

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY

APRIL 2014 • VOLUME 119 • ISSUE 4

Why is
Henry Wright
stepping up
to a new
pulpit?

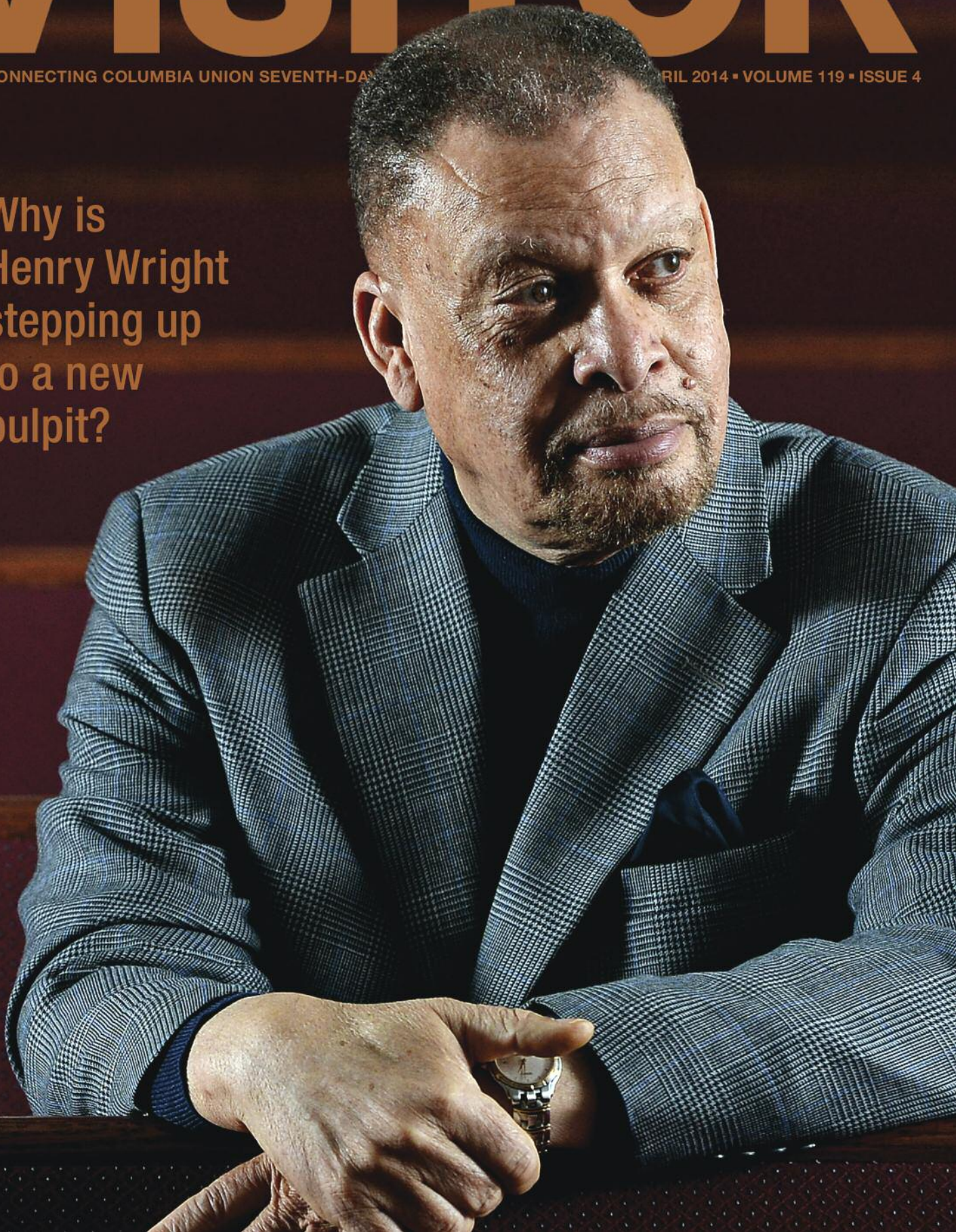


PHOTO BY PATRICK SMITH



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Passing It On

Benjamin A. Baker

He was raised in a small, farming community in southwest Ohio, where he was grounded in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Now he claims 50 years of successful pastoral ministry. Where does Henry Wright go from here?

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About the Cover: Patrick Smith photographed Senior Pastor Henry Wright at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va.

ON THE WEB

GOOD IDEA!

We tip our hats to Allegheny East Conference's Fourth Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., for installing a tower that gives their gentrifying community access to free Wi-Fi. In return, the church gets access to them through advertisements. Already some 1,500 neighbors have logged on and become aware of the church, causing Andrew Harewood, former senior pastor, to conclude, "We have to think in terms of unique relevance. It used to be about soup and sandwiches; now it's about technology."



BIBLE TRIVIA? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Sam Neves, a youth pastor in the United Kingdom, created

Heroes, the Game, a trivia app that's testing the Bible knowledge of a growing cadre of online aficionados—3,000 in the first 48 hours of its release. Players seek to earn "manna" by answering questions about Jesus, Abraham, Paul, Mary and other "heroes" of the Word in English, Danish, Portuguese and Spanish. Neves, who senses a growing disconnect between young people and the Bible, hopes the free game will help reverse this trend. For more app details and to read our interview with Neves, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com. To download, visit movinapixel.com/heroesthegame.

5 QUESTIONS FOR EMANUEL PELOTE

Since taking up the mantle as president of the Columbia Union chapter of ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries) last year, Emanuel Pelote has been working with his board of business owners and ministry makers to find ways to increase membership. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com to find out the three ways he's working to grow the chapter, why he believes you are the key to changing the world for Christ and why he hopes you will attend our chapter convention this month, themed "Answering the Call," among other topics.



WHAT NOT TO SAY

Nearly half of Americans will have a mental illness some time during their life. Yet, churches and members still struggle with how to help these individuals—sometimes even offering well-meaning advice. Keep from making the problem worse by avoiding the "5 Things Not to Say to Someone With Mental Illness." Read the list at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

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MISSION STATEMENT ■ 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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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, Interim President & CEO; Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent; 820 W Diamond Ave., Suite 600, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Tel. (301) 315-3030 adventisthealthcare.com

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Volume 119 ■ Issue 4

Don't Forget to Remember

Like many of you, I read the blog post from my friend Ryan Bell who announced in the *Huffington Post* his intention to spend a year away from God—and our church. Granted, the church isn't perfect; it's flawed and full of sinners like me. But, it's also full of sincere people who have experienced God's transforming grace, accepted His call to discipleship and are trying to help thirsty people find Living Water.



We are Seventh-day Adventists! While God may indeed use sheep of other folds—like the filmmaker Martin Doblmeier concluded after producing three films about our healing and educational ministries—we are unique, we are called and we add value to the world.

We also have a story to tell. Many stories. Everywhere I travel, I meet Adventist people, and find that, if I listen long enough, they'll tell me a story. I love hearing stories about what God is doing in and through His people in the Columbia Union. Our stories touch hearts, change minds and transform lives. They also reinforce His Word and help me remember that God is real, present and able.

Over and over as recorded in Deuteronomy, God told His chosen people to “remember the stories” and “do not forget what I have done for you.” It seems He was concerned that we might suffer spiritual amnesia. Somehow He knew that when we're discouraged, tired of waiting, hurt by others or can't find our way, the stories would serve as lifelines, beacons of light, rays of hope.

While many journalists uncover stories, I think of one of my previous professors from Washington Adventist University. Rhondda Robinson Thomas, PhD, an assistant professor at Clemson University [S.C.], is a story archeologist. She spends days, months and oftentimes years researching, reviewing newspaper clippings and following the paper trails of 19th century African-Americans, many of whom were former slaves with little more than freedom papers and determination. “I recover their stories so they won't be lost to us or future generations, so they won't be forgotten,” she says.

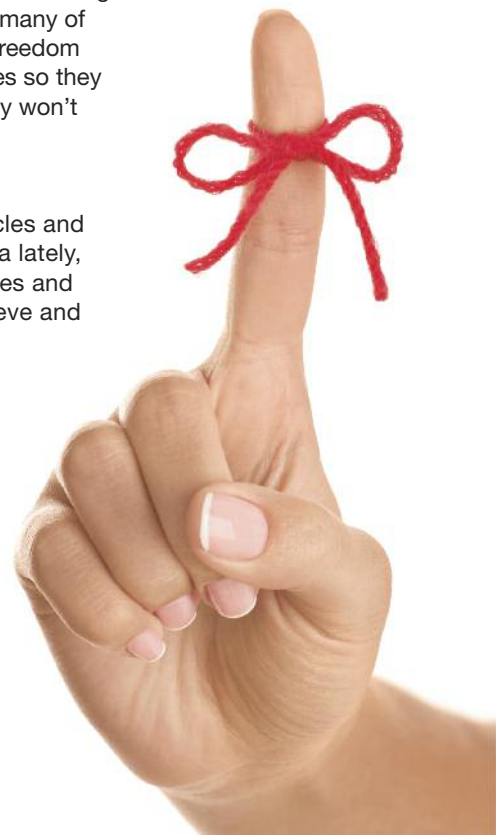
SHARING OUR STORIES

Although I've been seeing more blogs, articles and TV shows about Adventists in the public media lately, I wonder if many people outside our sanctuaries and prayer circles know who we are, what we believe and how we serve.

We are all storytellers, called to share the stories of our people. Adventist people. God's people. We share them in hopes that they will touch hearts, change minds and transform lives for the glory of God.

And, so that we won't forget to remember.

Celeste Ryan Blyden (cryan@columbiaunion.net) serves as vice president for strategic communication and public relations for the Columbia Union Conference.



Newsline

TAASHI ROWE

UNION NAMES FIRST WOMAN VP, PROMOTES THREE

Last month four Columbia Union Conference staff members received promotions at the union's executive committee spring meetings. Among them was the union's first woman vice president. Committee members unanimously voted to promote Celeste Ryan Blyden from assistant to the president for communication to vice president for strategic communication and public relations. They also promoted Rubén Ramos, who served as assistant to the president for Multilingual Ministries since 2007, to vice president for Multilingual Ministries.

Beth Michaels, who has spent eight years at the *Visitor* magazine, the last two as managing editor, will now serve as editor and the union's associate director of communication. Tabitha Martinez, who has served as the union's assistant treasurer since 2006, was promoted to associate treasurer.

