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# VISITOR

AUGUST 2009 • VOLUME 114 • ISSUE 8

## Master Musicians

Meet 12 Noted Composers,  
Conductors, and Arrangers

Plus: Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse  
Ministers Through Music

# Contents

AUGUST 2009



# 10

## News & Features

### 10 | Master Musicians

They create compositions that connect us to God. Their arrangements provide heavenly adulation and praise. And Sabbath after Sabbath, they usher us into the presence of the Most High God. Meet 12 noted Columbia Union-based composers, conductors, and arrangers who are making their musical mark in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and beyond.



### 18 | Hope and Glory (and Oratorios)

*Kara Watkins*



With a deep sense of mission, virtuoso Virginia–Gene Rittenhouse, founder and director of the acclaimed New England Youth Ensemble, uses her musical genius to bring glory and honor to God and hope to audiences around the world. Read about the lifelong journey of this gifted composer, conductor, pianist, violinist, teacher, and mentor, and discover how she ministers through music.

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*Keri Tomenko*

## On the Web

**Video** – View a video story about Columbia Union College’s mission-focused Music Department.

**Podcast** – Hear the music of some of this issue’s master musicians.

**Twitter** – To get news and interesting tidbits, follow us at [twitter.com/VisitorNews](https://twitter.com/VisitorNews).

**[columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org)**



## Judging the Judge

This summer high drama played out in the United States Senate as it considered the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sotomayor was originally appointed to the U.S. District Court by President George H.W. Bush and promoted to the Federal Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton. She's Hispanic, offers an impressive résumé, and has an inspirational life story. If she's confirmed, we'll have six Catholic judges, two Jews, and one Protestant on the high court.

The senators questioned her closely concerning her judicial philosophy and sought answers on specific legal issues likely to come before the court for its consideration, such as her stand on same-sex marriage, abortion, and other hot-topic issues that have political overtones.

Because of the Supreme Court's important role in interpreting the U.S. Constitution, especially the religion clauses of the First Amendment, Seventh-day Adventist Church members have been very interested in her answers. Understandably, we are interested in what she has to say because *The Great Controversy* warns of a time when "Sundaykeeping" will be enforced by the United States government (p. 449). If a national Sunday law is considered by the Supreme Court, how might this new justice rule?

We can obtain insights on how a judge might decide an issue by reading their prior judicial decisions. Interestingly, Judge Sotomayor has decided cases involving religion on at least 14 occasions. Her opinions regarding religious matters appear to be balanced, and there is no apparent hostility. She shows sensitivity to an individual's personal religious beliefs and practices. She recognizes the right of religious organizations to make certain employment decisions without governmental interference.



### JUDGEMENT DAY IS COMING

While Jesus promises us a full, more abundant life (see John 10:10), some Adventists look at current events with dread and foreboding. Instead of anticipating the joy of the Second Coming and seeing in last-day events reason for hope, these persons spend countless hours connecting the dots of one conspiracy theory after another. They seem to be most happy sounding an alarm of pending doom instead of living the Christian life and heralding the good news of Christ's soon return.

Will Judge Sotomayor be asked to determine the constitutionality of a national Sunday law? Will she vote with a

majority of her fellow justices to diminish rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution on the separation of church and state? Will she vote to revoke religious freedom? We don't know. But frankly it does not really matter; we won't be granted heaven on how the final events of Earth's history play out. Rather, we will be judged on how we treat our fellow man. As Christ explained in the final judgment scene of Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (NIV).

As you reflect upon the proceedings related to Judge Sotomayor's nomination to the Supreme Court, don't allow yourself to be drawn into fear mongering. Maintain a positive outlook, knowing that the current events are all a part of God's great plan for this time and place. Most of all, remember Christ's purpose for coming to this world—that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

*Walter E. Carson, Esq., serves the Columbia Union Conference as vice president and general counsel.*

PHOTO BY WIN MCNAMEE/GETTYIMAGES.COM



## Public Affairs and Religious Liberty News

### 50 Attend Fourth Capitol Hill Summit

More than 50 supporters of the North American Religious Liberty Association (NARLA) gathered at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., for the 2009 Capitol Hill Summit.



The four-day, fourth annual event started with a daylong lecture by union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) directors from across the North American Division on important issues currently affecting Seventh-day Adventists. They also gave rigorous training on lobbying techniques and how to effectively influence congressional legislation.

On Thursday, after a brief worship by Michelle Chin, an Adventist legislative aid for Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, attendees formed groups and visited offices on Capitol Hill. By day's end, they had voiced their support for religious liberty and the Workplace Religious Freedom Act (House Bill 13; read more at [religiousliberty.info](http://religiousliberty.info)) to nearly 100 congressmen, senators, and legislative aides.

"It is always exciting to share with our political leaders the crucial importance of religious freedom. ... When it is suppressed, so are all the other freedoms our country takes for granted," comments five-time summit attendee Sonja DeWitt (above), a member of the Capitol Memorial church in Washington, D.C., and an attorney specializing in discrimination law.



On Thursday evening, attendees gathered—along with representatives from embassies, government offices, nongovernmental organizations, and the Adventist Church—for the seventh annual Religious Liberty Dinner in Washington, D.C. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II of Missouri, co-chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus, presented the keynote address.

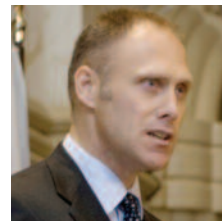
On Sabbath morning at Sligo church, Walter Carson, Esq., Columbia Union Conference vice president and general counsel, worked with other union PARL leaders to coordinate a special Sabbath School and two



church services. Carson and Adrian Westney, Columbia Union Conference associate director for Religious Liberty, led in a Sabbath School panel discussion moderated by Nicholas Miller of the Andrews University International Religious Freedom Institute (Mich.). John Graz, PhD, (bottom) PARL director for the worldwide Adventist Church and secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association, presented the messages for divine worship.

"This is the one event each year that allows the Adventist Church to dramatically highlight its ministry and concerns on religious liberty to the thought leaders of Washington in an intimate and personal manner," states

Barry Bussey (right), director for the Office of Legislative Affairs for the worldwide



Adventist Church. "It lends credibility to our work and ensures that we are part of the conversation."—Kevin Gurubatham

### Adventists Help Pass Anti-Tobacco Bill

A group of Adventist participants from the 2008 Capitol Hill Summit are to be commended for their lobbying efforts that helped pass the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. Summit participants—working in part through Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett of Maryland, a well-known Adventist political leader—joined the more than 1,000 public health, faith, and other nongovernmental groups who supported the bill



that President Barack Obama signed into law June 12. The bill gives the Food and Drug Administration unprecedented authority to regulate tobacco.



“It is very gratifying to see a bill passed by Congress and signed by the president

when I and other Adventists helped lobby for it,” states Keith Blair (above), a member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md.

## VP Testifies to House of Delegates

The Columbia Union Conference PARL department is making strides to put Adventists at the forefront of lobbying efforts for the Workplace Religious Freedom Act. Walter Carson (below), union vice president and general counsel, joined other Sabbathkeepers this spring to testify before the Maryland House of Delegates to extend protection to Sabbatarians in the state.

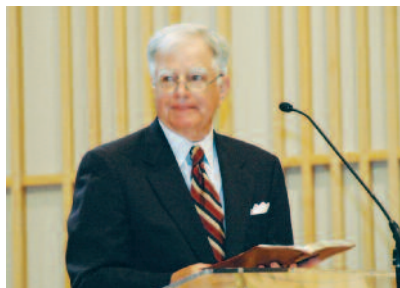


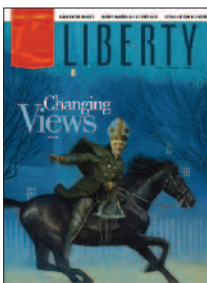
PHOTO BY GARY LUNSFORD

“We plan to be more proactive about supporting this legislation during the next session in January 2010,” states Carson. “Religious discrimination in the workplace is a growing problem in the state of Maryland and throughout the American workplace.”

## Union Increases Liberty Offering

In spite of bad economic downturn, Columbia Union constituents have modestly increased their previous support—by nearly 2 percent—for the 2009 *Liberty* magazine offering. With the goal of breaking \$100,000, the union PARL department reports they are only about 12 percent shy of that goal.

*Liberty* magazine is a publication provided by the PARL department of the worldwide Adventist Church. The annual offering funds magazine



subscriptions, which are sent free of charge to thought leaders, politicians, and community leaders across the nation.

“In addition to offerings, we have seen some remarkable experiences of God taking care of His own; jobs of members have been preserved and their services retained in spite of the unfavorable climate,” reports Adrian Westney (above), union associate director for Religious Liberty. “This is an indication that the cause of *Liberty* is still a matter of interest, and it is worth saying to our union constituency ‘to God be the Glory.’”



## From the Pulpit

The Freedom of Choice Act silences our constitutional right to share our faith based on biblical texts concerning homosexuality! In California, an in-home Bible study group was told they could no longer assemble because the home was not zoned for religious use! Right here in Pennsylvania, a judge banned our children from bringing a Bible into the classroom for Show and Tell! Our constitutional rights to freedom of speech, the right to assemble, the basic rights of religious beliefs, as well as an attack on the Bible are taking place right before our eyes.

When the state is removing our very rights to freely worship and express, we must not be idle.—*David Clevenger, PhD, pastor of Pennsylvania Conference’s Shermansdale, Hershey, Capital Area, Pleasant View, and Lebanon churches, speaking to his Carlisle congregation*



## Newsline

ALEXIS A. GORING

# 500 Attend WGTS Worship Service

I heard the advertisement on WGTS 91.9 FM, which I listen to on a regular basis!" said Melissa Gorton, a paralegal. "It sounded like something I needed to hear."

Gorton was among the nearly 500 listeners of Columbia Union College's contemporary Christian radio station (wgts919.com) who attended Night of Hope, a worship service held recently at a Best Western in Tysons Corner, Va. They came looking for encouragement, relief, and a more positive outlook on life during these stormy times, and Night of Hope

did not disappoint.

"As I entered the room, there was an atmosphere of peace, and it was very soothing," said Kay Vaughan (left), a Seventh-day Adventist "solopreneur."

This is the first such outreach event hosted by WGTS, and, based on its success, it won't be the last. The idea was originated by station chaplain Terry

Johnsson (right, with microphone), fueled with input by morning show deejay Angela Stevens, and supported by general manager John Konrad (left). It was artfully brought into reality

on a Friday night, fulfilling its purpose as a way to better connect with listeners of the station.

"This marks the beginning of

many marvelous things that the radio station can do to reach out to our listeners," said Konrad. "We know that through the difficult times that our country is experiencing, there are many who need to hear a word of encouragement and hope, a hope that the best is yet to come! We want people to know that—with God—all things are possible."

While Night of Hope was thoughtfully planned, not everyone who attended this event was planning on it. "It was definitely not a planned night for me," said Jean Wesley, who works as an information technology specialist for the Department of State, "and I went there just randomly, but now I see that it was God calling me there the whole time."

God's calling and blessing upon all who attended, and made Night of Hope happen, could be felt throughout the evening. Stevens, accompanied by Azizah Sy and Summer Wood (above), led praise and worship with songs such as "Power of Your Love" and "Let it Rise." The Lord's presence radiated through the venue, caus-



ing young and old alike to raise their hands in praise. With every song, Stevens shared words of hope: "[God says] 'My grace is sufficient for you; My strength is perfect.' Being strong and perfect before coming to the Lord is totally unnecessary!"

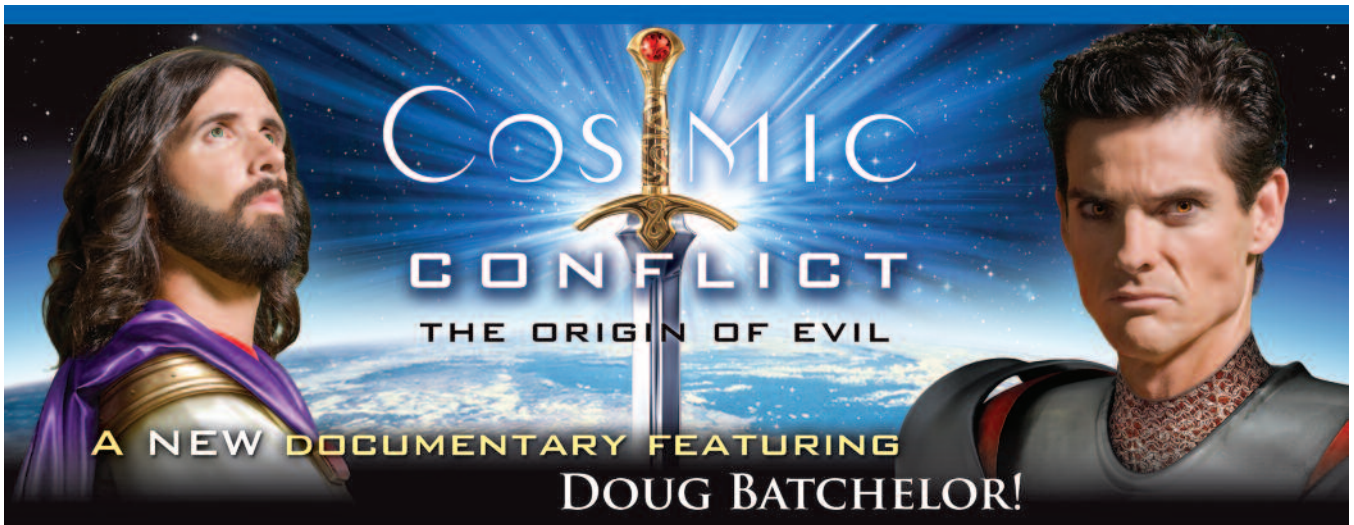
Following the music, Chaplain Johnsson gave an inspiring message that ended with an altar call. Some 300 people came forward for prayer. "We want to leave this place tonight knowing, Jesus, that You are real, and You still do miracles!" prayed Johnsson. He also asked them to complete cards for follow-up contact.

Reflecting on the program, Johnsson says the take-home message for the evening was pure and simple: "Hope! In spite of all life's problems and troubles, we can still leave with hope. No matter what we go through in life, God is always by our side, and He sees the big picture."



PHOTOS BY TREVOR W. GORING





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# Potluck

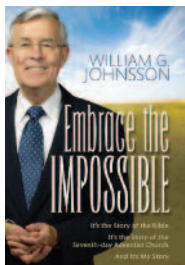
BETH MICHAELS

## What's New?

### Book > Embrace the Impossible William G. Johnsson

Pulling from his experiences at the “cockpit” of the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters, where he worked for three church presidents and was editor of the church’s flagship magazine, the *Adventist Review*, William G. Johnsson, PhD, presents his memoir.

Although readers may recognize “his voice” from numerous articles and books over the years, they may also be surprised to discover little known facts about Johnsson, a longtime member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo



church in Takoma Park, Md. For instance, he is originally from Australia and earned a degree in chemical technology. Follow the path of his exciting and challenging life, and gain insights from lessons he learned—including why you should step out in faith when the Lord calls. Order a copy through [adventist-bookcenter.com](http://adventist-bookcenter.com) or call (800) 765-6955.

