

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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ADENTRO
NOTICIAS
EN ESPAÑOL
P. 6



EDUCATION ISSUE

Right From the Start

Early Childhood Education Offers
Promising Beginnings for Little Ones

Contents



- 4 | Newsline**
- 6 | Noticias**
- 8 | Potluck**
- 10 | Features**

Right From the Start

A. Grace Brown

Discover how early childhood education programs offer safe, Christ-centered and high quality schooling to youngsters across the Columbia Union territory, and why they are so important to their development.

In My Opinion

Ileana Espinosa, the union's new associate director for elementary education, offers six actions she believes could revive Adventist education.

15 | Newsletters

45 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Al Peasley photographed these students at the Andrews Development Center in their Takoma Park, Md., classroom.

On the Web



Video –
Early Childhood Education and Care is a growing ministry that's targeting children birth to age 5, boosting school enrollment and bringing families to Christ. Learn more in this month's Columbia Union Story video titled "Right From the Start." Go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or scan this barcode using a free QR Reader App.

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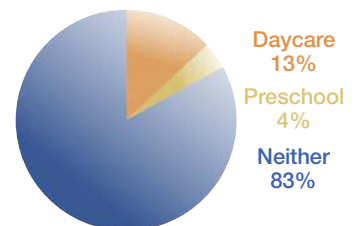


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and click the "Like" button. Then, share your news and photos, promote upcoming events or vote on next month's question: Are you currently engaged in an outreach ministry to the community?

Visitor Facebook Poll

Did you attend a daycare or preschool program?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

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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 117 ■ Issue 3

Seize the Opportunities



The use of statistics to make or support an argument of “fact” is risky business. One need only listen to product promotions promulgated in the media to know that many have honed statistics to facilitate self-serving interests. Samuel Langhorne Clemens, the American author and humorist otherwise known as Mark Twain, once said, “Facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable.”

There are some seemingly undeniable statistics, however, that have caught the attention of many Seventh-day Adventist educational leaders; statistics accompanied by challenging implications. For two successive years, G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division (NAD) executive secretary, has reported compelling statistics. Here are but a few:

- Only 26 percent of Adventist households include school-aged children
- Fifty-six is the mean age for Adventist members, while 12 percent range from 75 to 84
- The mean annual household income is \$50,000 or less
- Fifty percent of Adventist members reside in urban settings; a percentage considerably higher than the United States’ general public
- Forty percent of Adventist churches report weekly attendance of 50 or less; only 3 percent claim an average weekly attendance of 500 or more

These facts coupled with 10-year trending data reported by Larry Blackmer, NAD vice president for Education, have taught us that there is a slow but steady decline in K-12 enrollment across the division, a shrinking number of small schools in suburban and rural areas and increasing challenges of affordability and accessibility. These realities cannot help but lead one to conclude that Adventist education in North America is facing a challenging, if not uncertain, future. Yet, the courage of Adventist educators is undaunted. Why?

ROOM TO GROW

Adventist education is God’s work, realized through the effort of His servants. *CognitiveGenesis* and *Valuegenesis3* research, both initiated by La Sierra University (Calif.), is leading Adventist educators to formulate and implement meaningful strategic initiatives based on sound data. Learn more at cognitivegenesis.org and by browsing *Valuegenesis3* studies at lasierra.edu.

Challenges are part of life and often are accompanied by wonderful opportunities. Adventist education must seize those opportunities in order to grow.

Hamlet Canosa, EdD, serves as vice president for Education for the Columbia Union Conference.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



PHOTO BY KEVIN MANUEL

LEROY AND LOIS PETERS, for whom Washington Adventist University's Leroy and Lois Peters Music Education Center is named, cut the ribbon following the blessing of the building. At right is the Takoma Park, Md.-based school's provost, Susan Hornshaw. Read more on p. 37.

469

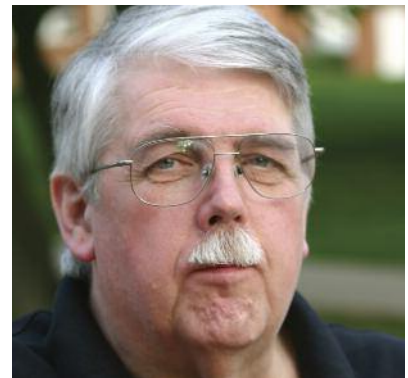
The number of teachers who minister in 94 schools to 5,298 students around the Columbia Union Conference. One of those teachers is Trudy Shiroma Koeffler, a kindergarten teacher at Lehigh Valley

Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Whitehall, Pa., who sees her work as an opportunity to witness. "I am an example by how I handle situations in the class. If I am kind, loving, patient, forgiving—they will believe me when I tell them God loves [them]." ■ In August Koeffler and other Columbia Union teachers will attend the North American Division's Adventist Teachers Convention in Nashville, themed "Journey to Excellence: Moving Hearts and Minds Upward."

SURVEY REVEALS FIVE INDICATORS FOR CHURCH GROWTH

A 2010 survey of a wide variety of American congregations, called *FACTs on Growth 2010*, recently shared several factors for growth. The Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership (CCSP) carried out the survey by sampling 11,077 diverse congregations, of which 400 were Seventh-day Adventists. Pulling from the Adventist subset, the report found that growing Adventist churches typically have the following traits:

- Community involvement
- Strong spiritual life
- Intentionality
- Positive relationships
- Activities on Sabbath designed for unchurched people

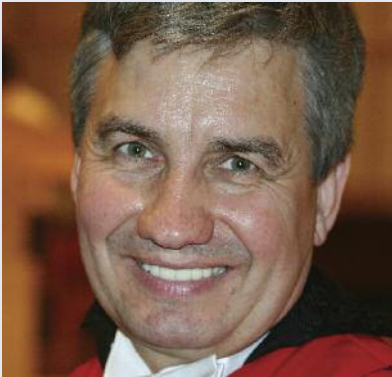


"I think if you compare it to Ellen White's quote about 'Christ's method alone' in *Ministry of Healing*, page 143, you will see that the five points are clearly related to what Spirit of Prophecy teaches," says Monte Sahlin, CCSP executive secretary (above) and Ohio Conference's director of Research and Special Projects. Read more at columbiaunion.org/churchgrowth.

“Growth for its own sake is not a goal for most religious communities in America. But most congregations do want to grow in order to reach more people with their message.”

—C. Kirk Hadaway, author of *FACTs on Growth 2010*

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY LEADS RUSSIAN BIBLE TRANSLATION



In 2010 Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, became director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute (russianbible.org), which is based at Washington Adventist University. Kulakov shares his thoughts on this work:

Q: Isn't there already a Russian translation of the Bible?

A: The most recent translation of the complete Bible authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The WAU institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language. The New Testament, the Psalms and the Pentateuch are already completed and published, and the institute plans to publish the new translation of the entire Bible by 2015.

Read more at columbiaunion.org/russianbible.

UNION PARL OFFICE GAINS STAFF

Gary Ross, PhD, a former General Conference congressional liaison, recently joined the Columbia Union Conference's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department. Ross fills the vacancy left open following the 2009 death of Adrian Westney, DD. While he will not pick up Westney's radio program, Ross will focus on religious discrimination.

"Gary's rich prior experience in religious liberty and educational

background uniquely prepare him for this position," said Walter E. Carson, vice president and general counsel for the union.

Ross also served as president of Helderberg College in South Africa, assistant to the president of Andrews University (Mich.) and vice president of the Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. He is a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.



New Film to Explore Adventist Education



Martin Doblmeier, founder and president of Journey Films, and the man behind *The Adventists*, the award-winning documentary that highlights the Adventist Church's health emphasis, is at it again. For his latest film, Doblmeier is in the beginning stages of exploring Adventist education. He says many Adventists asked him to do a film on their educational system during special screenings of *The Adventists*. However, as the parent of a teen, he became interested after noticing that Adventists were doing one particular thing well: "Providing students something that is difficult to describe but something everybody wants, and that is developing body, mind *and* spirit," he explains.

He adds, "And while it's possible to quantify results of education on mind and body, quantifying spirit is the most elusive of all. We will try to unearth what that means and try to quantify spiritual development." Doblmeier (far right) is pictured in a sixth-grade technology class at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Md., with teacher Darlene Rackley and students Cameron Mayer (left) and Emma Tennyson. He estimates the new film will be released next spring.

Noticias

TAASHI ROWE

PARKSLEY HISPANA ATRAE A TRECIENTAS PERSONAS

La compañía hispana de Parksley, Asociación de Chesapeake, está localizada en un pequeño pueblo rural a medio camino de Eastern Shore of Virginia. La congregación tiene unos veinte feligreses. ¿Cómo es entonces que esta congregación

logró atraer a trescientas personas a un servicio donde habló el reconocido Alejandro Bullón? “La oración y la amistad”, dijo Anibal Lhansell, pastor de la iglesia.

La feligresía se dispuso a conocer a doscientos nuevos amigos y luego invitarlos a escuchar a Bullón. “No teníamos idea de qué esperar, pero estábamos emocionados porque un evangelista llegaría a nuestra pequeña iglesia”, recuerda Lhansell. “Salimos con fe e invitamos, e hicimos cena para después del servicio para ciento cincuenta personas”.

Esa noche, veintenas de personas llegaron al auditorio. “Sentimos que Dios se movió de una manera milagrosa. Él ‘partió el Mar Rojo’”, dijo el Pastor Lhansell, aún con emoción. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/ParksleySpanish.



QUINCE IGLESIAS PROYECTADAS PARA FILADELFIA

“Aunque hay más de medio millón de hispanos en Filadelfia, sólo hay cinco iglesias hispanas allí”, dijo Rubén Ramos, asistente al presidente de la Unión de Columbia para los Ministerios Multilingües.

“Son muchas personas que no saben de Jesús”, observó Juan López (en la foto), director de Ministerios Hispanos en la Asociación de Pensilvania. “Tan pronto podamos, necesitamos trabajar enérgicamente para presentar a Jesús a la gente”.



Con eso en mente, Ramos y López se han propuesto un objetivo de plantar quince nuevas iglesias hispanas durante el próximo quinquenio 2011 al 2016. “No podemos lograrlo sin los laicos; por eso debemos prepararlos y motivarlos a esparcir el evangelio”, añadió López. Ya está viendo el éxito. El año pasado, la feligresía laica ayudó a plantar los grupos hispanos de Frazier y Bethlehem, y este año, otro en Hazelton.



El mes pasado, Juana Rosa, miembro de la segunda iglesia hispana de Filadelfia, fue una de sesenta y seis estudiantes que graduaron de la Escuela de Discipulado de la Asociación de Pensilvania, obteniendo el primer certificado profesional de liderazgo de iglesia, conocido también como certificado de asistente al pastor. Al iniciar el programa, Juana no pensó que podría completarlo por todo el trabajo que implicaba, sin embargo, se levantó a las 5 a.m. para realizar sus tareas de lectura y los proyectos. Hoy es una gran ayuda para su pastor, Gabriel Montalvo.

Para más noticias en español, visite columbiaunion.org/noticias. Usted también puede enviarnos sus noticias en español y fotos a: visitor@columbiaunion.net.

¿CÓMO TE CONVIERTES EN UN ADVENTISTA DEL SÉPTIMO DÍA?



WALTER CASTRO

Director de los Ministerios Multilingües y Plantación de Iglesia en la Asociación de Allegheny Este

En 1981, mi maestro de guitarra, un laico fiel de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, tuvo el valor de invitar a mis padres a una comida especial un viernes de noche. Los seis asistimos. Cantaron varios cantos desconocidos pero a la vez hermosos, leyeron un pasaje de la Biblia, y después participamos de una comida vegetariana rara pero deliciosa. Allí mismo inició una gran amistad, y después de nueve meses de estudiar la Biblia, decidimos unirnos a la iglesia. Yo tenía doce años. Veinte años más tarde, realicé una reunión de evangelismo en Argentina, en la misma iglesia donde me bauticé. Mi maestro de guitarra estaba allí, y no puedo olvidar las lágrimas de alegría que habían en sus ojos.



RUBÉN RAMOS

Asistente al presidente de la Unión de Columbia para los Ministerios Multilingües

Mis padres fueron misioneros Adventistas del Séptimo Día en Argentina, Uruguay, y Bolivia. Desde que recuerdo, mi padre me involucró en las actividades misioneras: dando estudios bíblicos, organizando reuniones de evangelismo, y plantando iglesias. Decidí bautizarme a los once años. Sentí el llamado de Dios al ministerio cuando estaba en la secundaria. Es mi más profundo anhelo caminar cada día con el Señor y ser transformado a su imagen. Puedo decir que el amor y la dedicación de mis padres, además de la influencia ponderosa de la educación cristiana, fueron las claves que usó el Espíritu para hacerme un cristiano y un misionero.



