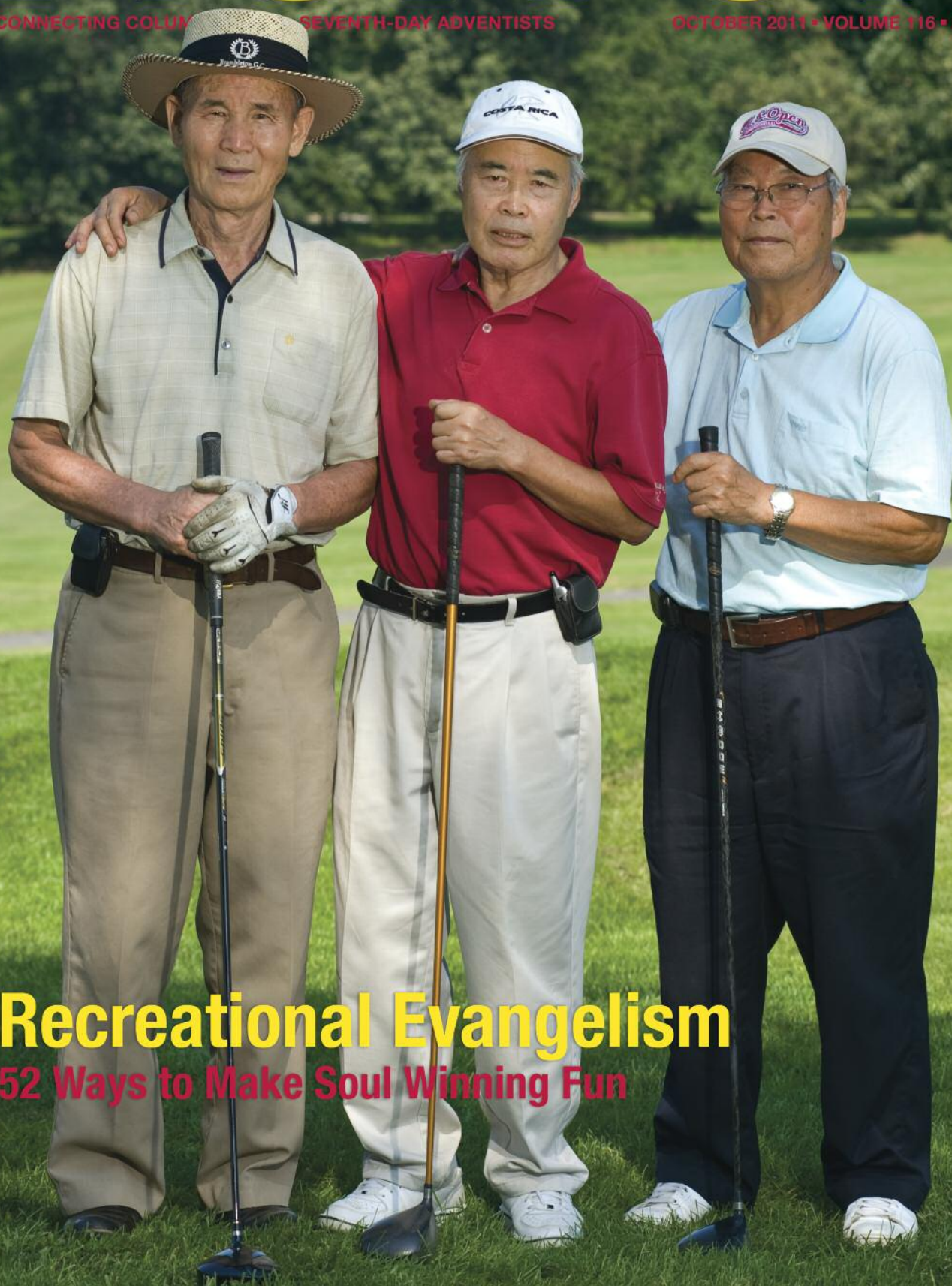


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMN

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OCTOBER 2011 • VOLUME 116 • ISSUE 10



Recreational Evangelism

52 Ways to Make Soul Winning Fun

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OCTOBER 2011



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Susan Phelps Harvey

Did you know that soul winning can be built around your God-given gifts, enthusiasms and passions? Discover which of your interests could reap great rewards, both in your life and the life of others.

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We asked Dan Jackson, the North American Division president, to tell us more about his vision for what's now known as REACH North America. Discover what part you can play.

About the Cover: Jae Kim (center), a member of Chesapeake Conference's Baltimore Korean church in Ellicott City, Md., plays golf with his neighbors James Lee (left) and Bill Jung. Kim regularly uses his love of golf to tell others about Christ. Photo by Al Peasley.

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On the Web

YouTube – Go to youtube.com/user/columbiaunion to watch



Judy Lichty, regional director of Health and Wellness for Rockville, Md.-based Adventist HealthCare, talk more about how to “Move,” this month’s *Visitor Calendar* theme.

Email News – To stay connected between issues of the *Visitor*, sign up to receive our email news bulletin at columbiaunion.org/email.



Free Resources – To download free resources in English and Spanish, visit columbiaunion.org/communication.

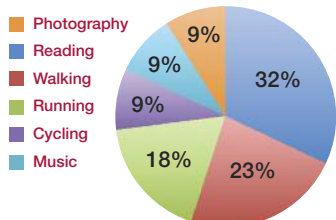


Twitter – For the latest news and tidbits, follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/VisitorNews.

Facebook – Are you a fan of our *Visitor* Facebook page? Connect with us at facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor and click the “Like” button. Then, share your church and school news and photos, promote your upcoming events or respond to next month’s question: Did you attend an Adventist school?

Visitor Facebook Poll

What is your favorite sport or hobby?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

A Time to Play

When I’m not working, I enjoy riding my motorcycle with my wife, Becky. Our new executive secretary, Rob



Vandeman, enjoys a little golf and a little wood-working during his time off. When Seth Bardu, union treasurer, isn’t keeping tabs on the money, he likes to play pingpong, read or watch a good soccer game. Bill Robertson, president of Adventist HealthCare based in Rockville, Md., is an avid scuba diver and tennis enthusiast, while his counterpart Fred Manchur, president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare based in Kettering, Ohio, enjoys fine dining.

Such “recreation” is a needed and beneficial ingredient that keeps our lives in balance, helps us relax and enables us to connect with friends and family. It also provides an outlet for sharing our faith—something called recreational evangelism.

Some may think evangelism is about a preacher, a church and a series of meetings. That is one effective way to reach people, and as a veteran evangelist, I believe in it. However, most people are won to Christ one at a time, and we witness more from who we are and how we live than what we say.

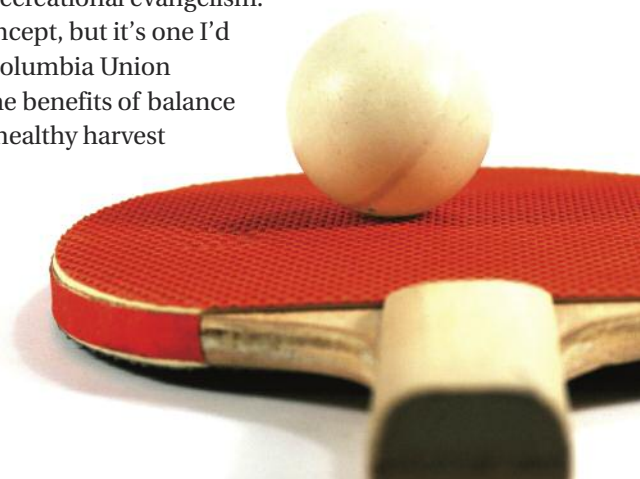
The apostle Paul counseled young Timothy to witness for his faith “in season and out of season,” which means all the time. Recreational evangelism is simply about bringing people together around a common hobby, and when you bring people together, your love for Jesus will soon be known. It naturally provides the opportunity to connect, build relationships, share Christ and invite people to follow Him.

WHAT’S YOUR HOBBY?

The baby boomers among us are now entering retirement. Many are healthy, active and have the time and resources to enjoy a variety of recreational activities. I wonder what would happen if they turned their hobbies into avenues for reaching others for Christ. Think of the positive ways it could impact and grow our church.

What’s your hobby, and how can you use it to share Christ? Our cover story will give you dozens of ideas and examples of how members of all ages are using their hobbies for recreational evangelism. This may not be a brand new concept, but it’s one I’d like to see members across the Columbia Union employ. Not only will you reap the benefits of balance in your life, you may also reap a healthy harvest for God’s kingdom.

Dave Weigley
(dweigley@columbiaunion.net)
is president of the Columbia Union Conference.



Allegheny East Members Help Irene Victims, Get Visit From Obama



When members of Allegheny East Conference's First church of Paterson (N.J.) turned out to help thousands of their neighbors who were evacuated after Hurricane Irene flooded their homes, they garnered national attention. President Barack Obama visited the site to talk with residents and David L. King, the church's pastor and organizer of the two-day effort. See the story on p. 19.

CHESAPEAKE SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected Rick Remmers, DMin, conference president. He replaces Robert T. Vandeman who recently accepted a call to serve as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference.



"Rick is well qualified to lead the Chesapeake Conference, having served admirably as secretary in two conferences," said Dave Weigley (pictured, left, with Remmers), Columbia Union Conference president. "He has a grasp of administration and has the respect of many of his constituents. We at the Columbia Union are very pleased." Read more in the *Chesapeake Challenge* newsletter on page 23.

“The Washington Adventist University family is deeply saddened at the passing of a true pioneer.”

—Weymouth Spence, EdD, the university's president, upon hearing about Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse's death. See story on p. 42.

Correction: In the August issue of the *Visitor*, the correct name of the gentleman pictured on page 9 of the "Bikers 'Rev It Up' for Christ" story is Greg Henderson. We regret the error.

**HOW IS THE ECONOMY IMPACTING ENROLLMENT
IN ADVENTIST SCHOOLS?**



**SADRIL SAINT-ULYSSE,
MDiv, MA**

*Superintendent of Schools,
New Jersey Conference*

Since the economy turned sour ... some of our schools have been affected while others have been able to maintain their enrollment.

Apart from the economy, many church members either work or live far away from our schools ... so it is difficult for them to send their children to our schools. Through it all, we praise God for the families and churches that continue to support our schools by their prayers and financial contributions.



CAROLE SMITH, EdD

*Superintendent of Schools,
Chesapeake Conference*

Despite the downturn in the economy, we have seen an increase in our elementary enrollment.

I attribute this to several factors: God's blessings; creative marketing and recruitment strategies implemented by our administrators, educators and church pastors; academic excellence; and certificated, creative and dedicated faculty who model Christian principles to students and parents.



KEITH HALLAM, MA

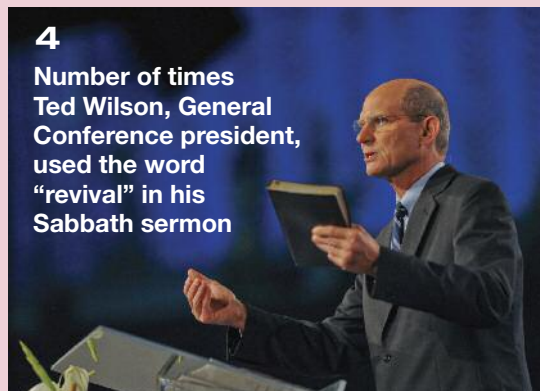
*Superintendent of Schools,
Potomac Conference*

Despite the flagging economy ... Potomac Conference's secondary schools are experiencing increased enrollments. We contribute this growth to parents and students desiring Christian values and quality programs. We give credit to our administration and faculty teams for their dedication and giving their best in teaching and mentoring our students. We thank every church and family who gives financial assistance to help cover the tuition cost.

By the Numbers: ASI Convention

Here are the numbers behind this year's Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) Convention held in Sacramento, Calif. ASI is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's foremost organization for ministry-oriented business leaders:

- 6,448 Meals served**
- 338 Booths (representing 221 ministries)**
- 3,300 Sabbath worship service attendees**
- \$1,514,200 Goal for this year's offering**
- \$2.1 Millions of dollars collected in the offering**
- 47 Projects to be funded from the offering**
- 100 Schools Maranatha Volunteers International will build**



4
Number of times
Ted Wilson, General
Conference president,
used the word
"revival" in his
Sabbath sermon

PHOTO BY JAMES BOKOVY

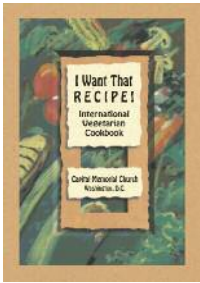
Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *I Want That Recipe!* Capital Memorial Church

Potomac Conference's Capital Memorial church is known in Northwest Washington, D.C., for its annual International



Vegetarian Food Fair. After 20 years of members sharing their favorite dishes, they can now give a collective response to attendees' regular demand for the recipes. Members Lisa Carreno, Esther Harter,

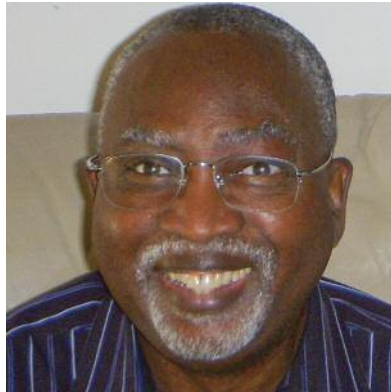
Florence Williams, Virginia Harter and Jacquie Bokow (pictured below, clockwise) helped put together this three-ringed binder, which includes 524 vegetarian and vegan recipes from 40 countries. Also, the extensive glossary provides a description on a variety of ethnic and vegetarian ingredients. Order at CapitalMemorial.org.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VITROVICH

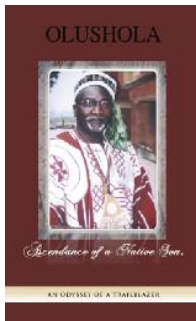


Ascendance of a Native Son, an Odyssey of a Trailblazer Daniel Dada

"The book is about my father whose memory still lingers on



amongst his children and the community at large," explains Daniel Dada, MD, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Sharon Temple in Wilmington, Del. Dada's father was a pediatrician, businessman, farmer, philanthropist and politician. The book chronicles his journey from Nigeria to Pennsylvania where he



became a powerful political influence. Through his chain of clinics, Dada's father attended to two generations of patients before dying a dedicated servant of the Lord. Order from Amazon.com.