This memoir focuses on my quarter-century at church headquarters ... It is also my story. —William G. Johnsson in *Embrace the Impossible*

**Keeping Score**

**45,155**

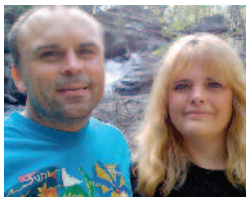
Visitor magazine circulation as of August 2009

### CD > The Way to Grace Azure Fields

Azure Fields is the husband-and-wife team of Alec and Suzanne Receveur, who attend Chesapeake Conference’s Westminster (Md.) church with their two children. This duo has traveled for many years, sharing their talents and hoping listeners “will gain a closer



walk with the Lord because they received a blessing



from the words of the songs.” Their sixth CD release of self-described “country inspirational” songs covers topics like mercy, grace, prayer, and forgiveness. Although medical issues have slowed the award-winning couple down, they hope to be blessing others again soon. To learn more, order their CDs, and listen to samples, visit [azurefields.com](http://azurefields.com).

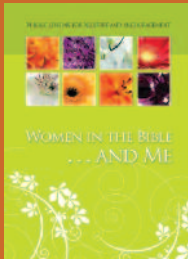
### Email Blog > Fortune Cookies

“I started blogging in 2006 as a way to connect with people. In addition to bulletin announcements, church newsletters, and sermons, I’ve found it’s one more medium I can use to remind people that God loves them like crazy!” explains Pastor Mike Fortune of the Toledo First church. Since that first weekly



## Did You Know?

The Women’s Ministries department of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church just released their new Bible lessons titled *Women in the Bible ... And Me*. Get copies through the Review and Herald Publishing Association by calling (301) 393-3000.



blog blast, the Ohio Conference pastor is hitting the inbox of nearly 500 readers across the nation, including the religion editor of the *Toledo Blade* newspaper and an area reporter for ABC 13 news.



Addressing three issues per blog, Pastor Fortune usually covers whatever hot topics he finds interesting that touch on God, culture, and community. Sometimes he’s silly, sometimes serious. Either way, he hopes to bless others with his words. To get on the mailing list, email [mike4tune@gmail.com](mailto:mike4tune@gmail.com).

## WholeHealth

### Silence Your Inner Critic

What is it that keeps us making the same mistakes over and over, despite our deep desire for change?



Or what keeps us from attempting change? Is it because we might make a mistake or fail?

Many people are plagued by a harsh “inner critic” that can either sabotage efforts or drive them to succeed at extreme costs. It’s the little (or sometimes very big) nagging voice inside your head that judges you or questions your abilities. This negative soundtrack chips away at our well-being, and often goes hand in hand with anxiety, depression, and eating disorders.

How do you silence this inner critic? First, monitor your



thoughts and the situations in which self-criticism occurs. Talk back to your inner critic, challenging it with hard facts and the truth of God’s Word. Then replace those criticisms with words that are constructive and encouraging.

Breaking the habit of self-criticism can pay big dividends in mental and physical health. As your thinking improves, your health improves, and you’ll have more energy for pursuing what’s really important. Perhaps silencing this inner critic is what Solomon had in mind when he wrote, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Prov. 4:23, NIV).—*Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth Wellness Center*

### In the Spotlight > Andrew Cathlin

**B**orn in a poor home, Andrew Cathlin says he and three siblings learned numerous important lessons from their single, hard-working, Guyanese mother, Zena. The most important one, he says, was that “anything we wanted to achieve in this life, we could, if we worked hard, focused, and trusted in the Lord.” Cathlin, a member of Potomac Conference’s Virginia Beach (Va.) church, put those lessons into practice and recently graduated from Bridgewater College with a bachelor’s in Communication Studies.

Graduation, however, was even more special when Cathlin surprised his mother—during a quick visit in the college president’s office—with a book he wrote for her. Cathlin wrote *Your Life Through My Eyes* as a heartfelt letter designed to remind his mother, who had recently been discouraged, “of what she had accomplished through devotion to her children and dedication to the Lord,” he explains. With help from academic resources and support, as well as advice from professionals like U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black, he was able to self-publish the work. Cathlin’s story, and his book presentation, also caught the attention of two local newspapers.

Cathlin reports that the premise of the book is supported by Matthew 6:33. He hopes that those who read his story, and the struggles of a poor family with lots of faith, will find the inspiration to overcome obstacles. To read more about Cathlin or order the book, visit [yourlifethroughmyeyes.com](http://yourlifethroughmyeyes.com).



## Web Watch

### Adventistparenting.org

Join the approximately 4,000 worldwide subscribers who are receiving the new bimonthly, online newsletter *Adventist Parenting*, a free service provided by Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) and [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com). Get practical advice on how to raise confident, God-centered kids; learn how to balance work, home, and church; and win valuable giveaways. Recent winners received copies of *Praying Like Crazy for Your Kids*, a parenting book by Tamyra Horst of the Pennsylvania Conference. Sign up today, take part in a survey, and get caught up on back issues.

PHOTO BY CYNDIE WALDRON/UNITY BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

# Adventist Musicians

In *Counsels for the Church*, Ellen G. White writes: “Music connects the hearts of frail human beings with the throne of grace” (p. 172). In this issue, we introduce you to 12 noted Columbia Union-based composers, conductors, and arrangers who, through their work, usher us into the presence of God and bring glory and honor to His name.

## Laddie Bell

*Music Director,  
Seabrook Church*

**I** was probably born in a choir rehearsal,” jokes Adventist musician, composer, arranger, and conductor Laddie Bell, PhD. Growing up surrounded by a musical family in Fayetteville, N.C., it is no wonder that at 5 years old, Bell knew he wanted to play the piano—or that later he would add organ and voice to his studies.

Bell’s conducting experience started his senior year of high school when he directed a chorale of peers in a performance of Joseph Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. Although his degrees are all in business administration, Bell never strayed too far from his first love. “My dad said to me, ‘Major in something you can make some money with; musicians are always poor!’” Bell recalls, laughing. “Even though I did major in something else, I spent every spare moment in the music department!”

Bell is currently the conductor for Capitol Hill church’s Capitol Hill Chorale in Washington, D.C., and is music director and organist for the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., and the Northeastern Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He enjoys using his talents for God’s glory, whether it is directing a 125-voice chorus with a full orchestra in Handel’s *Messiah* before an audience of more than 3,000, or directing 20 singers in a simple, harmonious, a cappella hymn in a small country church.

While he prefers directing many of the sacred classics—including soul-stirring spirituals

from arrangers like Moses Hogan and uplifting anthems from Beethoven—arranging or composing his own meditative, sacred pieces for the various chorales under his care often brings him the greatest joy. “It is a wonderful experience seeing the final culmination of the work; to see how music can reach the hearts of people,” he thoughtfully muses. “It’s very moving.”

As a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the American Guild of Organists, Bell continues the rich history of Adventist artists who have made their mark in the world of inspirational music.—*Debra Banks*

## James Bingham

*Chair, Department of Music,  
Columbia Union College*

**H**is distinguished Australian accent, orange-red hair, and commanding personality often make James Bingham, EdD, just as interesting as the music he conducts. However, Bingham takes music seriously and believes that a vital element of being a conductor is to convey that people, and the work they are studying, is important.

“The single biggest issue in conducting is that you must love people, and you must have a love for great music,” states the musician, best known for his 15 years at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md., where he now serves as chair of the music department.

As a young boy, it was his local church in Australia that initially sparked Bingham’s interest in “good, sacred music.” By his teen



years, he was assisting the organist during services. After graduating with degrees in education and music from Avondale College, he came to the United States to complete a Master of Arts in music theory and composition at Andrews University (Mich.). Bingham also finished a Doctor of Education with an emphasis in music, which initiated his role in religious musical education.

Bingham's career contains a wealth of musical highlights. One noteworthy performance in 2000 involved the combined choirs of the Spencerville (Md.) church and the Columbia Collegiate Chorale as they presented Bingham's own *Requiem* with an orchestra. But his finest moments come, he says, as his music students pass through the receiving line at graduation. "I feel tremendously rewarded and proud of them, even if there have been some headaches and heartaches along the way," he notes.

Bingham has a keen eye for musical talent and specifically looks for dedication, drive, self-discipline, and a love for music. "Even if their skills are not perfected, these can be taught, but a person who has not mastered the art of self-discipline will not succeed as a musician," he states. "God-given talent, although essential, is only one part of the equation. It is what a person does with it that counts."

Bingham also enjoys composing, orchestrating, and arranging music. At any given concert, there will certainly be at least one piece of music performed that Bingham has revised. The *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* has also been touched by Bingham's distinguished musical

influence. "I have enjoyed being a member of the church's hymnal committee and seeing the production of the hymnal through to its conclusion," comments Bingham, who contributed four tunes to the current book.

Although endlessly busy with various organizations, Bingham is composing a commissioned piece for the American Harp Society. He's also editing a recording by ProMusica, CUC's honors choir, that they recently made at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.—*Jaclyn Day*

## **Tim Crosby** *Pastor, Willow Brook Church*

**T**im Crosby, DMin, pastor of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., is an avid musician and composer who would, as he admits, "spend more time composing music if I could do anything I wanted without concern for financial support."

Crosby possesses a wide variety of talents. He was writer, broadcast producer, composer, and program director for six years with the Voice of Prophecy (VOP). He also served as pastor at several churches in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and as acquisitions editor for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. But, his most treasured accomplishments are those that involve music.

Pastor Crosby wrote, arranged, and produced a score for *The Apocalypse*, a two-hour VOP production on the book of Revelation narrated by H.M.S. Richards, Jr. He has performed at venues around the country,



*Laddie Bell*



*James Bingham*



*Tim Crosby*



Lance Downing

us. We cannot afford hours of exposure each week to the world's ideology and hope to remain unchanged. [Our role is] to raise musical standards."—*Sam Belony*

### **Lance Downing** *2009 Graduate, Mount Vernon Academy*

**A**lthough he is only 18 years old, Lance Downing's love of music spans a decade. He started playing the piano at the age of 7, picked up hand chimes at 9, and was hooked on handbells at 10. Today, this recent graduate of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, enjoys all types of music. He claims to particularly enjoy playing handbells because of its unique technique, style, and skill. "The music is gorgeous, and it is fun to create music as a team," he shares.

Downing's passion for handbells was born while playing with the Mount Vernon Elementary School Bell Choir. He later joined Cascabel, MVA's handbell choir. With Cascabel, Downing performed in Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Canada, and Jamaica, and recorded a CD in 2008 titled *Dedicated Ringers*.

Although he never took a music composition class, Downing penned four original pieces: "Forever in Our Hearts," written for the fifth anniversary of 9/11; "Cascata di Cristallo"; "Voyage of the Magi"; and "The Angels Sang Glory." As he explains, "I know this was music that God inspired; He just used my hands to write it."

Downing, a member of the Mount Vernon (Ohio) Hill

church, says being used as a vessel for God is his greatest musical achievement. "There is no greater satisfaction than knowing that God has used you to bless others," he shares.

Downing plans to continue playing the piano for various churches and looks forward to joining another handbell choir, or even teaching one. In the fall, he plans to attend Walla Walla University (Wash.), to study industrial design and then pursue a master's degree in transportation design, with the desire to become a car designer.—*LaTasha Betts Hewitt*

### **Allen and Gwen Foster** *Minister of Music and Choir Director, Ebenezer Church*

**W**here the entertainment world has its power couples, the Columbia Union can claim Allen and Gwen Foster. This dynamic duo has used their gifts, collectively and independently, during 40-plus years of marriage and become pillars in the Adventist music community.

The Fosters' ministry is marked by longevity. Gwen has directed the choir at the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia since her late teens. Her husband has served as the church's minister of music and the choir's accompanist since they were married. Under their dual leadership, Ebenezer's choir became a highly sought-after performance and recording group.

A celebrated organist and composer, Allen served for nearly 40 years as minister of music at Pinn

including some of the largest Adventist congregations, i.e., Loma Linda University church (Calif.), Southern Adventist University's Collegedale church (Tenn.), and Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University (Mich.). In 1972 he toured as a pianist and occasional arranger with Russell Davis' Concerts for Christ Singers.

Pastor Crosby's compositions include lullabies, hymns, Christmas carols, and two love songs. His best-known composition, "Some Holy Morning," was the title song on the first solo album of Adventist singer Sandy Wyman Richart (now Johnson). Former classmate Steve Darmody, a distinguished Adventist artist with at least seven albums, has also performed Crosby's music.

Crosby's musical preference ranges from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to the contemporary Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, but his aim is "to create beauty and inspire the congregation by producing quality music that glorifies God." He challenges others by saying, "Music shapes



Memorial Baptist Church, and was minister of music at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and the historic Tindley Temple United Methodist Church, all of which are in Philadelphia. He also recently recorded the first of three albums in the *Allen Foster Songbook* series, which features his original compositions.

The Fosters' names were, for a time, synonymous with the Pine Forge Academy Choir in Pine Forge, Pa. As directress and accompanist of the group for 10 years, the couple nurtured hundreds of budding vocal talents, with Gwen shepherding the choir through two recordings. One included the song "I Lay My Sins on Jesus," the first hymn penned by Allen that was later published in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.



Gwen and Allen Foster

The Fosters also combined their talents to develop the Lincoln University Concert Choir in Lincoln University, Pa., which they led for six years. The successful group toured extensively and further elevated the Fosters' impact.

With such a heart for music, it is no surprise that Gwen starts a choir everywhere she goes. While traveling in Africa, she founded a choir during an evangelistic crusade, and did the same while in

**I know this was music that God inspired; He just used my hands to write it.**  
—Lance Downing

Russia and Bermuda. As health czar for the city of Philadelphia, from 2000-2008, she rallied participants in her health program and formed Philadelphia Sings.

In 2008 the Guild of Adventist Musicians ([guildofadventistmusicians.com](http://guildofadventistmusicians.com)), based in Maryland, presented the Fosters with a Lifetime Achievement Award during its first awards ceremony, honoring them with much-needed acknowledgement for their excellence in music.—Regina Reid Clairmont

## Preston Hawes

*Associate Director, New England Youth Ensemble*

**P**reston Hawes picked up the violin at age 5, and, as they say—the rest is history.

"There wasn't a moment where I suddenly knew I would be a musician," recalls Hawes, who is about to begin his third year of teaching music at Columbia Union College. "It was a gradual process, where I grew to love music, and it was a language with which I felt I could successfully manipulate and communicate."

Since those early days, Hawes has participated in countless music performance groups, including a number of top-ranked orchestras in Connecticut such as the Tokyo String Quartet, Yale Philharmonic, and Eastern Connecticut Symphony. Hawes has also had the distinction of serving as concertmaster for the New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) during his undergraduate years at CUC.

"I now perform with the Lancaster Symphony, Mid-Atlantic Symphony, and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, which I joined recently in a recording [with the Naxos music label] featuring violist Victoria Chiang," says Hawes.