"We appreciate the contributions you all have made to the mission of the church here in the Columbia Union. We applaud your dedication and service," said Dave Weigley, union president. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/springmeetings14.

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NAMES INTERIM PRESIDENT

Terry Forde, the executive vice president and chief operating officer for Adventist HealthCare (AHC), has been named the organization's interim president and CEO. Forde begins his new role this month. Former president and CEO William G. "Bill" Robertson took on a new position in Washington state.

Forde joined Adventist HealthCare, based in Gaithersburg, Md., in July 2011. Since then, he has overseen the organization's Maryland entities and operations, recruited several top executives and helped AHC successfully



adapt to the many changes that have occurred at both the state and national levels. Forde previously served as an executive for eight years with Centura Health, the largest health system in Colorado. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/forde. —Tom Grant

CONSULTANT HELPS WITH EVANGELISTIC SCHOOL

At the recent Columbia Union Conference President's Council, members voted to have Cindy Tutsch, DMin, join the office team for a part-time, one-year appointment. Tutsch, who recently retired from her post as associate director at the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring, Md., and has a background in Youth Ministries, will help in the efforts to launch an evangelistic school for young adults in the Columbia Union. Tutsch started working with the union team last month.



Celebrating Change: Rob Vandeman, executive secretary; Rubén Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries; Tabitha Martinez, associate treasurer; Beth Michaels, editor of *Visitor* magazine; Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for strategic communication and public relations; Dave Weigley, president; and Seth Bardu, treasurer



UNION HONORS SENATE CHAPLAIN

Walter Carson, the Columbia Union's vice president and general counsel, presents Barry Black, U.S. Senate chaplain since 2003, with an obelisk and thanks him for his "outstanding service to his country and his church."



211,877

The number of WGTS 91.9 FM listeners who actively used their PrayerWorks software in 2013, translating to one in 20 people in the Washington, D.C., area. According to Terry Johnsson, the station's chaplain, this also makes them the largest, virtual prayer community in the United States.

LEADERS WRESTLE WITH CHURCH, STATE SEPARATION

Last month, with the United States Capitol building only a few blocks away, about a dozen leaders of the Columbia Union's local conferences, university and healthcare systems wrestled with ideas on choice and separation of church and state.

The three-lecture symposium was the brainchild of Walter Carson, the union's vice president and general counsel, and Gary Ross, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty consultant.

Carson noted that this day was the first of its kind for the Columbia Union. "As leaders of the church, religious liberty is an important component of our faith, and this opportunity to get an in-depth lesson on this matter is not always available. We believe this day has equipped us all to be better leaders," he said. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/capitolhill.



Doug Morgan, PhD, a professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., shares more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's activist past.

UNION PRESIDENT OFFERS SENATE PRAYER

Last month Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, became the first Seventh-day Adventist conference leader to offer the opening prayer for the U.S. Senate in the Senate chamber of the U.S. Capitol.

"It is a great honor for me to participate, but it is not about me. It is about the church," says Weigley. "We are a viable force that God has designed to be on the Earth just before His return. This is recognition that God is calling our church to be involved in the last days."

"We're thankful to Chaplain [Barry] Black for providing this opportunity," says Celeste Ryan Blyden, the union's vice president for strategic communication and public relations. Black is an Adventist who serves the U.S. Senate chaplain. "As a church, we need to seek more opportunities to make connections, build relationships and increase awareness of our faith." Watch the video at columbiaunionvisitor.com—*V. Michelle Bernard*



Below is a transcript of the prayer:

Almighty God, Creator and Maker of all. Who sits enthroned above the Earth, and in whom we live, move and have our being.

We praise You from whom all blessings flow. We thank You for Your sustaining power, for peace and for the freedoms we enjoy.

We ask Your blessing on our great nation, insightful leaders and dedicated lawmakers. Establish their steps, and give them discernment and courage to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. Strengthen them to uplift those who are downcast, who need the compassionate touch of a brother or sister's hand.

Above all, may Your Kingdom come, may Your will be done and may we readily incline our ears to Your call today.

This we pray in Your holy and righteous name. Amen.

LA UNIÓN NOMBRA A SU PRIMERA VICEPRESIDENTA MUJER Y ASCIENDE A TRES

El mes pasado en la junta de primavera del comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union Conference, cuatro miembros del personal de dicha asociación fueron ascendidos. Entre ellos se encuentra la primera vicepresidenta mujer de la Unión. De manera anónima, los miembros votaron a Celeste Ryan Blyden, quien dejará de ser asistente del presidente para las comunicaciones y se convertirá en la vicepresidenta de comunicación estratégica y relaciones públicas. Rubén Ramos, quien sirvió como asistente del presidente para Ministerios Multilingüe desde 2007, fue ascendido a vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingüe.

Beth Michaels, que durante 8 años trabajó en la revista *Visitor*, los últimos dos como directora editorial, ahora será la editora y la directora asociada de comunicaciones de la Unión. Tabitha Martinez, quien se desempeñaba como asistente de tesorería de la Unión desde 2006, fue ascendida a tesorera asociada. Lee más en columbiaunionvisitor.com/springmeetings14.



Personal Promovido: Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingüe; Tabitha Martinez, tesorera asociada; Beth Michaels, directora de la revista *Visitor*; y Celeste Ryan Blyden, vicepresidenta de comunicación estratégica y relaciones públicas



58 GRADUADOS DE LAS CLASES PARA EL DIPLOMA GED DE POTOMAC

Claudia Pretel, quien está en la fotografía junto a uno de los 58 graduados del diploma GED, ayudó a crear el programa GED para personas de habla hispana en 2012. Pretel, cuyo esposo Olives Villamizar es pastor de las iglesias hispanas de Bristow, Culpepper y Bealeton de Potomac Conference al norte de Virginia, involucró a toda su familia en el programa y espera poder ofrecer esta clase durante el presente año. Lee más sobre este ministerio en columbiaunionvisitor.com/GED.



ARTÍCULO PRINCIPAL DE VISITOR: CONTINUAR LA MISIÓN

En el artículo principal de *Visitor* de este mes, el escritor Benjamin A. Baker nos presenta la vida de Henry Wright, quien durante 20 años ha pastoreado el Community Praise Center de Potomac Conference en Alexandria, Virginia. Su último día en el púlpito de esta iglesia será el 3 de mayo. Luego, servirá como pastor en la iglesia de Takoma Park, Maryland.

Wright ha servido como pastor, profesor universitario, secretario ejecutivo de Columbia Union Conference y secretario de Asociación Ministerial de la Asociación General, pero se ha destacado por sus predicaciones. Una persona describió su mensaje como “absolutamente fascinante. Sus palabras y su sentimiento llegan hasta el fondo del corazón”. Lee más en inglés sobre la vida de Wright en la pág. 10.

FOTOGRAFÍA DE PATRICK SMITH

Para mí, es un gran honor participar. Pero no se trata de mí, se trata de la iglesia.



—Dave Weigley, presidente de Columbia Union Conference, quien el mes pasado se convirtió en el primer líder de asociación de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en tener la oración de apertura en el Senado de los Estados Unidos.



TURN

THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

Whether you're a pastor, a conference leader, or an individual seeking to make an impact for God's kingdom, Amazing Facts' new 4-day Evangelism Training Intensive offers dynamic outreach instruction that gives you the confidence to seek out and win souls for Christ, anytime and anywhere—while increasing your Bible knowledge and empowering you to discover God's will for your life.

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Underscore

DEBRA MCKINNEY BANKS

Can Churches Help Erase the Stigma of Mental Illness?

One out of every four adults you greeted in church last week with an enthusiastic “Happy Sabbath!” could either be suffering from a form of mental illness or taking an antipsychotic drug. According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, within any given year in the United States, “approximately one quarter of adults are diagnosable for one or more” mental disorders. Additionally, nearly half of Americans aged 18 and older are afflicted with mental illness at some time in their life, with the average age of onset being 14.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness defines mental illness as a “medical condition that disrupts a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning” and “often results in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life,” such as anxiety and eating disorders or depression. While serious mental illness is less common (affecting about 1 in 17 adults),

this is a reality that impacts people and families in our pews.

In her book *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church’s Mission*, Amy Simpson, a managing editor for *Today’s Christian Woman* magazine, discusses the social disruption that mental illness can cause in churches: “Because [the church is] full of imperfect and sinful people, the community in churches often feels fragile and finds itself sustained by polite behavior and exaggerated piety. ... In such an environment, people with mental illness sometimes upset the balance and intimidate the rest of the community with unpredictable and socially unacceptable behavior. And, while people might show patience with a short-term difficulty, the prospect of ongoing interaction with someone suffering from a chronic mental illness may be more than most people feel they can endure.”

RAISING AWARENESS

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders on the frontlines of Health Ministries are attempting to initiate conversations and bring light to this topic. In October 2011, Loma Linda University (Calif.) and the General Conference hosted a four-day emotional health and wholeness symposium.

Last spring Katia Reinert, Health Ministries director for the North American Division (NAD), represented the Adventist Church at the National Conference on Mental Health at the White House. While there, Reinert shared upcoming plans to promote mental health understanding and education throughout the NAD’s 5,400

Take it deeper!

Join our Twitter chat about mental illness April 29 at noon to discuss symptoms and how you can help those suffering. Follow us @VisitorNews using hashtag #Visitorchat.

churches. She will work with Adventist HealthCare, in Gaithersburg, Md., on a 2015 mental health conference. She’ll also collaborate with the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., to produce a 2015 youth devotional focused on emotional and mental health and a special issue of *Vibrant Life* magazine.

Reinert also recently established a mental health taskforce to develop additional strategies and programs.

Interestingly, church leaders are emphasizing another point: no one organization or ministry can do it alone. John Gavin, associate director and chair of the social work program at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., notes that education, training of members and church leaders, as well as pooling resources, knowledge and expertise from a wide berth of disciplines and ministries—Adventist and otherwise—are all essential to supporting individuals and families in our churches suffering with mental illness.

LIFTING THE VEIL

Eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness is the first step. Simpson notes that many Christians have an “illusion of safety” and feel that “Christian faith inoculates against troubles like mental illness” (*Troubled Minds*, p. 148).