ELIASIB FAJARDO

Coordinador hispano del Ministerio Juvenil en la Asociación del Potomac

Nací en un hogar Adventista del Séptimo Día. Mis padres plantaban iglesias. Nunca puse en dudas mis creencias, pero nunca tomé la religión muy en serio. Después de la secundaria, decidí estudiar teología, lo que sorprendió a mi familia, a mis amigos, ¡y a mí mismo! Todo lo que podía decir era, 'Creo que Dios me está llamando'. Cuando llegué a la Universidad de Montemorelos (México), el director del departamento de teología me dijo, "Tú eres muy joven, además, no pareces un ministro. Ve y estudia otra cosa". Así que comencé a orar para que Dios se manifestara y me revelara sus planes. Perdí dos años de estudio, pero encontré a Cristo personalmente.

Artículo especial de *Visitor*: Desde el mismo comienzo

Según Evelyn Sullivan, directora asociada del Departamento de Educación y Cuidado para la Primera Infancia (en inglés ECEC), de la Unión de Columbia, en los primeros años se prepara el camino para el desarrollo físico, espiritual, social, emocional, académico, y aún moral, del niño. Estos primeros años, dice ella, también son el mejor momento para presentarle a Jesús.

La oficina de Educación de la Unión, estableció el departamento en el otoño de 2008, para "asegurar que todos los niños y las familias tengan acceso a programas seguros, Cristo-céntricos, de alta calidad, y apropiados para la edad del desarrollo, que preparará a los niños para el éxito futuro". Lea más en inglés en la página 10, o en español en columbiaunion.org/primerainfancia—A. *Grace Brown*



Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *An Adventure Into Discovery* Rex D. Edwards



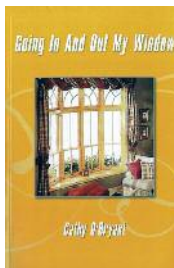
Rex D. Edwards, DMin, a member of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., shares this collection of his studies and impressions of biblical sites to provide a secular audience with archaeological and historical evidence of biblical statements. Edwards, a research assistant for



the Biblical Research Institute, hopes these statements will also “show how predictions made by prophets of old have been fulfilled, corroborate the veracity of the biblical record and inform our understanding of the future.” Order at teachservices.com.

Going In And Out My Window Cathy O'Bryant

This delightful mix of historical narrative, poetry and fact sprinkled with fiction not only conveys Cathy O'Bryant's memories of life in Camden, N.J., but shines a light on some deserving residents of the crime-ridden city. The book “depicts how my life has been guided from childhood toward the blessed hope,” adds the lifelong member



of Allegheny East Conference's Mount Olivet church. The noted author and activist has devoted her life and talents to addressing issues like homelessness, child abuse and battered women. Order at xlibris.com.



Did You Know?

You can now enjoy this year's devotionals published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md.—junior through adult editions—on your portable devices. Purchase MP3 files at reviewandherald.com/audio-devotionals and eBook formats at reviewandherald.com/ebook-devotionals.

CD > *New Life* Jessica Fisher

After Jessica Fisher rededicated her life to Christ at a youth event in 2010, she got right to work on



her debut album. In the car, on her trip back home, she and her sister, Jacquelyn, wrote the first song. “Upper Room Experience” is just that—the very real and life-changing experience of praying in one accord with fellow believers,” explains



the member of Potomac Conference's Fredericksburg (Va.) church. Read how Fisher uses her music for ministry and order the CD at jessicafishermusic.com.

Welcome to the Family

Dominique Deabreu

Burnt Mills Church, Silver Spring, Md.



When I was baptized, I declared that I was going to follow God for the rest of my life. It just so happens that I was born again on my actual birthday.

On the Web

Facebooked >

Olney Adventist Preparatory School



The Dream Machine Recycle Rally is an exciting program that aims to raise

awareness of the importance of recycling among students, and gives schools a chance to earn rewards and support charities, all while helping to make the planet a cleaner, greener place. Help Olney Adventist Preparatory School as they race to the top of the Dream Machine Recycle Rally!—Olney, Md.

Jennifer Young McCary



York Adventist Christian School will be participating in the fourth annual

Lodge K-12 Christian Education Options Expo from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hershey Lodge March 17. We will be sharing an informational booth with our sister school, Gettysburg Adventist School. Admission is free.—York (Pa.) Church

Valerie Nagle



My going to church school was not only a huge blessing to me, my whole life,

but as an adult, my children were able to attend church school for most of their schooling, even though I did not have the money to pay for it ... So seeing God answer my prayers for their Christian education, my faith and trust in God increased even more ... Praise His name!—Jackson (Ohio) Church

In the Spotlight > Patterson Avenue Child Care Center



FROM LITTLE TO MUCH: Bustling with activity and inspiration, the Patterson Avenue Child Care Center is nearly bursting out of its two-story residential building in Richmond, Va. This is a wonderful contrast to its opening more than 25 years ago, when they tended to four children in a classroom at Richmond Academy. Despite setbacks at its current location next to Potomac Conference's Patterson Avenue church, the center remained open with the church's support.



"It's been amazing to watch how God has led the child care center to make adjustments, find just the right people to repair stuff and manage to reach its market in spite of a slow economy," commented Jack Calkins, Patterson pastor (pictured interacting with the students). "God has been there at every twist and turn."

EXCITING BEGINNINGS: The staff provides quality before- and after-care programs, and makes sure to start each day with a Bible story and prayers before embarking on the day's lesson. "It's rewarding when you see the excitement in a child's eyes as they learn how to write their name, or count to 100 by fives for the first time," says Jeanna Marcussen, director.

SOLID BUILDING BLOCKS: Today the center's waiting list is a testament to the solid education and social preparation they provide the children. Feedback from parents and local teachers reveal that their students are



well prepared for kindergarten and often excel toward the top of their class. "From the beginning, God continues to have a close and guiding hand in the ministry of our center," Marcussen proudly reflects.—Tanisha Greenidge

Right From the S T A R T

Early childhood
education
offers promising
beginnings for
little ones

by A. GRACE BROWN

“GOD LOVES ME—EVEN WHEN I MAKE MISTAKES. EVEN WHEN I DO IT ON PURPOSE.” If you could teach a child this truth, how would you do it, and when would you start? Would you wait until he or she could at least talk? Walk? Read? Write?

Research by the Child Welfare Information Gateway shows that children experience the fastest brain growth during the first years of their lives. By the time a typical child reaches age 3, his or her brain will have formed close to 1,000 trillion connections—twice as many as adults have! A child’s brain will remain densely connected until he or she is about 11 years old, at which point the brain begins a “pruning” process to reduce extra or unused connections and create order out of the ones that remain.

According to Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education’s Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) department, the early years, especially from birth to age 5, set the stage for a child’s physical, spiritual, social, emotional, academic and even moral development. That is why it is so important that the early years be especially full of love, security and opportunities for creative exploration. These early years, she says, are also the best time to introduce children to Jesus.

Sullivan explains that children learn through play and hands-on interaction, using all five senses, so every experience—from grocery shopping to playing games to reading stories together—provides wonderful teachable moments with



Potomac Conference’s Sligo Child Development Center in Takoma Park, Md., opened in 1991 and currently educates 40 children who hail from at least 10 countries.

There are 62 early childhood programs in the Columbia Union that serve nearly 1,500 children aged 6 months to 5 years. Children who attend these programs demonstrate improved social skills and an increased attention span.



far-reaching effects. As the first and primary adults a child will know, parents are the most important people and teachers in a child's life. As they journey through the experiences common to raising children, parents have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to influence every aspect of their children's development.

Sharing the Responsibility

There are other caring adults who share this responsibility, notes Sullivan, and among them are the church and its educators. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been partnering with parents since the 1870s to support wholistic education for mind, body and spirit, but within recent years, early childhood education programs have come to play a more critical role in younger children.

The union's Office of Education established its ECEC department in the fall of 2008 to "ensure that all children and families have access to safe, Christ-centered, high quality and developmentally age-appropriate programs that will prepare children for future success." The ECEC office also fosters vigilance toward children's development so that any delays or special learning needs can be addressed early, which can lead to more successful outcomes in later years.

Sullivan shares: "It would be wonderful if one parent from every household could stay home and teach their

Since opening in 2002, Chesapeake Conference's Friendship Child Development Center in Linthicum Heights, Md., has been using play, crafts, music and games to develop their students' social, physical, mental and spiritual skills.

children through second grade, but unfortunately in today's society, it is not practical. The first five years of a child's life are essential for learning. If a parent is not able to provide the needed training at home, then a preschool experience in a Christian setting can facilitate the learning process. Children who attend early childhood programs demonstrate improved social skills and an increased attention span. However, there is not one method of instruction that suits all children."

There are 62 early childhood programs in the Columbia Union that serve nearly 1,500 children between 6 months and 5 years of age. The programs vary from early learning centers, or preschools, which are often operated by churches or schools, to the more structured pre-kindergarten programs run by schools. Thirty-three of these sites are currently participating in a two-year pilot program using the Gold Assessment (a research-based, ongoing observational assessment tool for children from birth through kindergarten) and Creative Curriculum System's updated preschool curriculum, released in July 2011.



By enrolling in an ECEC program, parents and children can experience the love of God in action and are exposed to a continuity of quality education that is available to their children as they grow.

—EVELYN SULLIVAN

ECEC staff members recently received in-service training to learn how to implement the curriculum.

God's Love in Action

ECEC educators throughout the Columbia Union use structured and dramatic play, music, movement and guided reading to tap into each child's interests, strengths and personality. Their training enables the staff to apply best practices to nurture child development and to minimize or reverse the effects of social or developmental conditions, such as Attention

Deficit Disorder, dyslexia and autism, which can be diagnosed by a health professional. Without the observation of a trained specialist, these conditions could remain undetected until those children enter the school system. And while it's never too late to seek help, research has shown that the earlier a child receives help for any developmental or social delays, the better the outcome for that child.

The presence of early childhood education and care in the Columbia Union also provides greater outreach and evangelism opportunities for the Adventist

The SPICES of a Child's Life

Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) department, reports that a growing, changing child develops as a result of their interaction with the social, emotional and physical worlds. For example, a child's genetic makeup may forecast healthy growth, but poor nutrition in the formative years might keep them from reaching their potential. Likewise, a child's innate temperament—such as a predisposition for being cautious or outgoing—is partially shaped by how other children and adults interact with them.

Because biology and prior experiences have such a lasting impact on children, it is important for early childhood educators to maintain high expectations and employ all of their knowledge, ingenuity and persistence toward finding ways to help every child succeed. One way these educators stay ahead of the curve is to understand that children have six

different but inter-related developmental domains, which can easily be referred to as the SPICES of life:

Spiritual—the development of spiritual principles

Physical—the development of fine (small) and gross (large) motor skills

Intellectual—the process of making sense of the world around them

Creative—the development of special abilities creates noteworthy talents. Music, art, writing, reading and singing are some ways for creative development to take place

Emotional—the development of self-awareness and self-confidence and how to cope and understand feelings

Social—the ability to form attachments, play with others, cooperate and share, and to create lasting relationships with others

educational system, says Sullivan (pictured left with pre-K students from Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md.). Many parents in local communities are looking for high quality child care and/or preschools for their infants and toddlers. When they enroll in the ECEC program, parents and children can experience the love of God in action and are exposed to the continuity of quality elementary and secondary education that is available to their children as they grow.

Trudy Shiroma Koeffler knows this firsthand as a pre-K and kindergarten teacher in the Pennsylvania Conference. “As an early childhood educator, I am an example by how I handle situations in the class. If I am kind, loving, patient, forgiving—they will believe me when I tell them God loves [them].”

One third of Koeffler’s students at Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Whitehall, Pa., are unchurched, but she has repeatedly seen God work through her students to draw entire families closer to Him. She recalls: “I had a wonderful experience recently, where one of these [unchurched] students expressed that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus. This same student was going to move in January because her father had a promotion at work. After our school Christmas program, the father came to me with tears in his eyes. He said, ‘We are reconsidering the move because our child does not want to leave this school.’ The very next day the mother wrote a note saying that she had good news for me. They had decided to keep the child in the class till the end of the school year. I feel that the Christ-centered program helped these parents see the love in our school.”

Strong Beginnings Matter

Now more than ever, educators have come to understand how much beginnings matter in the life of a child. Parents can do a lot to help prepare the tender minds of their infants and toddlers for the road ahead, and the early childhood education teachers in the Columbia Union are trained, available and eager to assist in that process.

