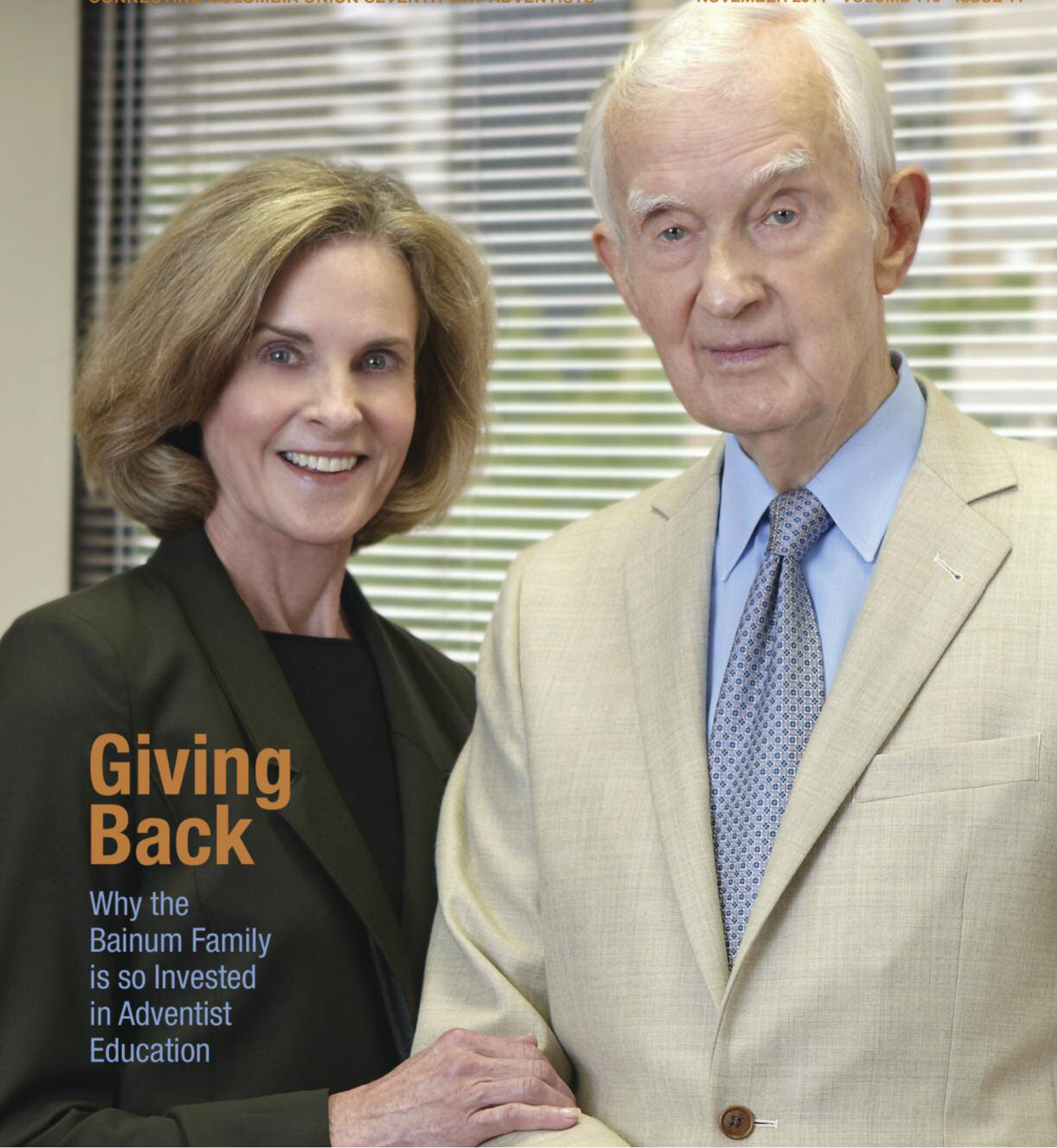


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOVEMBER 2011 • VOLUME 116 • ISSUE 11



Giving Back

Why the Bainum Family is so Invested in Adventist Education

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Despite his many achievements, successful businessman and philanthropist Stewart Bainum never forgot his humble beginnings. In 1968 he created the Commonwealth Foundation—now led by his daughter, Barbara—as a means to give back to his community. Learn more about how his family continues to invest in Seventh-day Adventist education.

About the Cover: James Ferry photographed Stewart Bainum and his daughter, Barbara, in their Chevy Chase, Md., office.

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STAY CONNECTED



columbiaunion.org

On the Web

Calendar – Our 2012 *Visitor* Calendar is coming! It will feature



healthy recipes from Clara Iuliano, a registered dietitian who specializes in highs—blood pressure, body weight and cholesterol. Look

for it in your mailbox next month. For additional, free copies, email bweigley@columbiaunion.net.

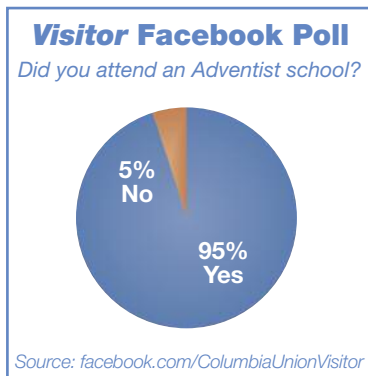


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Kudos to Our Unheralded Heroes!

At several critical moments in my educational life, I benefitted from life-changing interaction with godly, Seventh-day Adventist teachers and administrators. They helped me pause, reflect on my life, lean on my Savior and allow God to work out His purpose for my life. One university professor, in particular, provided me with friendship, counsel and tangible support at a time when I had exhausted all of my resources.



I was too proud to request anything, but the Spirit of God impressed him to cut through my resistance. Any success that I have subsequently achieved, I owe in part to this spiritual man. And now I count it an honor to have played a part in educational ministry for the past 34 years.

I know that this story can be replicated in other schools across our union. For hours each weekday, school staff encourage our young people—our children—not only to read, write and spell, but also, more importantly, to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. I have already witnessed such devotion at Chesapeake Conference’s Crossroads Adventist School in Ellicott City, Md., where my sons SeanLee and Elian attend. I am thrilled and amazed at the sacrifices the staff makes each day, and my boys are excited about their school.

I think of Cindy French-Puterbaugh, associate superintendent for the Ohio Conference, who continues to consult Ohio educators despite long-term health challenges. I think of Silvea Thomas of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Teaneck (N.J.) church who volunteers as a board chair for the Wilbert F. Mays School, devoting her valuable time to help Fansico Williams, head teacher, ensure the school’s success. I think of MyRon Edmonds, the young pastor of AEC’s Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, who promised his church’s full support to increase the declining enrollment of Columbus Adventist Academy. As a result, their student body has grown from the low 30s to more than 90.



TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER

Because we’re well into another school year, and thousands of students are being taught under the watchful eyes of our devoted educators, I propose that this is an appropriate time to step back, assess and hand out kudos to these unheralded heroes. Let us renew our support for Adventist education. Let us invest in our children. And, let us encourage the ones who have served or continue to serve.

Ian Kelly is the associate director of Education for the Columbia Union Conference.



TV Ads Teach West Virginia Viewers About Adventists

While surfing through their cable TV channels for the past few months, residents of Parkersburg, W.Va., have been seeing ads from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One ad, "Take the Gift," highlights God's grace, while the other invites viewers to attend one of the church's popular Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) programs. Part of a yearlong campaign to increase awareness of the church in the area, the ads are a result of a partnership between the General Conference, North American Division, Columbia Union and Mountain View Conference. Read more on p. 26.

2012 UNION CAMPOREE DATES SET

Pathfinders can mark their calendars for August 8-11, 2012, the date of the "Choose Without Compromise" union camporee. Pam Scheib, camporee director, is leading youth and Pathfinder directors from each of the Columbia Union's eight conferences in planning this special event, which will be held at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio.

Rachael Hall, a Delaware (Ohio) Discoverers Pathfinder, recently

won an iPod for designing the winning patch for the 2012 camporee. Her pastor, Ron Vozar, is pictured presenting her with the award.

For more camporee details, visit columbiaunion.org/camporee2012.—*Frank Bondurant*

UNION HELPS YOUTH LEADERS "RECHARGE"

Approximately 150 youth and young adult ministry leaders from six out of the union's eight conferences gathered on Sabbath at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters in Columbia, Md., to participate in "ReCharge," a training event. The training was a result of a partnership between the union, North American Division and Potomac, Chesapeake and Mountain View conferences. They chose from seminar tracks for youth leaders (in English and Spanish) and young adult leaders. Read more at columbiaunion.org/youthleadership.



WAU/AUC BRANCH CAMPUS TALKS END

After several months of talks with Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., to operate a branch campus at Atlantic Union College (AUC) in South Lancaster, Mass., the Board of Trustees for AUC voted to suspend any further negotiations at this time after the institutions were unable to reach an operating agreement.

AUC and its constituents will now look at other ways to maintain the mission of Seventh-day Adventist Christian higher education in the Atlantic Union Conference territory.



HISPANIC PASTORS WORK ON GRADUATE DEGREES CLOSE TO HOME

Luis Estrada (right), pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s Emanuel Spanish church in Mount Rainier, Md., is one of 29 Spanish-speaking pastors and lay leaders working on a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University (Mich.) by taking three, one-week intensive classes at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters in Columbia, Md.

Estrada, who is pictured with Ricardo Norton, DMin, the program’s coordinator, says, “This is one of the most important things I can do to serve God, and that is to update my education.”

The Columbia Union is one of four unions sponsoring the program. The 48-credit-hour program covers theology, history of the Adventist Church, mission, prophecy and practical theology. It also has two added benefits: it is offered in Spanish and allows pastors to learn while they continue to actively minister at their home churches. Read more at columbiaunion.org/spanishmasters.



Kettering College faculty, students and staff start the new year with a convocation.

By the Numbers: College, University Enrollment

The Columbia Union’s two institutions of higher education are celebrating record enrollment. Here are this fall’s enrollment numbers for Kettering College in Kettering, Ohio, and Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md. With 938 students registered, Kettering College’s previous enrollment records have been shattered. Read more about Kettering College on p. 16 and WAU on p. 40.

	WAU	Kettering College
Total Enrolled 2011-12	1,493	938
Total Enrolled 2010-11	1,287	917
New Students	257	391
Freshmen	180	89
Degrees Offered	45	12

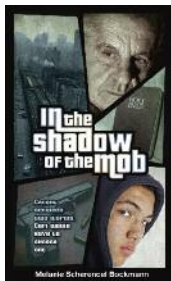
Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *In the Shadow of the Mob* Melanie Scherencel Bockmann

A dark childhood influenced by the Italian Mafia certainly didn't keep Carl Rodriguez (below) from the Lord's loving grasp. Learn how Rodriguez, Chesapeake Conference's director for Children's Ministries, was led from a life of crime to one of Christian service in this junior sharing book



from the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md. "We serve a God who understands us in whatever



Keeping Score

Praying Habits Increase With Age

41 Percent of Millennials who pray daily

54 Percent of Gen Xers who pray daily

62 Percent of Boomers who pray daily

Source: *Christianity Today*

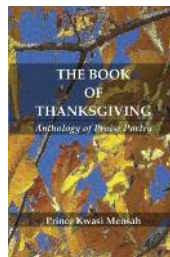
situation, circumstances and home environment we had no choice in being born into," he says. Get a copy at your local Adventist Book Center.