Jude Boyer-Patrick, an Adventist



psychiatrist and medical director for the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Baltimore, agrees. “Mental illness is an equal opportunity illness. Every one of us goes through something at one time or another,” she says. “But, when the brain snaps, that’s it. You are in recovery. Period. Some may even be on medications for life.”

Gavin also adds that families often feel a great sense of shame and guilt. “They may wonder, ‘Why did God do this to us?’” he notes. Sadly, church members can place additional burdens on the family. “Unfortunately, our response is often denial, minimization, ignoring or giving responses that actually tend to hurt like: ‘You just need to pray harder,’ or ‘Is there sin in your life that you aren’t dealing with?’ That’s the worst thing anyone can ever say to someone dealing with mental illness,” Gavin says.

Dr. Boyer-Patrick, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., notes another obstacle members face: a great mistrust in treatment from mental health professionals. She believes congregants “will often misquote Ellen White in support of not seeking treatment, or say ‘you just need to follow the eight laws [of health]’ and think that’s all you have to do,” she says.

This isn’t uncommon thinking. A 2012 survey of evangelical Christians conducted by Lifeway Research found that 35 percent of Americans and 48 percent of evangelicals believed that people with serious mental disorders could overcome their illnesses “with Bible study and prayer alone” (*Christianity Today*, September 17, 2013).

“Mental illness is not devil possession,” emphasizes Boyer-Patrick. “The mind is a complex, complex thing that we are still learning about. There is lamentable ignorance in our

Seabrook Offers Intervention

Monique Keene-King, a licensed professional clinical counselor, volunteers as the director of Seabrook church’s counseling ministry, where they provide free, confidential counseling and therapy services to church members and their families and friends.

Operating since 2012—after hosting a banquet specifically aimed at inviting mental health professionals to join the ministry—Damein Johnson, Seabrook’s senior pastor, is overjoyed with the results. “The counseling team stays busy!” he exclaims. “Plenty of people are taking advantage of this service and telling their family and friends about it.”

The church recently expanded the ministry beyond its building walls, and has already received requests after offering their services to parents at the local elementary school.

“This is a huge help for us as pastors,” says Johnson, on behalf of his pastoral team. “Pastoral counseling doesn’t cover everything, and we can get in over our heads. There are just some issues we can’t address. It’s nice to be able to refer them to our counseling ministry.”

Read more at seabrooksda.org.



Seabrook Counseling Team: Jimmy Munoz, discipleship pastor; Monique Keene-King; Damein Johnson, senior pastor; and Jeremiah Green, youth pastor

churches about [it]. Folks need to know that it’s okay to get help.”

WHERE TO BEGIN

Gavin and Boyer-Patrick have suggestions for congregations who want to help those affected:

“Just start talking about the issues,” Gavin says. “Provide forums for discussion and questions.” He also recommends inviting local mental health representatives to conduct workshops and seminars.

Establish an in-church counseling ministry like the one operated by

Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church in Lanham, Md. (see sidebar).

Support groups are another option. “These can be a viable ministry for some churches, provided that you have a professional who is trained in group facilitation,” Gavin says.

Boyer-Patrick adds a cautionary note, “In today’s society, where there is so much litigation and liability issues, you’d have to tread a fine line.” Instead, she suggests congregations serve as resource centers, providing links to local services and information that can be easily accessed.

The bottom line: do something. All congregations can be understanding, compassionate and empathetic. Learn to listen. And, above all, remind those affected that God has not abandoned them.

Get More

Want to start a mental health ministry at your church? To invest in helpful resources? Learn the five things you shouldn’t say to someone with a mental illness? Get it all at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

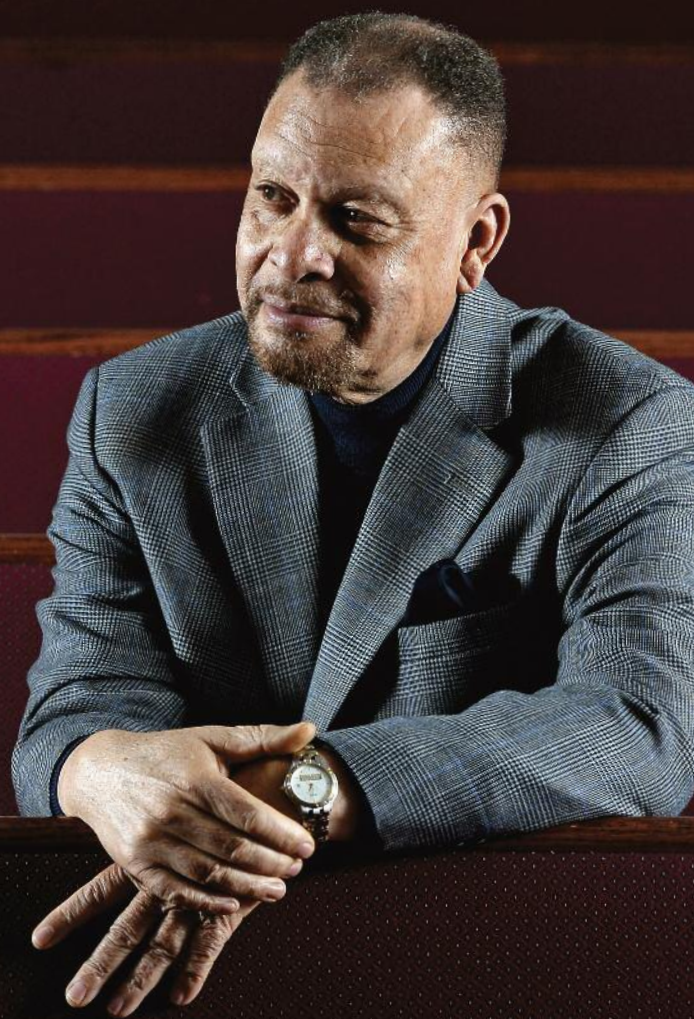
PASSION PASTOR

A LOOK INTO
THE MINISTRY OF
THE COLUMBIA
UNION'S LONGEST
SERVING PASTOR
—AND WHERE
HENRY WRIGHT
GOES FROM HERE

Benjamin A. Baker

The packed church waits in anticipation, sensing what is coming. The tall, stately man sits on one of the steps leading up to the pulpit. “I’ve pastored this church for 20 years and six months,” he says in a rich, baritone voice. “June will mark my 50th year in the ministry.” Since turning 70, he has felt the Lord impressing him to move on. He reminisces with pride on his years with them. Then in a charged voice he declares, “I say before you and God: I have done my job here.”

The congregation, silent thus far, breaks into applause, standing as one to its feet. At this, the stern man’s eyes begin to water, his stoic demeanor breaking. After the people return to their seats, the man, now composed,



declares, “The next leader will take you higher and further. This church has not yet reached its potential.”

“All I can say is I love you,” Pastor Henry Wright says as he rises from the steps of Potomac Conference’s Community Praise Center (CPC) in Alexandria, Va.

A GROUNDED FAITH

Henry Monroe Wright was born to William and Zoe Wright on February 3, 1942, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although he entered the world amidst World War II, Wright grew up in a world far removed from the mayhem. When he was 6, his grandfather insisted the end was near so the family must live away from the cities. Germantown, a tiny community in Southwest Ohio, fit the bill.

“Growing up in that little farming community shaped me,” Wright says. “It was rural, it was family, it was Adventist and it was pure.” This early atmosphere grounded Wright in the Seventh-day Adventist faith. “Grandma taught me the Bible at her knee and, at age 10, I could explain the 2,300-day prophecy without notes,” he says.

At 18, Wright headed south to Oakwood University (then a college) in Huntsville, Ala., where he blossomed. A natural leader, he became freshman class president. Yet, he was still undecided about what he wanted to do with his life. It was only after pulling a youthful stunt and being expelled for two weeks that Wright recognized God’s call on his life. “I told the Lord, ‘I’ve run from You, now I’m saying yes to You,’” he remembers.

Oakwood is also where he met his lifelong companion, Carol Lindsey (see the sidebar on the next page).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Wright’s initiation to the ministry was as a pastor in Mississippi. Most of his parishioners lived in dire poverty, yet, even though many of them only received \$50 a month from welfare, it was faithfully tithed. “They taught me way more about myself than I taught them,” Wright says.

Wright ran tent meetings every summer and was constantly pushing forward. His churches grew along with his family. In 1969 Wright was diagnosed with bullous emphysema. “The doctor told me to stop preaching or I’d be carrying an oxygen tank around with me very soon,” says Wright. “I said, ‘Doc, I don’t know how to do anything else.’” Wright chuckles, “God taught me dependence through that.”

At 29, Wright was called to pastor the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, the

headquarter church of the Allegheny West Conference. Back in his home state, Wright’s ministry took off. Ephesus was a hive of activity during his four years as pastor.

Although an exceptional pastor, Wright was attaining real distinction with his preaching. “Absolutely riveting,” is how one person described his messages. “His words and pathos shake you to your very core.” Indeed, the deep content of his sermons, combined with an absolute belief in what he says and a potent delivery in an arresting baritone continues to make Wright one of the most sought-after speakers in the church.

A TURNING POINT

In 1978 Wright returned to Oakwood to teach, this time he had a complete family of five, including three sons, Henry II (Hank), Michael and H. Marcel. As with his first stint at the school, the 35-year-old Wright flourished. Students flocked to hear the charismatic professor. In 1981 the graduating class even voted him professor of the year.

Leaving Oakwood in 1983, Wright spent the next 10 years serving in administration at the Columbia Union Conference in Columbia, Md. As union secretary, he was instrumental in the reorganization of its eight conferences. Then in early 1992, Wright was asked to be the secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association.