“It is our Christian duty to ensure all children have access to quality care and education at an early age, because education is a continuum and starts at infancy and builds,” shares Vickie Wilkerson, director at Allegheny East Conference’s Sharon Temple Child Care Learning Center in Wilmington, Del. She adds, “As Christians, we can help foster a healthy, safe,



PHOTOS BY AL PEASLEY



Although more than half of the students at Potomac’s Andrews Development Center in Takoma Park, Md., regularly come from the community, nearly all graduates continue onto the John Nevins Andrews School.

loving and nurturing environment that will stimulate the growth and development of the whole child ... where a child can thrive and reach their full potential.”

As children grow and are able to engage in conversation, all of the adults in their lives can ask questions that stimulate higher levels of critical thinking and encourage children to start telling stories of their own. And hopefully the stories they tell the most are of personal encounters with the God who has always loved them—right from the start.

A. Grace Brown writes from Columbia, Md.

Get More - Watch our video story about the Columbia Union's ECEC department at columbiaunion.org/videos.



How Can We Revive Adventist Education?

Seventh-day Adventists across the North American Division (NAD) seem to agree that our educational system is facing unprecedented challenges. While solutions have been offered, and some even implemented, a number of the proposed models may take years to bring about long-term, tenable solutions. **Ileana Espinosa**, the Columbia Union Conference's new associate director for elementary education, has some suggestions that she believes might provide more immediate results:

Re-embrace the Adventist brand!

Being unabashedly Seventh-day Adventist may not be such a bad idea after all. If diluting our name and standards to attract students is not working, then maybe we need to return to highlighting what makes our church and schools unique.

Invest more in teachers.

We must prepare student teachers to face the ever-growing possibility and challenge of being a multi-grade teaching principal by offering them college courses, specialized degrees and in-servicing.

We should give seasoned teachers every opportunity to grow professionally and develop spiritually.

As a church, we should also regularly validate our teachers. One of the few examples in place is the NAD Teachers'

Convention (nadeducation.org) held every six years where church leaders highlight our educators and their ministries. The next convention is this August.

Help schools find their niche in the market.

Our schools need to highlight what sets them apart from sister and community institutions. That niche could be a thriving handbell program, a successfully implemented differentiated instruction curriculum or the latest classroom technology.

Streamline and educate school boards.

When it comes to educational leadership, more "hands" don't necessarily make the work lighter. Smaller, more efficient committees at the conference level can address the important issues that arise from time to time.

Strengthen partnerships between pastors and teachers.

There needs to be more opportunities for pastors and teachers to dialogue and share ideas. Understanding this need, several conferences have started holding dual training sessions.

Increase member support for all Adventist children.

We need to claim every Adventist child and invest in his/her success. When one student is successful, we are all successful! And every member needs to offer their support, either through financial contributions, volunteering or by simply encouraging and praying for the students and educators.

Ramah Pre-School, Cleveland



Enrollment at G.E. Peters Doubles

I don't sleep," John Alberty confesses. "All I do is think about George E. Peters." The 36-year-old principal of the K-8 school in Hyattsville, Md., came on board last fall when the school only had 42 students and there were concerns about shutting it down.

The school, which was remodeled after sustaining tornado damage in 2008, is bright, spacious and up to date. While there are now 94 students, Alberty is confident that enrollment will climb to 300. "I don't want people to send their kids here just because this is a Seventh-day Adventist school, but because we have the best program in the area," he says. "We are moving in the right direction."

Alberty believes that one of the reasons why the school may be growing is because he does not also teach, which frees him up to observe teachers, handle disciplinary problems and evangelize about the school's offerings. Prior to coming to G.E. Peters, Alberty was an assistant principal for three years at the John Phillip Sousa Middle School, a public school in Washington, D.C. He holds degrees in speech pathology—a bachelor's from Alabama A&M University and a master's from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

There is a lot to be excited about at G.E. Peters these days: the school is going green, they just ordered new computers and are working to become a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) school. "It's not me," Alberty says. "It's God, because at the end of the day, my job is a testimony." Read more online at columbiaunion.org/gepeters.



John Alberty, principal at George E. Peters Adventist School, helps Ci-Arra Dottin in science class.

PINE FORGE ACADEMY NEWS

Students Strive for Excellence

The challenge from principal Delmas Campbell was great—strive for academic excellence—and the courses rigorous, but Pine Forge Academy (PFA) students worked diligently and consistently throughout the semester! The results? Sixty-seven percent of the students at this Pine Forge, Pa., school earned honor roll status, including 59 percent of the freshman

class, 61 percent of the sophomore class, 58 percent of the junior class and 82.5 percent of the senior class!

Two students, sophomore Terry Williams and junior Antionette Jones (pictured), made the Principal's List, getting A's in all of their classes.—*Noreena Ogidan*

Students Dare to be Like Daniel

During a recent Wednesday night prayer meeting, Chaplain Toussaint Williams challenged the student

body to participate in a 14-day health challenge. It was modeled after Daniel, chapter 1, where the Hebrew boys were found to exceed the other young men greatly because they remained true to God and watched their appetites.

PFA participants (pictured) strove to cut out sweets and juices from their daily diets and spend more time with God. Some students made their own personal goals such as abstaining from secular music. Freshman Miata Smith reports, "Besides the healthy benefits, [I learned] how to gain self-control and grow healthier physically, spiritually and mentally."—*Noreena Ogidan*



Living Faith Company Obtains First Building

The Living Faith company recently had its official opening and dedication in the newly purchased and renovated edifice at 80 Washington Street in West Orange, N.J. African members from the Church of the Oranges planted the church in 2009 in an effort to minister to other African families living in the northern New Jersey area. However, the church evangelizes to and has

already attracted people from many cultures. And, after renting meeting spaces from two different churches, the group of now 60 members determined that they were ready to purchase their own building.

Pastor D. Robert Kennedy, EdD, who pastors both Living Faith and the Church of the Oranges, is amazed at the church's progress. "In all my 42 years of ministry, this is the

first time I've seen a church accomplish so much," he said. "That they have been able to buy their own church building after only two years, is like a miracle of faith—living faith. Their faith is very much alive."

Eric and Patience NDumele and William Charles help lead the church. Living Faith is slated to obtain church status at Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) October constituency session.—*Patience NDumele and Taashi Rowe*



Left to right: Samuel Campbell, former pastor of the Church of the Oranges; D. Robert Kennedy, pastor of Living Faith; Amofah Asamoah, AEC African Ministries coordinator; Charles Cheatham, AEC president; Okezie Erando, pastor of the Co-op City church (N.Y.); and Eric NDumele, head elder of Living Faith

Virginia Korean Church's English Group Grows

Just two years after having their first English divine service, the Virginia Korean church in Manassas, Va., has a vibrant, growing English small group. "We launched an English divine service in the beginning of 2010. We were hoping to build an infrastructure for a multicultural and multi-ethnic ministry for the people in our community," shares Justin Yang, the church's English pastor. "And sure enough, some of the people who have moved to the

local community began to check in on Sabbath to attend our English divine service. Soon we had multicultural families joining our worship, and we felt the need to start an English small group."

They started the group last year with three families. It has grown to seven families with some 16-18 members total, many of whom participate in other church ministries. The multicultural group is a welcoming place. One member even

brought his running buddies to the monthly meeting. "We have created an atmosphere where we freely share our current struggles and our prayer requests," Yang explains.

Now Yang says this group is at the core of the church's English Ministries outreach, and there are 60-70 attendees at the English divine service. "I praise God for His providence in bringing this group together, and empowering us to launch ministries together that served as a catalyst for growth and transformation," he says. Read more at columbiunion.org/novakorean.



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Are Your Toes Wet Yet?

My parents, Nem and Zelda Bailey, have always been strong supporters of Christian education, even when the money was not on hand to support their vision. When three of their four children were school aged, my parents had to make a decision. Was there a Seventh-day Adventist school near us? No. Did they have the money for private school? No. Were they discouraged? Of course not! They knew God would provide the money when it was needed.

Because we lived in a small, rural village, quite a distance from school, my mother would drive us to the town's grocery store and wait for one of the school's teachers to pick us up. One morning, while we waited, my brother suddenly called out, "Mommy, there is something on the ground. Can I get it?" My mother responded negatively: "Stay in the car, Rickey." Curiosity got the best of Rickey and he jumped out. "Look, Mommy, a roll of dollars!" he announced as he bounded back inside. Astonished, my mother unrolled the bills. "We can't keep it. I'll take it into the store when it opens and tell the manager," she announced. We were so excited and prayed that no one would claim it. Soon the manager called to tell us the money was ours. We rejoiced and thanked God, who has more than a thousand ways to answer prayers.

Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is expensive, but our God is in control and He only asks that we trust Him and claim the promises. Remember the priests of Israel as they approached the swollen Jordan River. The Jordan did not part until they obeyed God's command. So I ask again, are your toes wet yet? Have you put God to the test? He will never ask us to do anything without making a way for obedience. If your child is not yet attending an Adventist school because you believe you cannot afford it, put your toes in the water and watch the miracle unfold.



Yvette Cooper
Superintendent of
Education

Ramah Alumnus Shares Military Experience

Ramah Junior Academy alumnus Edward Howard recently treated the school's seventh- and eighth-graders to a special presentation about military life and the experiences of war. Howard, a senior airman with the United States Air Force, spent six months last year stationed at the Joint Base Balad in Balad, Iraq, where he served as a logistics planner. His responsibilities included relocating servicemen and women to other bases and assignments or sending them home.

Howard explained how insurgents shot at his base

Ramah Junior Academy alumnus Edward Howard visited the school to share his experiences in the military and to remind students about the importance of listening and following directions.



every day and the ways service people would take cover. He also shared his medals and memorabilia (pictured) and taught students the importance of listening to their teachers and following instructions because, one day, these skills may save their lives.

"Students should appreciate what they have because they would not want to live in the conditions I experienced and saw in Iraq," Howard told the teachers. "Students need to learn how to pay attention, follow directions, follow authority and listen."

Columbus Academy Middle Schoolers Study 100 Heroes

At the beginning of each school year, all classes (K-8) at Columbus Adventist Academy (CAA) in Columbus, Ohio, are encouraged and challenged to focus on a meaningful concept or

activity for the first 100 school days. Some of the activities include reading 100 books or 100 poems, performing 100 acts of kindness or doing research on 100 animals.

With the encouragement of their teacher, Sean Maycock, the seventh- and eighth-graders chose to learn about 100 heroes. Students chose a person—family, friend, notable or peer—that has inspired them and shared why that person is a hero to them. They then placed a

small picture and narrative on the classroom wall. After the school-wide 100th day celebration, the seventh- and eighth-graders hosted a “hero reception,” where they invited their heroes to a night of recognition and honor. The decorated gym came alive as the excited students ate a delicious dinner with their heroes.



Eighth-grader Raekwon Hardin (far left) enjoys time with his hero, father Mike Ford Sr. (center, back), and siblings (left to right) Meiyour Ford, Makai Ford and Mike Ford Jr. during the heroes reception.



CAA Students Celebrate Culture

Last year the East Asian country of Taiwan celebrated its centennial. To help them celebrate, the North American Division asked all of its schools to infuse information about Taiwan into their curriculum and encouraged them to order a kit about the island. The kits included suggestions and items to help com-

memorate the anniversary. Columbus Adventist Academy students tried Taiwanese food and tea, created various related projects, practiced speaking the language and listened to the music, among other activities.

After concluding their study of Taiwan, the school hosted its annual International Day chapel program. The CAA student body made their native flags, dressed in their native clothing and shared words from their mother tongue, then impressed attendees in a parade of countries around the sanctuary. To culminate the celebration, everyone got the opportunity to taste delicious cuisine from the various countries.



Wearing clothes from their native countries, these Columbus Adventist Academy students demonstrate the many cultures their student body represents.

Calendar

March

14-18 Fine Arts Festival
Conference Campgrounds

15 Conference Campgrounds
Officially Open

23-25 Latino Elders Retreat
Conference Campgrounds

April

14, 15 Conference Basketball
Championship, *Cleveland*

20-22 Leadership Summit/Purity
Retreat/Cotillion/Beautillion/
Kids Kingdom, *Columbus*

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awconf.org ■ President, William Cox
Editor, Bryant Taylor



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

MARCH 2012

New Diploma Offers Advanced Studies Courses

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has always offered a standard diploma to its graduating seniors, under which several academic tracks were available. Students could also essentially create their own advanced high school certificate, highlighting their interests and potential career fields. However, starting in the 2012-13 school year, BMA will begin offering an additional diploma track—an Advanced Studies diploma.