The Book of Thanksgiving Prince Kwasi Mensah

This compilation of poetry by Prince Kwasi Mensah, a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., is



primarily about "the attitude of gratitude," he explains. "There is a need to vocalize what others—God, family and friends—have done for us." With titles like "In Your Honor" and "Gratitude," it's clear Mensah wants to convey a sense of thankfulness "toward everyone who played a role—however big or small—in our lives." Order a copy through Amazon.com.



Website > *Pastor2Pastor.info* Tim Madding

"The greatest resource for a pastor is his/her colleagues—fellow pastors in the field—living and implementing a missional

Did You Know?

Adventist HealthCare started a new health blog on local Patch.com websites in Montgomery County, Maryland. It features



Judy Lichty, their director of Health and Wellness and a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Read posts and watch videos on topics like protecting your young athlete from a concussion and breast cancer awareness. Visit <http://rockville.patch.com> and



search for Lichty.

life," states Tim Madding, Pennsylvania Conference's new director for Leadership and Spiritual Growth. The site includes a blog, podcast, sermons and resources, and coordinates with a Facebook page, Pastor to Pastor. Through the site, Madding hopes to encourage and support other pastors in Pennsylvania and beyond, and to provide an avenue for sharing ideas. Visit today and join the conversation.



On the Web

Retweets >

FrederickChurch



Been looking for a way to share your church with others? Check out our

new promotional video: fb.me/Cr6WxAog. More to come soon!
—Frederick (Md.) Church

dwprlady



All the desserts were gone at church potluck. Not to worry. Made my own

at home. 15 more minutes & it's hot brownies time. (Woo-woo!)
—Diana White, Eastwood Church, Westerville Ohio

Facebooked >

Best Practices for Adventist Ministry



Membership, which was such an important measurement in times past, seems

less meaningful today. It may be used for some conference calculations, such as insurance, staffing or ingathering goals. But in most congregations I know, the membership roster corresponds poorly to the people you'll see in church on Sabbath. In our conference, and perhaps yours too, we've replaced membership with church attendance as the primary measurement of participation.

—Loren Siebold, Pastor, Athens/Marietta/Wintersville/Zanesville District, Ohio Conference

In the Spotlight >
Tappahannock Junior Academy

Humble Beginnings: Tappahannock Junior Academy (TJA) in Tappahannock, Va., started 45 years ago in a parent's home. Just one year later, parents, students and relatives worked together to build a two-room schoolhouse.



Today a more modern building accommodates 66 students, 57 of whom are from the community—their mission field. Local parents mostly learn about TJA through word of mouth.

In Body, Mind and Spirit:

Daily, TJA students are encouraged to uphold the school's mission statement: "To do my best by God's strength, and body,

mind and spirit." The junior academy's six teachers incorporate outreach into their curriculum and have classes go into the community and participate in everything from cleanup projects to nursing home visitations. At Christmastime, TJA students work with the church's Community Services department to provide gifts for families in need, while the handbell choir performs church and community concerts. Additionally, last year, nearly 40 students and family members traveled to Holbrook Indian School (Ariz.) to remodel a building.

Church Support: "Parents and members of the Tappahannock Seventh-day Adventist church are heavily involved with the school, and very supportive," shares Kim Peterson (above), principal and a former student. Their support includes financial contributions. "Two years ago, parents and church members raised over \$10,000 to purchase handbells for the school," she adds.



An Expanded Future:

Exciting plans are in the works to expand the school—physically and scholastically. While TJA currently offers classes in pre-K through 10th grade, Peterson explains, "We want to add 11th and 12th grades, or at least begin to offer classes. And, more classrooms are needed as well as a gymnasium." —Ruth Collins

WHY THE BAINUM
FAMILY IS SO INVESTED IN
ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Giving Back



The Bainum Family

philanthropist Stewart Bainum. “One of our core beliefs at Commonweal Foundation is that, if you want to go far, you have to have an education,” he asserts. “We believe that each individual has value and potential and deserves a quality learning environment. Our goal is to provide them with that.”

A POCKET FULL OF DREAMS

Stewart, now 92, was forced to drop out as a student at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) in Mount Vernon, Ohio, in the 1930s because he could not pay his tuition. With no real prospects and only \$3 in his pocket, he hitchhiked to Washington, D.C., looking for work. Once there, he got a job as a plumber’s assistant, making 30 cents an hour.

After a year and a half in the city, he managed to save enough money to return and finish his studies at MVA. He continued his education at what is now Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., ultimately settling in the capital area.

Due to self-discipline, perseverance, strong work ethic, vision and business acumen, Stewart

Nadia McGill

If

you ask Barbara Bainum, the Commonweal Foundation is “the best-kept secret in the Washington, D.C., area.” However, speaking as the organization’s president, CEO and chair, she adds, “We’re doing our best to change that.”

And they should. The Bainum family has been operating the Commonweal Foundation (cweal.org) under the radar for more than 40 years, donating millions of dollars every year—an estimated \$18 million in the past year alone—to support programs and projects that help disadvantaged youth across the country succeed academically.

Their success is tied to the foundation’s mission, which reflects the values and life philosophies of its founder, successful businessman and

grew more and more successful. He developed several businesses, including a plumbing and mechanical contracting company, and got into the apartment and office development industry. In 1951 he founded the Realty Investment Company, Inc.

After building his first motel in 1957, Stewart joined an association of independent hotel owners that he would eventually be asked to run. That association became Choice Hotels International, which is now the second largest hotel franchise company in the world. He is also the founder of ManorCare, which in 1998 became part of HCR ManorCare, the nation's top nursing home corporation.

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

Despite his achievements, Stewart, a member at WAU's Sligo church, never forgot his humble beginnings. In 1968 he created the College Fund, as it was originally named, as a means to give back to his community. He provided financially needy students with loans to help them pay for their college education.

However, since then, he has grown the organization's mission and objectives, changing not only its name in 1985 to the Commonwealth Foundation, but also shifting its focus to support disadvantaged youth currently enrolled in secondary education.

The catalyst for this change came in 1988 when Commonwealth was a key supporter of the "I Have a Dream" Program. Stewart agreed to pay the college tuition of 67 seventh-graders at Kramer Junior High School in southeast Washington, D.C., if they finished

high school. The results were spectacular! Nearly 75 percent of the 67 "Dreamers," as they were called, graduated high school, compared to only 27 percent of their peers. In addition, of the 10 that Stewart sent to his alma mater, Mount Vernon Academy, nine graduated.

From this experience, he developed Commonwealth's Pathways to Success Program (PSP), through which he continues to provide low-income middle and high school students with scholarships to attend private, faith-based boarding and day schools selected by Commonwealth.

"Both of my parents grew up in poverty," explains Barbara, Stewart's daughter and his successor at Commonwealth, and also a Sligo church member. "Having the opportunity to go to boarding school, they really felt that it changed their lives ... this had an immense impact on how the focus of the foundation has evolved."

We believe
that each
individual
has value
and potential
and deserves
a quality
learning
environment.

—Barbara Bainum



Young Plumber: Stewart Bainum, 1937

Commonweal's Adventist Partners

Auburn Adventist Academy (Wash.)
Bass Memorial Academy (Miss.)
Blue Mountain Academy (Hamburg, Pa.)*
Campion Academy (Colo.)
Fletcher Academy (N.C.)
Forest Lake Academy (Fla.)
Georgia-Cumberland Academy (Ga.)
Great Lakes Adventist Academy (Mich.)
Highland View Academy (Hagerstown, Md.)*
Holbrook Indian School (Ariz.)
Monterey Bay Academy (Calif.)
Mount Pisgah Academy (N.C.)
Mount Vernon Academy (Mount Vernon, Ohio)*
Ozark Adventist Academy (Ariz.)
Pine Forge Academy (Pine Forge, Pa.)*
Piney Woods School (Miss.)
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy (Calif.)
Shenandoah Valley Academy (New Market, Va.)*
Takoma Academy (Takoma Park, Md.)*
Upper Columbia Academy (Wash.)
Wisconsin Academy (Wis.)
Valley Grande Adventist Academy (Texas)

**Columbia Union-based schools*

HELPING SCHOOLS HELP STUDENTS

Through Commonweal, the Bainums also provide schools with the resources they need to help students reach their potential, in the form of grants and multi-year service contracts. Some of this assistance has gone to meet school needs, including staffing shortfalls, staff training and development, and facility renovation.

Since Commonweal's inception, the Bainum family has given 6,725 scholarships to needy students, and they partner with, on average, approximately 39 schools each year, more than half of which are Seventh-day Adventist.

In addition to the PSP, Commonweal's other programs help supplement and improve students' chances of academic

Barbara Bainum (center) visits with Pathways to Success students (left to right) Andre Walters, Diadem DeGuzman, Adrian Dixon, Johnathan Black and Anyssa Butler.



PHOTO BY AL PEASLEY

success. Through the Learning Support Program and Partners in Learning Program, students between kindergarten and 12th grade can get free tutoring to help improve their literacy rates and math skills.

Through the Grants Program, Commonweal staff manages the financial assistance they provide their partners. One such grant allows them to target community-based organizations focused on youth development; another empowers staff at PSP partner schools to get the training and technical assistance they need to increase student achievement.

CREATING PROGRAMS, GROWING SUCCESS

One of the foundation's newest endeavors is the Summer Internship Program, which started in 2009. Through the program, Commonweal offers third-generation Bainum family members, students from the PSP and local high school seniors a chance to learn more about the nonprofit world. Students can also learn about the foundation's work, specifically in regard to its role in youth and academic development.

"This experience has been great," shared Andre Walters, a senior at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., following his summer internship at Commonweal. "I've had a lot of opportunities in my life, and I want to be able to give back to others who have not been so fortunate. Commonweal has given me that chance."

To help Adventist schools increase their enrollment and academic quality, Commonweal launched the Seventh-day



A Commonweal Foundation grant helped Willie Alvarez acquire a high school education at Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio. He says, "The grant helped me financially so that I could continue my education," which he is pursuing at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.).

Adventist Capacity Building Initiative, which, although still in its earliest stage, is already having a significant impact on its partner schools.

David Daniels, principal at Takoma Academy, can speak favorably about the initiative. "Our test scores are up; our teachers have benefited from professional development training; and we've been able to reduce our expenses due to funding provided for facility renovation. It has been impactful in nearly every component of our work." He adds, "Commonweal is dedicated to helping Adventist education as a whole, and we are happy to partner with them as we work to improve the educational system among our schools."

Although only 40 years young, the Commonweal Foundation continues to grow, and the family behind it remains dedicated to helping its students and partners succeed. As a matter of fact, says Barbara, the growth and development of their students and partnering organizations is essential to the foundation's success. "As we move forward, our intent will be to be much more involved with our schools," she explains. "I am gratified to lead the Commonweal Foundation, knowing that the work that we do embodies what my father wants to give back to his church and community."

Nadia McGill attends Potomac Conference's Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va.

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MINISTRY?

ABSOLUTELY!

The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has provided more than 1,600 loans to help build and expand hundreds of churches, schools, conferences and other entities across the union's eight-state region. One such project includes the construction of Allegheny West Conference's Ohio Central Korean church in Worthington, Ohio.

For more than 40 years, CURF has used funds provided by Columbia Union members to finance these loans. You and CURF truly are "Making Ministry Possible."