Website > BlackSDAHistory.org Benjamin Baker

"The goal of the site is to inform visitors about black Seventh-day Adventist history in an easily accessible and interesting way," says site creator Benjamin Baker, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. Access more than 10,000 pages of free downloadable materials—history, pioneer profiles, information on

From the Pulpit

Vision is joining God in doing what He wants to do in our church. God's vision is always perfect! We just have to find it and embrace it.

PHOTO BY CHUCK GARVICK



—Robert "Doc" Michael, Pastor, Wheeling and Weirton (W.Va.) Churches



churches and schools, photo collections, timelines, obituaries and helpful links. Also access monthly quotes and book, video and essay profiles on well-known Adventists, including Columbia Union's own Barry Black and Ben Carson.

On the Web

Facebooked >

Where are You Churching?



**Lorryn Daena
Hilton Logan**

Going to CPC
[Community Praise

Center, Alexandria, Va.]. Pastor
[Henry] Wright is preaching.



**Jennifer
Swackhamer
Bianco**

Philadelphia

Chestnut Hill with Pastor
Tara VinCross.



**Hamlet
Canosa**

My home church—
Atholton [Columbia,

Md]. Education ministry so often
takes me “on the road” from
Sabbath to Sabbath that when
able to attend my home church,
it’s a treat. Elder Nik Satelmajer,
interim pastor, spoke on extrapo-
lations from the book of Daniel.
A blessing!!!



**Lonnie
Wibberding**

Simple Church in
Pittsburgh [Pa.].

No preaching, just good study
and fellowship.

In the Spotlight > Adolfo and Marcela Suris

Lately the talk of Waynesboro, Pa., is Adolfo and Marcela Suris, 99 and 93 respectively. Cuban immigrants to the United States, the Surises are using their experience and culture to minister to the Latino migrant workers who pass through Waynesboro seeking work.

The Surises’ ministry began in Washington, D.C., where the couple moved in 1949 after Adolfo’s employer in Cuba wouldn’t give him the Sabbath day off. There were no Hispanic churches in the area, but in 1951, the Surises began meeting with other Spanish-speaking Adventists under a tree. Soon the local conference office organized the area’s first Hispanic church. Thereafter, every time a new Hispanic church was established, Adolfo and Marcela joined and helped it grow. By the time they left the area to join their daughter’s family in Waynesboro, there were more than 100 Spanish-speaking Adventist churches and groups meeting in the D.C. and northern Virginia areas.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE BREATH

When Adolfo and Marcela started attending the Waynesboro church, they agreed with the migrant workers that it was difficult to hear and understand the words in English.

The Surises decided to invite the workers—and anyone they overheard speaking Spanish—to their home to watch Spanish Adventist programming.

The Surises also open their home each week for a

Spanish Bible study put on by a Chambersburg Hispanic group who is evangelizing in Waynesboro. The elderly couple and the Chambersburg group hope to establish a Hispanic church plant in the Waynesboro area.

“Look, as long as the Lord lends us breath and strength, we are going to serve Him,” says Adolfo of their efforts.

“These folks are real trailblazers for the gospel,” comments John Rengifo, the Surises’ pastor in Waynesboro. “Though they are unable to come to church much anymore, they still have a heart for service. They’re great people. It’s amazing that, in their old age, they continually look for ways to grow God’s work. They carry the same pioneer spirit of those who began this church over 100 years ago.”—*Ashley Richards*



**Only an Adventist ...
who attended an Adventist
school might recall knowing
all the basic square dance
steps but only how to execute
them to marching music.**

Susan Phelps Harvey

RECREATIONAL EVANGELISM

52

ways to make soul winning fun

How many people have you led to the Lord this year?" If there was ever a question designed to make a Seventh-day Adventist squirm, that might be it. Oh, not for all of us. Some of us—researchers say about 10 percent—are well suited to traditional evangelism. By profession or temperament, we possess the tools and gifts this type of witnessing requires.

But if you're like many Adventists, this question may make you feel just a bit embarrassed. You love the Lord, and you want to lead others to Him. You feel you should be doing something and you know you aren't.

Now, how about this question: "Would you enjoy an evening out with friends, good food, maybe a game of some kind and some good conversation?" Now you can relax. You can do that. In fact, you're good at it!

That second question is at the heart of an exciting new concept that some are calling "recreational evangelism." It is built on one simple idea: someone's more likely to come to church with you if you've befriended him or her first.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Recreational evangelism is about individuals using their interests, hobbies and personal passions to develop friendships and share their faith. And, it's about members organizing recreational events in their communities to make friends and develop

BIRD WATCHING • FLYING • SEWING • BOATING



ART • MUSIC • HISTORY • ARCHITECTURE • BIKING • CARVING

relationships. Frank Bondurant, the Columbia Union Conference's vice president for Ministries Development, is enthusiastic about witnessing in this way. "Just imagine the impact recreational evangelism could have if it were to capture the imagination and energy of our membership!" he says.

Here's how it can work for you: Think of a hobby, sport or activity you're passionate about. Now make an intentional effort to use that passion to reach out to others—invite them to regularly pursue your hobby with you. You'll gradually build relationships and make lasting friendships. Keep your new friends in prayer, then, when the time is right, opportunities will open up for you to lead them to Jesus. How simple is that?

Of course, this requires some effort on your part. Think about it. How many genuine friends do you have that aren't Adventist? Not acquaintances, but friends you get together with regularly? If you've been an Adventist for a few years or more, it's likely that most of your friends are church members. Face it; stepping outside that comfortable circle can take a little effort.

But do it in the context of a hobby or activity you love, and it becomes easier.



SHARE YOUR FAITH

Ohio Conference's Mansfield church has a regular Tuesday night basketball game. It started as a way for the elders to get some exercise after their meetings. Soon some of the "old guys" were bringing their sons, and other church members found out about it and joined in. Then some members invited friends who aren't Adventist, and a bunch of teenagers from the local high school showed up. Friendships ensued. Obviously, this is recreation, but what makes it evangelism?



His hobby of restoring classic cars gives Bob Hoyt, a retired New Jersey Conference pastor, opportunities to share Christ. (See inspectionsticker.net.)



COOKING • DINNER CLUBS • SKATING • PETS

“The opportunities come naturally,” says Pastor Ed Marton. “While we’re resting between games, for instance. Sometimes—not always—we have prayer. Some of the guys, especially the younger ones, will talk to us after a game. We can get into some of the deeper issues, things that they don’t feel comfortable talking about at any other venue.”

It’s easy to think of other sports activities where this idea would work equally well. Pastor Marton points out that golf, especially if you walk rather than use a cart, offers plenty of lulls for conversation. Motorcycle clubs, running groups, surfing clubs and exercise classes are all good examples.

Elaine Buchanan, a member of Mountain View Conference’s Summersville (W.Va.) church, started an aerobics class in the church’s Friends-R-Fun Family Learning Center.

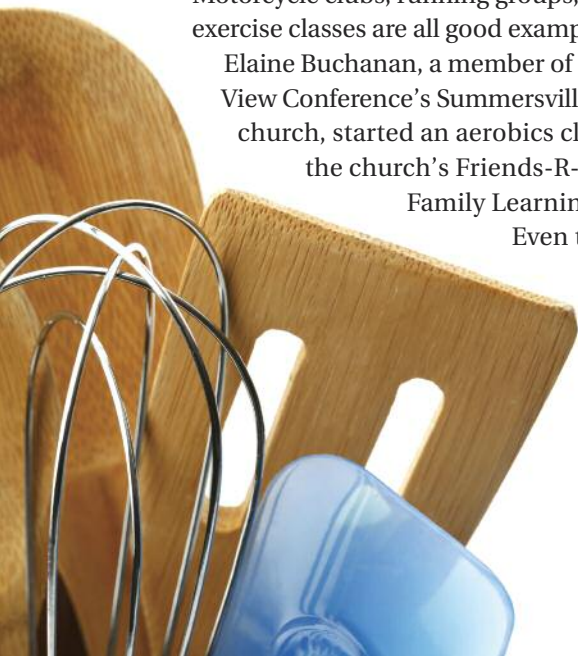
Even though

the classes are suspended for the summer, Buchanan says the friendships continue, giving her opportunities to witness to people she wouldn’t have met any other way.

Even spectator sports, whether live or on TV, can bring people together in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to good conversation.

Some people enjoy bonding around their collecting enthusiasms—car collectors for example. Several churches in the Columbia Union have conducted car shows, attracting large crowds from their communities. Pastor Mike Fortune of Ohio Conference’s Toledo church is an old hand at this form of recreational ministry. His church started a car show in their parking lot, not just because some of their members had a passion for old cars, but in Pastor Fortune’s words, “There were so many men who were not engaged in church because we were not doing what they were interested in.” The enthusiasm soon spread, and over the past four years, the community has attended in large

numbers. Now some of these new friends are regularly attending church.



Of course, not all recreational evangelism initiatives involve sports. Book clubs are an example of another way to go. Tamyra Horst (pictured left, far right), Pennsylvania Conference’s communication director, started a women’s book club in her local church seven years ago, just to get to know her fellow members. From that initial club, this ministry has multiplied into seven clubs. Now a network of mission-minded, Adventist women is inviting friends into their homes, one night a month, for a meal and lively discussion. Deep, lasting friendships have formed as club members support each other through happy and sad times. And, says Horst, it is easier to invite these friends to a church event or women’s retreat when the time is right.

This model fits clubs and groups of all kinds. The Better Halfs Club, a group of Adventist women from five metropolitan churches in Washington, D.C., has been meeting for more than 40 years. Each year they “adopt” a family and provide whatever care is needed, including spiritual support. “Our club was formed so that we could grow spiritually as well as socially and culturally,” explains Carol Wallington, the group’s president. “In our spiritual growth, we want to reach out to others. Because God has blessed us, we want to bless others.”

REAP GREAT REWARDS

Does the idea of recreational evangelism capture your imagination? Can you see how soul winning built around your own God-given gifts, enthusiasms and passions could reap great rewards, both in your life and the lives of others? Think of the possibilities, come up with your own ideas and ask God to help you create a whole new plan to share the good news of salvation—in a way that works for you.

Susan Phelps Harvey is a member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.



PHOTO BY MARIYA MARTON



Pastor Ed Marton (center) and elders from Ohio Conference’s Mansfield church with some of the “younger” players.

Embracing a COMMON MISSION

North American Division President Dan Jackson on Reaching North America

A year ago, some 285 leaders from across the North American Division (NAD) gathered at Year-end Meeting to create a vision for the next five years for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in our territory. Though they differed in many ways, these leaders—pastors, educators, healthcare professionals and administrators—united around five themes designed to organize our diverse efforts to communicate hope and wholeness to North America and beyond.

We recently asked Dan Jackson (below), NAD president, to tell us more about his vision for what's now known as REACH North America:



PHOTO BY GERRY CHUDLEIGH

Visitor: What is REACH North America?

Jackson: First, let me tell you that REACH is not a program, project or initiative. It is not a mandate handed down by church leadership. It is not a quinquennial slogan that expires in four to five years to make room for yet another cutesy catchphrase. Rather, the five REACH elements are enduring principles that we as a church value. They are organizing themes that help our church clarify, focus and unify around a common mission.



V: What do we have to offer that's not already out there?

J: We are living witnesses of the great controversy: Mean-spirited politics. Personal addictions of every sort. Satanic entertainment. Inroads of secularism. Rampant materialism. The ominous threat of terrorism. As the old hymn reminds us, we are living and dwelling in a “grand and awful time.”

Despite this bleak reality, I believe Seventh-day Adventists are uniquely positioned to battle these enemies. Ours is a message illustrated by sanctuary truths, modeled in the life of Christ, communicated by the prophets throughout the ages and succinctly expressed in the three angel's messages of Revelation 14:6-12. This special message points prophetically to Christ's second coming—a concept embroidered in our very name.

Our distinctive message not only points toward the future, it adds abundant life to the present! Hundreds of scientific studies have confirmed the benefits of our



PHOTO BY DAVID HITTLE

Adventist message of health—a key doctrine embraced by the church early in its history. Coupled with the assets of physical health is the assurance of God’s saving grace and protecting care.