Students can work toward the diploma that best suits their academic goals, but no matter which diploma a student receives, they can still get an education that makes them “college-ready,” as registrar Diana Engen puts it. Having two tracks gives the more ambitious students a goal to reach.

“Our standard diploma is good, but our Advanced Diploma is great,” comments Engen. “We took what was a good, solid product and made it much better. With the two tracks, college is going to be a lot more attainable for our students. It can only increase their success in college.”

New Curriculum Improves Math Readiness

In order to help struggling math students, BMA will also implement a new math curriculum that makes available an ALEKS interactive mathematics system. Pennsylvania’s newly implemented educational guidelines require that all high school graduates pass algebra and geometry. In the past, it was possible to graduate without having taken either course, leaving some students unprepared for college math. ALEKS tests reveal which areas a student needs the most improvement, and helps leaders develop a plan to help improve a student’s math comprehension and to prepare them for Algebra I the next school year. Students enrolled in the ALEKS class will work with the program’s curriculum throughout the school year, and a math teacher will be available to assist and instruct them.

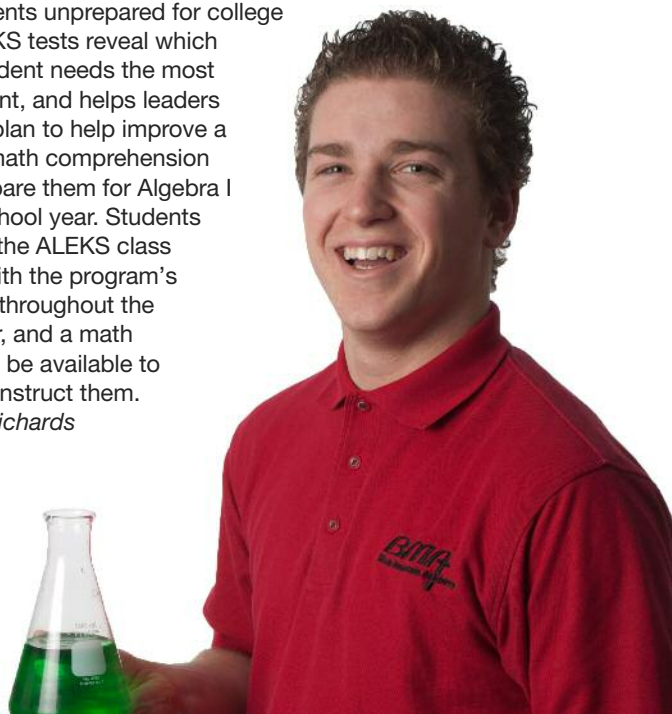
—Ashley Richards



BMA plans to implement a new math curriculum to help students prepare for college. Here, Christian Monterrey helps Shelby DeLisser with her math homework.

Students choosing the Advanced Studies diploma will be required to take at least one foreign language course, but will also need to take a second year of foreign language or an additional mathematics or science course. A personal finance course will also be offered to seniors as a social studies course. Craig Ziesmer, BMA principal, wants this class to become an integral part of a senior’s class load, along with U.S. Government and psychology.

Though the new Advanced Diploma track has no direct link to additional scholarships or other collegiate benefits, the program has several noteworthy advantages. It carries many advanced-level courses, which provide college-level information that will help students test out of required college classes and gain learning skills that will be applicable in college. When students do well in their advanced courses, their GPA goes up, which gives them the opportunity for additional college scholarships.



Chemistry and other advanced classes at Blue Mountain Academy are helping students like Nick Enochs better prepare for college.

New Work Opportunities Arise for School Industry

Blue Mountain Academy recently increased its business ties with local companies for the school's industry work program. Today BMA coordinates with six companies,



Chris Nelson assembles products at the school industry.

which gives students a chance to do “all sorts of assembly, packaging and shipping,” explains Corey Enochs, industry supervisor. Forty-two students currently work in the industry program—a little more than 25 percent of the student body.

The additional business connections provide more opportunities to offset student tuition, says Enochs. He adds, “The Lord has blessed us with more work than we’ve had in a long time.” Industry is one of the largest and best paying work options on campus and “teaches students good work ethic,” Enochs adds. “And it gives them the opportunity to offset their bills and do their part in paying for their education.”—Ashley Richards



Adrian Ascalon is one of many BMA students who participate in the industry work program.

Student Association Makes School a “Better Place”

Life at a boarding school can be overwhelming for new students. Once registration is over and they have moved into the dormitory, met their roommate and said goodbye to family, the school year ahead can seem daunting and lonely. But as all students soon crowd into the gymnasium for the Student Association (SA) organized handshake, and newbies get to meet other students and teachers, life can seem a bit more manageable.

However, the Student Association is involved in much more than just



an opening activity on the first day of school. SA is comprised of 10 students who reach out to others and to get to know them so they can help meet their needs. Each year, SA plans events, including the handshake, a Christmas party and an international food fair, as well as outdoor church services.

Maile Hoffman ('12), SA president, says her favorite SA event so far has been the handshake. It was the first event her team put together, and she wanted to make sure everything went smoothly. When it was over, the students said they had a lot of fun. “We are supposed to look out for the students,” Hoffman says. “We try to be a good influence. We want to make it feel more like home here. Students are here all the time—it’s good to have someone to look up to. It makes the school a better place.”—Ashley Richards

Maile Hoffman, Student Association president, and Anna Bugbee, SA pastor, enjoy an SA social.



Courtney-Lynn Harvey, Courtney Seipt and Maile Hoffman decorate cookies at the SA Christmas Party.

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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2012

Keep it Simple

Simplicity! All too often life seems to get complicated with multiple commitments, conflicting schedules, advanced technology and confusing directions. Even our relationship with God can get caught up with hair-splitting nuances of theology. It can leave us wishing for simpler times and a clearer sense of purpose.

When Jesus walked this Earth, there were plenty of people trying to make things complicated. They came to Jesus with a question: “Which is the greatest commandment in the law?” They had so many laws from so many sources it was difficult for the average person to know them all, much less keep them.

Jesus made it very simple for them and for us: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37, NKJV). And then Jesus went on to answer the unasked question about the second law: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Ellen G. White adds, “When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 607).

Rather simple, isn't it? Our God, defined as “love,” calls for us to love Him and those He has created. Why not try it out the next time things seem to be getting a bit too complex? When there are more “to do’s” than hours in the day, try prioritizing by love. When you’re sorting out the directions in your life, what will it mean to love God and others?

KISS—Keep it simple saints! Jesus makes it clear for us. Try applying it in your life today.



Rick Remmers

President

YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS

Youth Leaders Inspired at Retreat

The first retreat for Chesapeake Conference Pathfinder and Adventurer coordinators held recently at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., was so successful it prompted plans for a Columbia Union Conference-wide retreat for coordinators in 2013. Coordinators and their families gathered for a weekend of worship, visioning, teambuilding exercises and fellowship.

“I always enjoy being with the Pathfinder coordinators,” said Jim Wood, a Pathfinder area coordinator and member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. “We are friends and partners together in this ministry for our young people. I hope this coordinators retreat will become a regular event for us.”—*Ann Reynolds*

PHOTO BY CHARLES KOERTING



Family Ski Day Offers Wintry Adventure

More than 180 youth, leaders and parents recently spent the day on the powdery slopes of Jack Frost Big Boulder Ski Resort in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. The event drew skiers—and their friends and neighbors—from 16 churches, according to Carl Rodriguez, conference Youth Ministries director.

—*Keith Acker*



THE Gathering

A RENEWED CAMP MEETING EXPERIENCE

JUNE 12-16, 2012 – HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

Plan now to participate in this fresh approach to a reunion of the Chesapeake family of believers. John Nixon, professor of Pastoral Ministry at Southern Adventist University, is the keynote speaker on Sabbath, June 16. Join us for five days of inspiring preaching, programming for children, youth and young adults, and seminars on family life, biblical studies, health and spiritual growth.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

You can register:

1. online at www.ccosda.org
2. by phone at 410-995-1910
3. by mailing a **check payable to Chesapeake Conference** to Chesapeake Conference Locating Committee, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044

ITEM	PRICES	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DORMITORY ROOMS All rooms air-conditioned; windows have blinds			
GIRLS DORM -- ADULTS ONLY (18 years and older)			
1st floor - mens' rest rooms	\$100.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$7.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
BOYS' DORM -- FAMILIES & ADULTS			
1st floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$100.00/5 nights price is for 2 people \$7.00/night each additional person		
2nd floor - mens' rest rooms			
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms			
<i>Fire code prohibits cooking in rooms. Bring your own bedding. Dorm rooms must be rented for the full time. There must be two persons in the room. Third and fourth persons will be \$7.00 per night per person.</i>			
TENTS (Available in trailer area only – must pre-register)			
With concrete floor & electricity	\$40.00/5 nights		
	\$12.00/night		
Single cot with mattress	\$3.00 each		
Folding table	\$1.00 each		
Folding chair	\$0.50 each		
PERSONAL TENTS (With Use of Bath House)			
Space for your own personal tent	\$25.00/5 nights		
	\$6.00/night		
Space for your own personal tent w/electricity & water	\$35.00/5 nights		
	\$8.00/night		
Folding table	\$1.00 each		
Folding chair	\$0.50 each		
TRAILERS Length of trailer: _____ ft.			
Trailer space w/electricity, water, sewer	\$65.00/5 nights		
	\$15.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water	\$55.00/5 nights		
	\$12.00/night		
Trailer space without hookups	\$30.00/5 nights		
	\$6.00/night		
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED		\$	

NAME: _____ HOME CHURCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

BANK NAME: _____

ELECTRONIC CHECK: ABA ROUTING #: _____ CHECKING ACCOUNT #: _____

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

MARCH 2012

The Aim of an Adventist Education

Larry Blackmer, North American Division vice president for education, recently visited every church school and spoke to the respective school and church boards in the Mountain View Conference. In addition to discussing the principles that make for running a smooth and successful educational program in the local church setting, Blackmer also challenged everyone to make sure that they not blur the aim of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. He drew our attention to the fact that it is our responsibility to help every child in our churches and conference to not only know Christ, but also to develop a faith that leads them to be soul winners for Him in the communities in which they live and in the marketplace where they work.

His talk brought to mind a passage from Ellen White's book *Education*. She writes, "'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15), is Christ's command to His followers. Not that all are called to be ministers or missionaries in the ordinary sense of the term; but all may be workers with Him in giving the "glad tidings" to their fellow men. To all, great or small, learned or ignorant, old or young, the command is given" (p. 264).

The aim of an Adventist education in this conference continues to be to educate and train young people in the framework of the Advent message, to share the gospel with others. Don't be fooled into thinking this only applies to those with school-aged children, because fulfilling this aim is the responsibility of every member of this conference.



Larry Boggess
President

Montessori Adventure Invites Hands-on Learning

Sixteen students are attending Montessori Adventure, a new school in Parkersburg, W.Va., which opened in the fall. The pre-K and kindergarten school operates out of Parkersburg Academy and embraces the Montessori method, which is a first for the Mountain View Conference.

"Montessori education embraces the uniqueness of each child's developmental progress," explains Mary Beth Wiesner, teacher. "The hands-on learning materials invite the student's curiosity and exploration while engaging his or her logical, analytical and deductive thought processing. Learning becomes a three-dimensional experience, which produces balanced individuals who can both think and do."



Carter Scott,
a pre-K student,
uses small number
rods to learn
addition and
subtraction.

Monica Zill, conference communication director, has noticed another benefit of having this school. "After years of declining enrollment and even no school at all, the school board saw this as an opportunity to really reach out to the community and bring families to our school. This school has even boosted enrollment at Parkersburg Academy!"



Audrey Sundstrom, kindergartener, and Jozy Barton and Bryce Smith, both in pre-K, learn their colors and coordination with these color tablets.

Logan, Williamson Churches Open Better Living Center

The Logan and Williamson churches in West Virginia recently moved their thrift store to the downtown area of their tiny community. The move had the benefit of a more prominent location, but also provided an opportunity for them to make big changes, which included opening the Logan Better Living Center. The center will operate the thrift store, manage a disaster relief program, offer healthy lifestyle education and work closely with already established food pantries.

“We want to be a major part of the community,” explains Pastor Cesar B. Quispe, who along with his wife, Marialfred Acuna-Quispe, ND, CNHP, will manage the day-to-day operations of the center. “God has called us to serve others, and the best way of doing that is to serve those who are in need. Our center is focused on helping people in all three aspects of life: the spiritual, physical and emotional.”