Hawes reports that his most memorable concert was with the NEYE at the 2008 Salzburg Festival in Austria. "To conduct works by Mozart in the Salzburg Dom, and to share conducting with Kappelmeister Czifra—the man who holds Mozart's old job—was simply amazing," he recalls.

Although young to the world of conducting, he has found a passion for it, showing dedication and pride in his work with the New England Youth Ensemble. "A conductor must command, but never demand, respect," explains Hawes. "A great conductor makes the performance about the music



Preston Hawes

and behaves as a conduit only ... and must always do their best to prepare an orchestra for the performance.”

With bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from CUC, Canadian University College (Alberta), Mannes College The New School for Music (N.Y.), and Yale University (Conn.), Hawes is now completing his doctoral studies at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He looks forward to next year, as he prepares for solo performances in Dubai, Canada, and the United States, as well as traveling with the NEYE to Austria, Germany, Italy, England, Scotland, and Iceland.

Deeply spiritual about the role of music in his life, Hawes says that he considers his greatest personal musical accomplishment to be the moment he realized that “music can, and does, effectively and sincerely bring people to Christ, and can be used as a tool of the gospel despite language barriers.”—Jaclyn Day

### **James Lee III** *Professor, Morgan State University*

**A**t 12 years old, James Lee III, DMA, had no particular interest in music. So, when his father secretly arranged for him to begin taking piano lessons, no one had any idea what

enormous talent lay dormant. By age 16, he was composing. Before his 35th birthday, he had two of his works performed by world-renowned orchestras, and was hailed by critics in the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Baltimore Sun* as a composer “with a bright future” and “who has what it takes.”

In 2006 seven-time Grammy Award-winning conductor Leonard Slatkin premiered Lee’s three-movement, biblically based orchestral composition, *Beyond Rivers of Vision*, at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra. Of the incident, Lee, an active member of the Baltimore-White Marsh church, humbly recalls being “extremely happy and thankful.” Two years later, Slatkin, now music director of the Detroit Symphony, also premiered Lee’s *Different Soldier’s Tale*, a work giving a musical voice to his grandfather’s experience as an African-American soldier during World War II.

Born in 1975, in St. Joseph,



James Lee III



Mich., Lee started his education in Adventist schools, including Andrews Academy and Andrews University (Mich). After receiving his degrees in piano performance and music composition at the University of Michigan, he obtained his Doctor of Musical Arts in composition in 2005. Lee currently serves as a full-time professor in music theory and composition at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Continuing to produce meaningful compositions, Lee is now working on a series of 12 sacred piano preludes. "Each prelude will depict a gem on the wall in the New Jerusalem," he explains. As each precious stone has specific colors, textures, and features, he will utilize "properties in music to portray characteristics of that gem," he adds. Lee expects this work to be completed by year's end.—*Debra Banks*

**Lloyd B. Mallory, Jr.**  
*Associate Pastor for Music and Worship, Sligo Church*

**W**hen "I Got De Key" was performed at Oakwood University's (Ala.) homecoming in 1989, young singers across the concert hall wished for the chance to one day sing with Lloyd Mallory, Jr., DMA, the student and director who had arranged this gem. It was a rich, complex and lilting piece, unpredictable, yet with the familiar elements of a traditional spiritual.

From those early days of the Lloyd Mallory Singers, the group's founder—now a conductor, premiere tenor, and vocal coach—has arranged and directed lush pieces that have been performed

by choral groups, wind ensembles, and orchestras across the country. He holds master's degrees in both choral conducting and voice from Morgan State University in Baltimore. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he also directed the university chorus.

The Pine Forge Academy and Oakwood University alumnus came full circle when he directed the esteemed PFA choir from 1989-96, then spent a decade at the helm of Oakwood's world-

**Music can, and does, effectively and sincerely bring people to Christ, and can be used as a tool of the gospel despite language barriers.**  
 —*Preston Hawes*

renowned Aeolians choir. Today, Mallory is the associate pastor for music and worship at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., a position he assumed in 2007. He recently revived his Lloyd Mallory Singers and recorded a live CD project at Sligo, featuring arrangements of beloved hymns, classical works, and a cappella spirituals.

Locally, Mallory has been a guest clinician and conductor for an intercollegiate music festival at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md., and at Hampton University's Choir Directors and Organists Guild Workshop in Virginia, where his piece "Holy is



*Lloyd B. Mallory, Jr.*

"Thy Name" was premiered. A career highlight was serving as guest choral conductor and vocal pedagogue for the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., home church of Grammy Award-winning gospel legend Richard Smallwood.—*Regina Reid Clairmont*

**Jerry Taylor**  
*Minister of Music, Kettering Church*

**J**erry Taylor was just 2 years old when his church rented an organ for a wedding. From that day, he knew he wanted to play the organ and dedicated his life to music. He started his career in music in 1975 by completing a degree in music education at Walla Walla University (Wash.). He left there to serve as a teacher at Ozark Academy (Ark.), then transferred to Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., where he built a 32-rank pipe organ, established the Shenandoans select choir, and



*Jerry Taylor*

significantly increased the school's overall choir participation. While there, he also completed a master's degree with a church music distinction from Indiana University. For the past 23 years, he has served as minister of music for the Kettering (Ohio) church.

When Taylor started at Kettering, he inherited 14 singers. Now the 50-member choir sings every other week for worship and presents three concerts a year with the church's orchestra. Upon joining the Kettering team, Taylor also started a youth choir that grew to 85 singers and then relocated to Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio. The academy choir was featured at Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla., and later taped during an international NBC broadcast.

As an organist, Taylor has arranged pieces including "Great and Glorious" and "Responses for Church Worship." He has performed for Baldwin Organs, Inc.,

and the Rodgers Instruments Corporation, and served as organist for several General Conference sessions. He currently serves as the organist for several organizations and was the first recipient of the prestigious director's award for the Dayton Bach Society. As music associate for the Dayton Westminster Presbyterian Church, he has also produced two CDs and appeared on international television with the Westminster Choir in Columbus, Ohio.

With all that he's accomplished, Taylor still looks forward to making more music. "So much great music to perform, so little time," he declares. He also finds great reward in teaching up-and-coming musicians, and is moved every time one of his students adopts music as their college major. One organ student, Grant Wareham, recently won the Young Artist Competition Award in Dayton.—*LaTasha Betts Hewitt*

### **Adrian Westney, Jr.** *Founder and President, Westney Productions*

**B**orn in Trinidad to Jamaican parents, his father's work as an Adventist pastor and departmental leader started Adrian Westney, Jr., on his career path earlier in life than most. "As a toddler, I was often at the piano with my mother, a pianist of note," recalls this member of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md. However, Westney's skills as an arranger weren't tapped until he was a student at Pine Forge Academy. "I played for the choir, plus sang and played for other small singing groups on campus. As a result, I also began

arranging music for these groups," he reports.

Today Westney is founder and president of Westney Productions, through which he provides complete media support for evangelistic campaigns, churches, and musical artists. He greatly enjoys composing and arranging pieces for orchestras, quartets, chorales, and individuals across the United States, including popular Adventist artists Wintley Phipps, Del Delker, the Kings Heralds, and Walter Arties. While working on projects for ministries such as the Voice of Prophecy, Westney is also completing his fifth keyboard CD. And requests for compositions, arrangements, or production assistance are increasing as preparations are made for the 59th General Conference (GC) Session to be held next year in Atlanta.



*Adrian Westney, Jr.*



Westney was the musical mastermind behind the Parade of Nations during the 2005 GC Session in St. Louis. Creating music for such a worldwide church has its challenges. “You have to take into consideration the different cultures,” he says. “Music can sometimes be a lightning rod for controversy, and you have to find a middle ground that works for everybody.” Westney arranged what he calls “musical characterizations” for each nation represented and “wove in” the GC theme song to pull it together. Creating music on this level is a “type of science,” he



*Mark Willey*

**Music can sometimes be a lightning rod for controversy, and you have to find a middle ground that works for everybody.**

—*Adrian Westney, Jr.*

adds. “You can play something in different ways, using different meters, and it’s also possible to weave a variety of styles into the same piece. Music facilitates all that.”—*Debra Banks*

## **Mark Willey** *Music Director, Spencerville Church*

**M**ark Willey, the current music director and organist at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., is a lover of “classical Adventist hymns.” He was only 14 when he became enthralled by

the hymns and postludes of Kimo Smith, organist of the Loma Linda University church (Calif.), where he was a member. While a junior in high school, he moved to France to attend the Adventist language school, Saleve Adventist University, studying under François Delor, the current organist of Cathedrale de Saint-Pierre in Rennes.

Returning to the states in 1996, Willey completed a degree in music performance at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, where he studied with renowned organist Donald Sutherland. His professional career took off during his sophomore year while playing organ for the Epworth United Methodist Church in Cockeysville, Md. In 2005 he graduated with a master’s degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

Willey can claim a number of musical accomplishments. At the Spencerville church, he is the artistic director of the monthly Evensong Concert Series, a treas-

ured community tradition. He is the founder of a music production company and freelances as a music editor and producer. His live performances include the National Cathedral and locations in Sweden. He has worked with Hugh Williams, former organist of the St. Paul Cathedral in London, and edited and produced the album *Shrine Legacy* with Jeremy Filsell, organist of Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Other works include the Finale from the First Sonata of Alexandre Guilmant and the Finale from the Sixth Symphony by Charles-Marie Widor.

Humbly, Willey says, “I don’t consider myself to be one of the most talented players in the world, by any means. I would say my greatest accomplishment has been to inspire people with the music I’ve been privileged to play in services and occasionally in solo concerts.” Expect a solo organ recording from Willey soon, which will include works by his favorite composer, J.S. Bach.—*Sam Belony*

# Virginia-Gene & Rittenhouse hope & glory (*& Oratorios*)

Kara S. Watkins



Above: Virginia-Gene, 1946.

The Shankels, at home near Atlantic Union College in the late 1940s, hosted popular musical evenings for students, which often featured the trio's performances of African music.



**F**ine-boned hands lift from the piano as the final notes of an oratorio's opening movement linger a moment more. The audition over, the pianist senses her effort has failed to impress Mademoiselle Nadia Boulanger. The revered composition teacher—who for decades presided over a select roster of students in

pianist, she proclaims: “This music *must* be heard.”

And heard it has been. Already an acclaimed musician and composer when she first played for Boulanger 40 years ago, Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, DMA, has been sharing her gift for nearly 90 years. The distinguished Seventh-day Adventist musician, composer, and conductor is also the founder and director of the well-traveled New England Youth Ensemble based at Columbia Union College (CUC) in Takoma Park, Md.

## The Prodigy

Born in Canada in 1922 and raised in South Africa, Rittenhouse's innate talents flourished under the tutelage of her pianist mother, Win Osborn Shankel. With an extraordinary affinity for the language of music, the toddler immersed herself in its possibilities, inspired by Mozart, Bach, and Schubert. By her early teens, she had performed her own compositions for international audiences, written her first oratorio, and debuted as a soloist with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra.

When her father, history professor George Shankel, returned the family to North America, Rittenhouse completed an undergraduate degree at the University of Washington. She began teaching violin and piano, first at Walla Walla University (Wash.), then at Atlantic Union College (AUC) in Massachusetts, where she lived with her parents and devoted husband, Harvey Rittenhouse, MD, whom she married in 1950. While at AUC, she commuted to New York City to perform at high-profile venues and study with top instructors at the Juilliard School of Music.

She continued her studies, earning a doctorate from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, along with prestigious awards and the admiration of audiences, critics, and musicians. But Rittenhouse, always tenacious, optimistic, and fearless, remained firm in her decision to dedicate her immense talents to God.

her Fontainebleau studio outside Paris—could intimidate even the most accomplished musician.

The elderly woman sits in silence, eyes closed and head bowed. A stately clock counts time and the pianist, terrified, prepares herself for rejection. Slowly, Boulanger raises her head, focusing her intense gaze on the younger woman. “I do not know how I can teach you,” she begins quietly, in accented English. “This music has been *heard*, not manufactured. It is like Schubert’s music; it is music that has come to you from. ...” She pauses, waving an elegant hand heavenward. And then, looking directly at the



## The Ensemble

This desire to serve the Lord led Rittenhouse in the late 1960s to found the New England Youth Ensemble. Her fresh-faced students often performed at venues and events near AUC, moving audiences with their skillful renditions of Bach and Handel. “There has to be some great possibility here,” she recalls thinking, realizing the youngsters represented the best of America—and Christian youth. The students began performing at larger venues, including New York’s Radio City Music Hall, and in 1973 the fledgling ensemble embarked on its first international tour. Today the ensemble, a group of more than 40



young musicians, continues to perform classical and sacred music worldwide, often with the CUC’s Collegiate Chorale. The chorale’s director, James Bingham, PhD, chair of CUC’s music department, bears witness to Rittenhouse’s visionary talents.

“Virginia is a demanding and strong-willed lady; one that looks far down the line to reach her goals,” says Bingham, who has worked with her since the early 1970s. “It is these very characteristics that have given her the drive and determination to dream beyond the obvious, making her, and all those associated with her, reach for greater success than was thought possible.”

## Single-Minded Devotion

One of Rittenhouse’s first piano students at AUC, Dorothy Minchin-Comm, retired professor of English at La Sierra University (Calif.), became a fast friend. Together, they have written two books: *Encore!* and *Curtain Call*, which document the history of the ensemble. “Virginia inspires her students and grows their self-confidence with a positive touch,” notes Minchin-Comm. “Through it all, however, she has this sense of mission. All—all—is done to the glory of God.”

An ensemble member since 1993, Maryland attorney and violinist Renee Battle-Brooks appreciates

Rittenhouse’s single-minded devotion: “She has nurtured hundreds of musicians over the years. She teaches through example the life lesson of never giving up.”

Rittenhouse’s boundless energy, love for her students, and commitment to her work is inspirational; the music that flows out of every pore—her life’s blood. In May she tuned up her violin for the ensemble’s weekend performances at Carnegie Hall, and this summer she led the group through Europe to perform, along with the classics, her second oratorio, *The Vision of the Apocalypse*. The Revelation-inspired oratorio—from which the first movement Mademoiselle Boulanger insisted had come from God—received a standing ovation after its 2004 Carnegie Hall debut.

“My life has been a series of miracles,” reflects the petite, demure dynamo. The most satisfying of these, certainly, are the doors that have opened for the ensemble to share God’s love through music, to lift the audience’s eyes and ears heavenward, and to give *hope* to all who listen.

*Kara Watkins writes from Columbia, Md.*



*The Rittenhouses celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.*

# DOES MINISTRY GET BETTER WITH AGE?

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Spurred by expansion, Baltimore Junior Academy (BJA) has relocated eight times since its doors opened in 1915. The recent addition of a 74-foot-long gymnasium—a project made possible by the financial support of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF)—only makes BJA a better asset to its community.

While BJA continues to draw Seventh-day Adventist and neighborhood children alike, the school also now hosts numerous afterschool and community events at the new gymnasium. As a result of their innovative efforts and by acting as a safe haven in a crowded major city, BJA has earned the respect of many in the community.

