andrews University. Both are passionate about evangelism and mission and encourage others toward a holistic stewardship of time, talents, and financial means. Their family includes two adult children, Joelle and Ben.

Lisa Szilagyi – Szilagyi recently joined the conference's Treasury Department as auditor. She holds a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing from Southern Adventist University. In addition to traveling and auditing conference church and school records, she will be a valuable resource to local treasurers for training and advising on the "Jewel" computer program.



Mission Ohio is published in the Visitor by the Ohio Conference ■ PO Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ President, Raj Attiken
Editor, Nancy Barnett ■ www.ohioadventist.org

Hundreds Attend York's First Family Fun Day

The sun shone brightly as members of the York church set up for their first Community Family Fun Day. Their goal was to do something unique to draw community members and enable them to experience Seventh-day Adventists in a God-centered and positive light.

Several hundred attendees were drawn to the practical and fun activities. Visitors were first welcomed with an atmosphere of grace through a huge banner (left) hanging from the church that stated, "God Cares About You." The sign was accompanied by two large graphics of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and the second coming.



Church members manned booths offering free water and literature, a schedule of events, a prayer request box, and information about the church school and Pathfinders. Entertainment included a beekeeper who came with a hornet's nest, live bees, and fresh honey for all to try. There were free balloons, face painting, and photo opportunities with a scene from Noah's ark. A fire truck was available for the kids to explore, while firemen handed out fire hats and talked about fire safety. Many had fun soaking a pastor, principal, or youth leader in the dunking booth, and the Pathfinders held a car wash. One family even organized a car show.

There was a huge outdoor yard sale, a popular indoor café with vegan recipe demonstrations, and a blood drive. There was an outdoor Christian concert and drawings for free meals at local restaurants. There were also self-defense demonstrations geared toward young children, given by a local black belt instructor and a few of her students. A one-mile Fun Run wrapped up the busy day.—Cindi Woodruff

Church members manned booths offering free water and literature, a schedule of events, a prayer request box, and information about the church school and Pathfinders. Entertainment included a beekeeper who came with a hornet's nest, live bees, and fresh honey for all to try. There were free balloons, face painting, and photo opportunities with a scene from Noah's ark. A fire truck was available for the kids to explore, while firemen handed out fire hats and talked about fire safety. Many had fun soaking a pastor, principal, or youth leader in the dunking booth, and the Pathfinders held a car wash. One family even organized a car show.

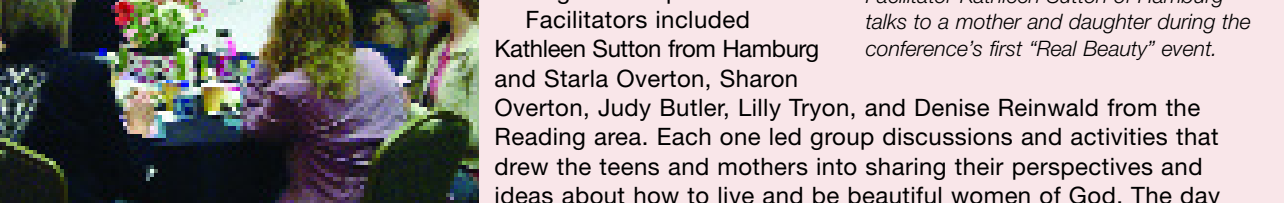


A local black belt instructor provides self-defense lessons at York church's first Community Family Fun Day.

Teens, Moms Discover "Real Beauty"

Approximately 50 teenage girls and their mothers recently attended the Pennsylvania Conference's first "Real Beauty" event held in Grantville. The one-day retreat focused on beauty: what it looks like, who defines it, and how we live it. Conference Women's Ministries director Tamyra Horst led the five presentations, which included "What Beauty Really Is," "What Moms are Really Saying," and "What Boys are Really Thinking," among other topics.

Facilitators included Kathleen Sutton from Hamburg and Starla Overton, Sharon Overton, Judy Butler, Lilly Tryon, and Denise Reinwald from the Reading area. Each one led group discussions and activities that drew the teens and mothers into sharing their perspectives and ideas about how to live and be beautiful women of God. The day concluded with moms and daughters affirming the beauty they saw in each other and praying together. Afterward, they enjoyed a Hershey's chocolate buffet.