Present at the grand opening were Larry Boggess, conference president; Serafino Nolleti, Logan mayor; Ray Perry, city code enforcement officer; and Jay Nunly, news anchor for WVOW Radio; as well as church members and volunteers.

“Throughout the state, the Seventh-day Adventists are dedicated to working with those in need in each of their ministry communities, and the Logan Better Living

Left to right: Serafino Nolleti, Logan mayor; Pastor Cesar Quispe; Marialfred Acuna-Quispe; Ray Perry, city code enforcement officer; and Larry Boggess, conference president

Center is a shining example of that work,” wrote U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall in a letter supporting the opening.

The center is located at 205 Stratton Street in Logan, West Virginia. The phone number is (304) 752-1580.

Valley View Teacher Embraces Education Mission

Students in Melvin Glass’ physics class at Valley View Adventist School (VVAS) in Bluefield, W.Va., get a practical understanding of the world. His field trips can involve analyzing the forces on an elevator as it goes up and down or learning



about angular momentum while on a merry-go-round. Glass, who also teaches chemistry, algebra and geometry has taught in Seventh-day Adventist schools for 25 years, seven of which have been at VVAS.

Before coming to VVAS, he taught at a self-supporting Adventist school and then at Valley Grande Academy in Texas. He holds undergraduate degrees in physics and math from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and a Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics from Andrews University (Mich.). While he enjoys preparing students for life here on Earth, Glass says his favorite part of teaching in an Adventist school is that “I like being free to talk about God and the Bible and how it fits in with science.”—*Taashi Rowe*

Upcoming Young Adult Events

- **GYC Rally**
Charleston Church
April 23-24
- **Young Adult Prayer Conference**
Valley Vista Adventist Center
April 27-29

For more information, call the conference at (304) 422-4581.

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

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

MARCH 2012

Small Groups, Evangelism and Mission Caleb—Part 2

The brothers of the churches of Carteret, Somerville and La Victoria have decided not to look back, but to put their hands on the plow and do the work that has been assigned to us Christians. I asked Pastor Alexis Grajales, who pastors these churches, “Are you having new baptisms in the Carteret and La Victoria churches?” He said: “[We recently] baptized 26 new disciples in the Carteret church for a total of 38 this year! The temple is being filled also! In the La Victoria church, 13 people were baptized. We are helping the community with the food bank ministry under the leadership of Brother Aquilino Parris, who is also working with a Caleb Mission team in Woodbridge, where 19 people are attending.”

I really like the expression “we baptize disciples.” This is the philosophy of small groups. This is the philosophy of Jesus. His disciples bring disciples and the church grows! So, we are preparing for the great day of the second coming. The New Jersey Conference already has more than 14,000 church members!

Praise be to God! The Lord is fulfilling His promises, and “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, NKJV). Do not just stand there and watch from the outside; join us in prayer and action. Are you working in a small group? Are you already giving Bible studies? This is the time! I am praying for you!



José H. Cortés
President

NEWS

Pastoral Updates

Elvis Diaz transferred from south Jersey to become the pastor of the Maranatha, Hoboken and Englewood



Spanish churches. Diaz (pictured with his wife, Stephanie) previously pastored the Panamericana, Hammonton and Laurel Springs Spanish churches. Pastor Diaz, a native of the Dominican Republic, has served in the New Jersey Conference since 2006.

Pastor Mark Jagitsch started the new year with a transfer to the Tranquility/Morristown district. He previously pastored the Bridgeton, Salem and Vineland churches in south Jersey. Jagitsch came to New Jersey

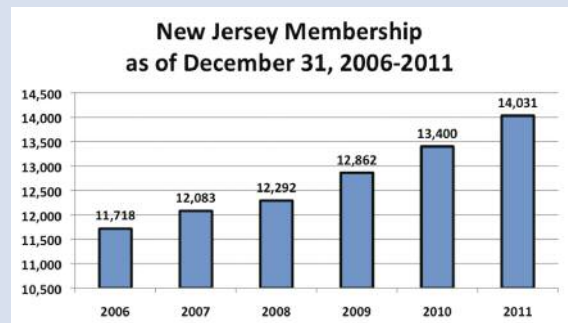


in 2006 from the Illinois Conference. He is pictured with his wife, Cara, and their three children: Kean, Christian and Annelise.

Conference Membership Surpasses 14,000

Jim Greene, conference vice president for administration, recently reported that at the end of 2011, the conference had 14,031 members total—surpassing its goal of 14,000 members.

“The New Jersey Conference is now the third largest conference in the Columbia Union Conference,” said José H. Cortés, president. “God blessed New Jersey with 859 baptisms and professions of faith during our 2011 Year of Evangelism. I give all the praise and glory to God for all these new precious souls He has added to



His church. I am praying that by the end of the next quinquennium, our membership will exceed 20,000.”

At the end of 2006, the membership stood at 11,718. Over the past six years, the membership increased by 19.74 percent (see chart).

Workshop Enhances Math Instruction Methods

One of the objectives of the New Jersey Conference Office of Education is to equip teachers with best practices of teaching so they may provide the best Seventh-day Adventist education to our students,” said Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools. When Saint-Ulysse, a former math teacher, learned of the Math Connection for K-12 Teachers workshop at Union College (Neb.) presented by Larry Ray, PhD, he worked on bringing the workshop to New Jersey. “Our conference supported the plan by providing the needed funds and resources, including textbooks,” he said.



Malou Saint-Ulysse and Elayna Moffitt peruse their math textbooks.

as teams. The true success of the workshop can only be measured by the future mathematics lessons your teachers deliver to their students. As is shown by research in the Asian countries, teachers’ ongoing professional development that focuses on mathematical content is key to their students’ superior performance.”

Saint-Ulysse confirmed, “We will continue to provide the best to our students by investing in our teachers’ professional development.”

Maxine Forbes-Goulding, a teacher at the Waldwick Adventist School in Waldwick, said of the experience, “I am reminded that I am a member of an endearing circle of professionals who, when united, can come up with solutions, ideas and encouragement to overcome any situation.”



Leona Bange, Cathy Tomlinson and Erica Santiago work together in a math workshop.

So they could better assist Ray when he came to New Jersey to present the three workshops, Yolanda Acosta, principal/teacher at the Vineland Regional Adventist School in Vineland, and Yoel Paredes, a teacher at Meadow View Junior Academy in Chesterfield, attended the workshop at Union College.

Ray recently presented the second of three workshops. “It was a delight to work with your New Jersey teachers,” he said. “They were enthusiastic [and] worked well



Larry Ray, PhD, a math professor at Union College, leads a math workshop for the New Jersey Conference.

- 3** Women’s Ministries Day of Prayer
Local Churches
North Jersey Music Training
Waldwick School
South Jersey Personal Ministries Training (English), *Cherry Hill Church*
Youth Ministries Training, Zones 5 & 6, *Delaware Valley Junior Academy*
- 4** Children’s Ministries Training (Spanish), Zone 7, *Vineland Spanish Church*
- 8** Children’s Ministries Training (Spanish), Zone 3, *West New York Spanish Church*, 6:30-10 p.m.
- 10** Adventist Education Day
Local Churches
Children’s Ministries Training (English) Zones 5 & 6, *Laurelwood English Church*, 3-6:30 p.m.
South Jersey Music Training
Vineland Spanish Church, 3-6 p.m.
- 17** Church Clerk Training (English)
Conference Office, 3-7 p.m.
Men’s Ministries Training, *Conference Office*, 3-6 p.m.
Youth Ministries Training, Zones 1-4
Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC) 4-7 p.m.
- 22** Children’s Ministries Training (Spanish), Zone 3, *West N.Y. Spanish Church*, 6:30-10 p.m.
- 23-25** Spanish Elders, Deacons & Deaconesses Retreat Weekend *TVRC*
- 24** Children’s Ministries (Spanish) Training, Zone 3, *Guttenberg Church*, 3-6:30 p.m.
North Jersey Orchestra Concert
Waldwick School, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 26** Pastors & Teachers Workers Meeting
Conference Office, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 27** Pastors Meeting, *Conference Office* 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 31** Church Clerk Training (Spanish)
Conference Office, 3-7 p.m.
- 30-Apr.1** English Women’s Retreat Weekend, *Florham Park*
- 30-Apr.8** ShareHim Reaping Event
Local Churches

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

Worthington Church Celebrates Debt Freedom

During a special service filled with excited and generous worshippers and supporters, the Worthington church recently celebrated a “burning of the mortgage,” a feat they accomplished in only 10 years! During the service, congregants shared how the Lord led them during this process, then Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, joined the building committee, church board and congregation in a prayer of celebration.

It took the congregation 14 years to plan and build the facility. They initially planned to enlarge their original church on Griswold Street, a street that dead ends into the church, but then land on Dublin-Granville Road became available. The committee felt the Lord’s leading to build on this highly visible site, and they followed it.

“A church building is not merely a beautiful house of worship for members and attendees, but a significant way of making us noticeable to the community,” comments Carolyn Sowards, executive elder and building committee chair. “This church structure is located on the east end of the city of Worthington, on the main thoroughfare into downtown.”

Together with pastors Yuliyán Filipov and Bob McGhee, the church is committed to using their location to share the Word of God with the people of Worthington.

Yuliyán Filipov, pastor of the Worthington church, and Cheri Rettstatt, treasurer, delight in burning their church’s mortgage after just 10 years!



Columbus Ghanaian Church Commits to More Baptisms



The Columbus Ghanaian church praises the Lord for His graciousness and for leading their evangelistic efforts in 2011. They finished the year with 15 decisions for baptism (some pictured above), and now seek His guidance for another fruitful 12 months.

“We were confident that with His mighty hand, and our hearts joined to His heart, that our efforts would be rewarded by the end of the year,” comments member Stephen Adu-Yeboah. “We were persuaded by His promise given before going to heaven: ‘and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’ [see Matt. 28:20]. We, therefore, set out with the mindset to unite our outreach efforts with continuous prayers for His Holy Spirit to guide and work through us.”

During the past year, the church leaders noticed a trend with the people who were giving their lives to Christ

and joining the church. “We realized it is not necessarily the [sophistication] of our evangelistic plans or intricate outreach strategies that brought souls into the fold,” explains Adu-Yeboah. “It was mostly those who already had strong ties with someone in the church. Whether a spouse, a nephew, a roommate or just a good friend of a church member, these are the dear brothers and sisters who joined our church in 2011.”

The church continues to pray for and witness to close friends and family members who are outside the fold of God, and this year they hope to gain 20 new children for Christ.



Isaac Boateng, pastor of the Columbus Ghanaian church, prepares Harrison Opoku Freeman for baptism.

Bowling Green District Gains New Pastor

The Ohio Conference is pleased to welcome Pastor Patrick Mazani to the Bowling Green/Findlay/Northwood district in north central Ohio. Pastor Mazani replaces Yuliyán Filipov, who now shepherds the Worthington church.

The Mazani family originally moved from Zimbabwe to Michigan to advance their education. At Andrews University, Mazani studied at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and his wife, Matherine, at the

School of Nursing. Prior to living in the states, Mazani served the church for 15 years in Zimbabwe, first as a district pastor and then as director for the conference's Sabbath School and Education departments.

The Mazanis first learned about the Ohio Conference through Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, where two of their three children started their high school education. (The couple's younger two children presently attend Spring Valley Academy in Centerville.) They moved to Ohio in 2009, when Mazani served as the chaplain for the Hospice of Dayton before transferring his pastoral leadership to the Xenia church.

"All the churches have received us very warmly. They have a desire to grow in Christ and to share their faith. We are excited to join them in the walk of faith," comments Mazani. He has already led a Week of Prayer for his district themed "Alone with God." He adds, "It was marvelous to see many believers here engaged in prayer and fasting. God is wonderful! We are glad to serve."

Patrick and Matherine Mazani (far right) and their children, (left to right) Isheunouya, Vimbainashe and Isheanesu, are excited about their new role in north central Ohio.

PHOTO BY KELLY GREMER



Area Town Hall Meetings Planned

Members should mark their calendars for the following town hall meeting dates, each running from 7-9 p.m.:

April 10: Toledo First Church at 4909 W. Sylvania Ave.

April 12: Akron First Church at 655 E. Waterloo Rd.

April 17: Lakewood Church at 1382 Arthur Ave.

April 19: Kettering Church at 3939 Stonebridge Rd.

April 24: Columbus Eastwood Church at 6400 S. Sunbury Rd. in Westerville

April 26: Chillicothe Church at 510 Metzger Ave.