Like it did for BJA, CURF continues to help churches, schools, conferences, and other entities across the mid-Atlantic region promote the mission of the world church. By financing such projects for more than 40 years, CURF truly does make ministry possible.



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# Profiles in Caring



## Jewels on the Agenda

Tucked in here and there on my calendar, alongside the indicators of my weekday schedule and work, are a number of jewels. This is the season when they seem to be more plentiful than ever: Graduations. Anniversaries. Celebrations. Birthdays. Weddings. Baseball Games. Reunions. Baptisms. Festivals. Trips to the Shore. Holidays. The spice of life.

I've been thinking about why just noting all these varied events and gatherings on our datebooks brings smiles to our faces. Here are just three of the reasons why the traditions that we observe around milestones and transitions make a difference for us.

First, they give us a structure that helps make sense of things. Birthdays and anniversaries come every year. Graduations mark an accomplishment. Weddings demonstrate commitment and direction. Religious and cultural services provide young people with the rites of passage into adulthood. Taken together these are the signposts on our chronological landscape. They help remind us where we are and where we are going. They reinforce our sense of identity and self-worth.

Second, they remind us of the community of which we are a part. They connect us to each other through our families, our cultural groups, our town or city. They are visible expressions of that unique cluster of values and traditions that comprise the distinctive worldview that guides our individual lives. "Two are better than one," is the way the wise king of Ecclesiastes said it, and the wisdom certainly applies to all those events that bring us together around shared values and traditions.

And third, they bring our values and our actions into alignment with each other. The proof of our values is in the way we spend our time, our energy, and our resources. Attending an event like the ones I've listed is often an opportunity to bring our best intentions into alignment with our best practices. That's why all time is quality time, and there is no such thing as too much time spent on the ones you love.

Our calendars are bejeweled with sparkling indications of the ones we love, the causes we cherish, and the communities that we are truly a part of—reflections of who we are and who we are becoming.



William G. "Bill" Robertson  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare

# The Rewards of Partnership

**W**ashington Adventist Hospital and Columbia Union College have grown up together, side by side in Takoma Park, Maryland. Both of these sister institutions recently celebrated their 100-year anniversary. Both have expanded and evolved and advanced over the years.

Of course, it was just good common sense that they would cooperate. The student nurses needed clinical experience. The hospital staff needed continuing education. It was a win-win situation.

And now this partnership, this “family” relationship, has been given recognition.

On June 11, 2009, Washington Adventist Hospital and Columbia Union College received the Business/Education Partnership Award from the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce for their contributions to quality health care and the education of future medical professionals.

“We are honored to receive this award for our work with Columbia Union College,” says Washington Adventist Hospital President Jere Stocks. “This partnership ensures that future health-care professionals have access to innovative programs in the clinical hospital setting and beyond.”

Nursing students at Columbia Union College benefit from participating in clinical rotations on nursing units at Washington Adventist Hospital, under the supervision of a Registered Nurse Clinical Instructor. They also participate in senior student practicum experiences at the hospital and gain valuable public health and community outreach experi-

ence at the numerous community health screenings offered by the hospital.

This collaboration provides the same opportunities to Columbia Union College’s respiratory therapy students, who also complete their clinical rotations on the medical units as they master the skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality pulmonary care.

But good relationships don’t remain static, and big changes are in the works for both Columbia Union College and Washington Adventist Hospital. In May, the Constituency voted to change Columbia Union College’s name to Washington Adventist University as it moves into the final phase of the university transition. And Washington Adventist Hospital has plans to relocate to a new campus in the White Oak/Calverton area of Montgomery County that will enhance the hospital’s ability to provide better access to health care for all.

The hospital will retain the

current Takoma Park campus for re-use for health care and community service needs. In addition to medical services, this re-imagined “Village of Health and Well-being” will offer educational uses once the hospital relocates, including a library-learning center, clinical education classrooms, and clinical education simulation labs.

To help keep pace with the future demand for well-trained and compassionate health-care providers, Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare are partnering with Columbia Union College/Washington Adventist University to provide expanded educational capacity focused on health science careers.

The partnership between Washington Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist University will continue to strengthen and grow.





# Prepared to Serve

By Ensign Graeme Bannerman, RN



I was in the medical field in the Navy, working as a hospital corpsman, which is equivalent to a medic in the Army. Becoming an RN was the next step up, and would bring me to the officer pay grade. The Navy has a program called the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program that allows you to attend nursing school; they do not pay for school, but they continue to pay your military salary. You leave your current commitment/assignment, attend school for three years, then resign up for eight years—four active and four in the reserves.

I graduated from Columbia Union College (CUC) with honors in May,

and I am now a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. I will be going to Officer Development School in July, then in August I am going to work at Bethesda Naval Hospital for two years.

I decided to get into nursing after working with nurses at Bethesda Naval Hospital. The nurses train the corpsmen; the corpsmen work for the nurses. If you have questions, you go to the nurses. Also, nurses do hand-on patient care, and that is what I like to do. As a nurse I work with the whole family. The nurses are the ones that really take care of the patients and their families holistically. That's what I love about nursing, in general, and it is one of the things they taught us at Columbia Union College—that you are treating the patient but you are also treating the family and that you treat the family like a patient. The family is really key to the patient's recovery.

I grew up in Takoma Park—in Old Town Takoma Park, just a few minutes from CUC. I really like that it is a small school, with small class sizes.

Having been trained in the military, I like the small unit atmosphere and that you can ask questions and they will answer you directly. In a big school, in large classes, it is much harder to get questions answered.

I did rotations at quite a few hospitals. One of the things Washington Adventist Hospital emphasizes is nutrition as a way of healing and taking care of someone—this was also taught at CUC. What we are putting into our bodies is key for medicine, but a lot of people don't give this a second thought.

One of the things that really impressed me was when I was on rotation on the Washington Adventist Hospital behavioral health unit. Every day when I walked into the patient care area every single staff member said, "How are you?" and asked if there was anything they could do help us. They told us they appreciated us and encouraged us to ask any questions we might have.

If there were any problems, they would help us work it out. We really felt we were part of the hospital. At other hospitals you often feel like you are just a student and don't really have any say in what is happening. At Washington Adventist Hospital we had direct contact with the managers and felt like we were part of the hospital.

Taking part in clinical rotations at Washington Adventist Hospital—working closely with experienced nurses and their patients—has helped me to be better prepared to enter the work force and serve in the Navy.



## Una asociación fructífera

Adventist Hospital, Jere Stocks. "Esta asociación garantiza que los futuros profesionales en el campo de la salud tendrán acceso a programas innovadores en un ambiente clínico y todavía más".

Los estudiantes de enfermería de Columbia Union College se benefician de la participación en rotaciones clínicas en las unidades de enfermería de Washington Adventist Hospital bajo la supervisión de una instructora que es una enfer-



**W**ashington Adventist Hospital y Columbia Union College se desarrollaron juntos en Takoma Park, Maryland. Ambas instituciones hermanas recientemente celebraron 100 años de existencia.

Ambas se han expandido y han evolucionado a través de los años.

Lo más sensato es que cooperasen en sus actividades. Los estudiantes de enfermería necesitaban experiencia clínica. El personal del hospital necesitaba educación continua. Era una situación en la que todos ganan.

Ahora esa asociación, esa relación "familiar" ha recibido su reconocimiento.

El 11 de junio, 2009, Washington Adventist Hospital y Columbia Union College recibieron el Premio por la Asociación de Negocios/Educación de la Cámara de Comercio de Silver Springs por sus contribuciones a la atención médica y la educación de calidad para futuros profesionales en el campo de la salud.

"Es un honor para nosotros recibir este premio por nuestra labor con Columbia Union College", dice el presidente de Washington

mera registrada. También participan en la experiencia práctica para estudiantes por graduar en el hospital y obtienen valiosa experiencia en salud pública y alcance a la comunidad durante los numerosos análisis gratuitos de salud que ofrece el hospital.

Esta colaboración provee las mismas oportunidades a los estudiantes de terapia de la respiración de Columbia Union College que también han completado sus rotaciones clínicas en las unidades médicas conforme afinan las habilidades y el conocimiento para proveer atención pulmonar de primera clase.

Pero la buena relación no permanece estática y se están llevando a cabo cambios profundos en la labor tanto de Columbia Union College como de Washington Adventist Hospital. En mayo, se votó cambiar el nombre de Columbia Union College a Washington Adventist University conforme pasa a la fase final en la transición a universidad. Washington Adventist Hospital tiene planes de cambiar de local a un nuevo lugar en el área de White Oak/Calverton en Montgomery County lo cual aumentará la habilidad de proveer mayor acceso a la salud médica de la población.

El hospital mantendrá sus instalaciones actuales en Takoma Park, que serán utilizadas para atender las necesidades de salud de la comunidad. Esta "aldea de salud" ofrecerá programas educativos una vez que el hospital se haya trasladado. Esto incluirá un centro educacional, salones de educación clínica y laboratorios de simulación de educación clínica.

Para mantenerse al día con la demanda de personal capacitado y sensible, Washington Adventist Hospital y Adventist HealthCare se han asociado con Columbia Union College/Washington Adventist University para proveer educación extensa enfocada en las carreras de la salud.

La asociación entre Washington Adventist Hospital y Washington Adventist University continuará fortaleciéndose y creciendo.



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[www.adventisthealthcare.com](http://www.adventisthealthcare.com)



## 200 Community Services Leaders Attend Training

The Allegheny East Conference's Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation expanded its annual daylong training to three days this year. Nearly 200 aspiring and current community services leaders from around the conference attended the meetings. Themed "Redeeming the Time," the weekend training was held on the grounds of Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

"We focused on strategic planning, and also looked at two successful projects that showed how the collaborative spirit can really make a difference," explained Minnie McNeil, conference ACS director.

Presenters included Pastor Darriel Hoy, director of Baltimore ACS; Vernon Bramble, CAE, president of Bramble Associates LLC; Mark McCleary, senior pastor at First church in Washington, D.C.; and Charles Cheatham, conference president, who gave the keynote address.

Hoy led two seminars: one focused on involving youth in community outreach and another on recruiting volunteers. Bramble discussed the timely topic of "Managing Your Finances in Tough Economic Times." McCleary discussed using spiritual gifts for service.



Nearly 200 community service workers recently attended a weekend training session at Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa.

## NEWS

### GE Peters Celebrates Year of Baptisms, Academic Excellence

After spending a year studying in makeshift classrooms at the adjacent Metropolitan church, students of George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., still found opportunities to shine. (A tornado hit the school in April 2008, destroying part of the gym and roof).

Ten students took the school's theme, "Shine in 2009," personally and made the decision for baptism. The baptisms reaffirmed the school's mission, says Evelyn Savory, principal.

"Our ultimate mission is to prepare our boys and girls to be missionaries for Christ and to save our children," she says. "Students making decisions like this, at this young age, are prepared to make it to the kingdom and take their place in this world."

The K-8 school also participated in a conference-wide science fair and placed first in each category. "This has



Karel Marshall, eighth-grader, class president, and salutatorian, was one of 10 students who were recently reborn in Christ.

been a difficult year," Savory admits. "But we have been able to ride it through with the help of the Holy Spirit."

There will be a re-opening celebration at the school on August 30.

### Sharon, Shiloh Churches Dedicate Mobile Kitchen

Members of the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va., and the Sharon church in Crewe, Va., recently joined hands to dedicate the conference's first mobile kitchen.

The vehicle, which will be shared by the churches, doesn't require a special license. Members from

both churches were already taking food in their cars to those who could not make it to a soup kitchen. This self-contained unit is small enough to maneuver through alleyways and under bridges.

The kitchen was dedicated to the memory of Sharon member Thelma Robinson. She and her husband were well known in the community for their kindness to those who needed help.



## Pine Forge Baptism Grows From 4 to 47

Divine service at the Pine Forge (Pa.) church recently took an unusual turn. On that Sabbath, a baptism was scheduled for four young ladies from Pine Forge Academy: Racheal Groce, Brielyn Sampson, Natalie Freeman, and Janel Bacchas. As these baptisms were drawing to a close, Gary Banks, pastor of the church, turned

to the congregation and asked if there was anyone who wanted to start their lives over in Christ.

That was when the Spirit moved and began to work on the hearts of those in the congregation. People started coming forward saying they wanted to be baptized or re-baptized *right then!* Pastor Banks announced, “The pool will be open until the benediction!”

With no care of what others thought, several people came forward determined that they would serve God. By the end of the service, 47 people were baptized! Of

that number, 44 were academy students and three were members of the local community.

Needless to say, there was no formal sermon that day, just periods of silence, music, and the working of the Holy Spirit. Finally after 1 p.m., first elder Samuel Darby offered the benediction.

Those who were not baptized were also blessed by the events that Sabbath. “It was really beautiful to see students ... surrendering to our Savior Jesus Christ,” said one Pine Forge teacher.

“I’ve never seen anything like this ... this is what church is all about,” added a member who has attended the church for 40 years. —Edwyn Cain, Racheal Groce, Dierra Robin, and Vivianne Jones



*Helen Peace, assistant dean of young ladies, and Pastor Gary Banks flank Aletea Fraser ('09) at her baptism.*

## First Young Women’s Conference Slated for Fall

The Washington Metro Area Women’s Ministries will host its first Young Women’s Conference for those between the ages of 13-18 on Saturday, October 10. The conference, themed “The Change Starts With You,” will provide a forum for young women to demonstrate



*2009 Young Women’s Conference*

what it means to be “chosen vessels”; show young women how to be effective in ministry; and encourage fellowship and networking with other young women. Features include a performance by a popular Christian

artist, along with fun, interactive workshops like “So You Think You Can Sing?” “Boundaries in Dating,” and “Church Ministry—Is There a Place for Me?”

Tracey Hermanstyne, co-chair of the event, says, “What a great opportunity for young women to fellowship, grow, and experience what God has planned just for you!”

Visit [chosen-vessels.org](http://chosen-vessels.org) to get additional details, and reserve your seat! Registration closes September 10.