Facilitator Kathleen Sutton of Hamburg talks to a mother and daughter during the conference's first "Real Beauty" event.

Judy Butler (center) of Reading leads moms and daughters in often loud and animated discussions about beauty, boys, communication, and God.

Young People Invited to Experience “Jesus 365”

Young people in seventh- through 12th-grades are invited to attend the “Jesus 365” event February 8-10. The program, being held at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, will run from noon on Friday through breakfast on Sunday. Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students will share presentations that focus on a young person’s daily relationship with Jesus—how to live for Jesus 365 days a year. The weekend will feature lots of outdoor activities and a Saturday night show by BMA’s Aerial Aires gymnastic team.

The cost is \$20 per person, which includes meals and lodging. To register, or for more information, contact the conference Youth Department at (610) 374-8331.—*Kris Eckenroth*

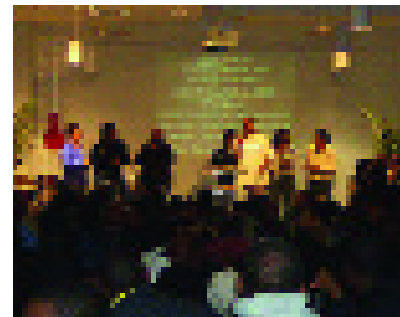
Korean Youth and Young Adults Reach Community

The Pennsylvania Korean Adventist church’s youth and young adult group are a dedicated group, active in serving their community. For years, they have served the homeless and the residents of a nearby nursing home.

The young people have served the downtown Philadelphia homeless every other month for more than two years. Together with other denominational church members, they join an organization called Chosen 300 Ministries to serve Sabbath dinner to as many as 500 people. The church volunteers lead worship, praise, and serve good food to the homeless. During the winter season, the volunteers have also shared 300 pairs of socks. The young people have witnessed homeless people addicted to drugs accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and then turn around and serve other homeless.

In addition to serving the homeless, for three years, the youth and

young adults have ministered once a month to the residents at the Manor Care Nursing Home in Huntingdon Valley. At the home, the youth sing, mingle with the residents, and sometimes lead bingo games. They have built friendships with the residents—shaking their hands, and hugging and kissing



Members of the Pennsylvania Korean church’s youth and young adult group lead worship for several hundred homeless people before serving them dinner.

them. “Even though we are not good singers, their response makes us feel special,” says Youth Pastor Joseph SukHo Shon. He says that many of them join in the songs, some with tears in their eyes. “Sometimes elderly patients require personal prayer for their health and concerns,” he explains.

Shon adds that many of the residents share appreciation for their visit, and ask what church they’re from. “We gladly introduce our church and Jesus Christ’s love to them,” he comments. “They have a lot of experiences and

stories to share. We will continue serving them as we prepare to meet Jesus Christ.”



While at the Manor Care Nursing Home, members of the Pennsylvania Korean church talk to and play games with the residents.

What’s happening

February

- 8-10 Youth Spiritual Retreat
Laurel Lake Camp
- 16 Pathfinder Conference
Level Bible Achievement
- 22-24 Marriage Retreat
Bethlehem
- 23 Health Ministries Sabbath
- 29-Mar. 2 Equipping University
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell ■ Editor, Tamyra Horst ■ www.paconference.org

Redeeming Grace Fellowship Experiences Miracle

For Dean Waterman (right), pastor of the Chesapeake (Md.) district, location stood at the top of his priority list as he shopped for Redeeming Grace Fellowship’s (RGF) new home. For more than two years, the congregation had been shunted from one facility to another in the quest for stability. They needed a place to call home. Pastor Waterman felt that to have credibility in the community, RGF needed to be in a church building and in a location that was easy to find within a well-trafficked area. One location fit that bill: Chesapeake’s Greenbrier Mall area. While Pastor Waterman started surveying the surrounding area of the mall, his eyes fell on a Presbyterian church that looked just right. He kept driving by Greenbrier Presbyterian, looking and praying until one day he decided that it was time to act.