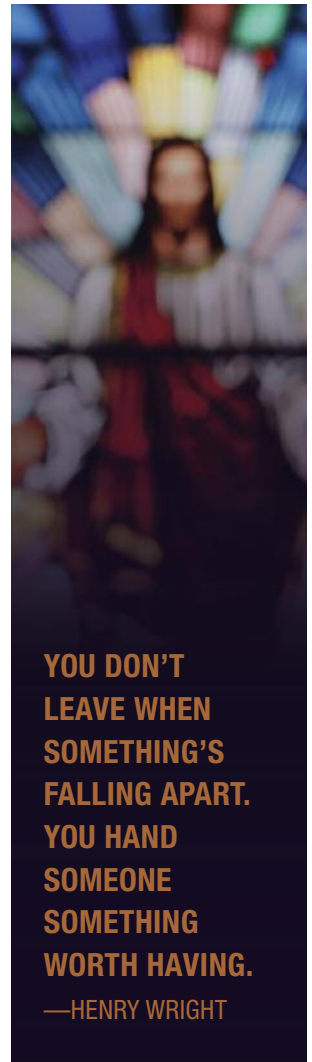
But, it was here that the upward trajectory of Wright’s career was abruptly halted. “There was a moment in my life when I did not do what was best and wise,” Wright says. After nearly 30 years of church work, Wright resigned and left the ministry. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of Adventists around the world were stunned and heartbroken at the news. “Some people counted me out for good,” reflects Wright.

STARTING OVER

After nearly a year out of the ministry, Wright received a phone call from the Potomac Conference president asking if he’d consider pastoring a tiny, struggling church in Northern Virginia. August 21, 1993, Wright stepped to the pulpit to preach his first sermon at Community Praise Center.

“There were so few people that you could lay on the pews and not touch anybody,” Wright quips. “After the service, I knelt in front of the altar and prayed a very simple prayer: ‘Lord, do not make me a success here; defend Your name.’”

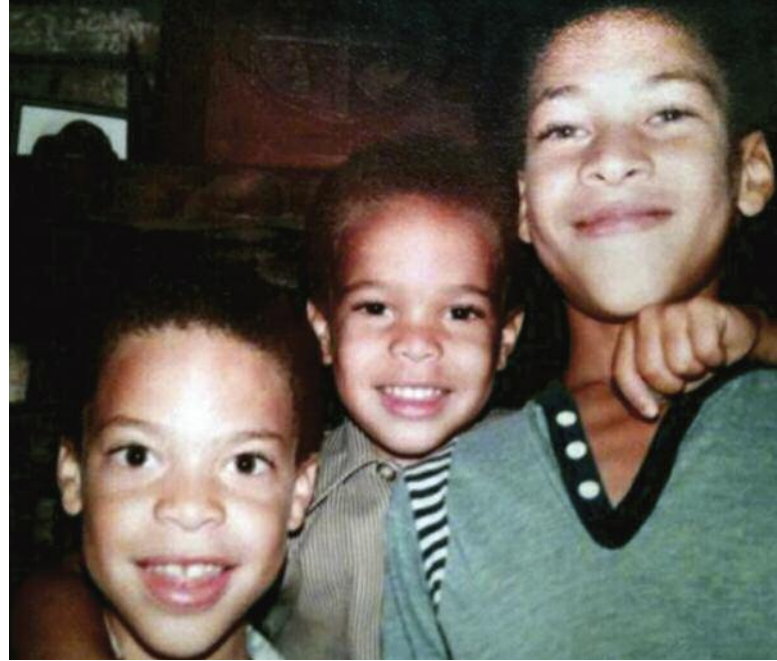
Success was the Lord’s, but Wright knew that he and the 35 faithful attendees would have



**YOU DON'T
LEAVE WHEN
SOMETHING'S
FALLING APART.
YOU HAND
SOMEONE
SOMETHING
WORTH HAVING.
—HENRY WRIGHT**



PHOTO BY RICHARD GORDON



THROUGH THE YEARS

Top row: Henry Wright with his grandson, Jonathan Marcel Wright. A young Pastor Wright preaches on "Inlook, Outlook and Uplook" in Greenville, Miss., in 1966. The Wright boys in 1977: Michael, Marcel and Hank. Bottom row: Carol Lindsey in her first year at Oakwood University in 1964. Carol and Henry Wright each receive the union's Notable Person of Honor award in November 2013. Henry makes his way to church in Germantown, Ohio, in 1958.

GET MORE

Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com and enjoy an historic slideshow of Henry Wright's life dedicated to the Lord.

to work hard to save CPC. "I sat with the board, and we developed a five-year program to turn things around," he says. Whoever stepped foot inside the church was immediately incorporated into the program and put to work.

A year later, CPC started averaging 150-200 people each Sabbath. It was at this time that Wright hit upon an idea. "I started a series on the parables of Luke 15. Word began to spread," he says, eyes lighting up. "By the end of that summer, our attendance had doubled."

He adds, "More than anything, the success of CPC encouraged Carol and I that the Lord would still use us in ministry," Wright states.

But, tragedy was to visit the Wrights again. October 8, 1997, Michael, their middle son, was killed in a car accident. "Neither Carol nor I have ever gotten over it," Wright says, tears forming in his eyes. Although unbearably painful, the tragedy humanized the couple to the congregation. "It made us more real to people," Wright says. "It gave people a hallway where they felt comfortable knocking on Henry and Carol's door ... and we've never turned anyone away."

GROWING AND EXPANDING

In the first decade of the 21st century, CPC took its place as one of the premier

AN ENDURING WORK OF LOVE

Married since August 21, 1966, after meeting as students at Oakwood University (Ala.), Henry and Carol Wright have been a hard-working team for the Columbia Union Conference, Carol as an undertreasurer for the union for the past two decades.

When asked about the importance his wife has been to his ministry, Henry replied, “Oh, that’s easy. She’s my companion in travel, in prayer. And, she’s always there to inspire and give a word of affirmation.” When the pair dually received Notable Person of Honor awards from the union last fall, Henry directed the praise to Carol, saying, “I’m thankful to Carol who has nursed me back to health, first from the disease of self and later from the disease of cancer.”

Read more about how the pair fell in love at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

congregations in the Columbia Union with a thriving membership nearing 1,000. Wright believed it was time for them to spread out and win others for Christ.

About 25 miles away in Bowie, Md., a group of 10-15 people met to study the Bible after the close of a Revelation seminar in 2006. Led by Naeem Newman, the believers soon drew the interest of Melvyn Hayden, III, then CPC’s youth pastor. Hayden and others approached Wright about adopting the remnant and establishing a “lighthouse” in Bowie, a D.C. suburb with no Adventist church. Wright readily agreed—in fact, he had just the person in mind to pastor the fledgling flock.

Like Wright, Paul Graham had been out of the ministry for two years and didn’t think he would ever return. However, when Wright called to ask him if he’d pastor the believers in Bowie, Graham knew that God was calling him back. “Elder Wright believed in me,” Graham says. “He is the person most responsible for my return to ministry.”

The Lord quickly blessed CPC’s first campus church, initially called the Bowie Project and later Restoration Praise Center (RPC). Now five and a half years past their first official service, RPC claims nearly 600 members with over \$1 million in annual tithe.

Other campuses have followed. There is a group in another part of Alexandria, and, in September 2012, Jennifer Deans joined as the pastor of CPC’s Dulles campus, a sprawling suburban area around Dulles International Airport in Northern Virginia, which had no Adventist presence. About Pastor Deans, Wright is effusive: “She is extremely talented. Her ministry has no limits.”

CPC’s largest campus, however, is online. Each month nearly 2,000 people from 24 countries view the Sabbath service streaming on the CPC website. Additionally, Wright’s sermons have second lives on sites like YouTube and Vimeo, where tens of thousands have

been enriched. “The online campus is immeasurable,” Wright notes. “I get letters from Brazil, Australia, the Far East, England—all blessed by our church services on the Web.”

Currently there are plans for yet more sister campuses in Temple Hills, Md., and Lorton, Va.

MOVING ON

Now just past Wright’s 20th year at CPC, the church boasts some 1,200 members engaged in more than 60 ministries, tithing over \$2.5 million annually, with an international reach. What is Wright’s response? “I’m leaving,” he states. Why? “You don’t leave when something’s falling apart. You hand someone something worth having.”

When asked if he is retiring, Wright, with shock on his face, responds, “Retire? Oh no! That word has no meaning to me.” Instead, after Wright’s final Sabbath at CPC May 3, he will go on to his next assignment as senior pastor of the Takoma Park (Md.) church and developer of an intern ministry for Potomac. In this new task, Wright will train interns and pastors of Potomac and other participating conferences.

Wright will also continue to teach at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., where he molds the minds of ministers-in-training. As with his students at Oakwood, this new generation of ministers taught by Wright is now in leadership positions across the Columbia Union and around the world.

After 50 years of ministry, it’s as if Wright is just starting out. “I’m chomping at the bit,” he says excitedly, leaning forward in his chair. “I’m going to go to Takoma Park and do what I’ve done here: work hard. If you work hard and pray, results are in the hands of God. I can’t wait to see what the Lord will do.”

Benjamin Baker, PhD, is the assistant archivist at the General Conference.

SUCCESSORS IN MINISTRY

Mentees share important lessons from their time under Henry Wright’s leadership:

“I had the privilege of working with Pastor Wright for six years. Of the many things I learned, the one that stood out most is ‘actions teach more than words.’” —*Jose Barrientos, Jr., CPC’s former children’s pastor and a current seminary student at Andrews University (Mich.)*



“He gave me a realistic understanding of ministry. I still use the notes I took from his class.” —*Pranitha Fielder, youth pastor at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., and one of Wright’s Washington Adventist University students*



“Under him, I learned how to run a drama-free nominating process for church elections and the importance of time management as it pertains to the divine hour service.” —*Melvyn “Tre” Hayden, III, pastor of the Pine Forge Academy church in Pine Forge, Pa., and former CPC youth pastor*



“He has taught me to give 100 percent wherever you are and to always have an attitude of learning.” —*Jennifer Deans, pastor of CPC’s Dulles campus*



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CHERIE: RN, CYCLIST, GRANDMOTHER

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Literature Evangelists are an Answer to Prayer

Gessy and Hongkara Desir, students at the Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., were among the five who recently participated in Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Youth 4 Change literature evangelism program. They spent a week canvassing the Virginia Beach, Va., area and accumulated nearly 70 community interests and were blessed with examples of God's providence.



Gessy and Hongkara Desir, pictured flanking Sylvia Smith, were a direct answer to prayer.

The sisters were an answer to prayer for Sylvia Smith who leads a local church. Smith had just visited a local Christian bookstore seeking a devotional book and a Scripture-based book that could help her answer some difficult questions. When she didn't find what she was looking for, she turned to God in prayer.