Pennsylvania *Pen*

MARCH 2012

Uniting for Children's Ministries

When a church, a conference youth department and conference administration unite with an intentional focus on the calling of Christ for His mission in these last days, amazing things can happen! The Pennsylvania Conference has challenged churches and pastors to become intentional for mission. The Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading is one church that took up the challenge. Together with the Pennsylvania Conference Youth Ministries Department Cool Camp team, they reached out to children in the low-income community neighboring their church. The week before Cool Camp, the Pennsylvania Youth Challenge student literature evangelist team reached hundreds of homes around the church.

As a result of these efforts, approximately 40 children attended their Cool Camp, with more than 35 kids accepting Christ as their Savior. When Cool Camp was over, Pastor Mike McCabe and the Kenhorst Boulevard members created the Oakbrook Project. Designed as a church-planting project, McCabe recruited a team of



Blue Mountain Academy students lead out in song service with neighborhood children.



Pastor Mike McCabe spends time with some of the children who attend the Sabbath afternoon Oakbrook Project.

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students to be the ministry leaders for this Sabbath afternoon ministry. McCabe is mentoring these young people, guiding and teaching them how to lead, plan and implement ministry. A team of Kenhorst members provide support and encouragement by preparing meals for the children and students each week, getting to know the children and praying for the ministry.

Compelling stories are coming from the children as Seventh-day Adventist youth and the Kenhorst church family minister to them. They're coming not only on Sabbath afternoon, but are attending Sabbath School, church and Kenhorst's Friday evening youth program, Youth Connect. Little ones quickly volunteer to have prayer during the meetings and share prayer requests honestly during the prayer time each week.

Church members are responding as well. Once a month, members bring bags of groceries for the children. So far they've provided enough bags of groceries that every child has gone home with their own bag. When given a bag, one 9-year-old commented, "This will really help my family because we don't have much food."

This is just one of the ways that our conferences and local churches are seeking to recapture the Seventh-day Adventist calling to mission and empowering youth. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world" (*Education*, p. 271)!

Will you join me in lifting up in prayer these efforts to incorporate our youth and adults together in the mission and ministry of Christ all across Pennsylvania?



Ray Hartwell
President

Missionaries Invite Others to Join Their Team

About seven years ago, we asked God, 'Where? What? When? How can we serve You?' We would rather work for the Lord than man," Tom and Cindy Sitler share. So they retired in order to spend their time doing mission work.

They call North Augusta, S.C.,

home, but are on the road much of the year. They've put in electricity for an orphanage in Honduras, wired an airport for Adventist World Aviation and distributed more than 6,000 books at rest areas and churches.

But they spend a good portion of their year working on the Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) campus. They are currently improving the camp facilities at both Kamp Keystone and Grove City. They've put in sewer lines at Grove City and made sure each RV has a sewer hookup, a 30-amp connection and water. They've buried 1,400 feet of sewer pipe and put in all new overhead electric lines. They've laid more than 8,000 feet of copper wire. Shower houses in both campgrounds now have all

new faucets and 200-amp electric in the shower houses.

One of their biggest projects has been remodeling cabins in Kamp Keystone. Lee Achenbach from Takoma Park, Md., and Keith Wade from Hamburg, helped Tom rebuild cabin number 2, making the cabin livable for camp meeting. The couple reports that there are several cabins that aren't livable.

The Sitlers would like to remodel all the cabins this year. But they'll need help. Tom estimates that it will take three people per cabin and seven working days to complete each building. If you'd like to join this short-term missionary team, contact Ron Christman by April 27 at rchristman@paconference.org or at (610) 374-8331 to volunteer.



Princess Tea

Sunday, April 15, 2012

1:00-4:00 pm

Hamburg Seventh-day Adventist Church
22 Willow Road
Hamburg, Pennsylvania 19526

All of God's princesses, 12 years old and younger, are invited to bring their moms, grandmoms, or adult friend and join us for an afternoon tea with fun activities, and stories that remind us that we are truly princesses.

For more information, contact Tamyra at 610.374.8331 or thorst@paconference.org. Register online on the Women's Ministries page at www.paconference.org.



Potomac People

MARCH 2012

Conference Introduces New Staff



The Potomac Conference is pleased to announce the addition of several new members to its office team. John and Karen Cress (left), who transferred from the Rocky Mountain Conference, are adding their talents to the president's office and Ministerial Department.



As the vice president for Pastoral Ministries, John manages and oversees the pastoral team throughout the conference. He says he hopes "to add value to the local church by encouraging and empowering pastors as they prayerfully grow healthy and disciplined churches that reflect the character of Jesus." As the assistant to the

president for Strategic Initiatives, Karen works with teams as they develop their strategic plans, including growing the body of Christ.

Maurice Battle, Jr. (above), also joins the Ministerial team as the associate for Pastoral Ministries, Northern



District, which is made up of northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and southern Maryland. Battle started his pastoral career in the Potomac Conference, but has served the last six and half years in Minneapolis, Minn.

There are also two new faces within

the communication team. Tiffany Doss (right), a recent graduate from Union College (Neb.), majored in journalism and is eager to help the department



collect and write stories for *Leader2Leader* and the *Visitor*.

Intern Aaron Cheney (left), a recent graduate from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), will provide Internet and video support.



Harrisonburg Church Helps the Homeless

The Harrisonburg church is one of several denominations in the Harrisonburg, Va., community that partner with HARTS (Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter), a nonprofit organization. HARTS staff seeks to find host churches that will provide hot meals and warm beds to homeless individuals during the coldest months. During their nights in charge, Harrisonburg members take turns doing laundry, staying over night and eating and praying with anyone who comes to visit. Members most recently cared for 30 homeless men and women.

"When I look at these people, I see Jesus," said Cherith Cox, director of the ministry for the past three and a half years. "Reading Matthew 25:31-40 changed my life. I realized that when I serve a meal, I'm feeding Jesus. When I'm washing their dirty clothes, I'm washing Jesus' clothes. When I give them a hug, I'm hugging Jesus."

Pastor Dale Long agreed and added, "Many of us are just one paycheck away from being in that same situation."—*Mary Long*



Cherith Cox, director of the Harrisonburg church's homeless ministry, visits with a grateful guest.

Potomac People

Tenacity Revitalizes Stanley School

There is nothing like tenacity to resurrect a school, and the Stanley Seventh-day Adventist School in Stanley, Va., certainly has shown plenty of it. Last year it housed just three students and was set to close, but the church community refused to let go of Adventist education. Area congregants united to improve its facilities and provide tuition aid through various fundraisers, including auctions and selling

its famous apple butter. They also set goals to increase enrollment and heighten the school's prominence by renting its gym as a local recreational center and for annual parenting meetings. Now the school claims more than a dozen students!

"The community sees the need for a school in Stanley and they refused to let go of that vision," marvels Nancy Melashenko, Potomac's associate superintendent

of schools. "We applaud their willingness to step up and do what needed to be done in order to save their school."—*Tiffany Doss*



Selling homemade apple butter helps raise money for the school.

The Adventist community in Stanley, Va., pulled together and saved the Stanley Adventist School, which now claims more than a dozen students (some pictured).

Seabrook Church Calls Volunteers to Action

This is not a bragging evangelism report but an urgent prayer request. We wish to have 100 new disciples of Christ made and baptized at the Seabrook church in

2012." The pastors of the Seabrook (Md.) congregation recently sent this message to the conference's prayer warriors.

"We are taking a significant step of faith," says Jimmy Muñoz (pictured), one of the church's pastors. "We are nervous, because something like this has never been done at Seabrook. It's a bold goal and, God willing, we will see Him move in a significant way."

Muñoz says he knows that only by God's grace and power can they reach 100 new converts for Christ. They haven't performed more than 57 baptisms in one year since 1985. "Our need is very clear—100 Holy Spirit-filled workers, each giving Bible studies to at least one

person by April 7, Easter weekend," explained Muñoz. They hope to reach the first part of their goal, 25 baptisms, by then. Muñoz, Senior Pastor Damein Johnson and Youth Pastor Jeremiah Green are thankful for the 30 volunteers who have already stepped forward eager to do their part in fulfilling this goal, and they pray that more come quickly. If you would like to help, call the church at (301) 577-6342.



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

Spotlight on Spencerville

MARCH 2012

To God be the Glory

I have been studying the life of Moses, especially focusing on the development of his leadership and the ultimate responsibility bestowed upon him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The lessons are numerous, and yet powerful and crystal clear. Chapter 22 of *Patriarchs and Prophets* sheds some amazing light on the biblical stories of Moses' leadership. One of the core leadership lessons that we all must learn happened early in his life. When Moses killed the Egyptian taskmaster, it triggered a 40-year course in God-centered leadership. The lesson: Do not "rely on human strength or wisdom, but upon the power of God for the fulfillment of His promises" (p. 247.3).

How often do we run ahead of God's plans only to discover that we're on a course He does not ordain? We must rely on God, and God alone, to guide and direct our decisions so that all the glory can be attributed to Him.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

NEWS

Ringers "Amaze" Ecumenical Leaders

The Church Benefits Association (CBA) recently invited the Spencerville Ringers, directed by Jane Lanning, to provide worship music for their 37th annual meeting in Baltimore. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, among many denominations, is a member of the CBA through the North American Division (NAD) Retirement Plans. Del Johnson, an NAD Plans administrator, made the arrangements for the Ringers to share their talents with the CBA.

"CBA members and guests, somewhat burnt out after a day and a half of learning from lawyers and bankers, listened with rapt attention to the ethereal sounds of bells and chimes wielded by enthusiastic and skilled young people," reported Johnson. "Music speaks to all faiths and hearts."

Johnson reports that some of attendees' remarks included, "They were amazing," "If they'd brought a CD, I would have bought it" and "Your bell ringers were incredible!"



Johnson added, "I've attended the CBA annual meeting for 14 years and have never seen a standing ovation for a devotional presentation. These young people earned such a response!"

Elementary Students Experience the Joy of Giving

Spencerville Adventist Academy's (SAA) lower elementary teachers chose to focus on orphans during their first semester Week of Prayer. During one of the meetings, students in kindergarten through grade 4 learned about starving children in developing countries and how they could help feed those children. They were challenged to forgo the extra slice of pizza on Fridays for six weeks and, instead, give that money to help feed children through the Restore a Child foundation. Every Friday students brought money to put into a large water jug, hoping to fill it. After six weeks, \$550 in change had been stuffed into the jug. And, now that amount will be doubled because of a donor's challenge to match the funds raised.

The students demonstrated a great willingness to share. First-grader Carrington Mattox (pictured) even approached Barbara Plubell, elementary vice principal, after the fundraiser ended to ask: "Is it too late to bring money for the hungry children? I have some more money I want to give."



Spotlight

Shakespeare Comes Alive for Seniors

A major part of Spencerville Adventist Academy's senior English curriculum is drama. Throughout the school year, not only do the seniors attend three plays at the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C., but they also get to experience drama onstage. This year's seniors have been studying Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello*, and by the end of their studies, each one will have performed at least two scenes from the play. Some students have also chosen to produce live performances, while others have created movies.

"You can learn so much more about the play when you actually act rather than simply watch. I was surprised that acting is a lot more fun to do than I thought," admitted Brandon Injety.

School staff believes that, overall, drama is one of the most important learning experiences a student can encounter in a school setting because it reaches all three learning styles: visual (they watch performances), auditory (they discuss, listen to and speak in performances) and kinesthetic (they are up on stage, moving around and interacting).

Elizabeth Perla related, "The thing I enjoyed about *Othello* the most was its dramatic moments and deep meaning. Its storyline is filled with interesting things that ultimately add up to pure awesomeness! I just loved it completely! There is nothing boring about it, making acting it out super fun!"



Senior English students get a better understanding of Shakespeare's *Othello* after acting out scenes from the play.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Drama Department to Present Musical Review

The SAA Drama Department will proudly present a musical review of all the dramas performed at the school during the past 11 years. The production will be in the new auditorium April 18-22. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$20 front row. To order, call Jane Lanning at (240) 883-3538 or email jlanning@spencerville.org. There will be a special performance April 18 for senior citizens and visiting schools, with tickets priced at \$8.

Performers Sought for Alumni Homecoming

SAA's music and drama departments are looking for former students to sing, ring, play an instrument or act during the weekend of May 19. All former Spencerville Junior Academy students are welcome! Those interested can contact Jane Lanning at (240) 883-3538 or jlanning@spencerville.org.



Calendar

March

- 1 Pops Concert
- 5 Open House, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 2012-13 Registration
- 11 National Honor Society Induction
- 17 Acro-Squad Home Show
- 19 Open House, 9:30 a.m.

April

- 2-6 Week of Prayer
- 9 Open House, 9:30 a.m.
- 15 ACT Testing
- 18 Drama, 1:30 p.m.
- 19 Drama, 7 p.m.
- 21 Drama, 8:30 p.m.
- 22 Drama, 2 p.m.
- 30 Open House, 9:30 a.m.