**MAKING
MINISTRY
POSSIBLE**

COLUMBIA UNION
REVOLVING FUND
(866) 721-CURF



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2011

Following Christ's Customer Service Plan

Mark Smith

Throughout the varied phases of my professional life (attorney, professor, healthcare administrator), I have realized that when someone walks into my office, they are most likely afraid and/or stressed: the bankrupt builder desperate to move forward, the weary accounting student baffled by the intricacies of a balance sheet or the anxious patient awaiting test results and medical bills. Occasionally, however, complex moments lead to specific, joyful outcomes beyond our own abilities—although no one has asked me to rebuild a car engine, decorate a house or plan a wedding. But, often the most desired result includes finding peace in the midst of uncertainty.

A DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Jesus understood this collision of hardship and vulnerability. As the Great Healer, He outlined a blueprint for caregivers and care receivers. He said, "Come unto me all ye who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28, NIV). He was never too busy, crowds were never too large and meeting agendas never ran too long (now that is a divine concept!) for Him to reach those who were most in need. He sought "customers" for his Father's kingdom by extending healing, hope and peace, often when least expected. He transformed lives through physical and spiritual wellness by always starting with compassion and attention to detail.

Following my own diagnosis and treatment for skin cancer in 1998, I experienced firsthand the overlapping nature of fear and need. While I knew that God was with me, I also learned that it is far easier during prosperity than adversity to trust Him and the ambassadors He puts in our paths. The situation tested my faith in His will and my willingness to allow others to intervene. But as a result of being a cancer patient, God strengthened not only my relationship with Him, but also my future relationships with others in need that has led to a passion for healthcare customer service.

WE ARE STEWARDS OF PEACE

As Christians, particularly in the realm of healthcare, we have an unlimited opportunity to interact with



people who are filled with fear, uncertainty and anxiety. In my 10 months as president of Sycamore Medical Center, I have observed and rejoiced in many moments of Christ-like compassion. And there is so much more that can be done, not only within the walls of our medical facilities, but also in the communities we serve. This is why, for me, compassionate customer service is not only a business priority, it is a mission initiative inspired by the One who offers ultimate hope, joy and peace that passes all understanding.

Mark Smith is president of Sycamore Medical Center and a member of the Kettering church. He joined Kettering Adventist HealthCare in April 2010.

Sycamore Glen Continues 18-Year Service to Dayton-Miamisburg Seniors

The small town charm, friendly atmosphere and cheerful surroundings of Miamisburg, Ohio, have made the Sycamore Glen Retirement Community a delightful place to call home since its doors opened in 1986. Known as the area's most scenic retirement community with mature trees and spectacular rolling hillsides, it sits nestled inside the campus of Sycamore Hospital.

As part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, staff at the Sycamore Glen Retirement Community is committed to improving the quality of life of the people they serve. Their mission states: "We are dedicated to excellence and to providing each individual the most appropriate care in the most appropriate setting." In the spirit of Seventh-day Adventist healthcare ministry, they strive to be innovative and to convey God's love in a caring environment.

OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Residents can get several levels of service at Sycamore Glen's health center, including short-term rehabilitation stays, skilled nursing and long-term care. Residents are also offered a perfect combination of affordable quality, security, companionship and well-trained, cordial staff. For short-term rehabilitation patients, there are 20 beautifully decorated, private



rehabilitation suites equipped with televisions, phones, Wi-Fi and private showers. For long-term care patients, the 100-bed facility offers physical, occupational and speech therapy; a podiatrist, optometrist, dentist, pharmacist and psychologist; X-ray and lab services; and 24-hour nursing care.

Sycamore Glen staff identifies, evaluates and tailors comprehensive services to the specific needs of each individual. They also work with family members to enable residents the opportunity to achieve the highest



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY



level of independence. Families are also welcome to visit anytime, which makes it easier to care for their loved ones.

PROGRESSIVE LEADERS

Robert Flowers is Sycamore Glen's new executive director. He recently transitioned to the Miamisburg community from the Cumberland Village Care and Rehabilitation Center in Tennessee where he worked for 12 years as a nursing home administrator. He and his family attend the Kettering church and have felt a very warm welcome.

In his few short months with Sycamore Glen, Flowers has already made a major impact on patient care. When facility staff encountered a very atypical patient, rather than direct the patient to another facility, Flowers decided to broaden Sycamore Glen's scope of practice and integrate the patient. With his guidance, the staff learned to meet the needs of the new patient. Although the process was not always easy, the staff stepped up to the task. "Rob has really helped the staff to raise the bar on patient care," stated one staff member.



KEEPING RESIDENTS ACTIVE

Sycamore Glen staff keeps the entire retirement community active with monthly events and programs ranging from the Grandparent's Day Social to shopping outings. Residents can also take a shuttle service across campus to attend the Miamisburg church. Members from other nearby churches regularly put on Sabbath afternoon programs at Sycamore Glen for residents who wish to stay onsite. No other senior living community in the greater Montgomery County area is able to offer this much selection on one campus!



Kettering College Posts Highest Opening Enrollment

With a total of 938 students enrolled for the fall semester, Kettering College has posted its highest opening enrollment in its 44-year history. According to the school's final opening report, 545 full-time and 393 part-time (three-quarter-time or less) students registered for fall classes. The number overshadows the previous high of 917 that was set at the start of the 2010-11 school year, and is the fourth consecutive year that the college has topped its previous best opening enrollment numbers.



"Our enrollment goes up because our graduates are happy with their education—and the word gets out," explained Charles Scriven, PhD, college president. "Obviously, we can't discount the current economy as a factor, but the bottom line is the quality education that our students receive here."

Kettering College had 510 students at the start of the 2000-01 academic year, the same year Scriven was hired. Since then, the school has jumped 46 percent in total enrollment and 45 percent in total credit hours.—*Mindy Claggett*

Kettering Adventist HealthCare Sponsors Breast Cancer Walk

For the last few years, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) has been a major sponsor of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. At this year's walk, KAHC employees distributed pink roses with information cards about early detection to the approximately 5,000 walkers.

"Many women feel touched to receive a rose, and it is important for us to get out the message to get yearly checks," explained Sue Brake, manager of the Kettering Breast Evaluation Center. The walk was an



Kettering Adventist HealthCare staff distribute roses during the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

appropriate October celebration for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.

Greene Memorial Celebrates 60 Years

Greene Memorial Hospital recently celebrated 60 years of service to the Xenia, Ohio, community. During their celebration, staff invited residents to meet hospital president Terry Burns, tour the facility and enjoy free food. Other activities included free blood pressure screenings and face painting for the kids. A visit from Xenia mayor Marsha Bayless helped commemorate the day when she declared September 25 as Greene Memorial Day.



Local children enjoy cupcakes provided by Greene Memorial Hospital during their 60th anniversary celebration.

3535 Southern Boulevard
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-4331
www.khnetwork.org For Life®

Liberty, Pikesville Youth Week of Prayer Leaves Lasting Impression

For the first time I understand prophecy in a useable way,” said Dianna McKenna, 23, of the Pikesville (Md.) church. “This is the first time I really understand how [it] connects to me and my life.”

McKenna was one of 10 members from the Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Liberty church in Baltimore and Chesapeake Conference’s Pikesville church, who sat in a circle under a white tent and talked in excited tones of a youth week of prayer that ended days before. All shared a deep appreciation for learning how to surrender. Punctuated with prayer and singing, they gathered to share their impressions of the messages from the week—messages that left many who attended yearning for a change.

Hermin Cox has been in the church for 16 years but felt this one youth week of prayer revived her more than all her years of attending revivals. “I am asking God to guard the Word I received, so I don’t forget it and so no one takes it from me,” said Cox, a member of Liberty.

The week of prayer they spoke of, called “Youth-4-Christ Stand,” was a youth-focused initiative that allowed members of the two congregations to work together to mobilize the youth and young adults in the Randallstown, Md.-area to do evangelism. Instead of holding the meetings in the church building, the meetings were held on an athletic field under a tent, and the youth of both churches ministered through ushering, song service, special music, opening prayer and a nightly quiz. For three weeks prior, the youth invited the community through door-to-door visits and a bottled



water giveaway (above), and they gave more than 2,000 invitations. In addition, senior youth organized a benefit concert for the homeless, raised about \$500, plus received several bags of clothing and food.

“I thought [the meeting] was tremendous,” said Robert Moses, AEC’s associate Publishing director. “Churches working together bring various gifts into the ministry. No one particular church has all the gifts, and churches working together combine their gifts to make a more complete package.” Moses noted that the open-air meeting combined with the energy of the young people was a real attraction to many.

During the week, Pastor Stephen D. Lewis (left), founder of The Present Truth, an independent ministry based in California, delivered messages with clarity and power on God’s last day people.

“I really appreciate how Pastor Lewis said to introduce people to Christ first,” said Thierry Lamour of Liberty. “We are to lift up Christ, not vegetarianism or dress reform because these will not save us. It is Jesus Christ who saves and all the other things will follow.”

One visitor listened from his apartment across the street. One night when Lewis said, “Turn down the speakers because people need to know Jesus before they hear this,” the visitor bolted from his apartment and found a seat under the tent. That was the night he first understood the beast powers of Revelation 13.

Both churches are following up with the 20 visitors who requested Bible study.—*Barbara Crawford*



PHOTOS BY MIRLENE ANDRE AND PATRICIA RICHARDSON

NEWS

United in Christ Hosts First Homecoming

During its first homecoming celebration, the United in Christ church on Old York Road on the east side of Baltimore recently welcomed back former pastors and members with open arms.

Conklin Gentry served as the first pastor of this church that was formed when the New Macedonia and First Maranatha churches became one in 2003, so it was only fitting that he preached the Sabbath sermon. Currently serving as AEC's conference evangelist,



United in Christ members greet current, new and returning members.

Conklin titled his sermon "One Last Move." The four-day homecoming themed "We've Come This Far by Faith," featured former pastors George Williams, Jimmy L.H. Ferguson and C.D. Jenkins, who spoke in the evenings leading up to the Sabbath celebration.

Several people rededicated their lives to Christ on Sabbath while others requested Bible studies. The celebration ended with a special luncheon in the fellowship hall dedicated to the memory of the late Margaret Perry who was an elder at the church.

Spanish Churches Celebrate Day of Fellowship

If there is one thing that nearly 800 Spanish-speaking members (above) took away from Allegheny East Conference's recent day of



fellowship, it was the realization that Christ's coming is drawing ever nearer. "Wake up! Wake up! Jesus is coming!" urged Ramon Escalante in a morning evangelism seminar. As the conference's coordinator for the Spanish Council of Churches, Escalante's office is responsible for organizing this event in Cambridge, Md., that each year draws members from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Guided by the theme "Reaviviamento, Reforma y Renovacion" (Revival, Reformation and Revival), the entire day was not just an opportunity to fellowship but also to learn. Divine service speaker Matias Solis, a pastor from Puerto Rico, continued on the same theme of Christ's second coming.

The day of fellowship continued with 14 baptisms, leadership seminars, a season of prayer and anointing and a recognition service for outstanding lay leaders.

Pine Forge Students Use Math to Solve Real-Life Problems

Every day teachers at Pine Forge Academy challenge their students with practical application of what they learn in the classroom.

Recently the Pre-Calculus classes were given a project: "Get running water in the math trailer." The only catch was that the students could only use technology they fully understood! After sharing many ideas, the students successfully completed the project.