**Pine Forge Academy Homecoming Weekend**  
September 4- 6, 2009



**NATIONAL PINE FORGE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*Together We Can*

For more information and registration go to [www.pineforgeacademyalumni.org](http://www.pineforgeacademyalumni.org)

Pine Forge Alumni Weekend Events	
<b>Friday 9-4-2009</b>	
Career Day	7:00am-12:00pm
Golf Tournament	9:00am-3:00pm
Vesper	TBA
Pastor: Noah Washington	Keynote Speaker Class of 1999
<b>Saturday 9-5-2009</b>	
Sabbath Morning Service	11:00am-12:00pm
Pastor: Furman Fordham	Keynote Speaker Class of 1989
Lunch	2:00pm
Honors Program	TBA
Legends Basketball Game	8:00pm
Class Mixer	9:00pm-until
Rook Tournament	10:30pm-until
<b>Sunday 9-6-2009</b>	
Alumni Business Meeting	9:00am-12:00pm

[www.pineforgeacademyalumni.org](http://www.pineforgeacademyalumni.org)

National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 241  
Pine Forge, PA 19548  
Email: [info@pineforgeacademyalumni.org](mailto:info@pineforgeacademyalumni.org)



## Spirit-Filled Camp Meeting Energizes Members

Members of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) enjoyed two weekends of “Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, and Spirit-anointed” camp meeting. President Fredrick Russell, along with guest speakers, re-iterated the importance of members taking the great commission to all of the conference. Attendees spent much of camp meeting on their knees, seeking the Holy Spirit and the Lord’s direction in their goal of netting 1,000 new members for the year. Energized, many committed to growing the body of Christ by donating to a special evangelism fund, and/or planning involvement in some type of ministry. Here are some camp meeting highlights:



*Pastor Eugene Anthony, Berean church, Ashtabula, Ohio*



*Women’s Ministries leaders anoint women in a special service on Friday evening.*



*Pastor Steve Valles prays with a young man.*



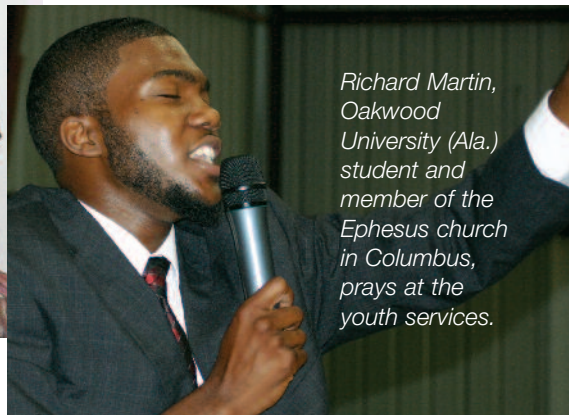
*Members of the Korean Youth Orchestra from the Korean church in Worthington, Ohio, bless the gathering with their music.*







*Revelation, a singing group from the Central church in Columbus, Ohio, shares their music ministry with camp meeting attendees.*



*Richard Martin, Oakwood University (Ala.) student and member of the Ephesus church in Columbus, prays at the youth services.*

PHOTOS BY RICARDO TUCKER, TAKESHA BURDEN, MICHEAL CANNON, WILBUR YOUNG, STEPHANIE MCMILLIAN, AND TAASHI ROWE.



*Pastor Wintley Phipps serenades the audience in an evening concert. He presented a sermon in the morning in which he encouraged members to keep their love for Christ strong.*



*AWC officers and pastors lead the congregation in giving offerings slated to boost evangelism efforts around the conference.*



*Conference president Fredrick Russell shares with members a vision for sharing Christ in Allegheny West.*

**Spirit** is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny West Conference ■ 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205  
 Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ awcsda.com ■ President, Fredrick Russell ■ Editor, Bryant Taylor



# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

AUGUST 2009

## Worship: Vital to the Life of the Church

Worship, sincere and genuine, is the very mainspring of the life of the church. “I was glad,” said the psalmist, “when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’” (Ps. 122:1). And the apostle Paul wrote, “Unto Him be glory in the church” (Eph. 3:21).

Worship must be the inspiration for all things in the life of the church. Every organization, every department, and every ministry within the church exists for some specific purpose of relating the people to God. These organizations are means to an end, not ends in themselves. It is only when the deep currents of genuine worship cease to flow that the wheels of the organization begin to grind. Everything in the church—teaching, finances, activities, and even service—must be undergirded by worship.

Why is this so? It is because worship gives us a framework for life. All the scattered fragments of experience, all the bits and pieces of truth, feeling, and perception are put together in a single whole. It gives us a working definition of life and the ways by which God leads us. Worship centers our focus on the decisions of God. In the call to worship, the Scripture lesson, and the benediction, we hear God speaking to us through our spiritual forebears. In the sermon, God’s Word is re-expressed to us. The hymns and songs are primarily paraphrases of Scripture. Through these various elements, our minds are informed and our memories refreshed. Worship nurtures our need to be in a relationship with God. Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God—it whets our appetite. Worship overflows the hour and permeates the week. Worship tunes us for God’s use. That is why the time spent in formal worship is so vital to the life of the church. Make worship central and watch God change lives—even our own!



**Rob Vandeman**  
President

## Hispanic Mission Conference Points Members to Jesus

More than 500 men, women, and children attended this year’s Hispanic Mission Conference themed “Let’s Show His Glory.” It was held at Highland View Academy and Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center, located in Hagerstown, Md. According to Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer and Hispanic Ministries coordinator, 80 percent of the conference’s Hispanic membership participated in the weekend events. Here are some highlights:

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA YOUNG



Members from Spanish churches throughout the conference gather to worship, hear solid preaching, attend seminars, and enjoy the music of vocal group Alabanza Pura and soloist Fausto Mercado.



From left, Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer and Hispanic Ministries coordinator; Humberto Treiyer, retired theology professor and author; and Ismael Nuñez, pastor of the Spanish churches in Annapolis, Denton, and Laurel, Md.; participate in a morning song service. Later Treiyer led a scholarly study of the prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation.



Anibal Hansell, a New Jersey pastor, chronicles the life of Jesus. Hansell’s dynamic sermon culminated in an altar call that brought many from the congregation forward to give their hearts to the Lord. The following morning, 10 people were baptized.

## Disaster Response Team Aids West Virginia Flood Victims

Members from the Chesapeake Conference were able to help victims of the recent floods, mudslides, and landslides caused by severe storms in West Virginia. The mountainous region was federally declared a disaster site after receiving 5.5 inches of rain in one night. At least 10 counties in the state were affected.

Kitty Juneau, conference disaster response coordinator, led a team of trained volunteers to assist the Mountain View Conference in setting up a donation warehouse in southern West Virginia. Thousands of families suffered major damage to their homes, or lost their homes altogether. The setup team worked closely with Mountain View representatives in negotiations with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state representatives to get the warehouse operating.

Evelyn Gates, Chesapeake's Adventist Community Services director, reports that churches throughout the conference were characteristically quick to respond with donations of money, gift cards, bedding, and personal care items.—Mark Hann



PHOTO BY MARK HANN

Chesapeake Conference members recently helped flood victims in West Virginia. The floods left many families without homes or transportation.

## Educators Learn Accomodation Strategies

Several Potomac Conference educators recently joined the principals of Chesapeake Conference schools for the second in a series of workshops aimed at training them in using the North American Division's REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) Resource Manual.

Karohn Young, special education expert and principal of the Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md., helped develop the REACH program and led the training. The first workshop, Young explained, focused on the REACH philosophy—that all students desiring a Seventh-day Adventist education deserve the opportunity to have their physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs met in an inclusive and supportive environment. Participants explored the different types of disabilities and the characteristics and behaviors associated with them.

"All children are precious to God," says Young. "We can't just bring them into our classrooms and not be prepared. We have to equip ourselves with the tools and strategies necessary to meet the needs of our diverse population of students."

The second workshop concentrated on methods that can be used to identify students with unique learning



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Jill Smuda, head teacher at the Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School in Westminster, Md., and Robin Correia, principal of the Frederick Adventist School in Frederick, Md., engage in a role-playing activity as part of the REACH training seminar.

needs, and a step-by-step process for determining and documenting accommodations to help them succeed.

The training is ongoing. A third workshop is planned this month for all teachers and administrators to learn how to develop a Modified Action Plan—similar to the Individualized Education Plan used by public schools—for students with challenges, whether they are accelerated learners or have disabilities.



Special education expert Karohn Young listens as workshop participants share ideas in an exercise designed to familiarize educators with methods for accommodating the special learning needs of some students.

**The Challenge** is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference ■ 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 ■ Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ President, Rob Vandeman ■ Editor, Samantha Young



# THE GATEWAY

AUGUST 2009

# Columbia Union College

7600 FLOWER AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912-7796 • 800-835-4212 • WWW.CUC.EDU

## Living With a Limp

In today's environment, the financial and emotional challenges that threaten families and institutions are no small matter. We are confronted with scenarios, dilemmas, and conundrums that have the potential of causing even the stalwart to equivocate, stumble, and succumb to despair, depression, and hopelessness.

But this is precisely the kind of environment in which the people of God can demonstrate their spiritual resolve and fortitude that grows out of a life empowered by the living presence of God. His presence in our lives is not a passive encounter that lacks vitality, direction, and clarity. In fact, this spiritual engagement transforms hearts, empowers minds, and provides intentional direction and purposeful living.

The night Jacob wrestled the angel of God "until daybreak," and prevailed until he was immediately immobilized by a single touch, demonstrates how our lives can be forever altered when we wrestle with God and refuse to let Him go until our requests are granted. The good news is that Jacob prevailed as evidenced by his name being changed from Jacob the "supplanter," to Israel, "he who strives with God."

After that eventful night he walked with a "limp" for the rest of his life, but Jacob limped knowing that the power and presence of God accompanied him. I invite you to experience the with-God life where we live with a limp, knowing that God is empowering us each step of the way.



**Gary Wimbish**

*Vice President of Ministry*

## Faculty, Alumni Featured on Hope Channel

A new Hope Channel program, *Intersection: Your Faith, Your World*, has featured several members of the Columbia Union College (CUC) community since its debut in February. *Intersection*, a panel discussion focusing on social, spiritual, and philosophical issues that affect all Christians, addresses each issue through the Adventist worldview.

A May program, "Christians in the Cities," featured guest appearances by Zdravko "Zack" Plantak, PhD, chair of the Department of Religion and Theology, and Gaspar Colón, PhD, director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry. This edition featured the ministry of Pastor Andrew Clark, a 2004 CUC graduate, who works in a pocket of greater Pittsburgh. In this large city with a very small population of Adventists, Clark makes a difference through the Conscious Café (acsgp.org), a bookstore and café that attracts young people who wouldn't likely step across a traditional church threshold.

Plantak (center) also appears in two other *Intersection* episodes titled "Christians in a Culture of Indifference"

(May) and "The End of Truth: Moral Absolutes" (April).

A June program included Elaine Oliver, associate vice president for enrollment, and her husband, Willie, director of Family Ministries for the North American Division. They and other guests discussed "Secrets to a Happy Marriage."

A May show titled "Green Christianity" featured biology professor Melinda Ekkens-Villanueva (below) who discussed the environment, a contemporary hot-button issue.

*Intersection* airs on the Hope Channel Fridays at 6 p.m., with rebroadcasts several times during the week. Past episodes may be viewed at [intersection.adventist.org](http://intersection.adventist.org).

—Elizabeth Anderson



## Acro-Airs Performance Delights Sick Children

The close of the Acro-Airs' elite season traditionally includes an end-of-year tour. This year the team kicked off the momentous week with a show at Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, D.C. Dana Morgan, program director of CNMC's New Horizon, was ecstatic to host the team again this year.



This show was geared toward encouraging, entertaining, and educating patients—many of whom are terminally ill—and their families. While the Acro-Airs' focus is typically centered on promoting a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle, performing at CNMC was a great opportunity to be a positive outlet for kids confined to the hospital.

Several team members have a

special appreciation for the personal interaction these shows provide. Johnson Cadet, a three-year team member and recent graduate of CUC, is a native of Haiti. Fluent in French and Creole, he befriended Amber, a Moroccan girl who spoke only French. She was enchanted by the team's performance and, upon making a new friend, jumped right in to mingle with the team.

"I made a decision to get out of my comfort zone, and I found that people opened up to me when I made the effort," shares Lindsey Norse, a senior and the team's captain. She met a mother and her 2-year-old daughter who has been in and out of the hospital since birth with a brain tumor that is now terminal. Norse went on to add that there is a distinction between the shows at CNMC and anywhere else. "I love giving these families something to look forward to. Here it's not about performing, it's about the kids," she says.

As head coach Ben Johnson explains, "This is part of the mission of excellence and outreach that the team has embodied throughout its history. We are always energized when we can uplift the spirits of these kids."



### Correction

The terminal degrees of Susan Scharffenberg, PhD, provost, and Gaspar Colón, PhD, dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, were misidentified in the July issue of *The Gateway*. Scharffenberg holds a doctorate in Horticulture, and Colón holds a doctorate in Religious Education.

### CALENDAR

#### August

- 26 Freshman Registration
- 27-31 First Year Experience
- 29 CUC Sabbath
- 31 Registration

#### September

- 1 Classes Begin
- 7 Labor Day Holiday
- 23 SGPS Open House

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 ■ cuc.edu President, Weymouth Spence Editor, Angela Abraham

PHOTOS BY WARREN HULL AND WARREN BALOGH



After performing for sick children at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Acro-Airs members mingled with several terminally ill residents of the hospital.



## They Choose to Come

In just a few short weeks, the campus of Highland View Academy (HVA) will once again be filled with students moving into the dorms, storing books in lockers, catching up with friends, and anticipating another year of school. No year is the same as the one before, nor will it be repeated, because each year is distinctly created by the people who make up the school body.

It is exciting to me to anticipate who will make up HVA in any given year and to find out why they chose to enroll. Recently we asked some students why they are continuing their education at HVA. Sophomore Stephanie Calhoun said, "I go to HVA to learn in a Christian environment, make lifelong friends, and, most importantly, grow closer to God." Entering her fourth and final year, Kari Petrelis said she attends "to continue my education while being immersed in an overflowing pool of culture and friendship."

No matter the reason, whether it is the student's choice or their parents', if it is their first year or their fourth at HVA, we are thrilled to have them come and are committed to helping them learn, grow, and thrive. As we begin a new year, I once again ask you to please commit to keeping all of us in your prayers.



**Sheri Tydings**  
*Principal*

## HVA Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry

Highland View Academy recently celebrated its 60th anniversary during alumni weekend. HVA's story began in 1949 as Mt. Aetna Academy (now the site of the current Mt. Aetna Adventist Elementary School). Years later the school moved to its present site and began functioning as a boarding school. It was renamed Highland View Academy in 1965, and the boarding phase of the school opened in 1967.

Lonnie Melashenko, vice president of Spiritual Services and Missions for Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Kettering, Ohio, was the featured speaker for alumni weekend. He and his wife, Jeannie, are graduates of the Mt. Aetna Academy Class of 1964. Melashenko received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During the worship service in the gymnasium, vice principal Stephen Herr interviewed Melashenko and former faculty members Kathy Goddard, William Jackson, and current principal Sheri Tydings about their fond memories from years spent at HVA. The HVA music ensembles also performed at various events throughout the weekend. The Class of 1989 led a spiritual Sabbath School with music and a mission testimony.

In addition to the spiritual emphasis of the weekend, there were plenty of opportunities for physical activity with the golf tournament and basketball and soccer games. Of course there was also time to reminisce.

An education at HVA reflects the importance of being a well-balanced individual. The 2009 Alumni Weekend commemorated the years this school has existed to provide a well-rounded, Christian foundation to young people of the Chesapeake Conference.—Jennifer Payne



*Rob Vandeman, president of the Chesapeake Conference, presents the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Lonnie Melashenko.*

## Grant Incorporates Visual Art Into Learning

Highland View Academy has been blessed to receive a grant through the Maryland Humanities Council. The grant includes 40 large, high-quality art and photography prints titled “Picturing America.” The purpose of the grant is for teachers to enrich their existing curriculum using visual arts. Some of the prints are of well-known art and photography, such as Dorothea Lange’s moving photograph “Migrant Mother,” from the Great Depression. There are also prints that celebrate Native American and African-American art, quilting, architecture, different regions of the country, and important Americans. The prints are displayed prominently in the library and in the Humanities classroom for the perusal of students and parents alike.