"[Four days later], two young ladies walked into my office," Smith said. "There is a 'No Soliciting' sign on the door, but I knew I had to speak to [them]. When the girls told me they had a book called *Bible Answers*, I was so excited that I yelled to my friend on the phone, 'These young ladies just walked in with the answer to my prayers!'" The sisters also shared with her a devotional on the parables of Christ. Hongkara said of the literature evangelism ministry, "One thing that continues to motivate me in this ministry is my total trust in God ... knowing that God will provide at any given time. ... I don't ever know how, when or where, but He does come through because He has people in need of His encouragement and message."

Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/youth4change.—Reginald Alexander

Coastal Shores Church Plant Bears Fruit

Members of the Coastal Shores mission celebrated their grand opening in Virginia Beach, Va. The new church, which is a plant of the Calvary church in Newport News, opened its doors in January. Some 300 people came to support the inaugural service.

Since then senior pastor Keenan Tyler reports that church members have seen new faces every week. The church's mission is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. With this in mind, Pastor Tyler has been working diligently with members of the mother church and local congregation to seek out potential members. They are conducting door-to-door Bible studies and making contacts throughout the week.

The church has also had several baptisms, several of which are due to the groundwork laid by students participating in the Youth 4 Change literature evangelism program. "Thanks to their hard work, Coastal Shores held its very first baptism in February. ...



Newly baptized members Sheree Almeida and Nick Howard flank Pastor Keenan Tyler.

All three souls were new to the Seventh-day Adventist message, and were first ministered to after God ordained a knock on their doors," says Tyler. "God has already moved on Coastal Shores' behalf, and we know by the grace of God, greater is coming!"

NEWS

George E. Peters Students Sweep Science Fair

This year students at the George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., came in first place in three out of four categories in Allegheny East Conference's annual science fair.

Participants were selected to represent their school at the regionals based on their placement in a local science fair. To prepare for the conference-wide fair, they received science, technology, engineering and math journals to sojourn through a 90-day process of exploration and discovery.



Primary winner Gwen Straker is pictured with Karen McKinnie, G.E. Peters' science teacher, and John Alberty, principal.

The first-place winners for the following categories are: kindergarten, Mikal Witherspoon from G.E. Peters; primary, Gwen Straker from G.E. Peters; elementary, Siegfried Howell from the Sharon Temple Adventist School in Wilmington, Del.; and middle, Jennae Whitted from G.E. Peters. The fair was held at the Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School in Teaneck, N.J.—*Shayla-René Little*

“The Dream is Over,” MLK Jr.’s Daughter Announces at Calvary Church

“The dream is over, it is time to awake. The dream ended and now it is time to activate,” said Rev. Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader who originally delivered his infamous “I Have a Dream” speech in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. King referenced her father’s speech to a crowd of church members, local politicians and clergy from other denominations at the



PHOTO BY COMFORT BELL

Calvary church in Newport News, Va.

But, King had even more to say. In order to activate, she suggests strategic movement in the body of Christ to fight against the atrocities of a failing education system, going outside of the church walls and being an example to others.

The celebration also included the Pathfinders, the Calvary Adventist School choir and Calvary’s young men’s mentor group, Calvary’s Rite of Passage. “The day offered us another opportunity ... to bring together members of our local community as we rallied around the issues of education, justice and opportunity,” said Trevor Kinlock, the church’s pastor. “It is vitally important that the community sees the church as the mobilizing place for action and empowerment. We are one of the few remaining voices of moral authority in our cities, and we must make our prophetic voices heard.”—*Ayesha Shakoore and Makeba Garrison*

Pine Forge Academy Pavilion Collapses Under Snow

A pavilion at the Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa., collapsed this winter after 15-plus inches of snow blanketed the area. Students were on leave at the time and no one was hurt. However, several cars were parked under the pavilion says Robert Booker, AEC’s communication director. He says the pavilion was built mainly for camp meeting and summer camp activities. The conference is still assessing damages.



Shiloh Church Celebrates Centennial

The Shiloh church in Cincinnati, Ohio, started as a dream in the heart and mind of Lela Brown. The small group's first meeting place was downtown on West Ninth Street in the home Brown shared with her husband, William. Catherine Copeland, 96, the congregation's longest living member, says she remembers the home.

From there, Shiloh began to grow and went from its first church home on Preston Street, to Lincoln Avenue, to the corner of Court and John streets, to Wesley Avenue, to Windham Avenue, to a building members purchased at 1018 William Howard Taft Road. With plans to build, they sold the structure on Taft Road and rented from the St. Mark Christian Methodist Episcopal Church until they broke ground at 3660 Washington Avenue, which opened in 1974 under the leadership of Pastor Willie Lewis. And, that's where they remain.

Copeland and many other members and guests gathered recently for two weekend celebration Sabbaths to commemorate the church's 100th anniversary, which they themed "Heaven: Beyond Our Wildest Dreams." The Shiloh Mass Choir, under the direction of Jeff Sloan, filled both weekends with heavenly music.

During the first Sabbath, Mark Mallory, the mayor of Cincinnati, attended to share a proclamation to the congregation, and church leaders offered special recognition to Carrie Walker and Henry and Mattie McCloud for their many years of dedicated service to Shiloh. William Cox, conference president, presented a dynamic sermon, and the day climaxed with a community concert featuring Traci Wright, a member of the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio, and a vespers service led by Elder Steven Garner.

On the second Sabbath, the guest speaker was



Henry and Mattie McCloud, long-time Shiloh members, get special recognition from church leaders for their many years of service.

Carlton Byrd (pictured), senior pastor of the Oakwood University church (Ala.) and director/speaker for Breath of Life Ministries. Byrd also conducted a workshop on "The Importance of Officers in Growing the Church."



Nellie Conner, a Shiloh member and co-chair of the celebration planning committee, said of the events, "Our 100th year celebration was fantastic, but I just think what the celebration will be like when we all get to heaven."—Daryl Foster



Teachers Learn Benefits of Robotics Program

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) teachers did more than mull over educational theory at their recent inservice session. As a matter of fact, for most of the day, teachers tinkered, measured, programmed, tested and received a crash course in robotics.

Led by Robert Henley, communication director for the Southeastern Conference, the session revealed how the educators can harvest such robotics technology and improve the atmosphere at their conference schools: Columbus Adventist Academy in Columbus, Ohio, and Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland.

“We can transform schools into STEM academies,” said Henley, referring to the country’s push to drastically improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education so that the abundance of jobs in those fields will not go unfilled. “You can become academic powerhouses. You can change the branding of your schools just by doing this,” added Henley, who leads the robotics program at Forest Lake Education Center (Fla.) and hosts a 10-day robotics camp each summer.

Henley emphasized how implementing such a program can boost the morale of students who may struggle with behavioral issues or lack of focus. “We teach the way we’ve been taught, but we need to see each student’s talents and gifts,” Henley said. “Let them see they are smart in something.”

Henley also brought along his youngest son,

9-year-old Brenden, who articulated how the program has benefitted him. The boy also assisted Henley in showing the AWC teachers how robotics work and encouraging them as they delved into uncharted territory.

Yvette Cooper, superintendent of schools, shares, “It excites me because the problem-solving math strategies that we have been emphasizing this year will be reinforced and implemented in real-life applications through this robotics initiative.”—*Tamaria L. Kulemeka*



Robert Henley, communication director for the Southeastern Conference, gives Allegheny West teachers a crash course on robotics.

Pastors in Transition



Nathaniel Drew, with support from his wife, Lillian, is the new associate pastor of the Ethan Temple congregation in Dayton, Ohio. Pastor Drew is originally from Silver Spring, Md., and is a graduate of Oakwood University (Ala.) and the Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

Drew has a bright outlook for his future in the AWC, saying, “I’m looking forward to learning as much as I can, being open to what God wants me to do and ultimately bringing as many souls to Christ as I can.”

William Joseph, ministerial director, says of Pastor Drew, “The passion, the excitement and the anointing of God is definitely on this young man. The future of AWC is bright.”

The conference bids farewell to **Russell Fields**, who retires after spending 15 of his 22 years of

ministry in the Allegheny West territory. Fields pastored Ethnan Temple in Wilksburg, Pa.; Bethel in Cleveland; and concludes his ministry at Temple Emmanuel in Youngstown, Ohio.

Fields and his wife, Delores, are moving to Austell, Ga., where they plan to enjoy more time together and continue serving the Lord. The couple’s four children—Rosaly, Jannette and Janell (twins), and Russell—are all graduates of Oakwood University (Ala.).

He says of his time in Allegheny West, “I have fond memories of the many wonderful relationships developed here and the souls God used my wife and I to bring to Christ.”

Joseph sums up the feelings of Fields’ colleagues, “We will miss his love for the people of God. We will miss the joy he brings to ministry.”



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

APRIL 2014

The Ultimate Source

It is an amazing thing to realize that God wants to communicate with us. Over and over we find Him initiating the process of getting our attention and telling us the most important things for us to know.

God is the source of the Word. The Scriptures tell us, “The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord” (1 Sam.3:21, NKJV). As the source of all true wisdom and knowledge, God comes to us wanting us to benefit from the guidance that only He can provide.

“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation ... but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:20-21, NKJV). God used prophets to write the Word in order to preserve and safeguard the messages. The Holy Spirit guided them, and these messages—the Scriptures—became an objective and reliable source of authority for us.

We find the ultimate message from God in the person of Jesus Christ. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14, NKJV). He concluded His time on Earth by telling the disciples that all authority had been given to Him.

The questions remain: What will we do with the Word? Do we accept Jesus and His wisdom in the Bible as the ultimate source of authority for making decisions in our lives? Surrounded by a culture that rejects faith and ridicules authority, are we willing to stand apart? Or, do we place our confidence in the wisdom of the world, the experts of our day or our own personal opinions? It is a choice we make each day.



Rick Remmers
President

Pathfinders “Blow it” at Rain Gutter Regatta

Pathfinders converged from all across Chesapeake to participate in the first, conference-wide, Rain Gutter Regatta, held recently at the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. More than 150 boats (an armada) competed in the timed races. There were up to 20 lanes per race, adding to the competitive tension.