I long to see us “reach” the world with these transforming messages of hope and wholeness.

V: What does each letter of REACH stand for, and what are some of the ways you see that happening?

J: During the last year, I’ve seen members across our division “reach” out in many ways as it relates to our five themes. Here are just a few examples from the Columbia Union:

The “R” stands for **Revival and Transformation**, which we define as connecting with God through public and personal worship. The Tremols sisters (above), aged 11 and 14, are a great example for all of us. While their parents held Bible studies upstairs, they studied the Bible with friends in the basement of their Reading, Pa., home, and led 13 of their friends to Christ through baptism.

The “E” stands for **Education for Discipleship** and means we want to see every youth and adult learning, growing and becoming more like Christ. The Columbia Union School of Discipleship, a partnership with Andrews University (Mich.), is getting longtime members like Irene Chavez and Fanny Pabon out of the pews and into evangelism. As part of their training, both started small groups in their home that mushroomed into thriving church plants in Columbus, Ohio.

The “A” stands for **Alignment Within the Church**, which invites us to connect with our diverse church

family. In New Jersey we see this happening in the annual unity day when hundreds of members from the 30 churches around Newark gather for a day of worship and fellowship.

The “C” stands for **Community Outreach and Evangelism**, which calls us to share hope and wholeness with our communities. Numerous churches across our division have sponsored Hans Diehl’s Coronary Health Improvement Project, known as CHIP, including the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. They just completed their fourth program helping participants lower blood pressures, weight and stress and adopt valuable life-extending habits. Meanwhile, three churches in Virginia (one pictured below) have formed the Adventist Wellness Center (adventistwellnesscenter.com) to make our many health resources available to the community from a central location.

The “H” stands for **Healthy Leadership and Management** because, as God’s mission-driven stewards, we must exemplify excellence at all levels. Despite tough economic times and tight budgets, the Columbia Union leadership continues to prioritize evangelism and each year gives one conference a \$100,000 reversion. Mountain View and Allegheny West used the funds to spur evangelism and plant new churches. The New Jersey Conference is using this year’s money to launch a statewide campaign to plant churches in 80 cities and towns with no Adventist presence.

V: What’s the next step for REACH?

J: As we seek to formalize REACH as a strategy for the church in North America, we’re looking for input and support from members and leaders alike. Read more at reachnorthamerica.org.



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Profiles in Caring



Bill Robertson, President & CEO, Adventist HealthCare, speaks with Harish Vaidya, Associate Course Director and Lead Tech, Nuclear Medicine, Washington Adventist Hospital, at the 2008 Spirituality in Medicine Conference.



Washington Adventist Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
of Maryland
Adventist Behavioral Health
Adventist Home Care Services
The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants
and Young Children
Adventist Medical Group
LifeWork Strategies
Cytology Services of Maryland

For Life

Sit around with a group of people discussing any subject long enough and eventually one of the group will nod his or her head wisely and say something like, “Well, that’s the long and short of it,” or “The more things change, the more they same the same,” or “Measure twice, cut once.” Or something like that.

These phrases are often shortcuts to understanding conflicting or comparative ideas – things that when brought together help us understand a situation more fully. It helps if there is a touch of humor (“Speak softly and carry a big stick”) or irony (“This hurts me more than it hurts you”).

At their best, comparative phrases like these (and I’m sure that you can come up with your own list of favorites) help us step back and see things more clearly. They provide a bit of a conceptual roadmap that reveals the relationship – often the tension – between differing ideas, and they help us understand how to effectively move through the complex circumstances that demand our attention and shape our lives.

One of those phrases that I’ve heard all my life continues to both challenge and encourage me. It’s from the New Testament, the words of Jesus, when he says, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). As a young person growing up in a Christian tradition that is Sabbath observant, I remember one of the most contentious discussions was how to rightfully keep the Sabbath. And any time the topic was discussed, someone would eventually nod head wisely and say, “Well, remember, ‘the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.’”

As years filled with Sabbaths have passed, I’ve concluded that there is more wisdom in that short phrase than one can learn in a lifetime. It was the human family that was given responsibility for this great gift of Sabbath, and, like the Garden of Eden and the Earth itself – another great gift – it is our responsibility to keep it and cherish it.

But beyond this responsibility to cherish the Sabbath, somehow it is the Sabbath that nurtures us. For it was made for our good, our development – connecting humanity to the essential core of life in profound and transformative ways. Exploring the depths of that great truth can easily occupy the seventh day of every week of life. And maybe that is the point. Wrote the great Biblical scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel, “The Sabbath as a day of rest is not for the purpose of recovering one’s lost strength and becoming fit for the forthcoming labor. The Sabbath is a day for the sake of life.”

And that’s the long and short of it.

William G. “Bill” Robertson
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Adventist HealthCare Hosts 5th Annual Spirituality in Medicine Conference

Can spirituality improve health care? This simple question, posed in a casual hallway conversation at Washington Adventist Hospital six years ago, has evolved into Adventist HealthCare's 5th Annual Spirituality in Medicine Conference.

"What is the role of spirituality in medicine aside from the high-tech equipment found in a hospital? Is there any room for spirituality? These were the questions we were asking ourselves," recalls **Rev. Ismael Gama**, Associate Vice President of Mission Integration & Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, in conversations with Associate Course Director **Harish Vaidya**, Lead Technician at Washington Adventist Hospital's Nuclear Medicine Department.

The inaugural Spirituality in Medicine Conference, sponsored by Washington Adventist Hospital, was held on March 6, 2007, in the Conference Room of Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church. The featured speaker was cardiologist **Mitchell W. Krucoff, M.D.**, FACC, professor of Medicine/Cardiology at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Krucoff discussed findings from his published study, which examined the impact of therapies pertaining to the mind, includ-

ing intercessory prayer, music, imagery and touch therapy, on patients with heart disease. He noted, "No one needs a prescription to ask for prayer. For us to prescribe prayer is another thing."

Panel experts after Dr. Krucoff's talk included **Norton Elson, M.D.**, the hospital's Ethics Committee chairman, and **Bogdan Scur**, Associate Professor of Religion at Washington Adventist University. A former cardiac patient, **Rev. Randall Burr**, also related his experience from heart attack to recovery, looking back to see God's presence with him. Panel members discussed the Islamic, Hindu, Christian and Jewish tradition on spirituality in medicine. Nearly 150 people attended the conference that year.

This year, Rev. Gama estimates that the number of attendees will more than double to 350 for the free, full-day conference to be held on Monday, November 7, at the Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott.

"The topic of spirituality and medicine was initially uncomfortable to doctors who attended the conference," Gama remembers. "It was outside their scope of training, but their experience at the conference gives them a comfort level to approach their

patients, using real, hard data about the power of spirituality. Over the years, it is truly a great inspiration to hear how spirituality really plays a role in modern medicine and how more and more physicians are embracing it."

Vaidya agrees. "Clergies experience a similar dilemma in their interaction with patients. Most of them connect on a limited basis for prayers during hospitalization or illness. This connection is certainly better but not solid unless it takes one to a spiritual plane and bolsters his/her faith in caregivers as well as the Creator."

This year's conference, "Can Spirituality Improve Health Care?" will explore the impact of spirituality in patient care and how our beliefs shape our care giving. Keynote speakers include **Harold G. Koenig, M.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center; and **Rabbi David Wolpe**, Author, Public Speaker, Pulpit Rabbi, Sinai Temple, Los Angeles.

"The Spirituality in Medicine conferences are a conversation with the main purpose of continuing the discussion with clergy, chaplains, social workers and physicians who are involved in the daily care of patients," Gama says. "We are always trying to deliver safe and quality care and it's important to have the spiritual side as well. As a faith-based organization, we value spirituality and recognize deeply how our patients may benefit from it."



Harold G. Koenig, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center, is one of the keynote speakers at this year's Spirituality in Medicine Conference.

Physicians, clergy, psychologists, nurses, chaplains, spiritual directors, allied health professionals and health care administrators are invited to join Adventist HealthCare's free, full-day, 5th Annual Spirituality in Medicine Conference. **The event will be held on Monday, November 7, at the Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott.**

For more information and to register for the conference, contact Carolyn Jones, Mission Integration & Spiritual Care, Adventist HealthCare, at 301-891-5265 or CJones2@adventisthealthcare.com

Adventist HealthCare In The News

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital NICU Receives Award for Quality Care

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital is the only hospital in Maryland to earn the Gold Medal award for quality care provided to critically ill newborns from the Maryland Patient Safety Center Neonatal Collaborative.

Twenty-six hospitals in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia participate in the Neonatal Collaborative. To earn the Gold Medal award, a hospital's neonatal team must earn at least 90 percent of the 500 total points possible based on timely data entry related to the Neonatal Collaborative's three goals, attendance at face-to-face sessions and participation in both quarterly team update calls and quarterly network sharing/learning calls.

Executive Named Chair of Maryland Patient Safety Center Board



Susan Glover, Senior Vice President and Chief Quality & Integrity Officer for Adventist HealthCare, was recently named Chair of the Maryland Patient Safety Center Board.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center, created by the Maryland Health Care Commission in 2004, brings hospitals and health-care providers together to work toward making Maryland's health care the safest in the nation. Glover was appointed to the board in 2007.

Glover leads quality and performance improvement for Adventist HealthCare. She also serves as Adventist HealthCare's strategy leader to Attain Performance Excellence by achieving top quartile quality and patient safety performance.

Hackettstown Names New Chief Operating Officer



Stella Visaggio has been named Chief Operating Officer for Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC) in New Jersey.

Visaggio, who has been with HRMC for 13 years, previously served as Chief Financial Officer. In her new role, Visaggio is directly responsible for the day-to-day operations of HRMC, including ancillary, support services and joint ventures.

Dr. Arunan Chosen to Lead Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Shady Grove Adventist Campus



Adventist HealthCare of Rockville, Md. welcomes **Shelvan Arunan D.Min.**, as the new Executive Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care on the Shady Grove Adventist

campus. The Shady Grove campus in Rockville includes Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland and Adventist Behavioral Health.

Dr. Arunan, an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has 33 years of experience in working with the Church and Adventist health systems.

Prior to joining Adventist HealthCare, he served as the Regional Director of Mission and Ministries of Midwest Adventist Health System and Director of Reconciliation Ministry for the Ohio Conference. He was also the producer and host of Spirit Alive – a Christian radio talk show – and The Collective Echo Television Ministries in Ohio.

Governor Names Disparities Center Executive to Health Quality and Cost Council



Marcos Pesquera, Executive Director of the Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities, has been named to the 14-member Maryland Health Quality and Cost

Council (MHQCC).

The MHQCC, co-chaired by Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown and Maryland Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, Joshua Sharfstein, M.D., provides leadership, innovation, and coordination of multiple stakeholders within the state health system to improve the health of Maryland's citizens, maximize the quality of health-care services and contain health-care costs.

Pesquera serves on the newly formed health disparities workgroup, announced by Lt. Gov. Brown on June 23, which will work toward eliminating health disparities and improving access to care across the state.

Since its start five years ago, Adventist HealthCare's Center on Health Disparities has worked on research, training and education to understand and address the challenges that racial and ethnic minorities face in accessing quality health care and achieving healthy outcomes. As a regionally recognized leader and resource for education and training programs to provide patient and family-centered care in a culturally sensitive way, the Center last year alone delivered culturally competent care training for 6,000 health professionals in the greater Washington region.

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Adventist HealthCare presenta la 5ta. Conferencia anual de la espiritualidad en la medicina

¿Puede la espiritualidad mejorar la atención médica? Esta pregunta sencilla, planteada en una conversación casual en un corredor del Washington Adventist Hospital hace seis años, ha evolucionado hasta convertirse en la 5ta. Conferencia anual de la espiritualidad en la medicina presentada por Adventist HealthCare.

“¿Cuál es el papel de la espiritualidad en la medicina además del equipo de alta tecnología que se encuentra en un hospital? ¿Hay algún lugar para la espiritualidad? Estas son las preguntas que nos hicimos”, recuerda el **Reverendo Ismael Gama**, Vicepresidente asociado del programa Integración de la misión y atención espiritual de Adventist HealthCare, en conversaciones con el Director asociado de cursos, **Harish Vaidya**, jefe técnico del Departamento de medicina nuclear de Washington Adventist Hospital.

La conferencia inaugural de la Espiritualidad en la medicina, patrocinada por Washington Adventist Hospital, se llevó a cabo el 6 de marzo de 2007, en el salón de conferencias de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Sligo. Los miembros del panel hablaron de la tradición islámica, hindú, cristiana y judía acerca de la espiritualidad en la medicina. Cerca de 150 personas asistieron a la conferencia ese año.

Este año el Rev. Gama calcula que el número de asistentes llegará a 350, más del doble, para la conferencia gratuita de un día completo que se llevará a cabo el lunes 7 de noviembre en el Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott.

“El tema de la espiritualidad y la medicina inicialmente era algo incómodo para los doctores que asistieron a la conferencia”, recuerda Gama. “Esto estaba por fuera de su campo de entrenamiento, pero su experiencia en la conferencia les ofreció un nivel de comodidad para acercarse a sus pacientes, utilizando datos reales y concluyentes acerca

del poder de la espiritualidad. A través de los años, realmente ha sido una gran inspiración escuchar cómo la espiritualidad realmente juega un papel en la medicina moderna y cómo cada vez más doctores la están adoptando”.