Waterman and Greenbrier’s pastor of five years, Frank Webster, hit it off immediately. After some friendly conversation, Waterman moved to the point: RGF needed a new church home and would be interested in renting their



facility. Webster’s enthusiasm was surprising as he replied, “I think we can make this work. Let me talk to my board of elders, and I’ll get with you soon.” In two weeks, they spoke again by phone. Getting right to the point, Webster stated,

“The elders and I have agreed to rent the church to your congregation.” Before Pastor Waterman could recover from the first wave of excitement, Webster asked him if he was prepared to discuss the terms for the rental? After confirming, Webster miraculously explained, “We decided that we want to rent it to you for nothing—no rent for three years.”

At a later meeting, Webster shared with Pastor Waterman an amazing grasp of the Adventist faith and his profound respect for the people. He instructed Waterman to turn around. On a shelf was the entire set of *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. Webster said that he often used the books in sermon preparation. He spoke of the kindness of a Norfolk Adventist church from years ago that opened its doors when his congregation was in need. Webster felt he was simply returning the favor.

RGF is committed to fulfilling Christ’s mission. God answered the commitment that RGF placed on discipleship, and honored the church with answers to prayer that no one ever expected.



Redeeming Grace Fellowship now miraculously worships rent-free at this new location, a gift from the owning congregation.

Potomac Gears Up for Town Hall Meetings

President Bill Miller (pictured) and Potomac Conference officers will be holding a series of special town hall meetings during the first quarter of 2008. The focus of these meetings is to present and discuss the conference’s future and details of the Growing Healthy Churches Initiative. This initiative will influence how Potomac churches are to conduct ministry in the days ahead. Members are urged to participate in a meeting. Check the dates, times, and locations listed for a meeting near you:



February

- 16 **Patterson Avenue Church, Richmond, Va., 6 p.m.**
- 17 **Norfolk (Va.) Church, 10 a.m.**
Lynchburg (Va.) Church, 5 p.m.
- 23 **Southern Asian Church, Silver Spring, Md., 6 p.m.**

March

- 29 **Potomac Conference Office, Staunton, Va., 6 p.m.**
- 30 **Wytheville (Va.) Church, 10 a.m.**



The Korean young people enjoy singing to the residents of the Manor Care Nursing Home in Huntingdon Valley.

Staunton Reaches Out With Holiday Parade Float

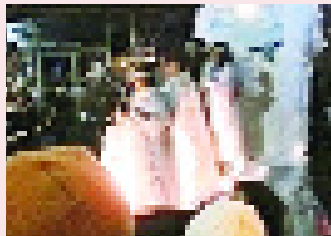
The Staunton (Va.) church recently discovered a new way to reach out to members of their community. They created one of the 88 festive floats for the town's annual Christmas parade, artistically depicting the theme "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

Pastor Rick Labate reported that their entry featured five women—Brianna Wilson, Rhonda Wilson, Jeannetta Bosely, Charlene Sheffer, and Deanna Knoll—dressed as angels. These majestic beings stood on tiered risers beautifully singing a capella. Behind them was a winter scene, and above them a lighted star. Accompanying the angels were shepherds—Logan Bosely and Rick Labate—with staves in hand and live sheep, which the pastor says were a big hit with the crowd. The float design can be credited to member Lisa Craig, assisted by Kelly Lum. Larry Sheffer served as carpenter and driver.

But entertainment was not the only purpose of their participation. Walking alongside the float in whipping wind gusts were six members who distributed

600 *What is a Seventh-day Adventist?* brochures, and a calendar of events featuring Christmas celebrations at their church. Craig; Lum, and her husband, Jeff; Liz Cross; Thomas Knoll; and Larry Marsh distributed the literature.

"All of the members involved showed up with smiles and did an awesome job!" reported Pastor Labate. "Since this was our first time participating, we greatly underestimated the number of pieces of literature needed. The Staunton Christmas parade is a very big deal for the city! We learned something about our community," he added.



Staunton (Va.) church members brave the cold to connect with their community through a Christmas parade float.

Radford Pathfinders Touch Lives Through Caroling

More than 25 Pathfinders, staff, and friends of the Radford, Va., church recently visited a nearby apartment complex to share carols with delighted residents. Though the night was cold and damp, the carolers filled the hallways with warmth and cheer. In fact, some residents braved the chill by standing in open doorways to hear the music, sing along, and make requests. With such a positive response, the story could end with "fun was had by all," but Pathfinder director Corinne Rawlins shared a testimony about the extended impact of that night:



Radford (Va.) Pathfinders and friends sing carols to, and warm the hearts of, nearby apartment residents.