Fourth-grader Nikita Grinchenko receives blue ribbons for placing first in two categories: fastest junior in Southern Maryland, and fastest in his club—the Waldorf Wildcats. “The regatta race was really great,” said Grinchenko.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KOERTING

Brianna Valmond, 14, of the West Wilmington church’s Wolverines Pathfinder Club in Wilmington, Del., breathes wind into the sail of her little boat to push it toward the finish line.

“We always encourage our Pathfinders not to blow it,” laughs Carl Rodriguez, Youth Ministries director. “But, this time around we did. [We encouraged them] to blow, blow and blow their sail boats to the finish line.”

The regatta joins the pinewood derby—and possibly radio control monster truck mound racing—in a rotation of creative Pathfinder pursuits.

Partners for Growth Mobilizes Leaders

Members of the Wilna church, a small congregation in Harford County, recently joined five other Maryland churches—Aberdeen, Annapolis, Atholton (in Columbia), Baltimore-White Marsh and Bell Branch (in Gambrills)—at the conference office for the Partners for Growth Practicum weekend.

Like many churches, Wilna members work hard to reach the people of their community through a variety of programs and activities, making youth and health programs their core focus. Despite these efforts, Wilna's church growth rate has been similar to what has been seen across the North American Division.

"During the practicum, church boards receive instruction and motivation as to what it means to be a growing church for God's glory. Most importantly, the church board members have time to meet and process what they learn. They are making decisions to be more effective as an outreach-centered church," says Gary Gibbs, the conference's ministries development director.

"It was an eye-opener and a call to change," said Fred Facemire, Wilna's head elder, after the meeting. "Our entire team is energized to ... move forward under the Spirit's leading."



Leaders from the Annapolis (Md.) church work as a group at the Partners for Growth Practicum.

Churches in the western region are already scheduled for the training, says Gibbs, and plans for a level 2 practicum are underway.—Valerie Nozoe

PHOTO BY DAVID FOURNIER

Dover's Visitation Ministry Engages Members

All congregations have members who are sick and unable to attend church on a regular basis, says Frank McLaughlin, Sr., first elder at the Dover First church in Dover, Del. While there were some church members reaching out to those who could not attend, McLaughlin felt there needed to be an organized endeavor, so he presented his idea of a visitation ministry to the church board and received enthusiastic support.



"On visits we pray, read verses from the Scripture and, most importantly, we listen and encourage," he says. Now there are 10 members engaged in active weekly visitation, and others are showing interest in getting involved.

For instance, member Curtis Morris recently had a heart attack while driving and crashed his vehicle into a school bus. Morris was seriously hurt. Twanda Morris, his wife, said, "After Curtis' life threatening automobile accident, prayer, our faith in God and visits from our church members gave us hope to get through this ordeal." Morris is slowly recovering from his injuries.

"The main reason why a church should have a visitation ministry is because people matter to God and the congregation," says McLaughlin.

The lay ministers are expanding their focus to include visits to former members who no longer attend church.

Marlibelle and Frank McLaughlin, Sr. (center), meet Twanda and Curtis Morris, Sr., at the Dover First church to pray together. The couples connected through the church's visitation ministry.

YOUiversity Increases Student Personal Development

Highland View Academy (HVA) is providing unique opportunities for self-development through YOUiversity, a new grant-funded program designed as an enrichment to provide for student needs and interests not typically covered in existing academic and spiritual programs.

“In today’s world, teenagers deal with a lot,” says Kim Brown, vice principal. “This program is providing wonderful experiences for them to learn, grow and prepare to successfully navigate life.”

The YOUiversity program is designed to cover six key areas: self-understanding and personal growth, healthy relationships, mental health, physical health, social skills and etiquette, and personal finance. Students learn these skills through workshops HVA presents throughout the school year.

In September students attended three YOUiversity sessions. Heather Tydings-Goldfarb, LCSW-C, led Superfoods for Health, where students learned how healthy foods impact physical and mental health. LouAnn McCain, food services director, quickly made sure students had access to equipment and ingredients to create their own green smoothies on a daily basis.

In Personal Self Defense, students learned basic Krav Maga self-defense techniques from Andrew Goldfarb, owner of Urbana Academy based in Frederick, Md. Senior Hunter Sorensen especially enjoyed this session, saying, “I found learning the self-defense moves ... to be really cool.”

In Personal Leadership, Sergio Manente, Campus Ministries director, helped students understand the



Alexandria Distan ('07) tells students about college life.

impact they have on other people and communities when they truly seek God’s purpose for their lives.

Other workshops this year have included Basic Car Care, Family Dynamics, Healthy Sexuality, Financial Management and College Life. Due to the high level of interest in Family Dynamics, led by Seth Ellis, math teacher, he conducted an eight-week follow-up series focused on learning and practicing behaviors that promote grace-based interactions rather than shame-based interactions. Attendees report they better understand their behaviors and thought processes and how they affect family dynamics.

Junior Kristen Gibb summed up the sentiments of several students by saying, “I’m happy I learned more about healthy relationships because, when I have my own family someday, I want to make it the very best possible!”

Through the YOUiversity program, HVA also enjoys regular events, like Tuesdays With Teachers, where lunch is served “family style.” While eating and communing with their teachers, students also learn and practice etiquette and social skills. On Mental Health Mondays, students learn about mental health issues and how to establish good mental health habits.

Sheri Tydings, former HVA principal and coordinator of the YOUiversity program, says, “It is difficult for schools to add ‘extras’ to an already packed curriculum, but I think it is really important for students to learn concepts and skills for personal development. The response from the students has been amazing. In a recent poll, 97 percent of the student body said they hope the YOUiversity program will continue.”

More seminars and activities are planned this year.



Derek Boyce, math and physics teacher, enjoys a Tuesdays With Teachers lunch with Jacob Antone ('16) and Wyatt Worthington ('15).

I Helped Raise Money to Fight World Hunger

I recently joined about two dozen students in HVA's gymnasium to participate in the 30-Hour Famine, a yearly campaign created by World Vision to raise awareness about world hunger and funds to fight it. The activities during the two days included hunger-related games, juice breaks, a candlelit service and more. On Sabbath afternoon, we piled into a bus headed for a local nursing home, where we sang and distributed homemade cards.

Throughout the famine, we also took turns placing 200 of our own fingerprints on a large poster, which helped us visualize the amount of need around the world. There's something humbling about seeing your own fingerprints representing so many starving children. In addition, the black ink that stained our fingers,



Kate Carbaugh ('14) and Heather Wuerstlin ('14) write in their journals and reflect on the issue of world hunger.



Dylan Antone ('15), Wyatt Worthington ('15), and Tyler Milam ('14) demonstrate the difficult journey to school faced by many children in developing countries.

combined with our growling tummies, was a constant reminder that we were taking on the identity of another hungry, even starving, child.

As a result of the famine, we raised \$375, which will feed 10 children for one month. I believe we all walked away with a new passion for something far greater than ourselves. We reached outside of our own needs to meet those of a hungry child somewhere across the globe—or maybe even close to home! The 30-Hour Famine not only helped students make a difference, but also provided an opportunity for mental, social and spiritual growth. I believe the weekend's challenge still rings in the ears of each of the students: "You have *one* life. *Do something!*"—Allison Calhoun ('14)

Senior Perspective: Kabrina Perkins

When I first came to HVA, I learned quickly that the teachers were there for me and always eager to see me succeed. For example, our math teacher, Mr. [Seth] Ellis, takes time to make sure I understand the material being presented. And, I feel ready to write my first college paper thanks to my English teachers.



The HVA student body has a positive impact on the spiritual atmosphere of the campus. Our prayer and praise time each morning is the highlight of my day. I love singing and praising God with other kids my age. Students also lead out in Week of Prayer, which I was blessed to plan and speak at this year. God has used HVA to change me for the better.

CALENDAR

May

- 2-4 Alumni Weekend
- 4 Tartan Spirit 5K Run
- 17 Spring Music Concert

June

- 1 Graduation

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

APRIL 2014

Mountain View Members Go Where Most Don't Dare—Prisons

Several members of the Mountain View Conference participate in a unique visitation program. They take to heart the following words from the Bible, "... the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek ... and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isa. 61:1). Below, members share how they bring Christ to those incarcerated at five local prisons:

"Sponges for Truth"

About nine years ago, a medium security prison opened in the Glenville (W.Va.) community. Then pastor Brian Jones offered his services but was turned down. Later an inmate with a Seventh-day Adventist background requested their services. Now Ed Lawaty, a member of the Spencer (W.Va.) church, and David Meyer, a member of the Glenville church, alternate Sabbath visits.

More than five years ago, Bill and JoAnn Darby, members of the Glenville church, began a prison ministry at a minimum security facility on the same grounds. Bill says, "[The inmates] are sponges for the truth. They soak in everything." The husband-and-wife team has been responsible for leading a few to baptism, including one gentleman who has been released and is preparing to enter the ministry.

"These are not Hardened Prisoners"

Mike Lemley, a recently baptized member of the Grafton (W.Va.) church, conducts Bible studies along with Pastor James Volpe at the nearby Pruntytown Correctional Center. At the end of each lesson, the inmates are invited to ask questions and engage in dialogue. "These men are not hardened prisoners," Lemley says. "They are human beings who need and are seeking Jesus Christ." Several of the men have recently given their hearts to the Lord.

On Sabbath afternoons, Sharon Arrington and Lindie Moore, members from the Marlinton (W.Va.) company, travel for more than an hour to Alderson, W.Va. In Alderson is the first federal institution for female offenders; it is now the largest minimum security facility in the federal prison system. One inmate remarked, "There is a big difference between your service and the other [held at the same time]. Those [inmates] who claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit in the other meeting are

heard the next day cursing and carrying on, and it seems to be something just not right with that."

"I had Nothing to Offer"

Naomi Sholock, a member of the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va., heard about the Kairos Prison Ministry from Nancy Djaleta and decided to sign up, but said, "I was extremely nervous. Part of it was fear of the women, and the other was the thought that I had nothing to offer them."

While being involved with this ministry, Sholock went through a dark time. She was fighting an illness that has no cure and just wanted to die. She hated God, the church and everything that was a part of God—even the prison ministry.

During this dark time, Djaleta contacted Sholock and shared, "God can handle any anger. He has big shoulders." Those words stuck with Sholock who has returned to Kairos, even sharing her testimony with the inmates. "Through my Kairos sisters, volunteers and prison, I have come back to God. He used this to win me over," Sholock says gratefully.