The students in the Honors Algebra 2 With Pre-Calculus class were required to construct a quarter-mile track with four lanes on the field behind the boys' dormitory before the Kris Fielder Endurance Olympic Day. While it was no easy task, the seven students completed the track in just a few days!

"Pine Forge Academy is making new strides this year to improve in all aspects of its program," says Norman Niles, Mathematics Department chair. "Students are not only energized, but their level of maturity and readiness for college is well above most other students throughout the country!"



Ludanne Francis ('14) washes her hands in the new "sink."

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

Ephesus Church Teaches Community About Health

An overturned car, a 30-foot Veterans Affairs mobile unit, moon bounces and numerous booths were among the attention-grabbing aspects of the Ephesus church's interactive Healthy at Every Age Community Health Fair in Columbus, Ohio. Ephesus congregants, along with support from members of the nearby Central, Beacon of Hope and Worthington churches, made a quick impression on attendees at the registration booth where the upside-down, wrecked vehicle was on display. A sign next to the car urged people not to text and drive, and registrants were asked to sign a pledge. There was also a mound of stacked cans, which were donations made by those who wanted to enter the drawing for a Nintendo Wii.

At the children's area, directed by Belvia Jackson, not only were there moon bounces, but also bubble machines and arts and crafts. Additionally, the Anointed Grace dance ministry led an aerobic exercise routine, the local police department hosted a bicycle rodeo and gave away more than 100 helmets, and the local fire department brought a smoke house and fire truck. The children also played a game of soccer and got healthy smoothies to wash down the healthy snacks they learned how to make.



Through the disability awareness booth, local teens got to experience just how difficult it is to operate a wheelchair and to ambulate with impaired vision. Through an imitation medical school with more than 20 displays, the teens also learned how to operate an endoscope, palpate a prostate model for



cancerous nodules and listen to heart murmurs among other actions. Those who completed the "school" received a mock diploma from deans Monifa Hawthorn and Nick Golden.

There were health screenings and medical specialists available to answer questions on nutrition and health conditions like high and low blood pressure, Alzheimer's disease and sexually transmitted diseases. There were also handouts on topics like life insurance, funeral planning, employment and education. The Veterans Affairs mobile unit was fully equipped with an exam room and allowed veterans to sign up for benefits. At the spiritual health booth, members accepted prayer requests, held a book drawing and provided a list of services the pastoral staff offers the community.



Church members and those from Ephesus' Good Samaritan Club offered samples of vegan and vegetarian delicacies, while Beacon of Hope member Tara Taylor and other fitness experts led attendees in activities to promote wellness, including chair volleyball, an obstacle course and a boxing demonstration. They also showed two documentaries, *Forks Over Knives* and *Food, Inc.*

"The fair was a beautiful display of God's power at work," said Lauren Arthur, event coordinator. "When God's people focus on a common goal and collaborate to further the gospel via any ministry, there can only be success."—Benin Lee

Ethnan Temple Partners With Save-A-Lot to Teach Nutrition

For two hours during one or two Sundays each month, members of the Ethnan Temple Health Ministries Department purchase and prepare healthy food samples for customers of Save-A-Lot, the only grocery store in their Wilkinsburg, Pa., neighborhood. Members hope to introduce nutritious food options to the community as an instrument of evangelism. Members Marlene Doswell, PhD, and Joy Payne, MPH, RN, who spearheaded the project, followed the example set by other grocery chains.

The samples the church members have made include fruit smoothies,

bean burritos and cottage cheese-based vegetarian patties. They print and distribute each recipe and provide health literature from the Allegheny County Department of Health, which provides details on various illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension that are directly linked to poor nutrition. They also make available copies of the book *Steps to Christ* as well as literature on church evangelistic campaigns and youth programs.

During the past year, the church has engaged approximately 150 residents through the ministry, some of whom have expressed an interest in the church's Breathe Free smoking cessation program and cooking classes. Due to the success of the program to date, Ethnan Temple's Health Ministries team intends to expand the program to include three additional components: health screenings, a health-related survey and a recipe book. The team also wants to test the approach at other area grocers and at community health fairs.



Marlene Doswell and Joy Payne hand out healthy food samples to Save-A-Lot customers, an initiative they spearheaded on behalf of the Ethnan Temple Health Ministries department.



Three Angels Message Church Reaches Out to Singles

The Family Life Council at the Three Angels Message church in Danville, Va., views singles as a necessary and important part of the body of Christ, and they are work-

ing to develop an outreach to single members and local residents. One of the council's most recent efforts was a two-day event themed "Single, Blessed and Giving God Our Best!" The weekend consisted of a rap session for teens on Friday evening and a roundtable discussion for young and older adults on Sabbath afternoon.

Rodney Valentine, pastor of the Fruit of the Spirit and South

Fountain churches in Columbus and Springfield, Ohio, was the facilitator for both workshops and the speaker for the divine worship service. He titled his sermon "All He's Asking for is a Little RESPECT (Relinquish Every Sinful Pleasure Embrace Christ Totally)." Throughout the weekend, Pastor Valentine advised attendees that putting Christ first is the only way to give and be your best.—Parrish Lewis



Left to right: Parrish Lewis, Pastor Rodney Valentine, William Mimms and Anthony Jackson from the Three Angels Message church all help lead services during their recent two-day singles event.

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COMMUNIQUE

NOVEMBER 2011

New Staff Shares Passion, Talents With Campus

Glen Wilson, Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) new vice principal, comes from Tri-City Junior Academy (Wash.). A Canadian by birth, Wilson has a degree in secondary physical education from Canadian Union College and a master's in educational administration from Andrews University (Mich.). He has taught students in elementary grades through high school, and has been an assistant dean, vice principal and a basketball, volleyball and flag football coach.

Wilson's wife, Noralynn, is a registered nurse who specializes in intensive, critical and emergency care. The couple has two children: Shayla, a BMA freshman, and Jayden, a student at nearby Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary (BME). Wilson lists as his passions: sports, music and singing, motorcycles, good books and family.

Jeff Chilson is a senior finance executive who has a passion for Christian education and service. He says his new role as vice principal of finance is to "identify and implement business opportunities to further the mission and vision of Blue Mountain Academy." His goal is "growing a sustainable future for BMA."

Chilson earned his master's degree from the Rollins College Crummer Graduate School of Business (Fla.), and his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.). He is a certified public accountant and information systems auditor. Chilson spent the first two and a half years after college as a General Conference auditor, and the past 20 years he devoted to healthcare, primarily as a chief financial officer, controller and manager.

Born in Wellsboro, Pa., Chilson volunteers his time as the BME school board chairman and as treasurer for the Blue Mountain Academy church. He is married to Nina and has a daughter, Sydney, who is a freshman at Andrews. He enjoys scuba diving, outdoor activities like driving all-terrain vehicles and riding

horseback, listening to audiobooks, traveling and working on computers.

Lawrence Galera is the school's new conductor for the Sylvan Singers and Bel Canto. He also teaches voice and music history and theory. Galera graduated from Andrews and Indiana universities and holds a bachelor's in music education with an emphasis in voice, a master's in instrumental conducting and is a doctoral candidate in choral conducting.

Galera is married to Catherine. His vision is to "prepare musicians for the life to come."

Alex Bolanos, the new physical education teacher and Aerial Aires coach, was born in Guatemala but grew up in Dallas. He graduated from Southern in December 2009 and spent six months as a student missionary on the island of Yap. He previously served as the boys' dean at Ozark Academy (Ark.).

Bolanos' vision is that "every student who comes through my class will experience the love of God through the enjoyment of team-building skills and exercise."

Cynthia Ashburn is the new custodial supervisor, as well as an assistant cafeteria supervisor two days a week. Ashburn and her husband, Jim, have two daughters: Amanda, a freshman at Union College (Neb.), and Hannah, a BMA junior.

Ashburn enjoys reading, making cards with rubber stamping and meeting new people.

Her goal this school year is to model God's love and to teach the students that any job can be enjoyable if it is done to His glory.—*Kathleen Sutton*



Student Association Sets Spiritual Tone for School Year

BMA's Student Association (SA) leaders chose "Invincible" as their spiritual theme this school year. The group says they found inspiration in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Maile Hoffman, SA president, explains, "We came up with 'Invincible' because this one word is very powerful. We had a lot of ideas like unity, teamwork and victorious, but chose 'Invincible' because it encompasses all these virtues."

Anna Bugbee, SA pastor, pointed out that "physical strength is not what makes you invincible; it's spiritual strength. We want 'Invincible' to be our goal for the year. We want to be unified in Christ and with each other to achieve this invincibility."



Alumni Update: The Sylvaleers Quartet

The Sylvaleers were a male quartet that began singing together as students at Blue Mountain Academy during the 1950s. The four boys—Edgar VanCleve, first tenor; Robert Yingst, second tenor; Elmer Crist, bass; and James Malin, baritone (below)—performed in Virginia, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C., during that time. They even recorded two albums for BMA, *Songs of Blessing, Meditation and Adoration* and *Christmas With Sylvaleers*.

They used the first album as a way to help raise funds for the new administration building.

The Sylvaleers' religious and barbershop-style music had a unique and powerful blend, rivaling other quartet music of their era. Washington Adventist University's radio station WGTS 91.9 FM in Takoma Park, Md., played their music regularly, as did other radio stations throughout the country.

The four boys went on to perform as students of Columbia Union College (now Washington

Adventist University). To the delight of the group, they sang on behalf of the college at East Pennsylvania Camp Meeting, where evangelist H.M.S. Richards, Jr., and other church leaders preached the gospel.

Group members went their separate ways in 1966 and had not sung together until their recent reunion in Huntsville, Ala., when they gathered to sing their old songs and to think about new songs to sing. "Singing together after all of these years was a treasure for us," says Yingst.



Music Fest 2012 Scheduled

Elementary and junior academy musicians are encouraged to plan now to attend BMA's 2012 Music Fest scheduled for March 2-3. Registration starts December 15. Contact Enrollment Services for further details: enroll@bma.us or (484) 662-7007.

Calendar

November

18-20 Parent Weekend
20-27 Thanksgiving Break

December

10 Christmas Concert
21-Jan. 2 Christmas Break

January

17-21 Student FOCUS Week

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

What do I want to be known for? If I could pick my reputation as I take up the new responsibility of serving as president of the Chesapeake Conference, what would it be?

The call from God is rather clear: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21, NKJ). So what are the practical implications of following in the steps of Jesus?

First, I had better love the One I choose to follow. I will want to spend time with Jesus. Reading His Word and taking time to talk with Him will be highlights of each day. I will seek His counsel about decisions large and small. I will live with great anticipation of seeing Him return.

Second, I will want to tell others about such an incredible Friend. I'll look for opportunities to share how much He means to me. Being faithful to teach what He taught will be a priority. My preaching will be focused on Jesus. Growing His church will be a passion. Watching and helping His kingdom grow will be a source of joy.

Third, I will want to do the things that Jesus does. My lifestyle choices will be consistent with the kinds of choices Jesus would make. Treating others the way He would will become a natural part of my personality. The words, attitudes and manner of addressing people will be a reliable indicator of my walk with Him.

So will you join me in accepting the call? Will you follow in the footsteps of Jesus? It is the best choice we can make in every realm of service to which we are called.