As an additional part of the grant, a Johns Hopkins University poetry instructor, Julia Kudravetz (right), visited the English II class and presented an activity titled “Totally Ekphrastic! Picturing America Through Poetry.” This unique classroom activity utilized the print of Winslow Homer’s painting “Veteran in a New Field” and taught students how art can inspire poetry.

According to the Maryland Humanities Council, “Great art speaks powerfully, inspires fresh thinking, and connects us to our past.”

—Jennifer Payne



## 29 Seniors Become Alumni

Earlier this year, Highland View Academy graduated 29 seniors and celebrated their academic accomplishments. Graduation weekend was one of nostalgia and reflection, but also of victory and excitement for the future. On Friday night, seniors acknowledged the huge role that their parents and mentors have played in

their lives at the Parent Tribute. A special part of the weekend is always the Faculty-Senior Prayer Breakfast on Sabbath morning, where faculty members present Bibles to the graduates.

“The gift of the Bible is one that we hope is not a mere symbol, but a very real artifact of the spiritual foundation they have received here at HVA,” says principal Sheri Tydings.

Bill Knott, editor of the *Adventist Review*, presented Sabbath’s Consecration address. Weymouth Spence, EdD, president of Columbia Union College (CUC), presented the Commencement address. He spoke to the class about commitment and leadership. CUC also awarded graduates a total of \$484,000 in scholarship money! Spence’s challenge was echoed by Kylynda Bauer, class president and valedictorian. Noting that there are different kinds of leaders, Bauer spoke about the ways in which she learned from her classmates.—Jennifer Payne



Principal Sheri Tydings presents Ben Hu, a four-year senior, with his diploma.

## CALENDAR

### August

- 9-13 Volleyball Camp
- 12 Community Student Registration  
*Administration Building 5-8 p.m.*
- 16 Dormitory Student Registration  
*Administration Building 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*
- 17 First Day of Classes
- 19 Massanutten Water Park Outing
- 21-22 Commitment Weekend

### September

- 3-7 Home Leave
- 11-12 Club Campouts
- 17-19 Columbia Union Leadership Conference
- 22-24 Standardized Testing
- 24-27 Senior Survival

**Highlander** is published in the *Visitor* by the Highland View Academy ■ 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Phone: (301) 739-8480 ■ Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ [highlandviewacademy.com](http://highlandviewacademy.com)  
Principal and Editor, Sheri Tydings



# MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

AUGUST 2009

## Do Your Homework

One of life's most painful moments comes when we must admit that we didn't do our homework, and we are not prepared," said former professional football player Merlin Olsen.

Did that quote bring back any painful school memories? It is embarrassing to get to class and fail a quiz, or feel humiliated because you couldn't participate intelligently in the class discussion. Being prepared is a very important skill, one our students have to learn.

However, how are we adults doing with finishing our homework? Have we learned the facts about the Seventh-day Adventist school system and how favorably it stacks up against the other systems? If not, here is an important homework assignment. Please memorize the following information in case you are quizzed:

- Children in Adventist schools in the United States achieve at half a grade higher than the national average, and beyond their own predicted ability.\*
- Children in Adventist schools make better moral decisions.\*\*
- Adventist teachers are highly qualified and caring.
- Adventist schools nurture development of the whole person—mental, physical, and spiritual.
- Adventist education is the second largest denominational school system in the world, with nearly 56,000 students and nearly 4,700 teachers in the U.S. alone. That's an average of 12 students to one teacher. Compare that with the public school average of 15.8 to 1.

Don't let your child finish this school year unprepared—spiritually, mentally, or physically. Contact the Mountain View Conference Office of Education to see how we can help you enroll your child in a Mountain View Conference Adventist school this year.

\*Based on CognitiveGenesis research.

\*\*Based on ValueGenesis research.



**Cheryl Jacko**

*Associate Superintendent*

## NEWS

### Women's Retreat to Focus on "JOY"

Mountain View Conference's annual women's retreat will be held at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., Oct. 2-4. This year's theme, "A Woman of JOY," will share how to nurture a relationship with Jesus, Others, and Yourself.

Guest speaker Gina Wahlen (left) has been a speaker, teacher, writer, editor, and mother while living in the United States, Russia, England, and the Philippines. She will be sharing from her heart so that each woman in attendance can be all that God desires her to be. There will also be breakout sessions where women will be encouraged and receive practical tools to relate to significant people in their lives.

An early bird fee of \$70 is due September 10, after which the price goes up to \$80. For more information, call Valerie Morikone at (304) 422-4581.

### Highland Students Prepare Global Cuisine

Highland Adventist School's Student Association recently hosted its second annual Vegetarian

International Food Fair. Students from all grades worked in teams to prepare food from a different region of the world. The food was offered for sale to parents, friends, and classmates. Cultures represented included Mexico, China, Japan, England, Italy, and France.

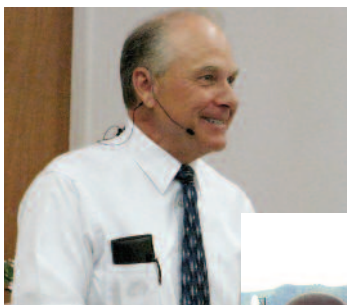
"Our students not only learned a lot, but they provided a delightful evening for our guests," said Cheryl Jacko, principal.

For more information on the school, call (304) 636-4274, or visit [highlandadventistschool.org](http://highlandadventistschool.org).



*Robin Stecker, Tesa Bennett, and Hannah Frasier provided food from Belgium at a recent international food fair.*

## Camp Meeting Calls Members to Go and Spread Gospel



Ron Goss, director of the Project Restore, Inc., publishing ministry



Pastor Jim Buchanan, who re-baptized Donna McCloud, also baptized her grandson Jacob.



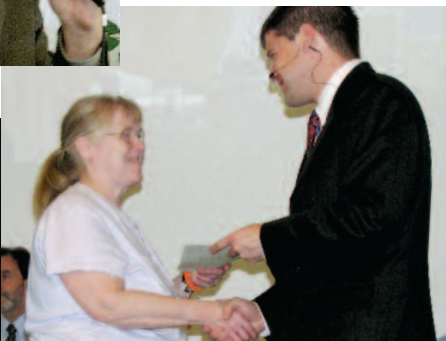
Hal Thomsen (above), assistant to the president for the North American Division



Massages were a welcome addition to the Sunday morning Health Expo.



Don Schroeder (left) wrote this year's theme song, "Go Ye." He also provided a Sabbath afternoon concert using his own arrangements.



Jeremiah Weeks, assistant director of ShareHim Ministries, presents a ShareHim graduation certificate to Doris Leeson.

Musician Kelly Mowrer (left) presented several workshops on reaching out to former members.

### Mountain View EVENTS

#### August

- 18 Pastor/Teacher Meeting  
Parkersburg
- 22 Outreach Leadership  
Rally SE, Lewisburg
- 28-30 Bible Worker Training  
Valley Vista

#### September

- 11-13 Third Annual Boot Camp  
Valley Vista
- 14 Executive Committee
- 18-20 Outreach Leadership  
Training, Valley Vista
- 25-27 New Believers Retreat  
Valley Vista

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the Visitor by the Mountain View Conference ■ 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 ■ Phone: (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org ■ President, Larry Boggess ■ Editor, Jessica Martin



# SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

AUGUST 2009

## Value Beyond Compare

What do you value most in life? In reality, that one question will be the issue that will define you as a person. In every way, what we value as individuals will either make or break us. As a school principal, I find myself with the privilege of providing guidance to young people who are valued above all else by their parents. One of my greatest responsibilities is to develop a school program, which will foster spiritual values and ensure eternal success in each young person. In essence, my role is to add value to the valued.

I wake up every day to the challenge that each word I say and decision I make can have an eternal consequence to someone's child. Once a student steps onto the campus of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), they are not only a child of caring parents, but also a child of God. As the principal of a Seventh-day Adventist school, I accept that I am responsible for reuniting God's children with their Maker.

What do you value most in life? What you value is where your heart will be. As you read this editorial, I pray that you will commit your life to the God who saves. I pray that together, it will be our desire to bring as many of His children to a place where they have the opportunity to meet Him and know His voice when He comes. When it's all over, and we give account for our lives, I hope what we have valued will be of eternal consequence.



Robert Stevenson  
Principal

## Record Numbers of Alumni Return Home

More than 700 alumni attended Mount Vernon Academy's 116th Alumni Homecoming, making it the school's largest-attended homecoming in recent history. Thrilled to see old friends and make new ones, alumni from the 30-, 40-, and 50-year honor classes, joined with current students to share their various ministry talents during the Sabbath services. Rita Gavin ('49) performed a Sabbath afternoon concert.

Later that evening, the traditional men's basketball game shared the spotlight, for the first time, with a coed volleyball match. The gymnasium was filled to the brim with excitement and good-natured competition.

Student ambassadors used golf carts to transport



Members of the Class of 1959 reunite as one of this year's honor classes.

everyone that needed a little "extra help" getting to the different buildings and events. Many took advantage of this fun "taxi" service. The entire weekend was a time for reconnecting with friends and making new memories.

On Sunday the much-anticipated annual golf tournament included a record-breaking 24 teams (that's 96 golfers)! The weather was magnificent, the greens were immaculate, the food delicious, and everyone received a prize! Players and sponsors raised more than \$25,000 to help students with financial needs.

Thanks to everyone for making this a memorable and enjoyable weekend.—Margaret Sutton

PHOTO BY ANN DICKERSON



David Bailey ('89) brought his family to his 20-year class reunion.

# SPIRIT

## Newest Alumni Share Fond Memories

Mount Vernon Academy's 112th graduation weekend honored 35 graduates (bottom) for their hard work and achievements while at MVA. Throughout the weekend, the Class of 2009 was encouraged to discover and follow God's plan in their lives. However, before leaving the campus, several seniors shared what they will miss about MVA, as well as some advice for new and current students:



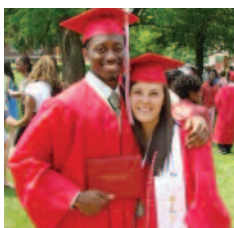
"I have made so many friends here, students and teachers, who are some of the best people I know."—*Jennifer Mangena (left) takes her turn ringing the bell, an MVA graduate tradition.*

"MVA staff members always try to help their students spiritually. They do this by providing Bible studies and teaching the Word of God."—*Vanity Cole*

"MVA has great staff and teachers who are always willing to help the students. Expectations of doing well are very high; therefore, we try and do our best, so we can achieve them."—*Sherika Blanc*

"I enjoy being around students with similar beliefs."—*Ayana Miller*

"MVA has prepared me for the future by allowing me to experience dormitory life. It also has allowed me to learn to make some of my own decisions without my parents' guidance."—*Emily Buckner (pictured right with Josh Burt)*



"I made lifelong friends with people who have the same beliefs I do."—*Courtney Wright*

"I like that I feel safe here ... with people whose main focus is to be better people and more like God."—*Karina Silva*



"I appreciated learning more about Christ and making new friends."—*Alicia Luckett*

"MVA is a great place to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically. There are teachers who are more than willing to help students with their work, and you will meet people from different places around the country."—*Ryan Hall*



*Senior class pastor Katie Roddy (with Culo Ncube, right) reminds all students and alumni that God has a plan for each of their lives, and it is essential to seek His will rather than their own.*

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### August

- 16-18 9th-Grade Orientation
- 19 10th- thru 12th-Grade Registration
- 20 Classes Begin
- 21-23 Service Emphasis Weekend
- 28 Lake Day

### September

- 3-6 Senior Survival
- 7 Fall Picnic
- 11-13 Bell/Echolier Retreat
- 16-20 Home Leave
- 21-26 Fall Week of Prayer

### October

- 10 Senior Recognition
- 11 Sunday School
- 11-13 Midterm Exams
- 14-18 Home Leave

**Spirit** is published in the *Visitor* by Mount Vernon Academy  
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Editor, Amy Soper



# NEWS NEW JERSEY

AUGUST 2009

## Families “Shine” at Camp Meeting

This year’s camp meeting, themed “Families Shining for Christ,” was a majestic blessing to New Jersey members. From kids to the elderly, they all came to meet with Jesus. While the children and the youth learned how to find their identities in Christ, spouses were moved by the Holy Spirit to recommit their lives to each other and God. After being encouraged to make strengthening their families a priority, nearly 100 couples renewed their vows (see photos on the next page). Like any wedding celebration, everyone enjoyed a reception featuring a kosher toast, wedding cake, pictures, and ceramic bells as wedding favors.

Praise be to God for speakers Willie and Elaine Oliver, Kevin Solomon, Willie Ramos, Cesar and Carolann DeLeon, Oscar Rodriguez, Milton Coronado, and Mr. Dave, and to photographers Edward Fields and Melvin Vasquez.



*Willie and Elaine Oliver were the main speakers at the English camp meeting.*



*Pastor Laffit Cortés (right), conference Youth Ministries director, introduces youth speaker Willie Ramos.*

*Kevin Solomon speaks to young adults.*



*Carolann and Cesar DeLeon address an audience at the Spanish camp meeting.*





## Couples Renew Wedding Vows at Camp Meeting



New Jersey News is published in the *Visitor* by the New Jersey Conference  
2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 ■ Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org ■ President, José Cortés ■ Editor, Shirley Rikeros





## Five Baptized in Bowling Green, Northwood, and Swanton District

In obedience to the great commission of Christ (Matt 28:18-20), Pastor Yuliyan Filipov of the Bowling Green, Northwood, and Swanton district, recently baptized five new disciples of Jesus. Leaders from the three churches joined Pastor Filipov in a special blessing of the new members, commissioning them to go and make more disciples for Christ.

For Pastor Filipov and his wife, Milenka, this baptismal service was a special one, since their daughter Lora also made official her lifelong commitment to Christ through baptism.—Yuliyan Filipov

*New members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, pictured in the first row, include (left to right) Amanda Jernigan, Frances Holmes, Virginia Junke, Inez Hill, and Lora Filipova. The second row includes church leaders Daniel Rufo, Roger Patterson, Pastor Yuliyan Filipov, and Gary Reimer.*

## Columbus Ghanaian Church Helps With Schoolwork

Most evenings during the school year, the Ghanaian church in Columbus opens its doors for a very special program. Although it starts with a short devotional, the program is not a Bible study. The church's Homework Club is focused on developing better students. The church employs college students (and members of the church) to help children ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade.



*Students get help with homework year-round at the Ghanaian church in Columbus.*

Members first started the program eight years ago to help their children do better in school. Many of those parents were recent immigrants still struggling with English and could not provide the help their children needed. They never dreamed that this would become a community ministry. Since

starting the program, hundreds of students have walked through the church's doors to receive help with Math, reading, writing, and other homework.

This free program has since grown, and Pastor Isaac B. Boateng, chair of the program's board, estimates that up to 50 percent of the students who participate are not members of the Adventist Church.