Ed Lawaty and David Meyer alternate weekly visits to a correctional facility in Glenville, W.Va. "I've been blessed and encouraged to see the inmates' attitudes and Bible knowledge grow as they study the Word of God," reports Meyer.

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SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

APRIL 2014

ESL Teacher Considers Herself a Homeland Missionary

Not very many people are sent as missionaries to China without having to leave their own town. Shari Bellchambers, Mount Vernon Academy's (MVA) English as a Second Language (ESL) coordinator, is one of the lucky ones.

When principal Daniel Kittle asked her to head the ESL program, Bellchambers says, "I knew I had just been appointed a great task from the Lord."

On the first day of school, she was shocked to discover that each of her 13 Chinese students had little exposure to religious instruction. "These students were fertile ground, and I knew that it was our responsibility to share Jesus with them," she says.

But, where to begin? She knew she couldn't begin at the level of even a freshman Bible class. Stuck, she decided to do what every Christian does when they are stuck—she prayed.

That week, after she handed each of her students a Bible, she found her answer. Toward the end of the class, she noticed one student who was reading the Bible. She went over to him, and he looked up with a grin, pointed to Genesis 1:1, and slowly, with a heavy accent, said, "In the beginning." She knew then that she would start at the beginning and work to the end through the course of the year. The next day, they began with the creation story with pictures and all!

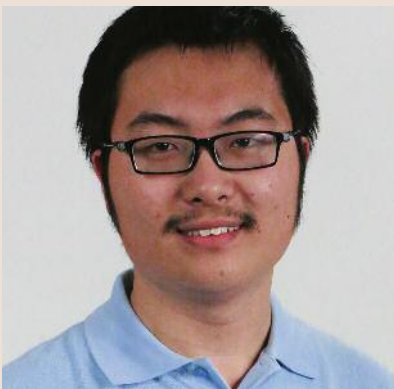
One day, while one of the students was reading a



Shari Bellchambers works with several Chinese students.

children's Christian history book, he called her over. In hushed and reverent tones, he showed her that he had just discovered that "history" equals "His story." After school had been in session for several months, another student came to her and asked to make the Bible/worship portion of the two-hour class longer since that was his favorite part.

"Praise the Lord!" Bellchambers says. "The Holy Spirit is beginning to touch hearts, and that is what I have prayed for on a daily basis since school began."



My First Visit to Church

Can you imagine how exciting it was for me, a person from a country that focuses on the sciences, when I stood in front of the entrance of a holy building for the first time? I went to the church located behind the boy's dorm with some Chinese friends. This led me into a totally different world than I had ever known—religion.

I still remember that everyone in the church stood up and sang some holy songs to God, the basket for donating money and the beautiful and holy music played by Mr. [David] Nino, our music teacher. The music was absolutely awesome and incredible. Most importantly, it seems to me that the trip to the church is the best experience I've had since I have come here.—*Sui Helin, a first-year Chinese student*

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

APRIL 2014

SVA Adopts ALICE, a New Safety Program

In an effort to keep students at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) safe, the school's entire faculty and staff recently participated in a two-day training after school hours to learn appropriate ways to respond in the event an armed intruder comes to campus. The training went hand-in-hand with the new ALICE program that the board recently adopted. Darren Wilkins, principal, and Ken Knudsen, guidance counselor, both became certified instructors for the ALICE program, an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. By being proactive and offering the training, board members believe that faculty and staff would be prepared to execute the best course of action should such a response become necessary.

During the training, everyone wore goggles to protect their eyes. One of the drills involved a mock intruder (armed with an air pellet gun), and the various groups had to determine their best response (i.e., barricade, distract, rush, flee, etc.).

After his entire team completed the training, Wilkins shared the program with parents. Wilkins and team are also working to implement safety drills with students.

"Overall, the awareness and education in the ALICE program has empowered us to better respond in the best interest of our kids," Wilkins says.



Principal Darren Wilkins teaches faculty and staff how to respond to an armed intruder.



Third-Graders Celebrate Heritage

Students in Judy Cambigue's third-grade classroom recently presented their Heritage Day projects in which they dressed in the attire of their ancestors and gave an oral report of their own heritage. They also shared a doll, which they donned in the appropriate attire of their ancestors. Some students also brought personal items belonging to their family. Following their presentations, students enjoyed a banquet feast of custom foods from all over the world.

Mason Burns shared, "It was interesting to find out about my ancestors—for instance, 11 generations ago, my ancestor beheaded the King of Wales and then escaped to America—and I especially loved tasting all the different foods at our feast!"

Alumni Weekend Slated for April 26

All SVA alumni are invited to return to campus April 26 for alumni weekend. Graduation class years ending in "4" or "9" will have honor class reunions this year. A meet and greet begins at 9:30 a.m.; followed by worship at 10:30 a.m. with John Wheaton, who served as SVA principal, 1984-1994; then alumni honor class photos. A free lunch will be provided in the cafeteria at noon. The annual SVA alumni-versus-varsity basketball game begins at 9 p.m. For a more current update of the weekend events, visit springvalleyacademy.org and click on the "Alumni" tab.

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Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

New Jersey's Last Dark County

Last year, as we focused on evangelism, God blessed the New Jersey Conference immensely. We experienced a tremendous growth in membership and spirituality, and we had steady financial support from our people. We have been working and continue to work following Jesus' small-group philosophy. Jesus had 12 disciples, so we copied His model and started small groups, which we called "Mission Caleb." Those groups were dedicated to starting a Seventh-day Adventist church in areas of New Jersey that had none. Those Mission Caleb groups then became companies with 30 or more members, then full-fledged churches with more than 70 members. We targeted 85 cities in several so-called "dark counties" where we had no Adventist presence. And, by the grace of the Lord and for His glory only, we entered 26 of those new cities with 26 Mission Caleb groups.

After we organized our newest church this year, the Flemington mission in Hunterdon County, with more than 50 disciples, we happily and humbly declare that we have no more dark counties in our territory! That county was the last of the unentered counties in the state of New Jersey. To God be the Glory! By His Grace we will continue to work in His vineyard.



José H. Cortés
President

Flemington Spanish Company Organized

The Flemington Spanish company in Hunterdon County was recently organized, officially lighting up the last "dark county" in the state of New Jersey. Hunterdon had been the only county in the state without a Seventh-day Adventist church and was therefore considered a "dark county." Now there are 35 charter members of the Flemington Spanish company.

Near the conclusion of the service, Pastor Alexis Grajales made an appeal for attendees to be baptized



President José H. Cortés and Pastor Alexis Grajales sign the official certificate of organization for the Flemington Spanish company.



Members of the Flemington Spanish company worship together.

and become members of the new company. Eleven individuals came forward for baptism.

The New Jersey Conference launched its Mission Caleb church planting initiative in 2012. In the last 18 months, 22 Mission Caleb plants have been launched. Conference leaders expect to organize even more companies throughout 2014.—*Jim Greene*

NEWS

Waldwick Student Receives Presidential Letter

Recently Ashley Fong, a 12-year-old, seventh-grader at the Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School in Waldwick, received a letter from President Barack Obama. The letter said, "Please, accept my congratulations on receiving the President's Educational Award. This honor is a testament to your determination and commitment to excellence, and I hope you take pride in your accomplishment."

Fong, who maintains a 4.0 GPA, is one of thousands of elementary, middle and high school students who, since 1983, have received this recognition for their hard work. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the 31-year-old program provides "individual recognition from the president and the U.S. Secretary of Education to

those students whose outstanding efforts have enabled them to meet challenging standards of excellence."

As part of the program, Fong also attended a youth leadership conference in Washington, D.C., in the White House. "Even though I was feeling homesick, it was a life-changing experience for me," said Fong, who is also a Pathfinder.

She credits her parents, Robert and Silvia Fong, for helping her grow in spiritual and academic excellence.

When asked about her relationship with God, she replied, "He helps me in everything I do. Even though sometimes I fail, I try to do everything for Him."

Fong attends the Passaic Spanish church and loves to read and play the violin and piano. She has dreams of becoming a lawyer or doctor some day.—*Noel Gonzalez*

Lake Nelson Holds First Winter Welcome Home Gala

Members of the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway recently held their first Winter Welcome Home Gala for the largest contingent of youth away at college in recent years. More than 100 young adults from churches throughout the New Jersey Conference, and even from New York, attended the gala. Yari Rosario served as the keynote speaker, and Steven Hernandez was the emcee. Many parents in the church helped with food preparations and decorations that created a festive atmosphere.

Organizers said the gala not only provided a wholesome environment for college-aged kids to spend time together, but it was also a low-pressure way for youth to bring their friends who were not Adventist to church.



Youth shared that they appreciated the love and support shown to them.—*Baba Jide Oluymi*

Youth Gather for an Inspirational Evening

Young people from Zone 3 West recently gathered for a night of praise and worship. The conference's Youth Ministries Department is divided by zones, and each zone has a monthly worship. Zone 3 West has 11 churches. The worship was themed "Alive," and more than 80 young people were touched by powerful young preachers, singers, dramas and fellowship. Pictured is the Maranatha French Youth Choir from Newark, N.J.



President, Wife Team Up, Start Prayer Ministry

Ron Halvorsen Jr., new Ohio Conference president, and his wife, Buffy, joined the Ohio Conference with an extraordinary reputation as a ministry *team*. Many instantly recognize Ron's name and the talents he has shared around the world, but few outside of their former churches may be familiar with the formidable gifts of his wife. Fortunately for Ohio constituents, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, and Fred Manchur, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) CEO, knew personally the gifts possessed by the new presidential couple.

The Halvorsens recognized the challenges facing them as they prayed about transferring to Ohio. Change in administration, particularly during a constituency year and at a time when economic growth has slowed, would intimidate most anyone. Yet, Ron and Buffy felt God directing them to Ohio, rejecting other opportunities closer to family in the process. As a team, they felt God could use them to help strengthen Ohio and lead the conference into their next phase of growth.