Rick Remmers
President

Focused Training Equips Lay Leaders

Conference leadership has implemented a strategic effort this year to provide a variety of training options for lay church leaders. These range from a convention model where participants come together from all the regions of the conference to one-day

leadership development opportunities in targeted territories. The goal is to make instruction and guidance, as well as prospects for networking, readily available and convenient.

Twenty-six churches participated in the conference-wide Youth Leaders Convention held recently at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The event paired general sessions on the essentials of Christian leadership with classes designed specifically for leaders of youth, children, Pathfinder and Adventurer ministries. Participants engaged in interactive small group settings to share ideas and learn from experts.

A Sabbath afternoon of training for leaders of adult Sabbath School programs as well as Health, Family Life and Personal ministries took place recently in Dover, Del. Four conference departmental directors preached in eastern shore churches and invited leaders to gather at the Dover church for a potluck lunch followed by seminars.

This fall congregations have shown a heightened interest in Adventist Community Services (ACS) and disaster response training, according to Evelyn Gates, conference ACS director. She thinks the damage to homes due to Hurricane Irene and other storms have sparked the concern.



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Judy Norwood (right), Children's Ministries director for the Westminster (Md.) church, volunteers for a flash paper demonstration in Vladimir Corea's "Illustrations That Reach Kids" class at the recent Youth Leaders Convention.

Area Churches Boost Literature Ministry

Richard Figueredo, conference Publishing Ministries director, lights up when he tells how the literature ministry is beginning to flourish in area churches. Things took off during the summer months when the Martinsburg (W.Va.), and Hagerstown and Annapolis, Md., churches invited student literature evangelists and their mentors to facilitate Bible studies. Figueredo reports that in Annapolis, 14 students worked for 10 weeks enrolling 80 locals in Bible studies and garnering more than 200 contacts from health and family workshops and a class on how to quit smoking.

Students, primarily from Seventh-day Adventist universities, worked in Hagerstown and nearby Martinsburg to initiate 110 Bible studies that church members continue to provide. The young evangelists also brought more than 40 local kids to participate in Hagerstown's Vacation Bible School program.

Connecting one on one with people through the distribution of tracts has reaped benefits too. Tracts called "GLOW," an acronym for Giving Light to Our World, covering family-friendly topics, led a former Adventist to renew her commitment to keeping the Sabbath, says Robb Long, pastor of the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. Long recently met the woman while distributing literature in a local McDonald's restaurant.

Chesapeake Conference churches purchased more than 50,000 tracts this year to be used in outreach and set up a hotline to respond to telephone inquiries. The Park church in Salisbury, Md., and the Middletown Valley church in Jefferson (Md.), recently held GLOW rallies, and the Waldorf and Salisbury Spanish congregations have plans to launch a GLOW ministry in their neighborhoods. To learn more about the project, visit sdaglow.org.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BOQUIER

Student literature evangelists and members of the Annapolis, Md., church take a break during an afternoon outreach activity.

Hagerstown Launches Community Seminar Series

The Hagerstown congregation reaches out to area residents through a huge "Fun in the Sun" block party and a newly formed community workshop series. The block party is a popular annual event that attracts kids with entice-

ments such as an inflatable slide and moon bounce, and draws adults interested in food samples and health screenings. This year the group added the community seminars as part of an intentional approach to not just meet but also serve the local people, says Chris Holland, the church's senior pastor.

The classes focus on a variety of themes such as holiday cooking, scrapbooking, estate planning, tax preparation and even scuba diving. This month's topic is photography. Visit the church's website at hagerstownadventist.org for details.

—Jolene Thomas

Hagerstown area residents have fun at a free workshop sponsored by the Hagerstown church.



Sue Hullquist (right), a Hagerstown church member, poses with Denny Warrenfelz, owner of Rooster Vane Gardens florist, and a workshop attendee. Warrenfelz demonstrated how to make creative seasonal floral arrangements.

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Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org
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Editor, Samantha Young



PHOTOS BY TIM HULLQUIST

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

NOVEMBER 2011

Members Fellowship by Phone, See Answers to Prayer

It's 7 o'clock on a Monday morning. Most people are busy getting ready for work or school. Some have already left their homes for the day. Some are still asleep. In the Mountain View Conference, people are picking up their phones and dialing into a teleconference prayer line. For an hour each Monday morning, administrators, pastors, prayer coordinators and lay people from across the conference call this line and pray together.

The hour begins with a short devotional. Then participants get right to praising God for what He has done in their lives in the past week. After that they share their prayer requests with one another and with God. Many report seeing results from this shared prayer experience. Here are just a few examples:

In January those on the prayer line began praying for meetings scheduled for March in Charleston, W.Va. As a result of the meetings, 20 people were baptized. Pastor Stewart Pepper, who conducted the meetings, said, "I've never seen anything like it. It was amazing." He gave the credit to God and the workings of the prayer line.

One lady asked for prayer for her husband, who, in the more than 30 years since she has been baptized,



never attended Sabbath services with her. People on the prayer line faithfully prayed for this man, and in May, after attending a series of meetings, he joined his wife on Sabbath morning and has been there every Sabbath since!

Dale Tunnell, conference evangelist, called in saying he couldn't wait to make the call that morning because the previous Wednesday his son and grandson had been in a bad accident and the first thing the evangelist thought of was: *I need to let the people on the prayer line know so they can be praying.* Since that week, the group has been praying for his son and the whole family.

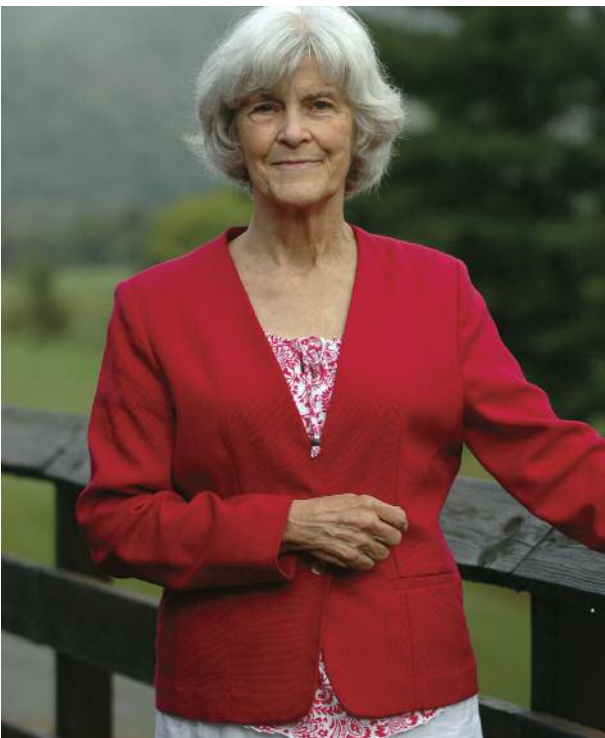
Participants have even prayed for the prayer line itself! Each week anywhere from five or six to 14 people were on the line. Never had there been 15. The group decided to pray for 15 (or more) people to be on the line. It took a few Mondays of prayer, but God heard the plea, and one Monday morning, 21 people got on the line. The whole group was ecstatic and said, "Praise the Lord!"

Peggy Criddle (left) says, "I love the praise time. God says, 'O give thanks unto the Lord,' and giving thanks to the Lord is very uplifting."

Betty Gerath (above), is a regular caller and says, "It's such a blessing to be able to get together with brothers and sisters around the conference and share with one another."

To join the prayer line on Mondays at 7 a.m., call (712) 432-0232 and use access code 891437.

—Kathy Pepper



NEWS

**32 Attend Singles
Retreat at Valley Vista**

"This singles retreat was tremendous. It was the best singles retreat I've ever attended!" says Kathrine McCormick from the Charleston (W.Va.) church. She was one of 32 who attended the singles retreat at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Keynote speaker Jim Ayer, a vice president at Adventist World Radio, preached on "The Ultimate Relationship." McCormick (pictured right, with Ayer's wife, Janene) says, "Ayer's work with Adventist World Radio should be told over and over again." She added, "For me, singles retreats aren't about finding romance. It's about the fellowship, the environment and the message."



Aleta Dustin, a member of the Ripley (W.Va.) church, talks with speaker Jim Ayer.



**Parkersburg TV Ads Teach
Viewers About Adventists**

While surfing through their cable TV channels for the past few months, residents of Parkersburg, W.Va., have been seeing ads from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One ad, "Take the Gift," highlights God's grace, while the other invites viewers to attend one of the church's popular Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) programs. Part of a yearlong campaign to increase awareness of the church in the area, the ads are a result of a partnership between the General Conference, North American Division, Columbia Union and Mountain View Conference.

The ad campaign came out of the conference's "visioning" conference two years ago, at which delegates asked Mountain View Conference leaders to make increased public awareness a priority. "In the day in which we live, we want to share an accurate picture of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Larry Boggess, conference president, shares.

Boggess and other leaders are hoping that in Parkersburg, where the conference is headquartered, some of the nearly 87,000 residents will learn that Adventists are Bible-based followers of Jesus Christ who espouse a wholistic and balanced lifestyle.

The ad campaign will continue through mid-2012 and will eventually include ads with invitations for residents to receive Bible studies and attend an evangelism series and Vacation Bible School. View the CHIP ad by visiting columbiaunion.org and clicking on "Videos."



**Parkersburg Church Member
Named Volunteer of the Year**

Clifford Leeson (pictured above, second from the left) was recently named Volunteer of the Year for his work at the Newstart Thrift Mart in Parkersburg, W.Va. The Parkersburg church, which has operated the store for the past four years, sells clothes, furniture, some appliances, books and knickknacks. Leeson was recognized for his work as a jack-of-all-trades. He sorts articles for display, picks up and delivers furniture, moves merchandise and does other handiwork at the store.

The Parkersburg church sees the store as a ministry. They show religious programming on the television and offer religious literature and financial help to those in need.

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NEWS NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 2011

And to Your Neighbor ... as Yourself

The morning after Hurricane Irene hit, I woke up feeling thankful to the Lord, because my family was safe and secure. I thanked God, that, even though Hurricane Irene brought heavy rain and flooding to New Jersey and the Northeast, we did not suffer any damage to our home. Reports from the field indicated no personal injuries and no major flooding of our church buildings in the New Jersey Conference.

When I opened my closet, I found all my clothes clean, in order and ready to use. Then I thought about the unfortunate people in Paterson and in other areas of the Garden State, now flooded, people who have lost everything, even the most basic things like beds, clothes and even toys for their children. As I saw the images of houses and streets full of water and mud, my first thought was to take part of my own clothes, bedding and towels and share it with these people in need. Then I reconsidered and said, "No! They deserve to receive something better than my old things; I should go and buy some new things for them." My dear brothers and sisters, I did it and I began to feel more thankful and content, because it is so good to share the blessings and it does not matter if we have little or much.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, I sent a letter to all pastors and church leaders inviting everyone to join me in contributing items to share with those in need because of the disaster. The response was overwhelming, and today I need to say: "Thank you to our dear brothers and sisters and to the Adventist Community Service Disaster Response team of the conference for being involved in this beautiful work, before, during and after the disaster. Your work made happy, not only those people who received the goods, but also our God; He teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves."

Never give up the good spirit of charity and openhandedness, as this is practical Christianity. Jesus and His gift of salvation is our reward! May God bless you as you continue to "Proclaim His Grace" through these acts of kindness.



José H. Cortés
President

International Student Joins Jersey City Church



Ivy Zhu, a New Jersey City Heights member, is pictured with Pastor Bruce Banner and his wife, Lillian.