Rev. Ismael Gama, Vicepresidente asociado del programa Integración de la misión y atención espiritual de Adventist HealthCare, da la bienvenida a los asistentes a la Conferencia de 2009.

Vaidya está de acuerdo. “Los clérigos tienen un dilema similar en sus interacciones con los pacientes. La mayoría de ellos se comunican de manera limitada para orar durante la hospitalización o la enfermedad. Esta conexión es sin duda mejor pero no es sólida a menos que se lleve al plano espiritual y se refuerce su fe en los proveedores de atención médica así como en el Creador”.

La conferencia de este año, “¿Puede la espiritualidad mejorar la atención médica?” explorará el impacto de la espiritualidad en la atención del paciente y cómo nuestras creencias moldean cómo cuidamos de los pacientes. Nuestros ponentes principales son **Harold G. Koenig, M.D.**, profesor de psiquiatría y ciencias del comportamiento, profesor asociado de medicina, Duke University Medical Center; y el **Rabino David Wolpe**, autor, orador público, rabino predicador del Sinai Temple, Los Angeles.

“Las conferencias de la Espiritualidad en la medicina son conversaciones con el propósito principal de continuar el diálogo con el clero, capellanes, trabajadores sociales y doctores que se involucran en la atención diaria de los pacientes”, afirma Gama. “Siempre estamos tratando de ofrecer una atención segura y de calidad y es importante también tener el lado espiritual. Como organización basada en la fe, valoramos la espiritualidad y reconocemos profundamente cómo nuestros pacientes se pueden beneficiar”.

Doctores, clero, sicólogos, enfermeros, capellanes, directores espirituales, profesionales relacionados con la salud y administradores de atención médica están invitados a acompañarnos en la 5ta. Conferencia anual gratuita de un día acerca de la Espiritualidad en la medicina patrocinada por Adventist HealthCare. El evento se llevará a cabo el lunes 7 de noviembre en el Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott. Para más información y para inscribirse en la conferencia, llame a Carolyn Jones, Integración de la misión y atención espiritual, Adventist HealthCare, al 301-891-5265 or CJones2@adventisthealthcare.com.



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First Paterson Members Help Irene Victims, Get Visit From Obama

Life-long Paterson, N.J., residents Kathy and Greg were expecting a baby in one month when flooding from Hurricane Irene forced them from their home. Recalling that, when she left, there was water up to her knees in her living room, Kathy said, “Our apartment was condemned, and we need all the help we can get.”



Last month members of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) First church of Paterson showed up at the city’s Lowe’s store parking lot on a Sabbath and Sunday to help people like Kathy and Greg. Feed The Children, a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization, had three trailers of commodities that needed to be distributed. Utilizing 310 AEC volunteers, the First church of Paterson served as the local coordinating organization for logistics and distribution of the nearly \$300,000 worth of food products, personal care items and cleaning supplies to 2,340 families (representing 6,218 individuals) impacted by the storm.

The efforts even drew national attention when President Barack Obama visited the site on the second day. “President Obama thanked us for giving back



On a visit to Paterson, N.J., President Barack Obama talks with David L. King, pastor of the First church of Paterson and the lead director and organizer of the relief effort.

to the community and being there to help others in their time of need,” said David L. King, pastor of the First church of Paterson, who worked quickly to identify community partnerships and set up the large disaster relief operation.

The Lowe’s Heroes program quickly provided volunteers from other Lowe’s locations around the state to support the relief effort as well. In addition to their employees/volunteers, Lowe’s also provided the staging location, bottled water, buckets, security personnel and the canopies to register local recovering residents.

“We believe community involvement extends beyond the stores,” says Michael Bergamo, Lowe’s general manager for the Paterson location.



PHOTOS BY LAFAYETTE TRAWICK

Loyda Fortuna (right) helps register folks to receive flood relief items.

Lowe’s corporate initiated the idea to help the community by quickly identifying a partnership with Feed The Children, which, in turn, contacted Minnie McNeil, AEC’s Adventist Community Services director. McNeil then contacted Pastor King.

Additional support and partnerships included the New Jersey Conference disaster relief team and the Paterson-based Seminary Baptist Church and Redeemed Tabernacle.

“Our community came together to lift spirits by living our faith and [providing] people with help and hope,” King said, summarizing the two-day effort. “We strengthened our footprint in this community with new partnerships, and we plan to continue our efforts to heal this community long after the flooding is gone.”

—LaFayette Trawick

NEWS

Rehoboth Spanish More Than Doubles Membership

At the beginning of this year, the Rehoboth Spanish group, located in Reading, Pa., had 25 members. After two evangelism campaigns, they can now claim 39 new members, which means their membership has more than doubled in less than six months.

Leandro A. Perez (below), the church's pastor, and Rabiél Torres, director of Lay Ministries, say they have been utilizing media to step up



quietly. Some danced. Some raised their hands heavenward. Anthony Brown cried. "Yes, I may have just lost everything ... but I have Jesus," he said.

Brown was one of the men at the Central Union Mission, the city's oldest Christian shelter. Every fourth Monday of the month, members of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., participate in the shelter's chapel service complete with prayer, praise and a sermon. *Read more at columbiaunion.org/Brinklow.*

the Sabbath together," says Anthony Barnes, a member of the First church in Washington, D.C. It was at his church that area young adults recently met for their "First Fridays" worship service.

Calling themselves the Metro Area Adventist Young Adults (MAAYA), members from Potomac Conference's Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., and the Emmanuel-Brinklow church, noticed a dearth of spiritual activities on Friday nights for young adults and started this worship service in



PHOTO BY RABIEL TORRES

their evangelism efforts. First, the church distributed free CDs and DVDs featuring sermons by Andres Portes, a Texas-based pastor. Then, they sponsored Portes' messages on WFMZ, Channel 69, a local TV station. Finally, they invited Portes to speak for two evangelism meetings held in the spring and summer. *Lea esta historia en Español aquí columbiaunion.org/noticias.*

Emmanuel-Brinklow Members Take Church to Men's Shelter

It was a warm Monday evening when the voices of the Emmanuel-Brinklow Choir (top) could be heard rising in soul-stirring harmony at 1350 R Street in northwest Washington, D.C. Their songs of victory, encouragement and peace in God elicited multiple responses from the dozens of men attending this evening service. Some men sat

Inmates Enjoy Eighth Annual Weekend Revival

Members of the Little Flock congregation at the Western Correctional Institution (WCI) in Cumberland, Md., recently enjoyed their eighth annual weekend revival. Hosted by the Greater Washington Chapter of Prison Ministries, the three-day revival themed "Caught up in the Spirit," yielded four baptisms.

Members from Washington, D.C.-area churches, including First, Fourth Street-Friendship and Dupont Park; Metropolitan in Hyattsville, Md.; and Potomac Conference's Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., spent the weekend teaching, learning and praising God with the men.—*A WCI Inmate*



October 2009. The first Friday of each alternating month, young people meet at a different host church for prayer, praise and a message from the Lord. Their next meeting will be on October 7. Find out more on their Facebook page under "MAAYA Ministry (First Fridays)."

Washington Area Young Adults Fellowship on Friday Nights

"Sometimes as young adults, we go our own way on Friday nights. But with this ministry, we can open

Allegheny East Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference ■ PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 ■ Phone: (610) 326-4610 myalleghenyeast.com ■ President, Charles L. Cheatham ■ Communication Director, Robert Booker ■ Editor, Taashi Rowe

Glenville Church Block Party Attracts 400

During a recent Sabbath, members of the Glenville church in Cleveland took the worship service out of the building for a neighborhood block party. By noon there were some 400 attendees enjoying the inspirational message by Pastor MyRon Edmonds, songs of praise and a performance by the Pathfinder Superstar Drum and Flag Corps. There were health screenings, free food, entertainment and drawings for a free iPad and laptop. Members also distributed more than 350 backpacks full of school supplies and 100 vouchers for school uniforms.

The block party was just one part of the church's Forty 4 Family Enrichment Series themed "Healing and Hope for Families." For 40 days, every Wednesday evening and during three sessions each Sabbath, guest speakers touched on family conflict resolution, forgiveness, parenting, dating, empowering teenagers, blended families, breaking dysfunctional family cycles and other important topics.

"The purpose of this 40 days for family revival is to start a movement of household family worship," explains Pastor Edmonds. For more details and to see more photos, visit the church's Facebook page.—*Tammy F. Whitson*



Hope for Today Crusades Result in 50 Baptisms

Evangalism is booming in Allegheny West Conference, due in part to their new Hope for Today crusades. The three-week evangelistic meetings created by Rupert Bushner, Jr., DMin (left), the conference's church growth specialist, allow him to share the conference's vision and mission. "Reviving the saints, evangelizing the lost and planting new churches is the conference's evangelistic thrust," Bushner explains. To date the crusades have resulted in 50 baptisms.



With help from pastors and church members, Bushner and his evangelistic team have conducted meetings in Huntington, W.Va.; Erie, Pa.; and Lynchburg, Roanoke and Appomattox, Va. For the nightly sessions in Appomattox, William and Diane Ferguson donated the use of one of their business buildings. As a result of their stewardship, there is a new church plant in Appomattox.

The next crusade is October 30-November 19 at Indiana University in Indiana, Pa. To watch video clips from the meetings and for more details, visit awconf.org.

Beacon of Hope Gets Creative With Community Outreach

The Beacon of Hope church has come up with some creative ways to evangelize in their Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood. During a recent Sabbath, they conducted two baptisms in their parking lot because “we wanted to go to where the people were to share the beauty of giving your life to Christ,” explains Pastor Bryant Taylor, DMin.



While Heather Hughes (below, left) and Shawanda Don publically dedicated their lives to the Lord in a portable baptismal tank, neighbors watched from their windows or while passing on the sidewalk. “A baptism is always good. It does not matter where you have it,” commented member Sula Whitely. “It was an awesome experience.”

Beacon of Hope also hosted their first Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament and Community Festival. Church members hoped the event would afford them an opportunity to promote wholesome family fun and spread God’s love. Besides basketball, the festival included food, face painting, bounce houses, a local college representative, a career planning station and military recruiters.



Beacon of Hope pastor Bryant Taylor prepares to baptize Shawanda Don in the parking lot.

Members also provided free school supplies to more than 200 community school children.—Beth Michaels

Waynesboro Church Reopens With New Name

After a long hiatus, members of the Waynesboro (Va.) church delightedly returned to their church building during a recent grand re-opening celebration. After severe flooding created an unsafe environment at their church, the congregation was forced to worship at another location. To sweeten their return, the celebration included an unveiling of the church’s new name, presentations of donated accessories for the church and a mortgage-burning ceremony.

The celebration allowed members to worship in the sanctuary after six years away, reunite with those who had moved away and visit with the many well-wishers. During the divine hour, Pastor Bryant Smith proudly announced the new name for the congregation: Miracle of Faith.

“Our new name not only represents our new beginning but also how we got there,” explains Pastor Smith. “It was truly a miracle motivated by faith that allowed the members to rally together, commit to our prayer line and work hard despite the obstacles.”

Members of the Bethel church located in Staunton, Va., took time during the event to present their gift to Miracle of Faith—a welcome sign. Additionally, on behalf of the Allegheny West Conference, Fredrick Russell, president, presented the church with a new pulpit.



Bryant Smith, Miracle of Faith pastor, displays the new sign the Bethel church in Staunton donated to his congregation.



Fredrick Russell, conference president; Joan Carpenter, Miracle of Faith church treasurer; Claire Cole, assistant treasurer; and Pastor Bryant Smith proudly burn the church’s mortgage during their grand re-opening.

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

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

OCTOBER 2011

Lessons From LEGO

I did it! I completed the awesome Space Shuttle Adventure LEGO creation,” exclaimed our son Konnor as he led my husband and me to see the result of his effort. Konnor had been focused and intent as he spent hours assembling the 1,230 pieces required to complete the project. The model was impressive, every piece in its rightful place. The sleek shuttle sported retractable landing gear and an opening cockpit.

The genius of LEGO is not found in the individual building brick, but in what’s possible when they are assembled together. Like bricks, or “living stones” as Peter calls them (see 1 Peter 2:5), Christians are called to assemble together to form communities that reveal Christ to the world.

“God is building a home. And, He’s using us all in what He is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now He’s using you, fitting you in stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, *all of us built into it*, a temple in which God is quite at home” (Eph. 2:19-22, *The Message*).

Taken out of the set, a single LEGO loses its purpose, perhaps even its identity. Imagine what the possibilities are for our families, schools and churches when we unite and allow God, the Master Architect, to use us for His purpose.



Samantha Young

*Communication,
Women's and Children's
Ministries Director*

Conference Announces New President

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected Rick Remmers, DMin, conference president. He replaces Robert T. Vandeman who accepted a call to serve as executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference.



“Rick is well qualified to lead the Chesapeake Conference, having served admirably as secretary in two conferences,” said Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president. “He has a grasp of administration and has the respect of many of his constituents.”

Remmers, the Chesapeake Conference executive secretary since early 2010, has been actively involved in the strategic planning of conference initiatives, camp meeting, human resources and directing the Prayer and Health ministries of the conference.