"We received a call from one of the senior citizens who opened her door to us. She left a message saying that she would accept our invitation to receive a food box for Christmas. When I went by to deliver the box to her, as always, I was short on time and thought I would just be there for a minute. God had other plans for my time.

"As I smiled and delivered the box to this lady, who is housebound and on oxygen, I could tell that she deeply appreciated the food. But more than that, she told me how much she enjoyed our church's visit and that it meant so much to her and her sister, who lives across the hall. She then mentioned that Robert, a deaf child in our group, especially touched them because they have a brother who is deaf.

"As I prepared to leave, she asked me to pray for her. As I prayed with her, she cried out to Jesus. I was so blessed to be in her home at that moment."

Rawlins then went across the hall and discovered that the woman's sister also needed a food box. Luckily, she had another one in the car. After some nice conversation, Rawlins got to pray with this woman as well. "I continue to be blessed with opportunities to see God's hand whenever I'm in Radford on Pathfinder business," she says. "God wants us out there!"

Potomac People is published in the *Visitor* by the Potomac Conference ■ 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ www.pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Director and Editor, Don Wood

Spotlight on Spencerville

FEBRUARY 2008

Having the Assurance of Salvation

Several months ago, I spoke to a group of approximately 40 Seventh-day Adventist middle school students. It was a Friday evening vespers, and the students were relaxed and talkative. I had each one write down his or her top five fears. While tallying them, we looked for any common threads. At least 25 percent of the students wrote that they feared "not going to heaven." I was thrilled to know that they were thinking about heaven, but sad to realize how many are unsure about salvation. We spent the next few minutes talking about how clear the Bible is about it.

As adults, I think we are so afraid of teaching "cheap grace" that we miss the opportunity to teach our children, grandchildren, and students how confident they can be in the amazing gift of salvation. Our fear is understandable. With so many churches preaching a "once saved, always saved" message, we have a tendency to over-correct that error. As a result, our children are often missing out on the pure essence of the gospel. Paul is so clear about this in Romans 5:1,2: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (NIV, emphasis added).

With this reminder, I challenge you to ask a child if he or she is going to heaven. If the answer is not confident, tell him or her this wonderful message. Watch the peace come over his or her face as they realize the magnitude of Christ's love and the assurance of salvation.



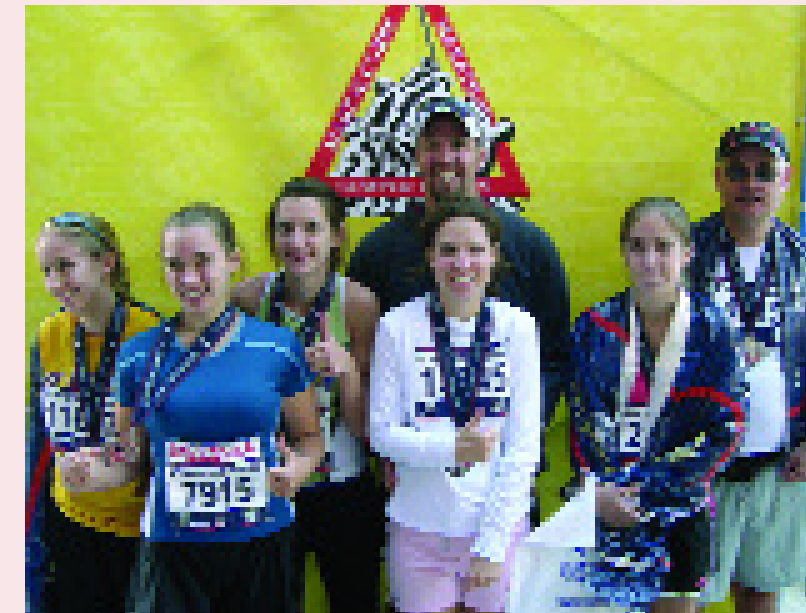
Brian Kittleson
Principal

Staff, Student Runners Cross Marathon Finish Line

Twenty-six miles is a lot to run! Even so, several Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students and faculty recently took on the challenge of participating in the annual Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C./Virginia. Participants were seniors Melissa Breetzke, Heidi Davenport, Rheba Correia, Stephen Thorp, and Jo McNeill, along with teachers Carrie and Nathan Hess and Greg Taylor, as well as parent Jim Davenport. Only the Hesses had run in previous marathons.