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



MARCH 2012

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Student Association Emphasizes Spiritual Growth

Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) Student Association (SA) committed to two goals this school year: to increase spirituality among students and to highlight the importance of a personal relationship with Christ. To accomplish this mission, the 12-member organization is hosting a number of functions throughout the school year.

In December the SA hosted their annual Adopt-a-Child Christmas Party for families struggling financially during the holiday season. Using their own money, students bought gifts for select children and hosted a party, where they invited the guests onto the set of

Journey to Bethlehem, an outreach event hosted by the New Market (Va.) church (read more on the next page). After Nick Lapido, SA pastor, gave them a brief tour of the mock historic city, the children gathered at the manger where SVA students gave them gifts and reminded them of God's greatest gift: baby Jesus.

Earlier this year, the SA held their annual Student Week of Prayer, a

time when students get the privilege of hearing God's message through their peers. "Last Day Angels vs. Last Day Evils" was this year's theme, which centered on Satan's temptations and what students can do to overcome them. The series culminated on Friday evening with an agape feast, foot washing and communion service, followed by a Sabbath morning worship incorporating the drama and musical talents of SVA students. During his appeal, Lapido encouraged students to form accountability partners. Nearly every student came forward in response.



Sophomore Jana Sammeta inspires her classmates during the Student Week of Prayer.



A worship team, led by senior Kelanie Silva, engages the school in song during Student Week of Prayer.

Seniors Perform Mock Supreme Court Trials

Seniors recently "had their day in court" during U.S. Government class, taught by Gabrielle Griffin, where students acted out mock trials based on actual cases. Each student played a role—prosecutor, defense lawyer, defendant or Supreme Court justice—and lawyers took turns presenting opening statements and performing direct- and cross-examinations and closing arguments.

Students had to research the case and present two questions each for the prosecution and defense. "They have a really hard job when it comes to deliberating," realized senior Brandie Fisher, who played a justice. "You have to see everyone's side and still make a fair decision." In one case, Fisher was the only student to vote along with the Supreme Court's original ruling. She added, "You always have to uphold the constitution—even if it wasn't what we personally believed in. That was the most challenging part."



Seniors hold mock U.S. Supreme Court trials during U.S. Government class.

HAPPENINGS

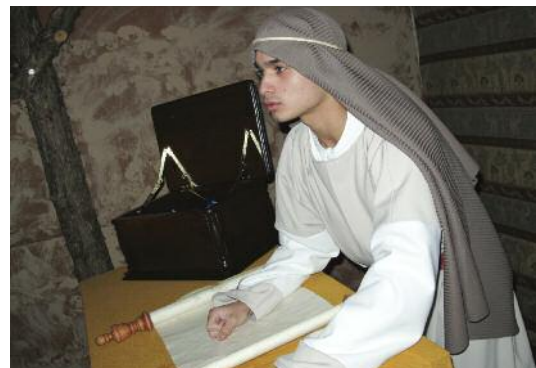
Outreach Efforts Target Homeless, New Market Neighbors

This past holiday season, Christmas caroling was the first in a series of community outreach events designed to involve SVA in spreading Jesus' love. The students and faculty set out on Friday evening to sing carols and distribute gift bags to neighboring homes, which included an invitation to the local Journey to Bethlehem event and the school's Candlelight Concert Weekend. The students shared stories of their

ventures when they returned to the church for hot cocoa and cookies. The next evening, the Shenandoans performed a mini concert at the local library.

Journey to Bethlehem was a public re-enactment sponsored by the New Market church, the campus church home for SVA students. More than 500 volunteers, including 27 SVA students and 14 staff, helped in set design, set up and performing as shepherds, rabbis, angels, Pharisees and townspeople. The church invited visitors to tour Bethlehem, which included rabbinical schools and market shops, along the way to the ultimate destination: a view of Baby Jesus in the manger. Volunteers poured months of preparation into making it a spiritual experience for the 1,500-plus attendees.

On another, cold Sabbath morning, about 30 SVA students went to Washington, D.C., to serve more than 200 homeless people a hot meal. They also gave away 40 winter coats and 30 boxes of clothing donated by SVA parents and New Market church members; wrapped



Senior Diego Swayne demands money from the taxpayers during the Journey to Bethlehem community event.



Senior Ashley Trubey invites a neighbor to SVA's holiday festivities.

gifts of stocking caps, gloves and scarves; and personal care bags, some of which were donated by the church's Pathfinders. The process of feeding and clothing this large group took about two hours. Pastor Tim Harley, SVA's chaplain and Bible teacher, has been involved with this program for 14 years, a favorite among the students. The students make six trips to D.C. each year for this ministry.



Senior Edwin Vergara and fellow shepherds warm up by the fire during their Bethlehem performance.

Calendar

March

13-25 Mission Trip to Kenya
Spring Break

April

1-2 Academy Days
6-7 30-Hour Famine
16-20 Spring Week of Prayer
22-29 Canada Music Tour

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

Champions of Liberal Arts Education

Today's university and college campuses look different than they did 10 years ago. Students now carry laptops, music players, tablets and smart phones; expect wireless connections; communicate globally; are older; and can often attend classes from the comfort of their homes. Professors are changing their teaching techniques to keep up with expectations and the variations of content delivery.

In spite of all these changes, there is still a strong argument for the distinguishing features of American higher education rooted in the liberal arts. Students, parents and other observers who think that professional preparation and workforce development are the more pragmatic purposes of higher education, sometimes view the liberal arts with skepticism. However, Nannerl Keohane, a visiting professor at Princeton University, says, "The American liberal arts college model is now gaining favor in other parts of the world, where a strong case is being made for the central role of liberal arts as the best way to develop critical and integrative thinkers, productive and creative employees, committed and compassionate citizens and happy and healthy human beings."

Higher education today is not just a simple matter of teaching students business and healthcare skills. Employers are now expecting their workforce to solve problems, demonstrate human understanding and an ability to relate to people. These expectations are just as valued in the workplace as the ability to do the job. From Albert Einstein came the view that, "The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks."

At Washington Adventist University (WAU), we are committed to the aim of true education identified in the book *Education* by Ellen White as "the harmonious development of the physical, the mental and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (p. 13).



Weymouth Spence
President

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center Dedicated

Washington Adventist University administrators, faculty, staff and students recently blessed the newly completed Leroy and Lois Peters Music Education Center. The building's namesakes made a \$1 million contribution toward its completion and were on hand for the ribbon-cutting immediately following the service.

With the completion of the center, the Department of Music will enjoy amenities that were not afforded in their previous home. The center includes percussion, voice and instrument studios, all with acoustic insulation. The largest section of the building is the band/orchestra rehearsal hall, which takes up parts of the first and second floors.

The architect behind the blueprint, Shaughn MacGilvray, stayed close to the university's overall architecture, which is classical brick and concrete, during the design process. He also aimed to leave as small a carbon footprint as possible. This resulted in a two-story construction, which is compact enough to be environmentally friendly, yet spacious enough to be more than functional.

The grand opening of the building will take place during Alumni Weekend, April 13-15.—Kevin Manuel

PHOTO BY KEVIN MANUEL



Leroy and Lois Peters, for whom the music center is named, cut the ribbon following the blessing of the building. At right is Provost Susan Hornshaw.

WAU's Growth Outpaces Other North American Division Colleges, Universities

Washington Adventist University is the fastest growing institution among U.S.-based colleges and universities in the North American Division. Data from WAU's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness shows that the six-year growth rate in headcount, from 2007-2011, is 38 percent while the one-year rate, from 2010-2011, is 17 percent. Both figures are higher than that of all other American institutions in the division. Last fall WAU set a new record for highest official headcount in its 107 years with 1,493 students.

The full-time equivalents (FTEs) over this period similarly grew at a very high rate. Full-time equivalents factor in the number of credit hours taken, and based on a typical

full-time load, an approximation of full-time students can be derived. WAU's FTEs grew 68 percent from 2007-2011 and 40 percent during 2010-2011, also the highest rates among all institutions.

Duane Reid, WAU's director of Admissions and Recruitment, attributes the institution's growth over the past three years to several factors: "The university has focused on proliferating our graduate program offerings. We now have eight master's level programs in our School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Additionally, we have benefited from increased retention in all three of our schools. We also believe that improvements made to our physical plant has aided in attracting students to WAU."



La Sierra University and Loma Linda University (both in California), as well as Canadian University College, in Canada, are other institutions with significant positive growth during the period.

Middle States Commission to Visit Campus

A team of evaluators from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education will visit WAU March 25-28 as part of a re-accreditation process carried out every 10 years. The commission accredits degree-granting colleges and universities in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey,

New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and several locations internationally. The institution will be evaluated on 14 standards, the first seven of which address the institutional context as follows: 1) mission and goals—the extent to which these are clearly identified and indicative of whom the institution serves; 2) planning, resource allocation and institutional renewal; 3) institutional resources, including human, financial, technical, physical facilities and other resources necessary to achieve an institution's mission and goals; 4) leadership and governance; 5) administration; 6) integrity; and 7) institutional assessment.

The last seven standards address educational effectiveness from the perspective of student admissions and retention, student support services, quality of faculty,

educational offerings, general education, related educational activities and assessment of student learning.

The commission is a voluntary, nongovernmental, membership association that defines, maintains and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations and resources. It examines each institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within institutions.



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



your healing MINISTRY

Seed of Hope Given and Received

MARCH 2012

"Be ye of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

– Ps. 31:24 (KJV)

Whatever the need of the moment, the answer can be found in Scripture, if we take the time to search for it. Whatever we're feeling, whatever we're suffering, whatever we're hoping, the Bible has something to say to us. My daily devotional, "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers takes you on a journey through scripture. I felt the need to share one of these devotionals with my employees since we were undergoing a lot of changes in our department and I wanted to give them encouragement. Little did I know that this email would be a seed planted!

Giving Hope

The holidays were here and the end of the year was upon us. My team had been diligently working on a new health care plan for the entire network. The stress of making sure this change and many others were managed well and the joy of having my daughter coming home from her first year of college was starting to feel overwhelming. Feelings of discouragement from all the stress was beginning to show up; which doesn't happen to me often. As I faced one of my daunting tasks; a never ending supply of emails my heart softened and my eyes moistened as I read a very special email. This special email was written by an employee in one of our facilities. She introduced herself and told me how an email that I sent to my employees about God being in control and staying true to His mission was forwarded to her by a friend and she said it lifted her spirits. It was given to her at a time when she was discouraged and it gave her hope.

Seeds Planted Will Grow

As we go through our daily routines we are planting seeds everywhere; saying hello to someone, opening a door, providing a listening ear or a caring hand. These seeds that we plant will grow and we may or may not see them, but when you do see them they can lift your spirits. When that employee told me how blessed she was from the email, it lifted my spirits. God knew that I needed that right then and there. That email that I sent to be an encouragement to my employees was a seed planted in an employee and God sent her right back to me at a time when I needed the same encouragement.

Bev Morris, Vice President and Chief Operating Office for Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Attends the Kettering Adventist Church.



Beverly A. Morris

Beverly A. Morris, RN, MS
Chief Human Resources Officer
Kettering Adventist HealthCare



your healing MINISTRY

It's Part of the Job, Right?

by the Spiritual Services Daily Devotional Project

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." – Prov. 25:11

As a volunteer in the Spiritual Care department, I felt it an unwritten part of my job description to share the compassion of Christ with those I came in contact with during my rounds. Even as He, no matter what He was doing, was attentive to the opportunities God would offer Him to make a difference in someone's life, so too, should I.

Sometimes a question, "Can I help?"; sometimes a reminder "God cares"; sometimes a brief prayer "hear and help us" was enough to alleviate the concerns of anxious hearts. A smile or a whispered "Thank you" was ample reward.

It was part of my job, right?

And then one day a young man in overalls, wearing a yellow hard hat and a bulky tool belt entered the elevator. As was my custom I said, "Have a good day" as he exited at his job site floor. He turned, smiled, and said, "Every day with the Lord is a good day!" And I was blessed.

One day I was a patient in our hospital. The volunteer delivering flowers and cards smiled and said, "Hope you feel better soon." A woman in an environmental service's uniform dust mopped my room, careful to not jar my bed. I thanked her for doing a good job. She quietly replied, "This was my mother's room. Everyone here was so good to her. Praise the Lord." The hall lights dimmed for the night. A chaplain slipped into my room. She prayed with me and sang softly as she rubbed my back. Her shift was over but she was there. And I was blessed.