A graduate of Andrews University (Mich.) and an ordained minister, Remmers spent more than 20 years in pastoral, evangelistic and administrative ministry in Ohio, Illinois and Maryland. He previously served as senior pastor of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., and the Hagerstown (Md.) church. He also served as conference secretary and ministerial director for the Illinois Conference.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord and His church in this way,” said Remmers following the announcement. “Working with our pastors, teachers and members, I hope we can build on the strong foundation that has already been laid and expand our outreach to impact even more people for the kingdom of God.”

Remmers is married to Shayne (Bromme) Remmers, a nurse specializing in cardiac care. The couple has two children, Andrew and Kari.

Spencerville Church Opens New School

More than 500 Spencerville church members and friends praised God as they celebrated the grand opening of the newly constructed Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) in Silver Spring, Md.

“That we are now gathered here in front of this beautiful, new facility is irrefutable evidence that, by divine providence, patience, hard work and sacrifice, dreams really can come true!” said Jerry Lutz, senior pastor of the nearby Spencerville church. “We are truly blessed and must therefore return to God the praise and thanksgiving that He so very much deserves; for without His leading and guidance, this would likely be an empty field where we are standing. But instead, look at what God has made possible!”

Lutz, along with building committee members, unveiled the cornerstone inscribed with Isaiah 2:3b, and cut the ribbon officially opening the school for business and for a first look at the two-story, 100,000-square-foot facility. To the delight of the attendees, Christine Erickson, Spencerville church’s last surviving charter member who attended the opening of the original school in 1943, was also present for this school’s opening.

Built to house 450 pre-kindergarteners through 12th-graders, academy facilities are on one side, pre-school and elementary on the other, with common areas in the center. Shared facilities include administrative offices, music rooms, a library, courtyard and kitchen. A multipurpose room serves the elementary, and a gymnasium the high school. In addition, there is a fully equipped auditorium with its own entrance.

“As someone who attended public school until high school, to see a building I consider to be equal to or beyond that level of quality, is exciting,” said SAA alumnus Steven Blondo after touring the school.

The building is a “green” facility with environmental concerns taken into account from design and construction through operation and maintenance. “Green” features include a high-quality heating, ventilation and cooling system; a “cool” roof; high-performance glazing on the windows; motion-detecting light switches; and low-flow toilets. Building materials include a high level of recycled content.

“Rare now is a full PK through 12th-grade academy in the North American Division with a single-church constituency, like this one,” said Lutz.

Highlights of the grand-opening event were the ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the facility.



A theater-style auditorium comfortably accommodates students for assemblies and performances.

“This building stands as a testimony to the vision of a congregation that has a full commitment to [Seventh-day] Adventist education,” said Merle Poirier, building committee chair. Then she cited Miriam Tymeson, a long-time Columbia Union educator, who said, “A school must not be evaluated by bricks and mortar ... [or] its expensive modern fixtures. ... A school is to be judged by what happens to the children after they leave it.” Poirier added, “That is why we did this—not to have more space, better bathrooms or more storage, but to educate students for eternity.”

Other grand opening participants included Brian Kittleson, principal; Carole Smith, EdD, Chesapeake Conference superintendent of schools; Bob Nitz, general contractor; and his on-site project manager, son Dwayne Nitz.—*Barbara Carreno*

See more photos by visiting columbiaunion.org/NewSpencerville.



The new Spencerville Adventist Academy building is completed in time for the 2011-12 school year.



PHOTO BY BRIAN KITTESON

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

Seeking the Spirit's Guidance

Every school year is a time for new beginnings and opportunities to reflect on how to share our mission in a real and meaningful way with our students. More importantly, it is a time to truly seek God in prayer as we solicit His guidance on how to have a Spirit-filled impact.

Ellen White provides a blueprint for seeking the Spirit's guidance: "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. If this is the price of heaven, shall not our education be conducted on these lines? Christ must be everything to us. Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit gives the divine anointing to all who receive Christ" (*Christian Educator*, August 1, 1897, par. 4).

As I read this blueprint recently, the mandate about our mission and purpose at Highland View Academy (HVA) was made crystal clear. It is not about our impact but about true education, where students learn about the love of Jesus and what He has called us to do as Christ-filled Christians. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to see God's handiwork in each and every one of our students.



Deborah Treviño
Principal

New Vice Principal, Winona Hudson, Joins Staff

This school year, Winona Hudson joined Highland View Academy (HVA) as the vice principal for Academic Administration. She comes from Fresno, Calif., where she was a member of the Fresno Westside church and served as the

director of Pathfinders, the children's choir, summer day camp and Education Ministries.

Hudson graduated from Loma Linda University (Calif.) with an associate's degree in nursing and spent 16 years as a registered nurse. Hudson went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Multiple Subjects Teaching with a Cross Cultural Language Development Credential from California State University Fresno, and a Master of Arts in Education with Administration and Supervision Credential. She taught for the Clovis Unified School District for five years, two years in Hanford as a learning director and five years as a vice principal and teacher at Fresno Adventist Academy.

"If I can touch the heart of a child so that they can see a glimpse of God [and] develop their gifts of service, then I know that His will for

my life is complete," she says of her philosophy in education.

Hudson is an amateur photographer, loves to sing, gardens when she has free time, enjoys spending time with her family and once climbed Mount Whitney in her home state—and would like to do it again. Interestingly, she is part of a legacy in Seventh-day Adventist education. Hudson's mother taught for 45 years at Los Angeles Adventist Academy and her great aunt, Anna Knight, was a pioneer in Adventist history.

Hudson's husband of 30 years, Gary, is an investigator for the state of California. The couple has three children: Jasen Hudson of Philadelphia, Jeremy Hudson of San Diego and Jessica Hudson of Fresno, who will graduate from Oakwood University (Ala.). They also have one granddaughter, Kenney, in Philadelphia.



Recruiting Team Helps Grow Enrollment

During the hot summer days of Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting, HVA's 2011 recruiting team was very busy in the Earliteen class. They spent the week interacting with the kids and telling them all about Highland View Academy. The young recruiters also spent time with kids attending Vacation Bible School at the Westminster (Md.) church, and helped with church services in Martinsburg, W.Va., and Dover, Del.

Again, this year parents and alumni blessed the team with meals and lodging during their recruiting trips, and all of their efforts paid off. The totals came in and 17 percent of HVA's current enrollment of 122 reported that the recruiting team directly contacted them.

"The Lord has blessed HVA with amazing student leadership," exclaims Renee Williams, recruiting director. "The students shared their love for the Lord and their school. It was a great opportunity, and the memories will be cherished for a lifetime."



Mercedes Malcom ('13), Allison Calhoun ('14), Marci Corea ('12), Paris Ritter ('12), Chelsea McMullen ('13), Josh Calhoun ('13) and Roman Samalio ('12) were part of the recruiting team this past summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

School's First 5K

On October 16, HVA will host its first 5K run/walk to benefit the athletic program. Runners and walkers of all ages are encouraged to get out and move and enjoy a day of fun. There will be trophies and fun for everyone. Local area churches will also provide a vegetarian buffet for attendees, complete with recipes. Register at hva-edu.com. Applications will be accepted up to the event date.

Any questions can be directed to John Henline at jhenline@highlandviewacademy.com or by calling (301) 331-1016.

Annual Christmas Concert

Students, staff, friends and neighbors are welcome to help HVA celebrate the holiday season at its annual Christmas concert. The select choir, orchestra and bell choir will praise the Lord in song at the Highland View church December 3 at 4:30 p.m. This year the

free-will offering will go toward a trip to Russia for the young musicians to perform in Moscow and Kiev and to visit an orphanage in Ukraine. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR

October

17-21 Week of Prayer
28-29 Bible Retreat

November

5 Academic Bowl
6-7 Academy Days
12 Talent Show

December

3 Christmas Concert
4 Christmas Event

Highlander is published in the *Visitor* by Highland View Academy
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hva-edu.com ■ Principal, Deborah Treviño ■ Editor, Renee Williams

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

OCTOBER 2011

It's Later Than We Think

After reading an article about the precious nature of time, I realized this year is nearly over, and there are goals that I have not yet seen accomplished. The words of this text came flooding into my thoughts: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11).

Time ticks away at the same constant speed—seconds, minutes, hours, days, months—and, before we know it, the year is gone and it is later than we think. That visit we wanted to make or that Bible study interest we wanted to pursue hasn't happened this year and the year is nearly over.

As we look around us today, and if we know the times in which we live, it behooves us to also read verses 12 and 13 of Romans 13: "The night (*year*) is far spent (*almost gone*), the day (*reality*) is at hand (*we have not paid attention to priorities of Christian living*); let us therefore cast off the works of darkness (*let's be serious about reaching others for Christ*), not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying (*do only that which will lead others to Jesus*). But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (*committing ourselves, our time, to a growing loving relationship with Jesus and having Him use us, our time, perhaps on a daily basis, to reach that person that He can use only you to reach for Him*).

How about you? Did you start the year out to accomplish certain goals? How will you spend the rest of the time this year to grow God's kingdom in the Mountain View Conference? The answer will reflect your priorities of Christian living.



Larry Boggess
President

Mountain View Hosts Second Hispanic Camp Meeting



Some 52 attended Mountain View Conference's second annual Hispanic camp meeting themed "Jesus is Coming." Alabanza Pura Musical Ministries from the Potomac Conference provided the music. Pastor Cesar Quespe, pastor in the Logan and Williamson (W.Va.) district, presented the seminars and devotionals.

Andres Reyes (left), the main speaker and Personal Ministries director for the North Conference in the Dominican Republic, motivated the people and challenged them to shine for Jesus and to serve Him in the town and neighborhood where they live. "A church that grows has loving relationships among its members, and they care for one another," Reyes said. Throughout the weekend, Pastor Reyes challenged all attendees to stand for Jesus and lead a friend to Christ this year.



Churches Host Vacation Bible Schools

Each year churches from around the Mountain View Conference host outreach activities specifically for kids called Vacation Bible School (VBS). Below are photos from this year's activities held at seven churches:



Caleb Spitalsky learns a memory verse at the Cumberland (Md.) church.

Below: Youngsters enjoy their handiwork at the Ripley (W.Va.) church.



The Summersville (W.Va.) church had the theme "Joseph in Egypt" and shared biblical and historical information to some 30-35 kids each night.

Kevin Rinard (left) and D.J. McKenzie paint fish-shaped sun catchers at the Frostburg (Md.) church.



Kids listen for instructions at the Toll Gate (W.Va.) church.



The Grafton (W.Va.) church's VBS staff pose for a photo.

Sisters Leandra (left) and Danielle Hostetler race for the finish line during Wheeling (W.Va.) church's fun day race, which was a different take on VBS.

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

OCTOBER 2011

Tools in the Hands of God

It was the kind of phone call you never want to receive as a school principal. “Mr. Stevenson, there has been an accident,” came a voice on the other end of the phone. Fortunately, the only casualty was the school’s trusty, rusty, early 90s Ford Ranger pickup truck. The little truck was totaled, but, thankfully, the student who was driving and the tree he hit would be fine.

The problem was, we used that truck a lot, and without it, there were jobs that would be impossible to accomplish. On a campus like ours, any vehicle, no matter how humble, is used until it dies. Now what were we going to do? As I headed home that day, I sent up a prayer, and within minutes Matthew Brown, one of my student maintenance workers, called and said he was calling around to see if someone would be willing to donate a work truck to Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). Within a few hours, after Brown made many phone calls and contacts, someone donated a full-sized 4X4 truck to MVA.

The next day, Brown arrived with the truck title in hand and parked the new work truck in my driveway. This young man proved, once again, that anything is possible when we choose to step out in faith. Mount Vernon Academy will continue to survive and thrive if we all continue to step out in faith and allow ourselves to be tools in the hands of God.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

NEWS

Exchange Student Puts Language Skills Into Practice

At the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, junior Marcelo Amorin arrived on campus from São Paulo, Brazil. His command of the English language was such that he answered most questions with either “yes” or “no” regardless of what was said to him.



However, MVA staff and faculty worked patiently with Amorin and the other exchange students. They also arranged for tutors and volunteers to work with all of the English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

Within just a few weeks, Amorin was not only able to understand what was being said, but he was also joining classroom discussions. Now a college student, he wrote to MVA staff to share that he obtained a summer English teaching position back home in Brazil. “We are so pleased to have had a part in teaching such a remarkable young man,” said Robert Stevenson, principal. “I pray that every life touched at Mount Vernon Academy will be able to go and change the world.”

19 Students Enjoy Sports Camp

Every year prior to registration, Mount Vernon Academy sponsors soccer and volleyball camps to help students prepare for the fall sports season. Nineteen students came to condition and practice skills to improve their game. All of the participating athletes enjoyed a wonderful bonding time while making memories and keeping God’s temple healthy. —Sheree Stevenson



CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

OCTOBER 2011

Preschool Program Going Strong



Spring Valley Academy (SVA) now operates a year-round preschool program for children aged 3-5. The center is licensed by the state of Ohio and in compliance with the Columbia Union Conference's school-based pre-K program guidelines. This program began last October and is under the direction of Brianna Davis, with Sol Castro (left) serving as our new preschool teacher.

Currently we have 16 students in our preschool division. Thirteen students are currently enrolled in the K1 program, which Kimberly Geach (Class of 2006) teaches. Michelle Church teaches 16 students in the K2 program. This fall seven K1 and five K2 students transferred from the preschool division into our K-12 school program. We hope this is just the beginning of fulfilling a long-awaited dream of feeding our school enrollment.