"We see this as helping the community," Boateng says. "Because of the program, we have become close to some nonmembers, and anytime we are having a

special program at the church, they come. Our children also invite their newfound friends to church."

The program, now called Sonlight Community Services, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that also provides a daily summer program that attracts 100 students. Teachers do assessments at the beginning and end of the summer program, and have seen marked improvements in many students.

Success with the after-school tutoring program has enabled the church to add programs for adults too: GED (high school diploma equivalency), ESL (English as a Second Language), and computer literacy for adults. Like many other nonprofits, the church is struggling to fund these programs this year. For more information, or to lend support, contact the church office at (614) 471-5234.—Taashi Rowe

PHOTOS BY KWESI GYMAH



## Innovators Wanted for National Conference

In 2004 a small group of Seventh-day Adventist leaders met in Ohio to pray, study, and share their dreams for a healthy, growing, vibrant Adventist Church in North America. The meeting birthed the idea of providing a forum for Adventists across the country who had a longing to gather for encouragement, inspiration, and learning. Thus was born the National Conference on Innovation, held each year in Ohio, which has become the premier annual gathering of Adventist missional entrepreneurs and innovators.

Program support and funding for this endeavor have come from many individuals and organizations including, healthcare, educational, church, and administrative entities and foundations.

One of the primary goals of the Innovation Conference is to stimulate thought and exploration into the challenge of mission in an increasingly complex and connected world. Recognizing that the Adventist Church's mission must engage multiple areas of contemporary life, the conference has hosted nationally renowned scholars, authors, educators, clergy, and speakers from multiple disciplines. The program format has included group discussions focused on application to the Adventist context of the materials presented by each speaker.

The annual conference has received international recognition, with a growing number of participants coming from outside the United States. The 2008 conference attracted guests from Canada, Europe, and Australia. The nearly 200 participants included lay leaders, educators, pastors, healthcare administrators, business entrepreneurs, and college and university students.

The fifth annual national conference will be held October 4-6 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. This year the Church Resource Center of the North American Division will present the award for the "Innovative Church of the Year." The speakers will, once again, represent a wide variety of disciplines.



**Suzy Welch** is an author, commentator, business journalist, and former editor of the *Harvard Business Review*. She and her husband, Jack, write the widely read weekly column, "The Welch Way," which appears in *BusinessWeek* magazine. Her newest book, *10-10-10*, was released in April.



**Michael Lindsay** is a sociologist and author of several books, including the bestseller *Faith in the Halls of Power*. Lindsay conducted the nation's largest and most comprehensive study of public leaders who are people of faith.



**Margaret Feinberg**, a popular speaker at churches and conferences, invites people to discover the relevance of God and His Word in a postmodern world. Recently named by *Charisma* magazine as one of the 30 leading voices in the Christian church, she has written more than a dozen books.



**David Neff** is vice president of Christianity Today International and editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today* magazine and the Christianity Today Media Group.



**Samir Selmanovic** is an ordained pastor, author, missional entrepreneur, and founder/director of FaithHouse Manhattan—an interfaith exploration of faith and spirituality. His newest book, *It's Really All About God*, is to be released by Jossey-Bass in September.

Registration information, fees, hotel reservations, etc., may be obtained at [sdapartnersininnovation.org](http://sdapartnersininnovation.org), by emailing [information@ohioadventist.org](mailto:information@ohioadventist.org), or calling (740) 397-4665, ext. 165. Information brochures are available, by request.

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# Pennsylvania Pen

AUGUST 2009

## Blue Mountain Academy Welcomes New Principal

The new school year at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) begins with new bathrooms, new windows, and a new principal. Craig Ziesmer and his wife, Ginny, come to BMA from Lumberton, Miss., where they served at Bass Memorial Academy. “Mr. Z”—as he likes to be called—is the best academy principal in developing relationships with the students and working through issues in a redemptive manner, says Mel Eisele, president of the Gulf States Conference.



*A builder at heart, principal Craig Ziesmer (pictured with his wife, Ginny), has joined the Blue Mountain Academy family.*

“Blue Mountain Academy has had the blessings of an excellent academic and spiritual campus where students and staff may grow in their walk with God. The task before us is to build on these successes,” Ziesmer shares. “Steps have already been taken to upgrade and refurbish the facilities and computer systems. The board and staff members will envision and develop strategic goals for further upgrades in academic and spiritual curriculum, student services, and work opportunities.”

He looks forward to facilitating the process and implementing the strategic plans that will prepare BMA students to lead. Ziesmer has had opportunities to build a junior academy and to rebuild a secondary boarding school campus devastated by Hurricane Katrina. These experiences helped shape his thinking for an educational structure where Christ is the focus of lives.

Ziesmer replaces Rob Gettys who returned to Fletcher Academy (N.C.) where he will serve as chaplain and teach Bible classes.

## Hanover Women Raise Funds for Community Ministry

A newspaper ad, along with word-of-mouth, drew more than 140 women (right) to the Hanover church’s “Rest in God’s Garden Tea.” More than 100 were guests who came to enjoy an afternoon of laughter, singing, and spiritual messages.

A local ministry, known as Women 4 Christ, supplied the background music. Their founder, Ched Lawrence, was the featured speaker. Singers Suzanne Receveur and Nancy Sprague, along with the inspirational comedy of Jody Knowlton in the character of 92-year-old “Aunt Hazel,” made for a delightful afternoon. During the program, the ladies enjoyed tea and delicious finger foods.

The program was a fundraiser for Tender Care Pregnancy Consultation Services—a Christian counseling service for young girls who find themselves with unplanned pregnancies—in Hanover and Gettysburg. The women of the Hanover church organized the tea to raise funds for this community ministry in honor of Angie Waring, a church member who passed away unexpectedly and had volunteered at Tender Care. The proceeds from the ticket sales and the generous donations from businesses and individuals made it possible

to present the organization with a check for \$1,000.

During the program, heavy rain and hail poured on the facility’s metal roof, making hearing impossible. Lawrence interrupted the program to pray and ask God to stop the rain. Before she finished her prayer, the loud heavy rain was reduced to a gentle spring shower and eventually the sun came out.—Lynn Himes



## 3ABN President to Speak at Fall Camp Meeting

Don't miss Pennsylvania Conference's Fall Camp Meeting, September 19-20, at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter. Bring your family for a weekend of cabin camping in the beautiful wooded hills of the camp, as James Gilley (right) shares life-impacting and practical messages during our worship services, challenging us to "Trust in Jesus."

Gilley is president and CEO of Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and the author of three books: *The Battle is the Lord's, Keep On Keeping On*, and, his most recent, *God With Us*.

The weekend will also include music, prayer, fellowship, and activities for children and young people. Applications are available at [paconference.org](http://paconference.org) and in local churches.



## Haitian Church Finds New Home

The Shekinah Haitian church recently celebrated the beginning of its ministry in its new location at 25 North Grant St., in Manheim. For a number of years, this group met in the Lancaster (Pa.) church, starting as a Sabbath School class and growing into a church plant. Now under the leadership of Pastor Darnel Marius, the church family looks forward to the opportunities their new facility will afford them as they minister to the Haitian community.

Members expressed appreciation to conference staffers for their continued support on this journey. The church family also expressed thanks to members of the Lancaster church for all their support. First elder Bryan Yingst and his wife, Julie, were on hand for the celebration. Pastor Jody Swart was also a huge support to this growing congregation as they established their ministry in the area.

Ray Hartwell, conference presi-



Leaders of the Shekinah Haitian church present a gift of thanks to President Ray Hartwell for the conference's unwavering support.

dent, joined in the celebration and affirmed the valuable ministry of the Shekinah Haitian family. "This church family has been working diligently over the last several years," he shares. "As I met with them that Sabbath, their enthusiasm, energy, and commitment were highly evident. I believe that they will continue to reach out to their community and

will not only win many souls to Christ, but before long, [they] will be sponsoring another church plant here in the Pennsylvania Conference."

## What's happening

### August

8 Youth Leader Training  
*Blue Mountain Academy*

16-23 Young at Heart  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

23 Constituency Organizing  
Committee  
*Harrisburg First Church*

### September

12 Youth Leader Training  
*Blue Mountain Academy*

13 Conference Nominating  
Committee  
*Harrisburg First Church*

19-20 Fall Camp Meeting  
*Laurel Lake Camp*

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# Potomac People

AUGUST 2009

## Sligo Church Teen Raises \$3,000 for Homeless

Emulating a master pianist's bold imagination on the cusp of his adult life, 18-year-old Matt Daley (right) performed a classical music concert at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. The concert was presented at the church's New Community Fellowship (NCF), a contemporary worship service held on Saturday nights. It yielded \$3,000 to benefit NCF's homeless ministry.

Sligo's youth joins NCF for homeless ministry once a quarter, sparking Daley's fundraising dream. "My mom always told me as I was growing up that it is important to give back to the community," Daley explained.

A member of the Maryland Classic Youth Philharmonic, the Maryland All-State Orchestra, and other prestigious music groups, Daley filled the Sligo sanctuary with strains of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, and various hymn arrangements, capped by Phillip Bliss' magnificent "It Is Well With My Soul."

Daley is a 2009 Maryland Distinguished Scholar Finalist, has earned numerous prizes in piano and string competitions (he also plays violin and viola), and will attend University of Maryland College Park this fall, majoring in Piano Performance.

"Matt has been an instrumental part of our youth group and youth choir, and we are delighted he performed our first classical concert," says Terry Johnsson, WGTS radio chaplain and NCF founder. For more information on the church's homeless ministry, visit [4fellowship.com](http://4fellowship.com).—Kitty Evans



## NEWS

### Hallam Tapped for Education Vice President

Keith Hallam has accepted the call to become vice president for Education within the Potomac Conference. Hallam and his wife, Kandyce (left), come from Auburn, Wash., where he served as principal of Auburn Academy since 1995. He previously served four years as principal at Enterprise Academy (Kan.) and two years as principal, vice principal, registrar, and guidance counselor at Wisconsin Academy. He started his teaching career in 1983 at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wis.

"Adventist education brought my family to the full understanding of salvation and living for Jesus," he said. "I am excited to share my passion for Adventist education with Potomac Conference, and hope that, along the way, others will be blessed with a relationship with Jesus."

Hallam holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts and a Master of Arts in Education Administration. He and Kandyce have three children. Their passion in

life is to share Jesus Christ and be a helping hand to others.

### Pastoral Ministries Welcomes New Assistant

The Pastoral Ministries team recently welcomed Karen Olson as their new office assistant. Olson has worked in the business office at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., and as a caregiver for an elderly couple in Stanley, Va. She and her husband, Gordon, will celebrate 31 years of marriage this month. Gordon is the chief of resources at Shenandoah National Park in Luray, Va.

The Olsons (right) have three adult sons. Eric (29) is completing his helicopter certification in Portland, Ore. Evan (27) is working for the National Park Service at Wrangell-St. Elias in Alaska. Their youngest son, David (24), also works in Alaska for Denali National Park in the Maintenance Division. Karen is very happy to be part of the Potomac Conference team, and hopes her assistance in the Pastoral Ministries department will help further the mission of the conference.



# Potomac People

## Amicus Children Go “Caving”

Children attending Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Amicus church in Ruckersville, Va., were thrilled when they walked into the church fellowship room and discovered a “cave.” This cave contained a real treasure chest. With the theme of “An Amazing Vacation Bible School Adventure With Jesus,” each day’s activities turned out to be truly amazing for the children. A video featuring Pastor Doug Batchelor and Amazing Facts’ “Amazing Adventurers” was preceded by a rousing song service, and followed by games that included sending the children (right), two-by-two, into the darkened cave to discover the hidden treasure (a Bible memory verse) for that day. Children completed the week by making their own “treasure chests” to hold their memory verses.



## Wytheville Church Honors Law Enforcement

Members of the Wytheville (Va.) church recently held a special Law Enforcement Recognition Service honoring the work that police officers do to protect the community. The service included officers from Wythe County Sheriff’s Department, Wytheville Police Department, Department of Natural Resources, Virginia State Police, and Rural Retreat Police Department. Attendees included other government officials such as Wytheville mayor Trent Crewe; “Bucky” Sharitz, chairman of the Wythe Board of Supervisors; delegate Anne Crocket Stark; and Gerald Mabe, commonwealth attorney.

These guests were more than just spectators. They also participated in the worship service. Lee Harrell, deputy commonwealth attorney, gave the invocation and Judge J.D. Bolt gave the dedicatory prayer. Chaplain Jim Cox of the Sheriff’s Department read the names of those officers killed in the line of duty in Wythe County, dating back to 1908.

Wytheville pastor David Tripp and Cox, a retired Adventist pastor, organized the service. Cox presented the message “We Will Never Forget—Or Have We

Already?” He focused on the book of Luke, chapters 22-24, which emphasize Christ’s sacrifice for all mankind. He urged everyone to remember what Christ has done, and continues to do, on our behalf, just as everyone should remember what law enforcement officers do every day to keep us safe.

“This was the first such service we’ve ever held in this area. We did this outreach service to recognize those who have served faithfully and continue to serve,” Cox explained.

Sharitz accepted a plaque honoring those killed in the line of duty, both locally and during the attack on the World Trade Center.

## Attention All Young Adults

Do you want to:

- Discover how the Bible is relevant for your life?
- Socialize with other Christian young adults?
- Enjoy Bible study with Steve Case, great music, food, sports, and service opportunities?

Then don’t miss “Young Adult Rising” September 18-20 at the Vienna (Va.) church. They are hosting the kick-off weekend of “Disciple Dare: the Adventure of Belief” series especially for young adults. For more information, contact Jennifer Deans at (301) 356-6615, or at [jennifer@viennasda.org](mailto:jennifer@viennasda.org).



Several members of the local and state police and other government officials recently attended a special recognition service at the Wytheville (Va.) church.

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Communication Director, Dan Jensen



# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS



AUGUST 2009

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

## Worthy of Excitement

I recently took a trip up to Andrews University (Mich.) to see my daughter. It is always exciting to see my children. On my way home, I took the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Near Pittsburgh, there were many signs along the road that read: "Congratulations Pens. Way to Go! Please Drive Safely." These were highway department signs congratulating the Pittsburgh Penguins on their recent Stanley Cup victory. As a Detroit Red Wings fan, I was painfully aware of these many signs. It was evident that the thrill of the Penguins win had spread throughout the area, and even the state highway department was in on the excitement.

That caused me to think about what gets me excited—especially here at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Watching our students as they grow in sportsmanship, leadership, academic excellence, and spiritual depth is exciting to me.

However, what inspired me the most were the baptisms of 18 students this past school year. This is something worthy of celebrating! On the final Friday evening of the school year, the entire student body went to Shenandoah River State Park. There we witnessed 12 young people dedicate their lives to God through the commitment of baptism. I jumped for joy as our chaplain, Tim Harley, dunked each one of them and brought them back up in new birth! We are told in Luke that there is "joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7, NIV). Here at SVA, each staff and faculty works not only to provide an excellent education but also to give the heavens and earth something to celebrate—the joy of one student making a life-long commitment to Christ.