The group started their training during the summer months, but when school started, it became harder to fit in time for their long training runs of 12 and 18 miles. However, each runner remained dedicated to the challenge. On race day, each one joined the starting line except Thorp, who, due to an injury during training, could only offer his support. Sometimes running small sections with his schoolmates, Thorp encouraged them from start to finish.

The SAA participants crossed the finish line, experiencing both joy and pain. They were delighted to be finished, but the grueling four- to five-hour run produced painful leg muscles. Will the students run in next year's marathon? Most said, "Never again!" As they forget about the pain, we'll have to see.—Barbara Correia



Left to right: Jo McNeill, Melissa Breetzke, Rheba Correia, Carrie Hess, Heidi Davenport, (back row) Nathan Hess, and Jim Davenport show their delight at completing the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon.

NEWS

Spencerville Ringers Join Annual RingFest

The recent RingFest '07 was a triumphant experience for students from 12 Adventist academies from Virginia to Wisconsin, including the Spencerville Ringers. Following two days of rehearsal, more than



The Spencerville Ringers with director Jane Lanning (far left) are dressed up and ready to perform for RingFest '07.

170 ringers—utilizing more than 1,000 English handbells—concluded the fest with a two-hour concert at the Toledo (Ohio) church, where the event is held. Bill and Janelle Ashley, Toledo church members, coordinate this annual

bell festival. As an added bonus this year, all bell ringers contributed six pairs of socks for the homeless.—Jane Lanning

School Dons Denim to Raise Funds for Cancer

Spencerville Adventist Academy students recently joined many schools across the United States in contributing to Lee Jeans' Lee National Denim Day. For a \$5 donation to breast cancer research, students and teachers get the privilege of wearing blue jeans as part of their uniform for the day. The donations are contributed by Lee Jeans to the Women's Cancer Programs of the Entertainment Industry Foundation. The donations are being used "to benefit groundbreaking early detection and treatment research and

UPCOMING EVENT

Don't miss Spencerville Adventist Academy's annual Academy Day on Thursday, March 6, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to:

- Check out the school
- Hear about the many opportunities SAA has to offer
- Meet the teachers
- Make some new friends

They will even treat you to lunch! RSVP by March 3 to Heidi Wetmore at (301) 421-9101, ext. 100, or hwetmore@spencerville.org.

community breast cancer education services nationwide." SAA has participated in this fund-raiser for a number of years. This year their contribution totaled \$794.25.—Becky Koeppen

Two Seniors Earn Commended Scholar Awards

Jo McNeill and Cassie Tetz, two members of the Class of 2008, recently received Commended Scholar awards from the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Program. Recipients of this award are



Principal Brian Kittleson presents seniors Jo McNeill (center) and Cassie Tetz with Letters of Commendation for their high scores on the PSAT qualifying test.

recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Both students were surprised with Letters of Commendation during a special presentation at chapel.

Commended students are those who rank in the top five

percent of the more than 1.4 million students who take the PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test each year.—Heidi Wetmore

CALENDAR

February

- 7-9 CUC Band Festival
- 18 No School
- 28 Kindergarten Open House, 7 p.m.

March

- 6 Academy Day
- 9 National Honor Society Induction
- 10-14 Week of Prayer
- 13 Pops Concert
- 16 SC Banquet
- 21 Spring Break Begins—12:15 p.m. Dismissal
- 31 School Resumes

Spotlight is published in the Visitor by the Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 15930 Good Hope Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 www.spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson Editor, Heidi Wetmore

New Students Expound on School's Positive Impact

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) appears to be the fastest growing Adventist academy in the North American Division. No other academy has enrolled 110 new students this year, or even come close to that number. And 45 percent of these new students were enrolled in public schools last year. What a blessing!

There are probably 110 reasons why this happened, but faculty and staff believe that spirituality, academics, and safety each played some part in these decisions.