And so I learned that sharing the compassion of Christ is not limited to written or unwritten job descriptions. It is a practice of those who are the Kettering family, a truly healing belief and blessing.

– Trudy Johnson
Volunteer





A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like Medicine

“A Merry heart doeth good like medicine.”

– Prov. 17:22 (KJV)



Hospital volunteers do no clinical work. Volunteers have no physically therapeutic treatment of offer. They dispense no medicine. But we cannot deny that they demonstrate the merry hearts as spoken of in Proverbs 17:22. At the core of volunteering is the fervent desire to “doeth good, like medicine.” Because I am privileged to experience a daily confirmation of the good done by volunteers, it is very difficult to choose one vignette or narrow the choices of stories to one.

It was Christmas time and our elderly visitor was back to see her husband in the Intensive Care Unit. We had watched her daily visits, and could tell she was becoming more distant and distraught with each day. She was rather frail and unsteady on her feet, but refused any offer of assistance.

Volunteer John approached her on her way out, to offer her a ride back to her car in our shuttle as it was cold. She accepted reluctantly, almost as if in resignation. While helping her into the shuttle, John asked the lady if she minded if he sang to her, explaining that he had been singing Christmas Carols during his outdoor driving time. She again reluctantly agreed.

I watched as John and the woman rode up and down each row of parking. Apparently, she had forgotten where she parked in the stress of her husband’s illness and the holidays. John went through the lot a second, then third time, before finally assisting the smiling woman into her car. When he returned to the lobby, I asked if the poor woman had a lapse of memory, and John replied with tears forming, “No, she enjoyed my singing, and wanted me to finish my carol.”

Within each volunteer beats a merry medicine heart.

*– Carol R Hangen
Volunteer Coordinator
Sycamore Medical Center*



NEWS



Network News

MARCH 2012

Man Up! Know Your Stats

The Know Your Stats Challenge and Tailgate featured barbeque, health demonstrations and screenings highlighting men's services. Men were able to learn and interact with many Kettering Adventist HealthCare services.

Following the tailgate, Lynn Swann talked about life in the NFL and the importance of men's health. He also encouraged men to get checked and stay up-to-date on their health stats. Swann spoke specifically on the importance of prostate health and why men should get tested regularly after the age of 40. Dr. Safwat Zaki, director of Robotics and Urological Surgeries, also spoke about the second leading cancer cause of death in men - prostate cancer.



Ollie Davis Pavilion Under Way

The medical office building for the Indu and Raj Soin Medical Center is under construction on the Mills-Morgan Medical Campus in Beavercreek. It will be named in honor of Ollie Davis, a longtime commercial real estate developer and community health care advocate.

"It is with great pleasure that we name the medical office building for our friend, Ollie Davis," said Fred Manchur, president and chief executive officer of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "Ollie has been a champion of improving health care in Greene County, and is a steadfast supporter of Greene Memorial Hospital and Kettering Adventist HealthCare."

Care for Tiniest Patients Close to Home

Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center announce an agreement where Cincinnati Children's will provide neonatal and neonatal subspecialty coverage to Kettering's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

On January 1, 2012, Kettering Adventist HealthCare opened a Level IIIA NICU designed to serve newborn infants with birth weight of more than 1,000 grams and gestational age of more than 28 weeks. To deliver more sophisticated and complex services to infants born before 28 weeks, a Level IIIB NICU is planned. Cincinnati Children's has agreed to provide neonatal care services as well as pediatric subspecialist and other complex support requirements beginning later in 2012. At that time, Kettering will transition to a Level IIIB NICU.

"With 5,000 deliveries, there is an increased number of higher risk pregnancies," says Brenda Kuhn, Chief Nursing Officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "It is important for moms and babies to stay together."



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Glen Scott is an ocean lover who grew up in Bermuda and keeps a tropical fish tank in his office. He's also a skilled therapist who brings his passion for life and desire to help others to work with him every day. A graduate of Loma Linda University's Master's program, Glen is one of the people who help to make us a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.

*Glen Scott
 Clinical Therapist*

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Specific application submission requirements may be obtained by contacting the President's Office, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, P.O. Box 417, Madison, TN 37116, (615) 732-7678, or kschwab@mtsa.edu.

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EMPLOYMENT

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Department of Biology/Allied Health, fall 2012. Prefer biology PhD, teaching upper and lower division classes and with a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy and three references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; Phone: (423) 236-2929; fax: (423) 236-1926; email: kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for Chemistry Department. PhD in organic chemistry or biochemistry required. Teaching responsibilities include introductory and organic chemistry, and/or biochemistry. Candidate with strong commitment to undergraduate research preferred. Must be member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing, and hold short-term interpretation of creation. Submit vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chair, Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; (423) 236-2932; rjscott@southern.edu.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND is seeking a VP for Finance. Denominational or not-for-profit accounting experience preferred. The VP for Finance is responsible for managing the financial matters of CRSB. If interested, please contact Larry Pitcher, president: (402) 488-0981, ext. 212, or larry.pitcher@christianrecord.org, or Alicejean Baker: (402) 488-0981, ext. 222, or prhr@christian-record.org.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in business, English; and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu. All positions will remain open until filled.

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UNION COLLEGE seeks social work professor with minimum of two years of post MSW full-time practice experience to provide classroom instruction, direct field education program, participate in CSWE accreditation, mentor students and develop relationships with social service agencies. Contact Dr. Denise White, Chair, Human Development; dewwhite@ucollege.edu; or (402) 486-2522.

MISCELLANEOUS

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WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE RENEWAL & WEIGHT MANAGEMENT programs focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. 7-day session: March 18-25, cost: \$370; 14-day session: April 8-22, cost: \$740. Home Hydrotherapy & Herbal Basics Seminar: March 25-April 1, cost: \$370. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Contact Darlene Keith: (931) 724-6706; wildwoodhealthretreat.org; or email: darlenekeith@gmail.com.

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE: Two cemetery plots for sale at Parklawn, in Silver Spring, Md. \$825. Call (240) 346-4248.

TALENT SEARCH!

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Bulletin Board

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LEGAL NOTICES

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 20, 2012, in the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20905. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article III, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 15, 2012, at the conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

Rick Remmers, President
Kleyton Feitosa, Secretary

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may

Sunset Calendar

	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
Baltimore	6:00	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:29
Cincinnati	6:32	6:39	7:47	7:53	8:00
Cleveland	6:19	6:27	7:35	7:43	7:50
Columbus	6:25	6:33	7:40	7:48	7:55
Jersey City	5:49	5:57	7:05	7:12	7:19
Norfolk	6:01	6:07	7:14	7:20	7:26
Parkersburg	6:20	6:27	7:35	7:42	7:48
Philadelphia	5:54	6:02	7:09	7:16	7:23
Pittsburgh	6:13	6:21	7:28	7:36	7:43
Reading	5:57	6:05	7:12	7:19	7:27
Richmond	6:05	6:12	7:18	7:25	7:31
Roanoke	6:15	6:22	7:28	7:35	7:41
Toledo	6:27	6:35	7:43	7:50	7:58
Trenton	5:52	6:00	7:07	7:15	7:22
Wash., D.C.	6:02	6:10	7:17	7:23	7:30

come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, President
Kleyton Feitosa, Secretary

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, President
Deborah Trevino, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PODIATRISTS are now signing up on Facebook to network,

dinner devotional at national meetings, advertise for associates/partnerships (position available in Maryland) and to sell practices. Please tell every Seventh-day Adventist podiatrist you know to visit our page and "like us" on Facebook at: *Seventh-day Adventist Podiatrists*.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 13-15.

Join us for the grand opening of the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center, April 14, at 8 p.m. Visit wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities, or call (301) 891-4133 for more information.

SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADE CONCERTS, March schedule, at the Hagerstown (Md.) church: March 3, at 5 p.m., the Williamsport (Md.) Church Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Harry Mayden; March 10, at 5 p.m., Kelly Mowrer, international concert pianist and host of *Live At The Well* program on 3ABN; and March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Pam and Jimmy Rhodes will be in concert. They are regularly featured on 3ABN, and the "Purely Music" program on SAFE TV. Everyone is welcome. Church location: 11507 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown (21740). For additional information, call (301) 733-4411. To

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from the lives of
some Bible characters
and applying them
to our lives today.

For more information,
please contact
Fred Thomas:
(410) 992-9731,
or email
fmthomas1950@yahoo.com

request a copy of the Winter-Spring 2012 Hagerstown Sabbath Serenade Concert Calendar, send your email address to office@hagerstownadventist.org.

FORMER GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) RISK MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES REUNION—April 18-19, Silver Spring, Md. Meet at the GC April 18 at 5 p.m. for dinner and social time at a nearby restaurant. Tour of the GC April 19. RSVP/details: Phyllis Morgan, (301) 434-7221, gmomgdad@verizon.net.

VALLEY GRANDE ADVENTIST ACADEMY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS! The Alumni Association invites all former faculty, staff and students to our celebration during our Alumni Weekend to be held March 30-31. Come sing with the Sylvan choir and visit with friends again. For more information, visit our website at vgaa.org or contact Robert Saldana: eyeguy@live.com.

WEIMAR CENTER OF HEALTH & EDUCATION welcomes all Weimar Academy, College, and staff alumni to the annual joint Homecoming Reunion for precious fellowship and spiritual enrichment,

with several special speakers and events: April 13-15. Honor academy and college classes: '82, '87, '92 and '02. For more information: alumni@weimar.edu; (800) 525-9192.

LA SIERRA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS are cordially invited to attend La Sierra Academy 90th birthday celebration: 2012 Alumni Weekend, April 27-28. Honor classes: 50+, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97, and '02. Friday morning golf tournament, evening reception, Sabbath morning alumni roll call, potluck and reunions, 9:30 LSA gym. (951) 351-1445, ext. 244; email: lsalumni@lsak12.com; website: lsak12.com/alumni.

OBITUARY

BYRD, Charles O., born January 7, 1922, in Walker, W.Va.; died August 9, 2011, in Walkersville, Md. He was a member of the Frederick (Md.) church. He began working for the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. in 1948 and retired in 1984 with 36 years of service. Survivors: his wife, Evelyn L. Byrd, of Myersville, Md.; his son, Donny (Michelle) Byrd of Myersville;

grandson, Charlie Byrd of Myersville; his brother, Richard (Isabelle) Byrd of Apison, Tenn.; his sisters, Annadell (Everett) Robinson of Takoma Park, Md., and Rosemary (Ray) Hickman of Hagerstown, Md.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Mildred (Metcalfe) Byrd; his brothers, Edwin and Ronald; and his sister, Esther Lindstrom Clegg.

RICE, Evelyn L., born July 7, 1930, in Wadesville, Pa.; died December 18, 2010, in Pottsville, Pa. She was a member of the Pottsville church. Evelyn served the church for many years as the Sabbath School pianist; the Sabbath School secretary for 48 years, first at the Wadesville church and later at the Pottsville church when the Wadesville church closed. Survivors: her daughter, Ellen (Paul) Vinansky of Saint Clair, Pa.; her granddaughter, Sarah (Mike) Jackson and her great-grandson, Tyler Jackson, all of Saint Clair; her sisters, Edith Galambos of Hamburg, Pa., and Janice Bader of Grass Valley, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or applicant because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Adventist Academy, Calvary Adventist School, DuPont Park Adventist School, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Adventist School, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School, Crest Lane Seventh-day Adventist School, Crossroads Adventist School, Eastern Shore Junior Academy, Frederick Adventist School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Martin Barr Adventist School, Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, Rocky Knoll Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Adventist School, Wilmington Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy

Mountain View—Brushy Fork Christian School, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop Adventist School,

Summersville Adventist School, Valley View Seventh-day Adventist School

New Jersey—Cohansey Christian School, Collingwood Park Seventh-day Adventist School, Delaware Valley Junior Academy, Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School, Meadow View Junior Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vineland Regional Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Cincinnati Junior Academy, Clarksfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Eastwood Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Elyria Christian Academy, Lancaster Seventh-day Adventist School, Lima Seventh-day Adventist School, Mansfield Seventh-day Adventist School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon Academy, Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Newark Seventh-day Adventist School, Piqua Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Junior Academy, Twin Oaks Seventh-day Adventist School, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Central Penn Christian School, Gettysburg Seventh-day Adventist Adventist School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Irvin Comstock Adventist School, Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Mountain View Christian School, Reading Adventist Junior Academy, Stroudsburg Seventh-day Adventist School, Wyoming Valley Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, York Adventist Junior Academy

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy, John Nevins Andrews, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, R. A. Lewis Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School, Sligo Adventist School, Stanley Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, TLC Prep, Vienna Adventist Academy, Yale Adventist Elementary School

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