New this year is our full- or half-day kindergarten enrollment option, which is an attractive feature for many parents. Please join me as we pray for God's continued guidance in reaching young souls for His service!



Jeff Bovee
Principal

NEWS

New Music Director Ministers Abroad

Kimberly Bulgin, SVA's new choral music director, recently ministered abroad in song and the spoken word as the teen morning devotional speaker for the North England and South England conferences camp meetings in the United Kingdom. The Holy Spirit used her mightily throughout the week to speak to more than 200 young people about "Revived Dry Bones." In addition to conducting a teen mass choir for the Sabbath evening concert, she also ran workshops on songwriting, music ministry and leading worship.



Bulgin holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Andrews University (Mich.) and comes to SVA from Grand Rapids Adventist Academy (Mich.), where she was the music director. Bulgin says she looks forward to continuing a rewarding vocal ministry at SVA.

SVA Hosts Preschool In-Service

Spring Valley Academy recently hosted a three-day in-service on preschool creative curriculums with Evelyn Sullivan, the Columbia Union Conference's associate director for Early Childhood Education and Care. Attendees from the Ohio and Allegheny West conferences enjoyed varying presentations of stimulating

curriculum methods. "This in-service was truly an inspiration, and I can't wait to incorporate what I learned into our preschool program," remarked Sol Castro, SVA preschool teacher.



SVA principal Jeff Bovee and Donovan Ross, PhD, vice principal, flank presenter Evelyn Sullivan.

Connections is published in the *Visitor* by the Spring Valley Academy
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Principal, Jeff Bovee ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 2011

Looking Back, Moving Forward

This issue of the *New Jersey News* features articles that represent our past and our future. We rejoice with the Burlington English church as they celebrate the 120th anniversary of their founding, God's leading in the growth of baptisms in our conference and the Level A accreditation of our Planned Giving and Trust Services department.

As we look to the future, let us not forget how God has led in the past. Ellen White wrote, "When we lose sight of what the Lord has done in the past for His people, we lose sight of His present working in their behalf" (*Christ Triumphant*, p. 140.3). God is working in New Jersey in a mighty and powerful way to finish His work, and we all need to join together in this adventure for Christ. During this Year of Evangelism, let us ever continue to "Proclaim His Grace." Let us also count His blessings in our daily lives, His leading in our past and the glorious future He has in store for us when He returns.



Jim Greene
Vice President for
Administration

Planned Giving, Trust Services Gets Top Accreditation

Earlier this year, the North American Division Certification and Accreditation Committee voted to grant Level A accreditation to New Jersey



Conference's Planned Giving and Trust Services department. Reaching this level of accreditation means the department is in compliance with some 47 standards that the division sets for dealing with a number of issues, from legal counsel

and procedures, to certification of staff and the administrative procedures the conference uses in administering trust services.

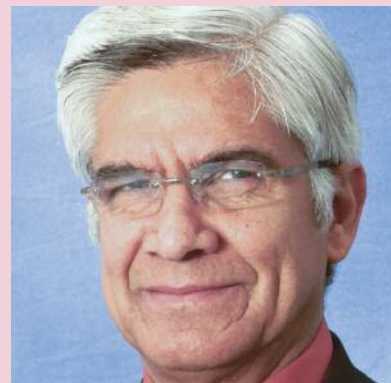
"When I came to the conference in 2006, the Planned Giving and Trust Services department was not accredited," said Jim Greene, the department's director. "It was my goal that we work to achieve full

accreditation for the program. I am pleased that we have finally achieved Level A accreditation, and I am committed to maintaining that level into the future."

There are now three certified trust officers who are available to assist members in their estate planning: Pastor Eleazar De Gracia (below), Spanish language field representative; Modesto Vazquez (left), vice president for finance; and Jim Greene.

"We have had over \$400,000 in trusts and wills maturities over the past three years," Greene reported.

"I am thankful for the faithfulness of our members in remembering the Lord's work in their estate planning. If you would like assistance with preparation of your will and estate plans, please contact the department at (609) 802-0855."



Burlington Celebrates 120th Anniversary

The Burlington English church recently celebrated their 120th anniversary. Burlington was the fourth Adventist church organized in the state of New Jersey. Pastors David E. Lindsay and Robert D. Hottel officially organized the church with six charter members



Douglas Ghaul (left), chair of the Burlington City Council, and Mayor James Fazzone (right) present Pastor Daniel Duffis with a plaque in honor of Burlington's 120th anniversary.

on July 18, 1891. The New Jersey Conference had not yet been organized, so the churches in New Jersey were part of the Atlantic Conference, which included New York City, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Former pastors Leonel Pottinger, Mark Jagitsch, Gershom Byass, Bob Hoyt and David Koeffler joined the current pastor, Daniel Duffis, who wrote about the church's history in the book *Perseverers: The History of the Burlington Seventh-day Adventist Church*, in celebrating this event. Eddie Campbell Jr., mayor of Willingboro, and James Fazzone, mayor of Burlington, with the entire city council of Burlington, were also in attendance. The legislature of New Jersey sent an official letter of congratulations as well. Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., was the Sabbath morning guest speaker.



Hackensack Family Celebrates New Births

It was a little past midnight on Sabbath evening, and the stage was set for the celebration of six birthdays in one family—all on the same day. Micaela McFarlane was born to Ricky and Shevene McFarlane at the Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck at 12:05 a.m., August 6. Bruce Banner, pastor of the Hackensack church, had teased the couple that their baby would be born on his birthday, August 5. It became apparent the next morning why Micaela had to be born on the sixth of August and not the fifth.

Later the same morning of which young Micaela stepped into the world, her cousin Adrian Betty and four of her aunts (Denise Harrison, Merlene McFarlane, Isolyn Betty and Novelette McFarlane) stepped into the waters of the Hackensack church's baptismal pool to



Pastor Bruce Banner gets ready to baptize Merlene McFarlane, Isolyn Betty and Novelette McFarlane, aunts to a little girl who was born that morning.

experience their second birth! "Praise be to our Lord and Savior that these five ladies and one young man will always have this special day in common to celebrate and give God praise for the miraculous coincidence of a family birthday," said Pastor Banner.

dates

NEW JERSEY

October

- 1 Newly Baptized English Members Training Conference Office
- 1-8 Women's Evangelism Local Churches
- 2 Pathfinder One-Day Event Meadow View Jr. Academy
- 7-9 Master Guide Backpacking Trip
- 14-16 Fall Singles Ministries Retreat
- 21-Nov. 5 ShareHim Evangelism Local Churches

November

- 12 North Jersey English Festival of the Laity, Newark English Church, 3-6 p.m.
- 12 South Jersey English Festival of the Laity, Collingwood Park Church, 3-6 p.m.
- 13 Singles Ministries Harvest Fellowship
- 19 North Jersey Spanish Festival of the Laity, Waldwick School
- 19 South Jersey Spanish Festival of the Laity, Bridgeton Spanish Church

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2303 Brunswick Ave., Lawrenceville NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org President, José H. Cortés ■ Editor, Jim Greene

Walk of Faith Center Named Innovative Program of 2011

The Cleveland Food Bank, a network of nearly 600 partnering agencies within six counties in northern Ohio, recently named the Walk of Faith Community Center (WOFCC) “Innovative Program of the Year 2011.” WOFCC, a Cleveland affiliate of Adventist Community Services, first partnered with the Cleveland Food Bank in September 2009 to serve neighborhoods in Cleveland’s West Park community.

WOFCC’s food pantry is only open one day a week for two hours, yet serves an average of 400 individuals monthly by providing them with a five- to seven-day supply of food, free of charge. It is also one of the only choice food pantries in the area, which allows clients to



volunteers to serve refreshments and sit and talk with the customers. It also affords neighbors an opportunity to share their lives and struggles.

“By building relationships with community [members], we build trust,” expresses Lisa Falkenstein, WOFCC director. “They feel as though they have been heard. They feel valued. Some even feel safe enough to come back and join us for a Sabbath!”

In addition to the pantry, the WOFCC operates a clothing donation center and youth drop-in center and offers after-school tutoring, weekday breakfasts, a Sabbath community meal, various seminars and application assistance for the Ohio Benefit Bank. They also have a washer and dryer available for the homeless to use.



Karli Kuehmichel, pantry manager, and Lisa Falkenstein, director, proudly display the award the Walk of Faith Community Center received from the Cleveland Food Bank.

“shop” for items rather than accept a pre-made bag of groceries. Volunteers assist clients with selections, including fresh produce, dairy, breads, canned goods, boxed items and toiletries. They then help clients transport the groceries to their car or bus stop. Impressed by the WOFCC’s unique system, the United States Department of Agriculture selected them as one of two food pantries to tour this summer.

Another perk of the pantry is the “waiting room” in the main dining area that staff set up, which allows



We’re on Facebook! Get up-to-the-minute news, event promos and photos through Ohio Conference’s new Facebook page. “Like” us today and share what’s happening at your church or entity.

Ashtabula Church Offers Gardening Space to Community

Seeking an effective yet manageable community service project for their small congregation, Ashtabula church members decided to utilize unused land behind their church and establish a free community garden. The garden contains 20 tilled plots, each about 10 feet by 20 feet, with walking paths in

between. To get the word out, members distributed flyers and contacted the local newspaper, which printed a story about the free public garden plots.

Now in its third summer, the church's plots are once again completely taken—used by people with limited or no yard space who enjoy

growing their own vegetables. Each gardener is responsible for maintaining their plot and permitted to use water from a faucet behind the church. While the plot is free, individuals agree to purchase their own plants and provide their own tools, and to come and go freely anytime between sunup and sundown, except during Sabbath hours.

At the end of the current season, the church organized an informal gathering for members and gardeners to get acquainted. "They are all very appreciative of what this church is doing. There is no pressure put on them to attend our church, but they all know they are welcome should they decide to visit," says Cyndy Sleigh, a church member and clerk. "To our knowledge, there are no other churches in Ashtabula County—of any denomination—that provide a free community garden such as this."



Worthington Church Welcomes New Senior Pastor

After a yearlong search across the North American Division for a new senior pastor, the Worthington church found one

in its backyard—Yuliyán Filipov, former pastor for the Bowling Green, Findlay and Northwood churches. Filipov now shepherds the Worthington congregation along with his wife, Milenka, and their daughter, Lora.

Carolyn Sowards, local church committee chair, reports that she finds Filipov to be "a pastor with Christ-centered qualities and aspirations." She adds, "Pastor Filipov's ministry focuses on encouraging and strengthening each individual on their journey to a greater relationship with Christ. He desires that each member recognize his or her spiritual strengths and serve within his or her own giftedness for the glory of the Savior."

Filipov further explains his focus: "One can only be a great leader if he/she is a greater follower of Christ. Therefore,

I consider Jesus the senior pastor of the Worthington church, and myself and my co-worker, Pastor Bob McGhee, followers of the Chief Shepherd."

Filipov adds that he believes the Worthington congregation can fulfill the Great Commission (see Matt. 28:19-20) and the "Great Omission" (see Matt. 25:31-46) of the church only if, together, they emulate Jesus' way of doing ministry as explained in John 5:19.



Mission Ohio is published in the Visitor by the Ohio Conference
P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio
43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-4665
ohioadventist.org ■ President,
Raj Attiken ■ Editor, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania *Pen*

OCTOBER 2011

An Explosion of Youth Ministries

This was an exciting summer for the Pennsylvania Youth and Young Adult Ministries department! More than 100 youth and young adults spent their summer vacations serving Christ through four different youth/young adult mission initiatives: Cool Camp, Laurel Lake Camp, Pennsylvania Youth Challenge and the youth and young adult ShareHim mission trip to Honduras. You'll read more in the following stories, but here are some highlights:

- Through Cool Camp, 400 children in 10 different communities heard the gospel.
- Laurel Lake Camp broke records this summer with 301 campers for the four weeks of camp!
- Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC) participants knocked on more than 58,000 doors, placed Seventh-day Adventist books in almost 10,000 homes and gathered 400 Bible study leads. Nine members of the PYC team then headed to Kenya where they presented ShareHim evangelistic meetings—the first sermon series preached by many of these young adults.
- Members of the youth and young adult ShareHim mission trip to Honduras each preached a 19-sermon evangelistic series.

We at the Pennsylvania Conference are committed to leading young people into lives of mission, as well as teaching and equipping them to reveal Jesus and make disciples. Through their ministry, lives were changed for eternity—including their own.



Leandro Robinson
*Youth and Young Adult
Ministries Director*

Cool Campers Enjoy Hot Summer

"We want more camp!" The Cool Camp staff heard that every Friday in July. That's the day the week-long summer day camp ended for each location. Campers didn't want to see the fun and learning end!

Fourteen young people formed two teams of Cool Camp staffers, with each team leading five weeks of the day camp in five different locations. More than 400 children, with more than half from the local communities, attended in Lancaster, York, Stroudsburg,

Easton, Erie, Shamokin, East Stroudsburg, Gettysburg, Hamburg and Reading.

The staff created their own curriculum using as their theme *Toy Story 3*, a movie most children knew well. They showed clips from the movie and created skits and a daily Bible story that taught about Christ, redemption and biblical principles—lessons these children will remember every time they see the movie.