PHOTO BY DORENDA DODGE

New SVA students include (back row, left to right) James Norris ('09), Emily Myers ('10), Manuel Castellon ('09), (front row) Sandra Onekhena ('09), and Abigail Ambrose ('09).

With half of the school year completed, a few of the new students were asked to comment on their experience at SVA so far, and here is what they said:

"SVA has a very welcoming environment," said freshman Amanda Richards. "Everyone is accepted and respected for who he or she is." Senior Rachel Wuerstlin agreed, adding, "Students went out of their way to make me feel welcome. It reminded me of the kindness Jesus shows."

"SVA has a great Christian environment with teachers who care," commented junior Manuel Castellon. Senior Kristin Dickerhoff expounded on this thought, saying, "SVA planted the seed of God within me. Because of the school, I now know God and myself better." She added, "SVA is a place where knowledge and God become one."

"SVA has provided me with an opportunity to meet new friends, have fun, and get closer to God,"

responded freshman Jonathan Blackburn. Junior James Lewis really nailed it, saying, "SVA is great because you don't make friends here, you make family." He added, "It is more than a school; it has become a home for students as well as God."

When it came to academics, the students were just as complimentary. "The teachers here are understanding and helpful," reported junior Matt Frost. "Our campus is beautiful and ever evolving. You can really feel God is alive and working here." Senior Danielle Parkinson admitted, "At public school the teachers didn't care about you, but at SVA they take the time to get to know you." And senior Juliana McGraw added, "SVA is preparing me for college by providing dual credit classes. Now I can save both money and time as well as be extra prepared to jump ahead of the mainstream high school graduates."

Being impressed by SVA's whole package, freshman Emely Umana stated, "I love SVA because of all it has to offer. I'm in handbells, varsity basketball, choir, and piano, and I have so much fun in all of them!" She added, "The teachers are great, the students are great, the classes are great—just the whole school overall."

SVA is very blessed to have so many students attending because they want to grow in their relationship with Jesus. And now they are finding so much more. If you know of a high school-aged student who wants to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and physically, tell them about SVA. And remember to tell them that SVA did not turn any students away this year because of finances.

Calendar

February

- 22-24 Bible Conference
- 24 Open House for Prospective Students

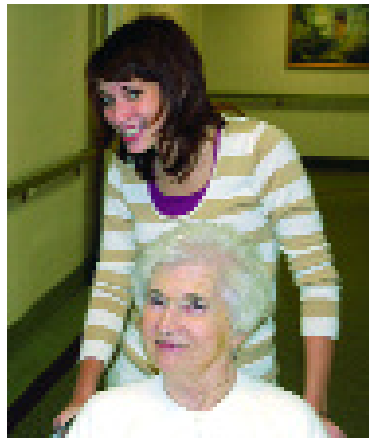
March

- 13-24 Spring Break, European Music Tour, Costa Rica Mission Trip

Happenings is published in the Visitor by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844 Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ Principal, Dale Twomley, PhD Email: daletwomley@hotmail.com ■ www.youracademy.org

An Afternoon Well Spent

Here at Takoma Academy (TA), the National Honor Society (NHS) strives to do what is pleasing to God by serving others. Leadership, scholarship, character, and service are the basis of NHS. In keeping with our goal, NHS members recently divided into two groups and visited two assisted living centers. We were welcomed into both facilities with extreme gratitude. One NHS group solved a crossword puzzle and played a trivia game with facility residents. Another NHS group divided into small groups and personally conversed with the residents.



National Honor Society member Melanie Schimpf ('08) shares a fun moment with a nursing home resident.

The older folks amazed the TA students with their profound intelligence, charisma, and outgoing personalities. "It felt good to listen to their wise advice and hear their opinions on what goes on in the world," said

senior Matthew Johnson, NHS treasurer. Junior Jalisa Cox, NHS secretary, added, "I think it was a rewarding experience, not only for the patients, but for us too." "It amazes me that, despite their health problems and their age, they are still faithful in God," commented junior Erica Singh, NHS pastor. "It makes me realize that I always need to hold on to God, through every high and every low in my life."

It is truly better to give than to receive. We remember this proverb when we shop for gifts during the Christmas season, yet fail to realize that maybe spending time with someone is the best gift we can give. Unfortunately, we overlook the gifts that money cannot buy. After an afternoon well spent with the senior citizens, NHS members can testify that it does not hurt to care more, laugh more, and love more.