Ivy Zhu is a student from China who is pursuing a math degree at Kean University in the city of Union. Her academic pursuits took her to Australia and now to the United States where she is scheduled to graduate next year with very high honors.

Earlier in the year, while pursuing her desire to know more about a relationship with Jesus and become a Christian, she shared with members of the international student community: "I want to become a Christian. Do you know of a church I can attend?" She soon found fellowship with the Jersey City Heights church family, and Pastor Bruce Banner happily baptized her. She is now an active member of the church and its ministries.

NEWS

Morija French Baptizes Four

Winning souls for the Lord this summer was a challenge for members of the Morija French church in New Brunswick. However, Pastor Bledir Larivaux initiated the effort and persevered to the end. The few Haitian families who live in the area showed no interest in the three angels' messages, so the pastor utilized the Bible study of prophecies as a strategy to enter their homes. At the end of the crusade, four people gave their souls to Jesus Christ and entered the church through baptism. Out of the four baptized, three of them are between the ages of 14 and 21.



Pastor Bledir Larivaux gets ready to baptize Martine Lima.

Conference Opens Filming Studio

The New Jersey Conference recently completed installation of the cameras and lights in the new filming studio. They had a special test taping and operation of the new cameras and equipment. As part of the testing of the studio, conference president José H. Cortés sang "How Great Thou Art," accompanied by Joyce Greene, associate treasurer.

"My desire is that this equipment will be used wisely to fulfill the mission of the church," said Modesto Vazquez, vice president for finance.

Other equipment includes three Panasonic high-definition video cameras, a jib and teleprompter.

Bookstore Opening Slated for November 6

José H. Cortés, conference president, and Luis Biazotto, Home Health Education Service (HHES) director, have announced the grand opening of a new store at the conference building on Sunday, November 6, beginning at 10 a.m.

Like a bookstore, customers will find Bibles, inspirational books and health foods for sale. "But this is much more than a store," says Biazotto, who leads the HHES work for the Review and Herald Publishing Association based in Hagerstown, Md. "We're calling it



Jorge Pillco, the conference's Media Ministries director, operates the jib with a new high-definition camera.

'Revive,' because we see it as part of a new, energizing relationship between literature evangelists and the local church."

Cleber Machado, the manager of the new store, adds that the name Revive will "help our members and the public to know this is a place where people can find spiritual materials and health foods to revive them both spiritually and physically."

Revive will also supply literature evangelists with products for their work. To provide better customer service, the outlet will feature a multilingual staff.

dates

NEW JERSEY

November

- 6** Grand Opening of Revive Bookstore, *Conference Office, 10 a.m.*
- 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 Ministry Harvest Fellowship
- 19** North Jersey Spanish Festival of the Laity, *Waldwick School*
- 19** South Jersey Spanish Festival of the Laity, *Bridgeton Spanish Church*

December

- 3** Stewardship Emphasis Day *Local Churches*
- 26-30** Conference Office Closed for Holidays

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

Director of Clergy Care Bids Farewell

After nearly 38 years in church ministry, Marwood Hallett recently retired from the Ohio Conference. He spent more than 26 years in Ohio serving as a pastor, ministries director and, ultimately, director of Clergy Care and Leadership Development. Hallett displayed a true passion for the care and treatment of local pastors. As a result, administration expanded his role within the conference to provide leadership, vision and services to nurture and enhance clergy and congregational leadership. He leaves behind a vision for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which includes the conference being “unapologetically Christocentric in its orientation to theology, ministry and mission.”

Monte Sahlin, director of Research and Special Projects, says that Hallett led with a heart for people and congregations. “He set a wonderful example for all church leaders by his willingness to listen, high standards of fairness and attention to the facts. It has been a real pleasure to work with him in one capacity or another for a quarter of a century,” he commented.



Raj Attiken, conference president, added, “Marwood’s ministry in Ohio exemplified an unwavering commitment to the gospel, a deep interest in the spiritual and professional formation of pastors and the involvement of Adventists in service to the larger community. Among his many unique contributions were the implementation of a ministry reflection model of peer supervision. I am deeply grateful for what Marwood has done for Ohio and for the mission of the church in Ohio.”

Oswaldo Magaña replaces Hallett and continues as Hispanic Ministries coordinator and a Cleveland-area pastor.

Raj Attiken, conference president, presents Marwood Hallett with an award commemorating his 26 years of service in Ohio.

Greater Cleveland Ghanaian Church Hosts Evangelism Series

The Greater Cleveland Ghanaian church recently took advantage of their new building by hosting a three-week evangelistic campaign. Emmanuel Kusi Yeboah, associate pastor of the Ghanaian district (including churches in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati), presented the series themed “Christ Our Only Hope.” Local church members also helped call, pray for, visit and invite prospective attendees to the campaign. Their efforts paid off when two young people added their membership to the church through baptism: Yonly Dweh Yonsowablee, 20, and Faith Odoom, 16.

Yonsowablee, whose parents at first did not like seeing their son leave the Catholic faith, yielded to his decision when contacted by church elder Osei Tutu Owusu. On the day of Yonsowablee’s baptism, his entire family and a few friends showed their support. When an invitation was made after the baptism, one of the young man’s friends and two of his family members expressed a desire for Bible studies and possibly baptism. His parents have also opened their home to church members’ visits.

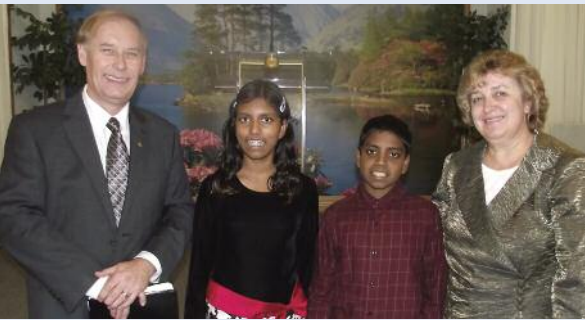


Newly baptized members of the Greater Cleveland Ghanaian church, Faith Odoom and Yonly Dweh Yonsowablee (both holding flowers), get support from church leaders (left to right) Savior Banda, Odoom Hyiamang, Pastor Emmanuel Yeboah and Amos Sarfo.

Brooklyn, Westlake Churches Engage Communities

The Brooklyn and Westlake district churches have been busily engaged in the Lord's work, and, as a result, were overjoyed to add five people to the district through baptism: Eva and Evi Petrik, Niki Brankov and Pearlina and Martin Charles.

The Brooklyn church has a new radio show, *The Blessed Hope*, which airs on WHKW-AM 1220.



Pastoral couple Laszlo and Marta Hangyas of the Brooklyn and Westlake district flank newly baptized Pearlina Charles and her brother, Martin.

Each Wednesday evening, 8:30-9 p.m., Pastor Laszlo Hangyas (pictured, right) presents a continued study of the Gospel of John, while Brooklyn elder Michael Rebich (left) serves as the announcer.

Brooklyn members also started a Discover Bible School, which has a growing number of students, and recently operated a booth at the Cuyahoga County Fair. At the fair, members offered visitors Discover Bible School cards and other literature, like copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*. The church didn't leave out community youth and also hosted its annual Vacation Bible School under the theme "Heaven and Beyond."

The Westlake church also held a Vacation Bible School, plus hosted about 250 Adventists for their annual Hungarian Bible Conference. Keeping to the event theme, "In My Father's House," Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, a guest speaker from



the Trans-European Division Ministerial Association, focused on heaven. The Westlake church also continues to minister to Hungarian Americans through a radio program on WJCU-FM 88.7 every second Sunday at 3 p.m., and a television program on Scola Cable every Thursday at 7 p.m.—*Pamela Crandall and Barbara Zickuhr*

NEWS



Conference leaders host an ordination/commissioning service for Lori Farr, pastor of the Wooster church.

Camp Mohaven Benefits From Hay Donation

God poured out His blessings on Camp Mohaven in Danville through the recent donation of 120 bales of hay, a gift from the Mark Dennis family. "The Lord has more than kept His Word," commented Dave Robinson, camp manager, referring to Malachi 3:10. "The donation helped Mohaven save more than \$6,000."

Four Pastors Ordained/Commissioned Into Ministry

The Ohio Conference recently ordained/commissioned four pastors into the ministry: Jerry Chase at the Akron First church, Yuliyana Filipov at the Findlay church, Gianluca Bruno at the Cincinnati Village church and Lori Farr at the Wooster church.



Elders at the Akron First church pray over Jerry Chase and his wife, Brenda, during his ordination.

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Pennsylvania Pen

NOVEMBER 2011

Conference Staff Share Mission at Local Churches

Revealing Jesus, Making Disciples” is more than a mission statement to the Pennsylvania Conference office staff. It describes how they want to live their lives and what they want to enable others to do—in their communities and in their homes. So the team took to the road. Scattering throughout the Pocono-Lehigh Valley and the north central Pennsylvania areas in September and October, they preached sermons about how individuals and church communities could effectively reveal Jesus and make disciples in their own neighborhoods. In the afternoon, the entire team gathered in one location to offer practical seminars aimed at families, including “The Value of an Imperfect Man,” “How to Get Your Money Ready for Heaven,” “How to Really Live Before You Die,” “How to Keep Living After You’re Dead,” “Guard Your Heart,” “High Value Living” and “How Do I Support Someone Who is Grieving?” Each seminar is designed to help families reveal Jesus through their lives.

The team will repeat these events in Philadelphia and northwestern Pennsylvania this spring and then in central and eastern Pennsylvania in the fall of 2012. The series ends in the spring of 2013 with two regional events in western Pennsylvania. All events will be advertised in local churches.



Ray Hartwell, conference president, talks to men about the “value of being an imperfect father, husband and man,” as part of the afternoon seminar series aimed at encouraging and strengthening families.

Members Work Side by Side to Help Flood Victims

September 2011 will go down in the record books as one of the rainiest Septembers in Pennsylvania. Flooding hit historic levels as communities were evacuated, homes and businesses destroyed and lives lost. Many families lost everything.

Working with Lowe’s Home Improvement stores and Feed the Children, Adventist Community Services (ACS) set up five distribution sites in Pennsylvania: Sayre,

Bloomsburg, Lancaster, Harrisburg and York. Feed the Children brought supplies. Lowe’s provided their parking lots, paid for the transportation of supplies and encouraged employees to volunteer. ACS provided volunteers who helped distribute supplies—food items, storage bins, cleaning supplies—to those in need.

Church members and their friends from both Allegheny East and Pennsylvania conferences worked side by side throughout the day, distributing 1,200 buckets of cleaning supplies in Harrisburg and 400 buckets of supplies in York, and serving 521 households in Lancaster and 300 families in the tiny community of Sayre. Daniel Chrispell, Sayre church’s first elder; his wife, Lucille; and almost 30 volunteers from their church not only gave out supplies, but also offered massages, blood pressure checks and prayers.

“The event was humbling and heart-warming,” shares Catherine Merrifield of the Danville church. “Families receiving aid were very grateful and welcomed the love, sympathy and understanding provided during this outreach program.”

Linda Kinne, also of Danville, was grateful for the opportunity to serve others. “I praise God that each one of us was able to show Christ’s love as we worked,” she said. Check out the conference’s Facebook page for more photos.



Lancaster member Sandy Bachert, whose home took on 2 feet of water, takes time out from her own flood clean-up to serve others impacted by the waters.