Spencer Hannah  
Principal

## New Business Manager, Girls Dean Welcomed

With a new school year comes new staff members. This year SVA welcomes a new business manager and new dean of girls.

Jeff Twomley, business manager, comes to SVA from Bass Memorial Academy (Miss.), where he served as vice principal and business manager for seven years. Twomley and his wife, Kim (pictured),

have three adult children: Tara, Jared, and Tyler. The Twomleys love the outdoors, travel, and history. They are looking forward to soaking up the history and beauty of the Shenandoah Valley, and are eager to meet the students when school starts.



Dean of girls, Kelly Menhardt (left), is not really new to SVA. She is a graduate of the Class of 1979, served as dean of girls at SVA from 1987 to 1989. Last year she served as the assistant dean of girls. Menhardt's husband, Buz, is the associate pastor of the New Market (Va.) church and is also a former SVA staff member. They have three children: Brock, a

freshman at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.); Boone, a sophomore at SVA; and Skyler, a seventh-grade student at Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School.

## Calendar

### August

- 14 New Student Registration and Orientation
- 16 Returning Students Registration

### September

- 2-6 Senior Survival
- 9-13 Home Leave
- 21-25 Week of Prayer

### October

- 23 Senior Recognition, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Senior Extravaganza
- 25 Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Happenings** is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844  
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org  
Principal, Spencer Hannah ■ Editor, Jan Osborne

# www.ta.edu **TATODAY** AUGUST 2009

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## Our Goal: Developing the Complete Student

For more than 10 decades, Takoma Academy (TA) has been focused on developing the complete student. This includes providing them with a well-rounded academic program, while also helping each individual understand their personal commitment to God and their responsibility to share the message of the Lord's imminent return.

Reflecting the character of Christ and creating an atmosphere of selfless service are the core values on which all other aspects of our school gain their purpose. Our belief is that Christ's example, while He was here on Earth, gives our students clear standards for living. Their purpose is to fulfill a greater mission than they could have imagined out of their own will.

Our goal as a faculty and staff is to nurture each young person as they discover and maximize their God-given talents through academics, extracurricular activities (athletics, art, and music), outreach projects, evangelism, and differentiated learning. Takoma Academy is dedicated to producing leaders with integrity, ready to be involved in their local communities, but, most importantly, ready to further the advancement of the Advent message.

Whether you are a parent, student, alumnus, or friend of TA, we invite you to take another look at our school. We want to partner with you as we endeavor to do God's will. Takoma Academy is His school, and serving your students is our privilege.



**David Daniels**  
Principal

## Physical, Curriculum Upgrades to Help Students Grow

These days when you drive past Takoma Academy's Carroll Avenue address, it is likely that you'll see two or more groups of men hard at work. The campus is currently in the middle of a million-dollar renovation. Important repairs and upgrades are being done throughout the facility following a final decision by the school board to keep TA at its current location. Some



*Painting the exterior of Takoma Academy's building is just one of many exciting changes taking place at the Takoma Park, Md., school.*

Other changes, like new roof sections, insulated replacement windows, and new heating/cooling systems, are much more involved and costly. By the time the new school year starts August 18, TA will also proudly boast a new fire alarm system, new computers and technology features in the classrooms, and 61,000 feet of new wiring for Internet and telephone lines.

The upgrades are not limited to the physical plant. The curriculum and faculty roster have also been greatly

enhanced. Six new classes will allow TA's students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Expanded financial aid options, which include new scholarship awards and opportunities for students to find employment on and off campus, ensure that the exceptional TA experience is attainable for all students.

Call (301) 434-4700 to schedule a tour of the campus, speak with the new principal, or learn more about this exciting transformation. Look at TA today—you're going to like what you see!

## Calendar

### August

- 17 Orientation, 6-9 p.m.
- 18 School Starts for Freshmen
- 20 School Begins for Grades 10-12
- 21 Dedication Vespers, 7 p.m.
- 22 Student Council Handshake, 8 p.m.
- 24 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 Parent Night, 7 p.m.
- 31 Week of Prayer Begins

**TA Today** is published in the *Visitor* by Takoma Academy 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (301) 434-4700 ta.edu ■ Principal, David Daniels ■ Editor, Linda McLaughlin





# Come to Korea!

*"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

**Mission Opportunity in Korea**  
*Jesus is calling you to come to Korea as a missionary to teach Bible and English! You will love it!*

**Requirements:**

- English as a first language
- Bachelor's degree
- Baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

**Benefits:**

- Monthly stipend of 1,600,000 Won (Amount in USD varies depend on the foreign exchange rate) plus overtime
- Round-trip airfare with a one-year contract
- G.C. AVS Sickness and Accident Insurance plus local Korean health insurance
- At least 14 government holidays per year
- Bi-monthly term break of 3-13 days
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3.5-year-old home with 3BR, 2BA, unfinished basement with walk out. Oversized 2-car garage; covered porch; 1 1/3 acres; well and septic. All appliances and window treatments convey. Only 7.5 miles to church; 5 miles to shopping. \$275,000. Call (304) 258-5359 for more details.

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## SERVICES

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## MARYLAND

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before this full conference in session at that time.

An Organizing Committee to select the Nominating Committee and nominate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at the Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President  
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

### ADVENTIST HEALTH MINISTRIES TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Adventist Health Ministries constituency will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of trustees and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is a member of this session.

Raymond C. Hartwell, President  
Barry J. Tryon, Executive Secretary

### PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.



The purposes of this meeting are to elect trustees and transact any other business that may come before the association at that time. Delegates to the Pennsylvania Conference session are recognized as delegates to the association meeting.

**Raymond C. Hartwell, President**  
**Barry J. Tryon, Executive, Secretary**

## PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Pennsylvania Health Services Foundation will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

This meeting is called for the election of officers and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Every delegate to the Pennsylvania triennial constituency is also a member of the session.

**Raymond C. Hartwell, President**  
**Barry J. Tryon, Executive, Secretary**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT EVENTS:

October 9-11, Retreat at Mt. Aetna Camp in Hagerstown Md., with Willie and Elaine Oliver. A free electronic newsletter for singles is now available. Please subscribe by going to the Chesapeake

### Maryland Men of Faith 2009 Conference

#### "What Doest Thou Here?"

#### Featured Speakers:

*Dave Weigley*  
*Alden Ho*  
*Richard O'Fill*  
*John Appel*  
*Robb Long*  
*Steve Jencks*

#### Sabbath, October 3

Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center  
Hagerstown, Md.

*Men of all ages are invited.*

**Registration fee: \$35**  
*(includes lunch and dinner)*

**Registration deadline:**  
**September 27**

Go to our website:  
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#### Questions?

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Baltimore First Church

Conference website, click on Ministries and then Singles, and sign up at the bottom of the page. For information on all singles events, please contact Fred Thomas, (410) 992-973, fmthomas1950@yahoo.com, or call Howard Bankes, (410) 531-3192.

### THE AMAZING FACTS PROPHECY SEMINAR

is coming to the Baltimore First church, August 14 thru September 12 (no Monday or Thursday meetings). Jason Morgan, an evangelist with *Amazing Facts*, will present the messages. Two daily meetings are scheduled at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Pray for God's Spirit to move upon the members and guests. For more information, visit baltimorefirst.org, or contact Pastor Ben Boggess by phone, (410) 292-1558, email, brboggess@juno.com, or fax, (410) 465-4627.

### FORMER MEMBERS OF THE HAGLEY PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH,

Kingston, Jamaica, will be holding their annual reunion at the Northeast Seventh-day Adventist Church (Reformation Lutheran Church), 6200 Loch Raven Blvd., Baltimore, Md., on September 5. For more information, contact Howard Clarke (410) 705-3776. All are invited.

### INVITATION TO TEACH IN THAILAND:

Missionary teachers needed to serve God in the wonderful country of Thailand. Please answer God's call! Matthew 9:37-38. For more information on this exciting opportunity, please contact: kpergerson@yahoo.com.

### ENJOY ANOTHER MICHIGAN SUNSET AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S HOMECOMING

weekend, September 24-27, on the campus of Andrews University. This year's honor classes are: '29, '39, '49, '59, '69, '79, '84, '89 and '99. For up-to-date information, a schedule of events, or to RSVP and access forms, please visit our website, [andrews.edu/go/homecoming](http://andrews.edu/go/homecoming). Contact us with questions at [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu), or call (269) 471-3591.

### DEAF EVANGELISTIC ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP (DEAF)

invites you to join us during our Deaf Eastern Autumn Revival (DEAR) Camp Meeting on Thursday, October 23 thru Sunday, October 25, at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. For more information, contact Cathy Ingram at [clerk@deafellowship.org](mailto:clerk@deafellowship.org) and/or [deafellowship.org/dear](mailto:deafellowship.org/dear).

### PROJECTORS NEEDED FOR EVANGELISM:

We are passionate about evangelism at Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), a GC institution located in the Philippines. One of our difficul-

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sept 4
Baltimore	8:12	8:03	7:53	7:43	7:32
Cincinnati	8:43	8:34	8:25	8:14	8:04
Cleveland	8:36	8:27	8:17	8:06	7:54
Columbus	8:39	8:30	8:20	8:09	7:58
Jersey City	8:04	7:55	7:45	7:35	7:23
Norfolk	8:05	7:57	7:48	7:39	7:29
Parkersburg	8:31	8:22	8:13	8:03	7:52
Philadelphia	8:07	7:58	7:49	7:38	7:27
Pittsburgh	8:27	8:18	8:08	7:58	7:47
Reading	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:30
Richmond	8:11	8:03	7:54	7:44	7:34
Roanoke	8:21	8:13	8:04	7:54	7:44
Toledo	8:45	8:35	8:25	8:14	8:02
Trenton	8:06	7:57	7:47	7:37	7:26
Wash., D.C.	8:12	8:04	7:54	7:44	7:33

## SUNSET CALENDAR

ties, however, is that we don't have enough projectors to run multiple evangelistic campaigns simultaneously. To buy new projectors is beyond our budget. If there are any churches who are planning to replace their equipment, we would be interested in acquiring the old projectors. Please contact Kim Papaioannou, Asst. Professor, NT Studies, AIAS, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines; Tel: 63 (46) 414-4427; or visit [aias.edu](http://aias.edu).

## OBITUARIES

**PALMER, Janie L.,** born April 2, 1911, in Americus, Ga.; died November 19, 2008, in Philadelphia, Pa. She was a faithful member of the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia for 69 years. Surviving are her three children: Sylvia (Edward) Arms, Cecil (Ruth) Palmer, and Edith Fareira; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and three beloved cousins.

**SCHRAM, Mildred "Middle" Alise Pleasants,** born August 18, 1917, in Lynchburg, Va.; died April 23, 2009. She moved to California and became a WAVE during World War II, and served at the San Diego Naval Hospital. She also worked at the Paradise Valley (Calif.) Sanitarium and Hospital. She met Clarence Andrew Schram

at the Naval Hospital, and they married in 1944. After the war, they attended La Sierra College in Riverdale, Calif., where Clarence graduated in 1950 with a degree in religion. They pastored in California and Virginia for over 30 years, and continued to serve after retirement. Clarence preceded her in death in 2005. "Middle" enjoyed taking college classes in family life and psychology, and counseled young men and women and families. She also prayed for anyone who requested prayer. She had what she called a "love list" of people she prayed for. She was also interested in health, nutrition, and music. She sang and played the piano, organ, marimba, and vibraharp. She loved to play for church, at senior citizen centers, nursing homes, and family reunions. Survivors: her sister, Nancy Ann Kendall of Ft. Worth, Texas; a brother, Wendell Lloyd Pleasants of Indianapolis, Ind.; her daughters, Alise Schram and Nancyan Lim-Chilton of Woodbridge, Va.; a son-in-law, Darrell Chilton; her granddaughter, Shanna Mei-Chu Lim; and two great-grandsons: Jedaiah and Natmanusa of Silver Spring, Md.

# Bulletin Board

## OBITUARY SUBMISSION

For information on placing an obituary in the *Visitor*, please call Sandra Jones toll-free: (888) 4-VISITOR (888-484-7486) or email [sjones@columbiaunion.net](mailto:sjones@columbiaunion.net).

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## prayer reminder

# Let Us Pray for You!

Nancy felt like her life had fallen apart. She was laid off from her job and two days later her husband was also let go. To top it all off they had two weeks to pay their mortgage or else they would be evicted. "I didn't know what to do. Our family had stopped going to church many years ago. We loved listening to WGTS and heard an announcement about the prayer team and how listeners can submit their prayer requests. I told my husband, 'What do we have to lose?' I am not saying that our lives are now perfect, but within a week my husband and I both had jobs, we paid our bills, and decided that we would start attending church. I truly believe it was because of the prayers that went up for us. Thank you so much Chaplain Terry and your prayer team!"

Submit your prayer request online at:

[www.wgts919.com](http://www.wgts919.com) CLICK ON PRAYER REQUEST

Chaplain Terry Johnson



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The *Visitor* provides news and information, resources for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help people celebrate God's transforming grace in preparation for His return.

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## Thank You, Dr. Rittenhouse

**M**usic has always been a part of my life. I started violin lessons at age 3. Mom and I practiced every day by the Suzuki method mantra: "You only have to practice on the days you eat."



I think I always liked playing the violin, but I remember when I started to love it. It was the summer of 1993, and Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, DMA, came to the Washington, D.C., area looking for young musicians to play in her New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE). I was just 14 but will never forget our first rehearsal. I was awestruck with the sound of a full orchestra around me. The music was complex and intriguing. The Rittenhouses commuted from Massachusetts weekly so we could rehearse, but the following year, Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., became our home base.

### SHARING GOD'S LOVE

"Sharing God's love through great music" is the mission of the NEYE. And we have shared it all around the world. We have played on more than 100 occasions at famed Carnegie Hall in New York City, performing some of classical music's greatest works under world-renowned conductors. We have made music in cathedrals and concert halls where the world's foremost composers first exhibited their works. We have visited Stonehenge in England, safaried in South Africa, stood in Moscow's Red Square, waded in the Jordan River, walked the Great Wall of China, and snorkeled Australia's Great Barrier Reef. We assisted with evangelistic series in some of Russia's largest cities. Our concerts in Adventist churches, orphanages, and schools now number into the hundreds.

On these tours we became family, and the friendships forged remain strong. When an ensemble member gets married, it is not uncommon for former members to attend and provide music. I met my husband, Deric, in the ensemble, and 40 of our closest friends gave a mini-concert at our wedding.

Music has an amazing power in the human soul to soften and sensitize and produce compassion and caring. Perhaps this will be Dr. Rittenhouse's greatest legacy—changing the world one heart at a time. I know my life has been enriched through my association with Dr. Rittenhouse. Her inspiring personality, strong faith, immense musicianship, cultural awareness, dedication, passion, and vision have changed me. Indeed, she has her priorities right—she seeks to build beautiful human beings before developing them into fine musicians.

*Keri Vandeman Tomenko, who has been teaching violin since age 15, holds music degrees from both Columbia Union College and the University of Maryland. The Takoma Park, Md., resident still plays with the NEYE when her schedule allows.*

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