Olivia Thomas ('08)
 National Honor Society President



NHS members (left to right) Olivia Thomas ('08), Felicia Malin ('08), Kahryl Bennett ('08), Melanie Schimpf ('08), Matthew Johnson ('08), and Arielle Medina ('09) spend time with residents at a nearby assisted living center.

Calendar

February

- 6 Heart Awareness Assembly
- 7-9 Band Festival at CUC
- 10 Valentine's Banquet
- 18 School Closed—President's Day Holiday
- 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 20 Black History Assembly
- 23 Academy Icon Program
- 25-29 Student Week of Prayer
- 28 NHS Induction Ceremony

March

- 1 Youth Rally

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with Alma Blackmon to Cozumel, Mexico, June 19. See our website at www.aeolianalumni.org or contact Tanja Spohn at Tanja@ClassicWorldTravel.com or call her at (800) 777-9529 Eastern Time. Prices are subject to change.

BRAZIL MISSION TRIP:
September 18-29. Volunteer in construction work, outreach ministries, health programs, and community projects. Skilled and non-skilled people wanted. Tour local villages and visit beautiful beaches. Promoted by Chesapeake Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministry. Apply online at www.asamchesapeake.com and click on Ministry. Contact Dirci (240) 315-2112; email dirci@missionserv.org.

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CALLING ALL ADULT SINGLES
for a Valentine Meal and Social, February 9, from 7-10 p.m., at the Chesapeake Conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044-9988. Please bring a favorite dish of food for the potluck meal. For more information visit, <http://www.asamchesapeake.com> or contact Fred, Fmthomas1950@yahoo.com, tel. 410-992-9731.

	Feb 15	Feb 22	Feb 29	Mar 7	Mar 14
Baltimore	5:43	5:51	5:58	6:06	7:13
Cincinnati	6:15	6:22	6:30	6:37	7:45
Cleveland	6:00	6:08	6:17	6:25	7:33
Columbus	6:07	6:15	6:23	6:31	7:38
Jersey City	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55	7:02
Norfolk	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:06	7:12
Parkersburg	6:03	6:10	6:18	6:25	7:33
Philadelphia	5:36	5:44	5:52	6:00	7:07
Pittsburgh	5:55	6:03	6:11	6:19	7:26
Reading	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:02	7:10
Richmond	5:49	5:56	6:03	6:10	7:17
Roanoke	5:59	6:06	6:13	6:20	7:27
Toledo	6:07	6:16	6:24	6:32	7:40
Trenton	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:58	7:05
Wash., D.C.	5:45	5:53	6:00	6:08	7:15

SUNSET CALENDAR

OBITUARIES

BLEVINS, Betty,
born September 7, 1929, in Roanoke, Va., to Roy Owen and Fannie Suitt Crowe; died October 17, 2007, in Mouth of Wilson, Va. Betty was a member of the Galax, Va., church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Greek Blevins; her father; and her brother, Bud Crowe. Survivors include: her mother, Fannie M. Hutton of Marion, Va.; two nieces, Melisa (Tony) Shinault of Hillsville, Va., and Susan (Roger) Banks of Creston, N.C.; one nephew, Greg (Sandy) Crowe of Greenville, Tenn.; a brother-in-law, Virgil Elliott of Mouth of Wilson; a special aunt, Clela Paisley of Mouth of Wilson; and three great-nephews, Justin, Crowe, Dakota Crowe, and Dane Shinault.

MOTHENA, Jeanne,
born March 25, 1924, in Galax, Va., to the late Thomas B. and Gertrude Caldwell Apperson; died September 8, 2007, in Walkertown, N.C. Jeanne was a member of the Galax church, and was very active in Women's Ministries and the Community Services Center. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth David Mothena; four daughters, Cherri Olson of Kernersville, N.C., Pattie Clark of Williamsburg, Va., Dawne Pate of Tucson, Ariz., and Dina

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Twig of Sugar Grove, N.C.; two sons, Robert B. Page of Winston Salem, N.C., and D.J. Mothena of Walkertown; 16 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one sister, Nancy Byrd of Greensboro, N.C.; and two brothers, Robert Apperson of Greensboro, and Thomas B. Apperson of Lake Oswego, Ore.