Bucks County Church Celebrates Heroes

More than 100 visitors attended the Bucks County church's Heroes Day in Warminster. The annual event honors local firemen, policemen, paramedics and others who serve the community of Bucks County.

Police officers from Warminster and Lower Makefield townships, as well as paramedics and firemen from Warminster, Ivyland and Hartsville attended the event. Jefferson University Hospital also sent JeffSTAT, their life flight helicopter, to the event. Police from the Warminster and Lower Makefield townships explained how dogs from their K-9 unit help them search for people and explosives. Children and adults were invited to climb inside the

helicopter and to learn what services the helicopter crew can provide and where they might go.

Allegheny East Conference's Willow Grove Pathfinder Drum Corps led the posting of the colors to begin the worship service. Church members then asked God's blessings on the local heroes and prayed for their continued safety and dedication to service.

Following the worship service, visitors and members were treated to a light meal. Many of the visitors mentioned how much they also appreciated not only the meal, but also the entire day and have indicated they would like to be part of next year's Heroes Day.

—Elaine Kimmich



Washington Heights Women's Retreat Includes the Community

A recent one-day retreat held at the Washington Heights church in Apollo brought together members of the Pennsylvania and Allegheny West conferences. Themed "God's Extreme Makeover Inside/Out," the event also attracted members from other denominations in the area.

Catherine Sosigian, coordinator, who has attended many of the women's retreats offered within

Pennsylvania, said the experience was a blessing. "Last year I kept thinking of [the] women in our churches [who] have not attended any retreats," she said. That thought inspired her to host a one-day retreat for them.

Speakers came from both conferences and local Christian ministries. Fifty-four women attended the retreat and at least seven were not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Women came from two Baptist churches and a nondenominational church. The women from both Adventist conferences worked together to prepare lunch.

Advertising was a large part of the retreat's success. The church

advertised in the community newspaper, at homes near the church and at 20 Adventist churches within a two-hour radius. Members even distributed some brochures to people in their communities. They received two inquiries from the newspaper.

Sosigian said all the advertising was worth it as she is already fielding inquiries about the next retreat. She said, "I only hear wonderful things from the women's experiences. It was a day spent in the Lord's presence and in fellowship with other women, making new friends. If this retreat reminds someone of how precious they are to God, it is worth it."—Ashley Richards



Featured speaker Jan Knosp and retreat coordinator Catherine Sosigian share a moment at the Washington Heights church women's retreat.

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Potomac People

NOVEMBER 2011

Roanoke Church Ordains Pastor

Members from several area congregations recently filled the Roanoke (Va.) church to celebrate the ordination of Eugene Kitney to the gospel ministry. Kitney and his wife, Michelle, are the pastoral couple for the Roanoke congregation.

It was an emotional ceremony where Kitney's parents, Charlie and Esther Kitney, who visited from South Africa, and his brother, Ian, shared Kitney's journey through life's "ups and downs" and God's obvious leading. "We hand them over to the leaders of the Potomac Conference, and sincerely thank you for your kind support and love extended to them," Kitney's parents said during the service.

Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president, presented a homily based on Acts 1, focusing on the concept that people should "never leave home without the Power." He encouraged Kitney to seek the



Family members surround Eugene and Michele Kitney (middle, holding their daughter Lauren), pastoral couple for the Roanoke (Va.) church, during their recent ordination service.

power of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit daily in his ministry and personal life. "If Jesus needed it daily, how much more do we need it?" Miller asked. He challenged Kitney further to "be aware of anything that competes with your loyalty to Jesus Christ."

After Jorge Ramirez, Potomac Conference's vice president for administration, presented Kitney with a ministerial charge, all ordained ministers in attendance were asked to come and lay hands on Kitney and his wife as Bob Banks, one of the conference's Ministerial associates, offered a special prayer.



PHOTOS BY JADE MEYER

Conference Meets Constituency Deadlines

Potomac Conference leaders are proud to report that they have met the deadlines put in place at the conference constituency meeting held in September 2010. All legal work has been concluded and administrators and staff would now like to update constituents on the make-up of representatives within the five core conference committees: Executive, Constitution & Bylaws, Board of Education, Tidewater Academy and Shenandoah Valley Academy. To review each category in its entirety, visit pcsda.org, click on the Blogs link and then the article titled "Constituency Update: Deadlines and Committees."

Bill Miller, conference president, prays during the constituency session.



PHOTO BY TONY VENTOURIS

Potomac People

Johns Nevins, Sligo Schools Make Building Upgrades

During the last days of the 2010-11 school year, most schools were preparing for some down time. Teachers at the John Nevins Andrews (JNA) and Sligo Adventist schools, however, were gearing up for what would be a long summer of renovations.

Sligo and JNA, both located in Takoma Park, Md., received new central air systems, energy-efficient windows and blinds, doors and fire detection and alarm

systems. Sligo also remodeled their basement and offices, replaced ceiling tiles, replaced their glass storefront and installed new carpet in three classrooms. JNA also did major reconstruction on their building's exterior, including sealing leaks in the foundation, as well as repaving the entrance and the steps to the gym and fitting them with rails. They also had to install additional transformers to meet the electrical code.

Stewart Bainum, founder and vice chair of the Commonweal Foundation, a JNA alumnus and former JNA parent, made this dream possible through funds and support for the project through the foundation. Parents and staff members also donated their time and expertise.

Workers install energy-efficient windows at John Nevins Andrews School.



Workmen replace all of the glass at the front of Sligo Adventist School.



"The students and teachers are both very excited. It's put a certain amount of pride in coming to work and school," comments Larry Rich, Sligo principal.

Cavel Melbourne, JNA principal, adds, "We appreciate your continued prayers and support. We invite you to stop by and see all the great things happening at JNA."—Paolo Esposito and Adrienne Suarez

200 Young Adults "Re:Vived" at Annual Youth Retreat

Pastor Homero Salazar (below) of the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., encouraged more than 200 young adults to find revival through the life of Christ during Movimiento Joven Adventista's (MJA) annual youth retreat. His

powerful talks continued MJA's yearlong theme, "Re:Vive."

The retreat, held this year at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., included a series of Sabbath afternoon seminars, each focused on an aspect of revival as represented in Jesus' life: relationship, repentance, renewal and remembrance. Attendees also participated in an agape feast, watched a drama on scenes from Christ's life and experienced a hands-on demonstration about how Christ brings renewal. Members left challenged to produce outreach plans focusing on youth in their communities.

"I think it's a great, great event," commented Norma Velez of the Martinsville (Va.) church. "We are away from the Internet and cell phones and get the chance to just connect with God and each other. I would definitely come back next year."—Sylvia Garcia Urrutia



PHOTOS BY DAVID LEIVA

During Movimiento Joven Adventista's annual youth retreat, youth participate in biblical plays and dramatizations.



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Spotlight on Spencerville

NOVEMBER 2011

His Kingdom Draweth Nigh

In the past several months, I have had multiple and vivid dreams about Christ's second coming. The context of the dream is always the same: I am thrilled that He is here to take us home, but I am confused because we have just moved into a brand new building that cost millions of dollars. These dreams all end with a similar resolution: It is very clear that we were able to impact more lives for Christ.

This dream, in turn, has affected my waking hours in a dramatic way. Each day that I walk into the new school, I am reminded of the enormous responsibility all the staff has when we enter our classrooms or offices. We must spread the good news of the gospel. Jesus made it very clear when He said, "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32, NIV). Time is short and there are many people who need to be introduced to Jesus. Let Him work through you today because His Kingdom draweth nigh.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

NEWS

Drama Team's Gift Helps Haiti Orphanage

As a thank you to their director, Jane Lanning (below), the cast of last spring's musical production, *Cheaper By the Dozen*, made a donation to the Eden Garden

Orphanage. Charles and Gigi Le-Morzellac, members of Potomac Conference's Vienna (Va.) church, opened the orphanage and school in Montrouis, Haiti, in 1998.

Lanning recently took the more than \$1,700 donation with her on a visit to the orphanage. The funds allowed for the construction of 20 new school desks (above). While there Lanning also incorporated the help of the orphans to sketch and paint murals for the nursery and kindergarten classroom. She recalled that one

of the highlights of the trip was discovering what the kids want to be when they grow up: doctors, engineers, nurses, fashion designers, pastors and teachers, even a policeman. "By creating more of a learning environment with new desks and painted walls, these dreams may actually feel possible!" exclaimed Lanning.



Chaplain Prays for School Officers

During a recent chapel, Pastor Shawn Paris, Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) high school chaplain, recently performed a prayer of dedication for the 38 student leaders (above) who serve as Student Council (SC) and class officers for the 2011-12 school year. "My hope is that all of these newly elected leaders, myself included, will find a way to positively impact this school throughout the year," commented Brandon Injety, SC president. "I have faith that this bright young group of people has the potential to do great things!"



Spotlight

My School Changes Lives for Christ

I am a senior at Spencerville Adventist Academy. Before I came here last year, I had been to several different schools within the Baltimore City Public School System. Let me tell you firsthand, there is no comparison between the two.

My first day at SAA, I was a bit nervous. I had never been to a private school and, honestly, didn't know what to expect. By the end of that first week, I was in awe. There was something about Spencerville that I had never experienced at any other school.

That something was the people, from the administrators to the students. Everyone was so kind, caring and accepting. The teachers are wonderful people with a genuine interest in the betterment and success of each student. The students are some of the most enjoyable people you would ever want to know. They're about having fun, showing respect for each other and really treating others the way they would like to be treated. They are also sort of surprisingly serious about their studies, allowing for the classroom experience to be as productive as possible.

Within a month, I was in love with Spencerville. I had the acceptance,

love and respect of my peers. Anywhere you go, whether it is work, church or a different country, it's the people that have the greatest influence on whether you return. Needless to say, I couldn't wait to return to SAA this school year, and I intend to make frequent visits when I graduate.

Something even better than the relationships I have described is that attending Spencerville enabled me to build a solid relationship with Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I have been of the Seventh-day Adventist faith for quite some time. I am a member of a great church, where the people are just as loving; however, I had yet to experience the level of spirituality I have now. It amazed me to be surrounded by so many people my age that I could look at and know they have a relationship with God. Being in such a spiritual environment made me want to take responsibility for my own spirituality and be sure that it grows stronger. If you're looking for a school that ensures love, care, nurture, friendship, success in learning and, most of all, a meaningful personal relationship with Christ, Spencerville Adventist Academy is your school!—*Dayna King ('12)*



Dayna King takes a few minutes at lunchtime to catch up Liz Bautista and Greg Davidson.



Ken Roe, the school's facility manager and soccer coach, pauses to pray with senior Dayna King, a second-year attendee.

Calendar

November

- 9-13 Acrofest, Andrews Univ. (Mich.)
- 14 Prospective Student Open House
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4 Student Council Christmas Banquet
- 6 PK-8 Christmas Concert
- 8 High School Christmas Concert
- 11 ACT Testing
- 21-Jan. 2 Christmas Break

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by the Spencerville Adventist Academy 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868 ■ Phone: (301) 421-9101 spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



NOVEMBER 2011

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Diversity Makes Us Rich

I love being a part of God's family. Attending church each week is an opportunity to worship the Creator of our universe and our personal Savior. It is also a time of fellowship with brothers and sisters who share a passion and love for that Savior. But I also know that my church is just one little corner of the world, and each week there are millions of like-minded believers worshiping God around the globe. When I go on mission trips, I am especially reminded of the distant reach of our church and the wealth of members that we have. It is exhilarating to be one of them.

At Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), I am reminded of that international reach as I walk down the hall each day. We opened our doors this year to an extremely diverse group of students who represent 10 countries: Angola, Austria, Brazil, Columbia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal and South Korea. Even our United States students hail from 18 states, from as far away as Alaska. We also have four exchange students from Argentina joining us for a few weeks. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve God and a blessing to have such a rich experience here on our campus. Read more about our diverse student body below.



Spencer Hannah
Principal

ELL Program Bridges Education, Language, Christianity

This year there are 23 students enrolled in SVA's English Language Learning (ELL) Program (read, above, the list of countries represented), where they focus on listening to, writing and speaking English. "The kids know they need to learn English, and they are very excited about it," says Drew Rester, ELL program director and international student advisor. "It's so energizing to teach these students who are so driven to learn."

Jessica Felicio, a senior in the ELL program, says she appreciates that Rester challenges her. "He challenges me so that I can have a better future. He really cares about my future, and that's why I admire him," she comments.



Drew Rester, ELL program director, shows Lucas Campos how to diagram a sentence during English class.



(Left to right) Jarima Omar, Jessica Felicio, Susie Lee, Jariffa Omar, Aline Kovar and Jennie Lee enjoy SVA's English Language Learning class.

ELL students also get an opportunity to learn about Christ through the program's Basic Christianity course, which is geared toward students who are not Adventist or even Christian. This course, taught by ELL instructor Desmond Suarez, has resulted in recent baptisms of a pantheist from Portugal, a Confucianist from Korea and an atheist from Angola.

ELL students get to practice their increasing English skills during weekly field trips to places like Wal-Mart, the mall and favorite restaurants. According to Korean student Yb Cho, an added benefit to the program is that he gets to learn Portuguese and Spanish through daily conversations with the friends he has made in the program.

HAPPENINGS

NEWS

New Private Instructors Expand Music Department

Kelly Wiedemann (Class of 2003) joined SVA's staff this fall as the



string and piano private music instructor. Weidemann comes from Hinsdale Adventist Academy (Ill.), where she served as the band, choir, string and general music instructor for grades K-12. She holds a bachelor's in music education

from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and is working on her master's in music education.

Yves Clouzet is the private music instructor for guitar, woodwinds, brass and percussion. In May he received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Andrews University (Mich.) During his studies, he spent three years as the band director for the Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs.



Faculty Families Minister to Students

SVA's faculty members are fully engaged in the lives of their students through the "faculty families" program. Each faculty member is assigned a group of students to provide food, fellowship and fun during their years at SVA. Activities include eating together, watching videos, hiking, playing games and singing over a campfire.

Ron White, Information Technology director, makes chocolate lava cakes and personal pizzas for his kids each year. His wife, Debbie, makes them chocolate chip pound cake, sweet rolls and bean and lime soup. Principal Spencer Hannah and his wife, Eva, have taken their family group to a



Faculty members Kim and Jeff Twomley (back row, far right) regurly enjoy spending time with their SVA "kids."

homeless shelter and fed them dinner. One year Jan Osborne, director of Alumni and Development, made several batches of cookie dough for her kids and had them help her decorate them. Jeff Twomley, business manager, and his wife, Kim, director of recruitment, also open their home to their SVA children. "I love going to the Twomley's home," says sophomore Donte Rufus. "I can relax there."

National Honor Society Provides Relief to Cadets

Each year junior and senior cadets from the Virginia Military Institute volunteer to walk the 75-plus miles from Lexington to New Market, Va., in honor of cadets who fought in New Market during the Civil War. The cadets, dressed in full gear, started their recent trek at 8 a.m. on a hot Wednesday morning and finished on Saturday.

Along the way, the cadets stopped at a relief station set up by members of SVA's National Honor Society (NHS). The students provided Gatorade, water, cookies and support to about 20 volunteer cadets before they continued their six-mile walk to New Market. Tom McNeilus, a sponsor of the 26-member society, says the cadets were very thankful for the refreshments. He plans to make this an annual NHS event.



Calendar

November

- 11 Senior Recognition
- 12 Senior Extravaganza
- 13 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 22-28 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 8-11 Journey to Bethlehem
- 16 Sacred Candlelight Concert 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Secular Christmas Concert 7 p.m.
- 18-20 Semester Exams
- 21-Jan.3 Christmas Break

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

Abundant Blessings

Our outstanding Admissions Department informed me that we are experiencing the highest enrollment in the history of this institution this year. As of September 29, there are 1,493 students enrolled at Washington Adventist University (WAU). This means that we now have 1,493 reasons to make sure that we are delivering to each student an excellent pathway to success. We are measuring our progress toward achieving academic excellence by applying the following benchmarks:

- Decisions and actions that improve and expand learning
- Engagement of learners as full and responsible partners in their education
- Development of curricula that identify what students need to know and be able to do to perform competently and successfully once they leave the institution
- Students' academic achievements and acquisition of work-related skills
- Commitment by all members of the learning community to their own lifelong learning and their ability to describe how they contribute to learning or learner success

It takes commitment and effort to develop and maintain a collaborative learning environment that is not dependent on any one individual for success. People must be valued, both as members of a team and as individuals. A strong organizational value system is required for success. Vision, creativity, authenticity, interaction, empowerment and passion are some of the necessary leadership skills that must be applied to attain the desired outcomes of Washington Adventist University.



Weymouth Spence
President

Congregants Challenged to Find Confidence in the Christian World View



Washington Adventist University recently celebrated its annual Dedication Sabbath at Sligo, the university's campus church, with a large contingency of board members, faculty and staff in attendance.

The Office of the President sponsors Dedication Sabbath, which is held once each academic year. The special Sabbath celebration asks God's blessings on the WAU community as the school year gets underway.

Dave Weigley (left), president of the Columbia Union Conference and chair of the WAU Board of Trustees, praised the initiative and the young people who chose to be a part of WAU.

In a thought-provoking sermon, titled "The God Context," Weigley said that all of our worldviews—our attempts to answer fundamental questions about human existence—are shaped by our concept of God. He challenged the congregation to find confidence in the Christian worldview. He noted that anything that does not have Jesus at its center is an abstraction. Furthermore, he said the "God context" tells him that humankind is the product of intelligent design, and, regardless of life's uncertainties, God is in control.

A luncheon in the dining hall followed the service. Afternoon activities continued with a tour of the nearly complete Music Education Center, and Baraka Muganda, EdD, vice president of Campus Ministries, gave a presentation on the spiritual climate on campus. The day's events concluded with a vespers organized by WGTS 91.9 FM, held at nearby Takoma Academy.

NEWS

Enrollment Nears 1,500

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is celebrating record enrollment numbers with a total of 1,493 students registered for the new academic year. This year's numbers represent a 15 percent increase or 194 more students over last year.

Duane Reid, director of Admissions, says a significant section of overall enrollment comes from freshmen and transfer students. "The enrollment team's diligent efforts, coupled with the support of the entire campus, has resulted in 391 new students here on the campus of Washington Adventist University," he said.

PHOTO BY RALPH VIELUX



From left to right, Brian Alexander Scott, Valerie Hatton, Jeiel Jim Magpac and Sarah Guerra are freshmen at WAU.

"There are 180 new freshmen with us this year. This number is 43 percent higher than the 126 freshmen who joined WAU last year. Our transfer population has increased by 36 percent from the previous year, with a total of 211 new transfer students."—*Andre Weston*

WAU Stages Successful Metro Area Service Day

WAU's "Gateway to Service" recently opened to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan community, when hundreds of its students participated in special Service Day projects. Led by alumnus Aaron Wilson, 14 students worked with Food and Friends, an organization in northeast Washington, D.C., that supplies some 1 million meals to terminally ill people each year. Many of their clients sometimes sacrifice food to pay for medication or vice versa.

Wilson said, "The whole aspect of giving back to the community refers to Jeremiah and Christ's teaching. The experience allowed many of the volunteers to allow their faith to coincide with their voluntary work."

Another group of approximately 30 students worked to clean up nearby Long Branch Parkway. Dressed in bright red shirts (below), students were each given an orange trash bag and working gloves. Working in groups of 10, they took different trails and picked up trash from the play-

ground and along the creek.

Service Day projects were carried out at multiple places throughout the community, including Takoma Park Elementary School, Silver Spring Initiative, Martha's Table, John Nevins Andrews School, Capitol Area Food Bank, G.E. Peters Adventist School, Days End Farm Horse Rescue and Sligo Adventist School.—*Terrance-James Marshall*

New Communication Director Named

Grace Virtue, PhD, was recently named WAU's director of corporate communications. Virtue earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and social science from the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Her master's and doctoral



degrees are from Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she also worked for more than nine years as executive communications manager and senior writer.

A highly regarded educator and communicator, Virtue was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, fellow of the Inter-American Press Association and the Marcus Garvey Centenary Scholar. She is also a published author. Virtue enjoys spending time with her daughters, bird watching and exploring her neighborhood.—*Kevin Manuel*



PHOTO BY VANESSA CASTILLO

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 Communication Director, Grace Virtue

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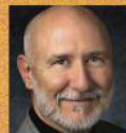
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	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9
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Cincinnati	5:27	5:22	5:18	5:16	5:15
Cleveland	5:11	5:05	5:00	4:58	4:57
Columbus	5:19	5:14	5:10	5:07	5:07
Jersey City	4:42	4:36	4:32	4:29	4:29
Norfolk	4:59	4:54	4:50	4:49	4:48
Parkersburg	5:15	5:10	5:06	5:03	5:03
Philadelphia	4:48	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35
Pittsburgh	5:06	5:00	4:56	4:54	4:53
Reading	4:50	4:45	4:40	4:38	4:37
Richmond	5:02	4:57	4:54	4:52	4:51
Roanoke	5:13	5:08	5:04	5:02	5:02
Toledo	5:18	5:12	5:07	5:05	5:04
Trenton	4:46	4:40	4:36	4:34	4:33
Wash., D.C.	4:58	4:52	4:49	4:46	4:46

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

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Volume 116 ■ Issue 11

Breathe

Did you know that one of the primary markers for life span is literally right under your nose? The renowned Framingham Heart Study found that vital capacity (the amount of air you can exhale from your lungs after breathing in as deeply as you can) was an indicator of general health and a predictor for how long a person was going to live.



When we sit up straight and breathe deeply using the diaphragm, we take in more oxygen and release more carbon dioxide. Regular deep breathing helps promote relaxation, decrease anxiety, lower blood pressure, improve concentration, strengthen the immune system, enhance sleep and more. In other words, better breathing means better health.

Not only is it important to pay attention to how we are breathing, we need to consider what we are breathing. One of the first things



God created was air, knowing that His creatures would need a steady supply of oxygen essential for every single cell of our bodies. When we stay inside for long periods and breathe the same air,

the oxygen content decreases and the carbon dioxide increases. Open windows, use an air purifier and get outside to breathe deeply and breathe fresh air.

REFLECT - How am I breathing right now? What am I breathing? What can I do to breathe better?

RESPOND - Lord God, may every breath I take today remind me that You are my breath of life. Amen.

RELATE - I make sure I breathe deeply and get a healthy dose of fresh air every single day.

REMEMBER - "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7, NIV).

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