"I would do this every week, all year long, for free," shares staff member J.C. Mendez from Easton. His teammates all agree. Cool Camp is evangelism, which reaches children who go home and sing the songs and share the stories and lessons they learn with their parents. Thirty-six children accepted Jesus as their Savior at the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading—with every child in attendance committing their life—when team leader Javier Mendez offered an appeal.

For information on how your church or school could host Cool Camp in your community next year, or to learn how to join next year's team, contact Leandro Robinson at (610) 374-8331, or email lrobinson@paconference.org.



Cool Campers pause for a photo before heading out for an afternoon at the pool.

Pennsylvania Youth Challenge Changes Lives

This summer has just changed my life," said Twana Ambrose. She was an assistant team leader with the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge (PYC) who spent her summer knocking on doors across Pennsylvania, sharing Christian literature, praying with people and seeing God work in her own life.

Maile Hoffman also saw God work in amazing ways as she met people and offered to pray with them. On one occasion, she met an older couple who listened to her canvass. When she asked them what she could pray about for them, the woman said, "I'm having heart surgery in two days and we're pretty nervous about it." Hoffman prayed. When she opened her eyes, they were crying. "You're such a blessing to us!" they told her. Hoffman said, "I knew God

sent me to that house for a reason."

Thirty high school- and college-aged young people knocked on 58,000 doors, shared Christian materials, listened, prayed and witnessed for Christ. Several gave mini Bible studies right at the door. Not only did they change lives in Philadelphia, Reading, Allentown, Doylestown, Souderton, Lansdale and Bucks County, but their own lives were impacted as they saw Him working through them. "It wasn't until I was in this program

Some team members of Pennsylvania Youth Challenge ask God to take their hands and use them.

that I saw how real God truly is," said Jevoni McAllister.

To join the PYC team next year, contact Pastor Tara VinCross at tjvincross@paconference.org or visit payoutchallenge.org.



Young People Share Christ in Honduras, Pennsylvania

Nine young people, along with five adults, preached 19 sermons in 14 different locations in Tegucigalpa, the capital city of Honduras, as part of this year's Pennsylvania Conference Youth and Young Adult ShareHim Mission Trip. They were assigned a church and preached an evangelistic series—many preaching for the first time.

They arrived home 21 days later tired, yet excited and changed. Two were re-baptized in Honduras. Two

were baptized after returning home. They witnessed more than 100 baptisms as a result of their evangelistic series, with almost 70 additional people committing to be baptized in the future. But their experience isn't over yet. Each of these young people have the opportunity to earn a \$1,500 mission scholarship after completing a second evangelistic series here in Pennsylvania.

Ray Hartwell, conference president, went with the mission team

and preached an evangelistic series at the Rio Grande church. "We must be engaging our young people in the very mission of Jesus and providing opportunities for them to share the timely message of Christ for these last days," he states. "In this way, they learn the real power of prayer and the power of the Word and will take up the cause of Christ all through their life."

To invite one of these young people to hold an evangelistic series in your church, contact Regina Hennlein at rhennlein@paconference.org or at (610) 374-8331. To join next year's team, contact Leandro Robinson at lrobinson@paconference.org or at (610) 374-8331.



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

Potomac People

OCTOBER 2011

God is With Us

Planning a Bible camp as a summer event is like talking about Christmas in July. It just doesn't feel right. But a few of us in the conference wanted to host a joint event between our Spanish- and English-speaking teens. Summer felt like the best time to do that.

We selected the speakers and presenters. We secured the venue—Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.—and we advertised. However, by our registration deadline, there was only one registrant. It's possible that God was just leading me on a journey of faith, because, in the next couple of days, registration soared to 180 as teens from various ethnicities planned to spend the weekend discovering what it means to be a Christian teenager in the 21st century.

The three-day event included devotional talks by teens and other youth leaders, including Sylvia Urrutia, a youth leader for Movimiento Joven Adventista; Ed Garcia, a volunteer youth leader at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.; Courtney D'Avilar, a student at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.; Eliasib Fajardo, a pastor of three Spanish churches in northern Virginia; and myself. The weekend concluded with the Youth Olympics, an annual tradition started 10 years ago by the Hispanic youth leaders. Teams representing various churches competed in soccer, basketball, volleyball and chess, along with 3K and 5K races. While the temperatures were no reminder of the holiday season, the Christmas blessing of Emmanuel was still the same. God was with us.



PHOTO BY DAVID LEIVA



Denny Grady

Youth Ministries Director

New Lighthouse Shines in Virginia Beach

After 20 years of meeting for worship in places they could not call home, members of the Virginia Beach (Va.) church recently celebrated the purchase of their first building. Visitors from the community, and more than 10 sister churches in West Virginia, Maryland and as far as California, joined them for the grand opening weekend. For the divine service, attendance soared above 400.

According to Pastor Mark Sigue, celebrating this building at 4136 Holland Road was significant because "this is the first Adventist-owned church in Virginia Beach, which has a really large population of non-members. Having a facility of our own allows us to grow local ministries and not be held hostage to facility availabilities. We are able to now be the lighthouse in town, as has been the church's mission," he stated.



Dan Jensen, assistant to the Potomac Conference president for Communication and the event's guest speaker, kept to the weekend's theme, "God's Defining Moments: Peace Within the Dark Night of the Soul." Guest musicians included a group from the Filipino Capitol church in Beltsville, Md.; a string quintet from Maryland; and Kaydee Ann King from northern Virginia. The church also witnessed the rebirth of the Angklung Youth Ensemble.

The festivities continued on Sunday with a brunch, the official ribbon-cutting, a kitchen dedication, dedicatory prayers for members and the release of purple balloons into the bright, blue skies.—Norman C. Belleza

Virginia Beach church's current pastoral couple, Mark and Marifel Sigue (with son, Marco), join former shepherds Abbey and Angelina Reyes for the opening of their first building.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SARINO

Potomac People

Sligo Church Spotlights Health at Second Homecoming

Members and friends from near and far returned to attend Sligo church's second annual homecoming weekend. This year, under the theme "To Your Health!" the Takoma Park, Md., church involved attendees in a community health fair.

"Our purpose is to reclaim members and friends, renew our faith experience in a weekend of worship and to reach out to others in loving service," Rebecca Brillhart, discipleship pastor, said of the event.

The homecoming started Friday evening with a welcome reception and worship service and continued

Sabbath morning with an early service led by Ismael Gama, associate vice president for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care for the nearby Washington Adventist Hospital. Benjamin Carson, MD, director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, was the featured speaker for the divine hour.

"[Dr. Carson] ... challenged his audience to view health in a completely different light than what most of us were accustomed to by placing it in the context of what he called 'The Least of These,'" commented Charles Tapp, Sligo's senior pastor.

The event concluded Saturday afternoon with an international lunch and a community health fair in nearby Langley Park at the headquarters of CASA de Maryland, a community service organization. Some 120 volunteers—doctors, nurses, dentists, social workers and community activists—served the nearly 300 visitors who sought health attention and information. There were also puppeteers, face

PHOTO BY REBECCA BRILLHART



A little girl responds excitedly to the Washington Adventist University puppeteers who share health, hygiene and exercise messages.

painters, site guides, performances by Sligo church's steel band and volunteers serving food.

"It's going right into the heart of the community where you can reach out to people where they are and meet people with different needs," commented Marti Lewis, a nurse who attended the fair. —Alexis A. Goring

Vienna Church Ordains/Commissions Associate Pastor

It was clearly one of the most spiritually moving ordination/commissioning services I've ever attended," said Garry Genser, Vienna (Va.) church senior pastor about the special service for Jennifer Deans, the

church's associate/youth pastor. "The depth of the sermon, the holiness and conviction of the prayers, the sincerity and beauty of the music and the testimony of the other presenters really touched the congregation. The joy and affirmation of Pastor Deans' ministry was clearly visible."

Bill Miller, conference president, gave the homily, drawing on lessons in Luke 4. He reminded Deans that God chooses those He needs to preach the Word, and as one of His chosen, it's critical she spend quality time with Him. "We know that Jennifer will touch many

lives throughout her ministry, and we're proud to have her serving here in the Potomac Conference," he stated.

Deans, in turn, encouraged members to be true to Christ's calling in their lives. "Just because pastors are called and publicly recognized, people shouldn't minimize their individual roles within evangelism," she admonished. "Jesus is calling every one of us to be his witnesses, and we need to live in that calling every day."

PHOTO BY RAJIMUND DABROWSKI



PHOTO BY DAVID HITTLE



Jennifer Deans and her husband, Kevin, get a special blessing during her ordination prayer.

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

Meeting Expectations

Educators often find themselves wondering what best motivates their students. At Takoma Academy (TA), we have discovered that by setting clear expectations, students not only walk away with an understanding of what things are important, but also knowing we believe they can successfully accomplish them. What greater motivation can we give them than to know the people who have set the expectations truly believe they can meet them?

Our students do accept and embrace the expectations we set. They consistently step up to the challenges, like adjusting to revised classroom expectations and pursuing higher academic goals, such as Advanced Placement or dual credit courses. They even accept the greatest challenge of all: taking advantage of opportunities such as Bible studies and community service activities to increase their spiritual growth and development.

Yes, our students embrace the importance of all aspects of Takoma Academy's program. And, they know that we, the faculty and staff, believe in them and are committed to supporting them as they realize God's purpose and destiny for their lives.



David Daniels
Principal

School Welcomes New Staff

This fall TA welcomed four new staff and relocated several others to help the school maintain a strong academic team:

Alban Howe joined the Math Department to teach Algebra 1 and 2. He recently completed degrees in mathematics, music and Spanish at Walla Walla University (Wash.).

In addition to his role as volleyball coach, **J.P. Dukate** is also now an assistant in the Maintenance Department.

Jamila Silvera transitioned from being an instructor in the Spanish Department to teaching art.

Brian Moore transitioned from work coordinator to physical education and athletic director. This will be Moore's second year at TA, and he is excited about his new role.

Tiffany Branum, who spent the previous year teaching English in Taiwan, is TA's new office manager.

David Turner (pictured on next page) is the director of Student Services. He most recently served as the sixth-grade homeroom teacher and high school business education teacher for Northeastern Academy (New York).

Mario Broussard (pictured on next page) is TA's new assistant chaplain. Broussard previously served as a taskforce chaplain and assistant dean at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Philmore McKenzie, whose son attends TA, provides instruction to students in the area of steel pan drums. This is a new program that will help enhance music ministry in the community.



Howe



Dukate



Silvera



Moore



Branum

Steel drums is the newest fine arts elective offered at Takoma Academy.

Increased Enrollment Funds New Staff, Advanced Programming

Takoma Academy started this school year with 225 students, 16 more than last year. This increase has allowed the school to enhance programming and add two key positions to the staff: Mario Broussard (below) as assistant chaplain and David Turner (right) as director of Student Services.

Chaplain Broussard challenges students to listen to God and encourages them to get involved in outreach and Bible study. During one of the first chapels this year, he appealed to students *and* staff to



heed the warning of Isaiah 6:9-10, which instructs believers to devote their senses to receiving God's leading instead of heeding to worldly desires. "It is my goal, through prayer, fasting and the teaching of practical Christianity, to see Christ take residence in the hearts and minds of the students, faculty and staff of Takoma Academy," he said.

Through Student Services, Turner's primary role is to assist

students in the college-planning process. The process includes a comprehensive plan that the school developed to ensure students are exposed to the tools they will need to be successful. From the moment a freshman enters TA, this plan clearly highlights the details that tend to be overlooked as students explore their choices for tertiary education.



"No longer is it enough to have gone to college and completed a chosen course of study. The global village we find ourselves in demands so much more from our students," says Turner. "College planning is not an afterthought that gets our students into some college dorm, on some campus, to complete some program. At Takoma Academy, we will realize and fulfill the mission that prepares God's young people to glorify Him in all they do."

Indeed, faculty and staff strive to ensure that when students graduate from TA, they will be prepared to successfully complete college and serve in their communities.

Increased enrollment has also allowed TA to enhance its course offerings, including new Advanced Placement (AP) classes, such as Human Geography, U.S. History, Environmental Science, Language

Timothy Soper teaches Human Geography, one of the new Advanced Placement courses the school offers to students as early as their sophomore year.



Jennifer Howe instructs juniors and seniors in AP Language and Composition.

and Composition, and Literature and Composition. Student interest and enrollment also greatly increased for these courses. During the past three years, the average annual enrollment in AP courses was 10-12 students. This year more than 100 students are enrolled, and some AP courses even have a waiting list.

"It is incredible to see so many of our students excited about challenging themselves in these courses, which will help prepare them for the rigors of college," shares Amy Soper, vice principal for academics.

Calendar

October

- 17-18 Midterm Exams
- 19 Second Term Begins
- 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 24 Senior Portraits

November

- 23 Noon Dismissal
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 28 Classes Resume

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





Get in the Race

Our campus theme for this academic year is “Get in the Race!” The Office of Campus Ministries, under the leadership of Baraka Muganda, EdD, developed the campaign to put more emphasis on building a spiritual learning community. The concept is that Washington Adventist University (WAU) is not only preparing students for service to humanity, but also for eternity. This university is intentional in being an extension of the Christian home where Christian education begins. When you visit our campus, you will see banners (left) posted at strategic locations with verses from Scripture. More importantly, you will notice our faculty and staff modeling the life and teachings of Jesus. Visitors and students will recognize that this is a Christian campus. We are getting back to the core of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education!