SPURGEON, Edith B., born July 14, 1919, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio; died October 17, 2007, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. She was a member of the Fredericktown (Ohio) church. She is survived by her sons, Tom Frye and David Frye. Edith was preceded in death by her husband, Ivan George Spurgeon.

SPURGEON, Ivan George, born October 19, 1934, in Deer Lodge, Tenn.; died September 6, 2007, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. His wife, Ivan was a member of the Fredericktown (Ohio) church. He is survived by his son Dennis Spurgeon, and a brother, Harold (Susan) Spurgeon. His wife, Edith, died just a few weeks after his death.

WEST, Robert Lee, born September 9, 1938, in Rochelle, Ga.; died October 22, 2007, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. He is

survived by his stepdaughter, Anna Marie Johnson; stepsons, Raymond and Charlie Johnson and Gregory Sterner; eight stepgrandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

VAUGHAN, Anna May, born October 17, 1922, in Hooper's Creek, N.C., to Fred and L'Marie (Willis) Vaughan; died November 2, 2007, in Midwest City, Okla. She was a member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla. Anna May was a professor of nursing and loved teaching. She served as a missionary in Africa for 18 years and Hong Kong for two years. She was founder and first dean of Kettering College of Medical Arts in Dayton, Ohio, where they recently named the new nursing center after her. Anna May enjoyed camping, the outdoors, and nature; loved animals and studying and teaching the Bible. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Olive N. Blumenshein. Survivors

include: a brother, Edmond A. Hinke of Port Angeles, Wash.; close friends Kevin Butler and Charlene Van Vliet, and a host of other friends all over the world.

WINGATE, Jessie, born February 28, 1917, in Lamar Colo., to Jessie and Mabel Smith Holland; died October 15, 2006, in Galax, Ohio. She was a member of the Galax church and known to everyone as "grandma Jessie." She loved her church family, especially the children. Jessie helped many children financially over the years with tuition for both church school and academy. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas E. and Marilyn Smith of Seattle, Wash.; a brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Valerie Holland of Squim, Wash.; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vilas Wingate.

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Celebrating the Returns on our Investment

Columbia Union College (CUC) is a learning community committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. This cosmopolitan institution challenges students to seize the opportunities for learning in the nation's capital, in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world."



As I reflect on that mission statement, I can honestly say that the investment we've made in educating and preparing our students is returning great dividends of pride. CUC graduates are fulfilling the intent and goal of our mission statement and having great impact throughout the world. While we often tout our most famous alumni, recent graduates are also making their mark:

Rachel Roy graduated in 1996 with a degree in Broadcast Media. Today she is an outstanding fashion designer in New York City with her own couture line. She's been featured in numerous magazines and on the *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. **Ebony Clark**, from Ohio, is a 1997 graduate in Counseling Psychology. She completed a Master of Science in Human Resource Management from the University of Maryland, and presently serves as director of Human Resources for the National Quality Forum, headquartered in Washington, D.C. **Michelle Bernard**, from Pennsylvania, is a 2004 graduate in Communication (Public Relations) and Business Administration. Before heading to Korea to fulfill her dream of mission service, she served as assistant director of communication for the Associated General Contractors of America. **Andrew Clark**, from Delaware, is a 2004 graduate who majored in Religion (Lay Ministry). Today the Pennsylvania Conference employs him as a pastor and director of the Greater Pittsburgh Metropolitan Initiative. **Cheryl Cathlin**, from Virginia, is a 2005 graduate who majored in Political Studies (Pre-Law). She's attending law school at Virginia's George Mason University. **Gianluca Bruno** came from Italy to study theology in our Metropolitan Ministry program. After graduating in 2004, he was hired by the Ohio Conference to pastor in a suburb of Cincinnati, where he runs a unique outreach ministry in the form of a community bookstore and gathering place.

Time and space will not allow a fair listing, but please know that we are proud of you *all*. Indeed, your college is training and graduating men and women of distinction who are impacting the world. But we can't do it alone. Just as Nehemiah and his partners worked against all odds to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, we need to work together to ensure that CUC continues living up to our mission and becomes all that God truly intends it to be.

Jean Warden is CUC's vice president for Student Life and Retention.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION

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