As I walk around the campus and speak with students and parents, it is obvious that we all are aware of the positive behavioral changes on this campus. Students welcome the new feel and look at Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

Former Atlantic Union Students Welcomed With Open Arms

Washington Adventist University’s efforts to establish a branch campus at Atlantic Union College (AUC) in South Lancaster, Mass., bore its first fruit as WAU welcomed transfers to its Takoma Park, Md., campus as the fall semester started.

Nereida Lobo and Christina Reveil are two sophomore AUC transfers who are taking advantage

of the university’s popular nursing program.

“It’s an amazing place,” said Lobo. “It’s totally different from AUC. It feels good to be in a university.”

Reveil agreed, “I feel comfortable here; it’s like a second home. The people are nice, and I am considering staying in the area after I graduate.”

Another student making the transition is Ralph Vieux, a senior theology major. He is impressed with the campus and appreciative of the help he has received; “The faculty has been warm, receptive and helpful with registration.”

Timothy Nelson, dean of men, was optimistic about the transition. “There have been growing pains, but we have learned a lot and had a lot of fun,” he said. “It’s exciting to have new people from different backgrounds and be able to pursue our mission, which is engaging minds and transforming lives.”—Kevin Manuel



PHOTOS BY KEVIN MANUEL

Sophomore nursing majors Christina Reveil (left) and Nereida Lobo, who transferred from Atlantic Union College, already feel at home on campus.

New England Youth Ensemble Music Director Dies

Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, DMA, professor and director of the New England Youth Ensemble (NEYE) at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., passed away in August in Massachusetts. She was 88.

“The Washington Adventist University family is deeply saddened at the passing of a true pioneer in Seventh-day Adventist education. She was a driving,

innovative force with the orchestra and the programs she began,” says Weymouth Spence, EdD, university president.

Born in Canada, Rittenhouse spent her early years in South Africa. She began her music training at the age of 6 and debuted her own music compositions at age 10. At age 13, she won a music scholarship for study at the University of South Africa, where she auditioned on both piano and violin.

In the fall of 1945, one year after graduating summa cum laude with a music degree from the University of Washington, Rittenhouse began her teaching career at Walla Walla College (Wash.), now a university. She taught for one year before going to Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts, where she taught violin and piano until the early 1950s.

She founded the New England Youth Ensemble in 1969 with a group of five students, and made their first international trip in 1973 to the World Youth Congress in Edinburg, Scotland. The group now has 45 members.

In 1994 the NEYE became the resident orchestra of Washington Adventist University and has since



Rittenhouse poses with her violin during the 1940s.



Virginia-Gene and Harvey Rittenhouse celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at Victoria Falls in southern Africa.

continued to enjoy widespread critical acclaim. Under her direction, the NEYE has performed both nationally and internationally for numerous world leaders.

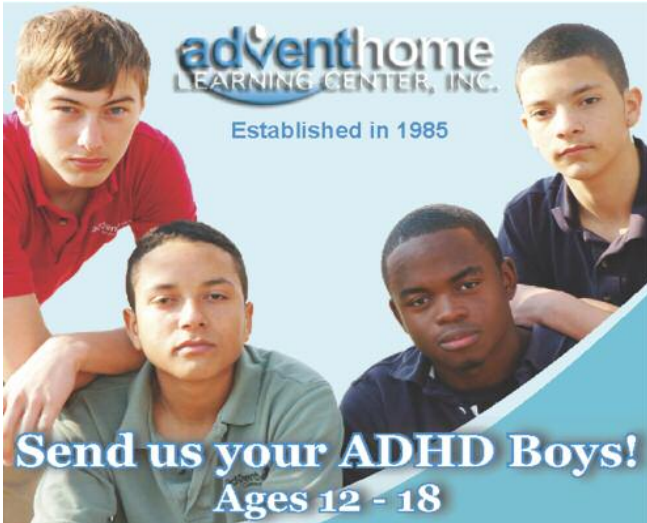
Always valuing education on all levels, Rittenhouse developed the NEYE Carnegie Scholars Program, a unique mentorship program that brings scholar members of the NEYE to the stage of Carnegie Hall. This experience also enabled the members to perform under the direction of numerous well-known conductors, including John Rutter, with whom the NEYE has held a long-standing friendship.

Rittenhouse is survived by her husband of 61 years, Harvey, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.—William Jackson

Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse stands with the New England Youth Ensemble.



The Gateway is published in the Visitor by the Washington Adventist University ■ 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (800) 835-4212 wau.edu ■ President, Weymouth Spence



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LEGAL NOTICE

MEETING OF THE MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) Corporation will be held at Mount Vernon Academy, 525 Wooster Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Sunday, November 6, 2011. Registration will commence at 9:30 a.m., at the MVA Administration Building. This meeting is called to provide reports and consider plans. Delegates to this session are those who served as delegates to the 40th regular constituency session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held on May 16, 2010.

Raj Attiken, President
Rob Stevenson, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RICHMOND ACADEMY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION-OCT. 14-16. We are excited to announce to the alumni of Richmond Academy (formerly Richmond Junior Academy) our upcoming centennial celebration! To register and get more information about this event, please go to our website at rasda.org. We can't wait to hear from you!

NEW MARKET SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, the first Adventist church in Virginia, is celebrating 132 years of ministry with a Homecoming Sabbath on October 22. All friends and former members are invited to return and

	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28	Nov 4
Baltimore	6:40	6:29	6:19	6:10	6:02
Cincinnati	7:12	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:34
Cleveland	6:59	6:48	6:37	6:27	6:18
Columbus	7:05	6:54	6:44	6:35	6:26
Jersey City	6:29	6:18	6:08	5:58	5:49
Norfolk	6:40	6:30	6:21	6:13	6:05
Parkersburg	7:00	6:49	6:39	6:30	6:22
Philadelphia	6:34	6:23	6:13	6:03	5:55
Pittsburgh	6:53	6:42	6:31	6:22	6:14
Reading	6:37	6:26	6:15	6:06	5:58
Richmond	6:44	6:34	6:25	6:16	6:09
Roanoke	6:55	6:45	6:35	6:27	6:19
Toledo	7:06	6:55	6:44	6:34	6:26
Trenton	6:32	6:21	6:11	6:02	5:53
Wash., D.C.	6:42	6:31	6:22	6:13	6:05

enjoy a day of fellowship, including a great dinner and a vespers concert by the Rockingham Male Chorus. See the latest details at our website: newmarketadventist.org.

ANDREWS ACADEMY HOME-COMING WEEKEND: Oct. 14-16. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, Andrews University Academy and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are '37, '42, '47, '52, '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02 and '07. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office: (269) 471-6140, or email: acadalum@andrews.edu.

GREATER BOSTON ALUMNI WEEKEND: October 14-15, at the Stoneham Memorial Church, 29 Maple St., Stoneham, Mass. There will be a light supper at the church Friday evening at 6 p.m., followed by vespers at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath worship service at 10:45; guest speaker from the Class of 1961. Fellowship luncheon follows at 1 p.m. at GBA, followed by activities Saturday night: class reunions and alumni basketball game. For more information, call Tom Giampa (508) 243-7458.

OBITUARIES

BERRY, Marian C., born March 5, 1922, in Foreston, Minn.; died April 29, 2011, in Lenexa, Kan. In 1942 Marian married Kenneth J. Berry and together they dedicated their lives to God's work. In 1946 they began an eight-year term of service in Kenya, East Africa. Marian organized an African girl's school on Chekwai Mission Station. After returning to the U.S., she was the girl's dean at Plainfield Academy, and then taught Bible. Marian then became the supervisor of education for the Ohio Conference from 1962-1978. She was a member of the Bowling Green, Newark and Delaware Adventist churches, which were pastored by her husband. She then became the assistant superintendent of education for the Iowa-Missouri Conference, retiring in 1982. She authored 14 books, numerous articles and videos. Her books were translated into seven languages, and she presented lectures in 65 countries. Her greatest joy was sharing her knowledge and skills with others to help them understand more fully the inspired Word of God. She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors: her son, Daniel K. Berry, and three grandchildren.

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Bulletin Board

CLARKE, Robert C., born May 20, 1932, in Richmond, Va.; died April 26, 2011, in Fishersville, Va. He was the current pastor of the Harrisonburg (Va.) church, and continued to minister until his passing. Pastor Clarke served in the ministry for more than 50 years, pastoring more than 38 of those years in the Potomac Conference. He loved to show the love of Jesus to everyone he contacted. Pastor Clarke also served in the Ohio, Pennsylvania and Missouri conferences. He attended Columbia Union College as a ministerial student and then the seminary (both located at that time in Takoma Park, Md.). He also attended the United Theological Seminary in Ohio. Survivors: his wife, Joan (Bennetts) Clarke, of Staunton, Va.; his sons: Robert (Margaret) Clarke, Jr., of Chester, Va., Stephen (Kary) Clarke of Monroe, Va., and Andrew (Terrie Mae) Clarke of Charleston, S.C.; five grandsons: Stephen Jr., David, Matthew, Miles and Mitchell Clarke; his sister, Shirley (Eddie) Hutson of Timson, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

COOPER, Ethel H., born October 10, 1905, in Gardner, W.Va.; died April 4, 2011, in Princeton, W.Va. She was a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. Ethel was active in her church since her baptism over 75 years ago, until her health declined in her 90s. She was passionate about her family, her church and gardening. Survivors: her daughters, Carley (Howard) Woodhead, and Jeannie Magee; her son, Gerald (Freida) Cooper; and daughter-in-law Joanne Cooper; 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pierce; her son Jack; grandson Jerry, great-granddaughter Brianna; 10 brothers and sisters; and her parents, Peter and Elizabeth Hypes.

ROONEY, June Marion Haupt, born June 21, 1931, in Youngstown, Ohio, to the late Charles T. and Daisy P. Young Hendricks; died January 14, 2011, after an extended illness. She was a member of the Evergreen church in Boardman, Ohio. June enjoyed her church, baking and caring for her family. In her later years, she enjoyed taking day trips and spending time with her great-grandchildren. Surviving: her husband of 60 years, William R. Rooney; a daughter, Melody J. Suffolk; a granddaughter, Heather J. (Adam) Rowland; great-grandchildren, Conner and Chloe Rowland; a niece, Cynthia (Ron) Dudek; and a nephew, Marty (Joyce) Mayer. Her twin sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Martin Mayer preceded her in death.

ROSS, Deborah "Deb" L., born May 17, 1956, in Sayre, Pa.; died March 3, 2011, in Rome, Pa. She was a member of the Sayre (Pa.) church, where she served as a deaconess. Surviving: her husband, Richard "Dick" E. Ross, of Rome; her son, Josh Ross; her daughter Judy (Robert) Nero, of Rome; her parents, Irwin and Lucille Chrispell, of Rome; her brothers, Daniel (Elaine) Chrispell and Timothy (Janine) Chrispell; and three grandchildren.

ROSS, Victor Ward, born October 22, 1922, in LeRaysville, Pa.; died April 1, 2011, in Towanda, Pa. He was a member of the Montrose (Pa.) church. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Leona (Berry) Ross; his daughter, Cindy Kobe, of New Albany, Pa.; and his sister, Donna Marie Arnold, of New Milford, Pa.

SALAZAR, Lilia L., born November 27, 1916, in San José, Costa Rica; died February 18, 2011, in Dayton, Md. She was a member of the Spencerville (Md.) church and, prior to that, at Sligo church for more than 50 years. Surviving: her sons, Albert Salazar of Dana Point, Calif., and LeRoy Salazar of Silver Spring, Md.; a daughter, Elena Hansen of Silver Spring, Md.; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Lilia was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar.

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Published by the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed at the Review & Herald Publishing Association.

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Volume 116 ■ Issue 10

Move

Accelerometer studies indicate that American children and adults, on average, spend 55 percent of our waking hours being sedentary. We sit while commuting, at work or school, and again in the evening at home. But all this sitting may be hazardous to our health. Recent medical research found that those people who sat at least half the time during the day had a significantly increased risk of dying from any cause. This increased risk from long periods of sitting was independent of age, weight, tobacco and alcohol use, and even if they exercised daily or not. In other words, meeting the



recommended levels of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity did not protect them from the effects of prolonged sitting. Perhaps God anticipated our sedentary lifestyle when He inspired the admonition in

Proverbs 6:6, 8: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ... How long will you lie there" (NIV)? Begin today to think of creative ways you can take more frequent "move" breaks and decrease the amount of time you spend sitting.

REFLECT - How many hours do I spend in sedentary activities? What can I do to sit less and move more?

RESPOND - Father, You created me with muscles for moving! Help me to think of ways to sit less and move more so I can experience the active lifestyle and health You want me to have. Amen.

RELATE - My exercise program includes moving more throughout the day.

REMEMBER - "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isa. 40:31, NIV).

RESOURCE - Watch Judy Lichty, regional director for Health and Wellness for Rockville, Md.-based Adventist HealthCare, talk more about this topic at youtube.com/user/ColumbiaUnion.

Wellness coach Lilly Tryon is the principal contributor for the 2011 Visitor Calendar, expounded upon here each month.

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