Understanding the financial constraints of the conference, the union and KAHC are partnering to cover her salary and expenses for the next two years, thus enabling the Ohio Conference to utilize Buffy as a departmental director. Why, many may ask? "Kettering is in the health business," says Larry Kositsin, network director of Spiritual Services at Kettering Medical Center and Kettering's representative on the conference



As part of the Ohio Prays! initiative started by Ron Halvorsen Jr., new conference president, and his wife, Buffy, Ohio Conference staff members meet every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. to pray for their churches, schools, pastors, teachers, students, staff, conference needs and more.



Buffy Halvorsen, the conference's new Family Ministries director, and Nancy Barnett, associate treasurer, engage in prayer over Ohio entities.

executive committee. This "includes the spiritual (and mental) health of churches."

The Ohio Conference and its churches can now benefit from the full Halvorsen ministry team. Buffy, a licensed marriage and family therapist and former pastor for Family Ministries, will be able to share her gifts with the conference at all levels. She will serve as Family Ministries director, actively work with pastoral spouses and their families, and collaborate with Pastor Bob McGhee, Ohio's prayer coordinator. Buffy plans to travel with Ron as he visits local churches and will spend time getting to know constituents and congregations. As a couple, they will begin a statewide prayer initiative called Ohio Prays!, which will allow members in each region they visit to gather together for prayer and fellowship.

"I ask God to use me to heal broken families, marriages and people," says Buffy. She hopes to "strengthen and deepen interpersonal and spiritual relationships through counseling, education and the power of prayer." Buffy also plans to use her gifts as speaker, presenter and counselor at the local church level. To learn more about this new ministry, visit ohioadventist.org or contact Buffy at (740) 397-4665, ext. 118, or write to bhalvorsen@ohioadventist.org.

New Leaf Market Takes Over Former Ohio ABC

Good news for everyone who has missed buying health and vegetarian foods through the Ohio Adventist Book Center (pictured), which closed this past December. New Leaf Market, a partnership between David Kijak, a former distribution manager for the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho), and the Clark Distributing Company based in Hendersonville, Tenn., have assumed lease of the building and are scheduled to open for business this month.

The health food store will carry bulk, frozen and canned products. There are no plans to carry denominational books at this point. Kijak plans to have the store open six days a week and continue deliveries of food items across the state. For more information or delivery details, call the New Leaf Market directly at the old ABC number (740) 397-4675. Visit ohioadventist.org for additional details and a link to the store website.



NEWS

Youth Pursue Presence of God at Annual Retreat

“There’s nothing quite like watching a room full of young people digging into the Word, praying and with no cell phone in hand!” says Steve Carlson, Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director. He’s referring to the more than 100 high school youth from Cleveland to Athens who regularly attend this spiritual winter retreat held at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville.

Attendees enjoy a time of worship, Bible study, prayer and “intentional focus on our relationship with Jesus!” Carlson adds, it’s “a time to look deep inside and ask the tough questions of God: What do you want for my life? Are you calling me to something? Am I being quiet long enough to hear You?” Pictured is this year’s worship team.



Conference to Host First Health Conference

During a free, one-day conference, Dan Thoward, Ohio’s new Health Ministries coordinator, will teach local

church leaders how to develop a successful health ministry in their churches and communities. The event is Sunday, April 13, at the Worthington church. The day will encompass the basics and include strategies for congregations and budgets of all sizes. Registration is required, and a free networking lunch is included. To register, contact Thorward at rdthorward@gmail.com.

Women to Learn Love, Forgiveness

At the annual women’s retreat this fall, September 26-27, women across Ohio will get the opportunity to meet the conference’s newest addition to their team, Buffy Halvorsen, director for Family Ministries. Halvorsen will uniquely explore various aspects of love and forgiveness. The event will take place at the Embassy Suites in Dublin.

Rates for the retreat will range from \$50 for sessions only, to \$75 for sessions and meals. Several lodging options are available based on individual budgets.

For details, call Heidi Shoemaker, Women’s Ministries director, at (740) 397-4665, ext. 114, or email wministries@ohioadventist.org. To download a brochure, visit ohioadventist.org.



LOVE & FORGIVENESS

Visit www.ohioadventist.org for rates and details.

Pennsylvania Pen

APRIL 2014

Conference Website Sports New Look

Beginning this month, the Pennsylvania Conference is launching a redesigned website, paconference.org. The site's home page welcomes visitors with bold, new colors; a clean, uncluttered design; and a slide show, which features upcoming events and the weekly prayer focus.

A cleaner navigation offers drop down menus across the main toolbar, giving quick and easy access to important information, resources and events. The navigational bar features main areas of interest: About Us, Ministries, Mission Opportunities, Calendars and Events, and Resources. The new Planned Giving pages (pictured) offer resources and information to guide members in their financial planning and show how to give directly to the conference's life-impacting ministries.

Watch for more changes in the coming months. Introduction videos will be featured on many ministry pages, giving visitors a quick overview of the ministry and their mission and goals. Training videos will also be added. "Our goal is to make the website a great resource for members and church leaders," shares Tamyra Horst, communication director. "We want to provide information on upcoming events and provide resources and tools that will help them grow in their relationship with God and in their own areas of ministry."



Parish Nurse Training Course to be Offered in May

Parish nursing, also known as faith community nursing, is a specialty in the nursing profession, which intentionally integrates faith with nursing to meet the needs of the whole person within a congregation and the surrounding community.



Cheryl Goff, AWHN administrator, gives the faith community nursing pin to Karen Celestine, RN, BSN, MPH, following her training.

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing is a training course designed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) to prepare registered nurses for this specialty practice. The course will be offered May 16-18 and May 30-June 1. Attendance at both weekends is required. Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN), a supporting organization to the Pennsylvania Conference and an official educational partner of the IPNRC, will offer the training in the Hamburg area. Completion of this course also provides 34 contact hours of nursing CE approved by the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association.

The \$300 tuition covers all materials and one meal per day. AWHN provides a three-way scholarship plan through which a nurse's church may sponsor the training with one-third of the tuition, the nurse covers one-third and AWHN gives a one-third tuition scholarship. The scholarship plan is open to all applicants who commit to serving his or her congregation in some way as a parish nurse for 12 months following the training.

Class size is limited, so early applications are recommended. The application deadline is May 2. For further information, contact Alysha Hollingshead, parish nurse coordinator for AWHN, at ahollingshead@awhn.org or (610) 685-9900, ext. 24.—Joyce Christman

Spaghetti, Marshmallows, String and Tape Add to Learning

What could you create with 20 pieces of spaghetti, one yard of string, one yard of tape and one large marshmallow? Four groups of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students were recently given 18 minutes to create the highest freestanding structure they could with these items and top their creations with the marshmallow.

Senior Emily Brewer and juniors Mary Heinlein and Rachel Munene created the winning design in their leadership class project. The goal of the project was to help students learn the importance of collaboration. The Principles of Christian Leadership class offered at BMA is designed to take students through a process of understanding the various theories of leadership. Classes generally include activities that help students learn leadership principles in a hands-on, experiential way.

For more about the benefits of learning and gaining a Seventh-day Adventist, Christian education, visit the school's website at bma.us.



Juniors Damion Hoffman and Eveling Grajales and senior Angelique Spellman work together on their structure.

President Asks Youth, “What Are You Doing This Summer?”



Give Jesus three weeks this summer, and He will give you a lifetime of experiences like no other, along with friendships that will last for eternity.

Sharing the joy of Jesus and the excitement of His soon coming with people in different countries and learning about new cultures is just one part of the mission trip experience. The other part is what the Lord does inside your heart and life when you go on this trip.

This year's youth and young adult evangelistic mission trip will head to Chiapas, Mexico. Spend three weeks sharing the gospel with people hungry to know more about Jesus. Training and equipment is provided.

Mission trip applications are available online on the Pennsylvania Conference Youth Department Ministries page at paconference.org. You can also contact the youth department at pa-youth@paconference.org or (610) 374-8331 to request an application and more information.—Ray Hartwell

Potomac People

APRIL 2014

Lynchburg and Appomattox Pastor Ordained

The Lord showed me that, one day, you will become a pastor.” When Mike Hewitt, a police officer for Roanoke County, Virginia, heard his paternal grandmother share this with him, he says he laughed. Though he was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family, Hewitt started to stray away from God and the church in his teenage years, and the idea of going back didn’t appeal to him.

Meanwhile, Hewitt’s maternal grandmother, also concerned for his future, pleaded with him to return to church. “She prayed for me every day and gave me several evangelistic tapes to watch,” recalls Hewitt. “I begrudgingly watched them.” Little did he know, watching those videos would dramatically affect his life.

Hewitt began to feel a strong calling to pastoral ministry. “It startled me,” he confesses. “But, the call was so strong and persistent that I eventually began to pray God would open the way if He truly wanted me to become a pastor.” God did begin opening one door after another and, eventually, Hewitt began taking ministry classes. He is now completing a graduate degree in pastoral ministry from the Andrews University Theological Seminary (Mich.).

Hewitt left his career in law enforcement and accepted



John Cress (left), Potomac’s vice president for pastoral ministries, shares encouraging words at Hewitt’s ordination.

a call to Potomac in 2005. Earlier this year, about 200 people attended Hewitt’s ordination into the gospel ministry. “It’s an honor and privilege to serve God and His people in full-time ministry,” he told attendees. “There is no greater work I could devote my life to.”

In Remembrance: Garland Day, Pastor and Friend



Garland Day (1939-2014) loved to laugh and was rarely seen without a smile on his face.

According to those who knew him, Garland Day, who passed away earlier this year, was best known for having a twinkle in his eye and a sharp sense of humor. “People benevolently referred to him as ‘the visitation pastor,’” says Rick Labate, Potomac Conference’s associate for pastoral ministries. “He had a heart for people. If a member of his church or someone he just met had a problem, Garland would be at their side trying to find a solution.”

Born December 2, 1939, Day grew up on a potato farm in Maine. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Atlantic Union College (Mass.) and Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md.. He was drafted into the Army and, like many of his fellow conscientious objectors, participated in Operation Whitecoat, a biodefense medical research program. After his release, he returned to WAU in 1980 and completed a degree in theology.

In 1986 Day joined the Potomac Conference where he went on to pastor many Potomac churches, including South Boston, Chase City, Warrenton, Kilmarnock, Konnarock, Stafford, Orange and Culpepper. He also actively served in singles ministries, even as president.

“Garland loved to laugh and was rarely seen without a smile on his face,” says Day’s brother, Nate. “Recently a friend of his said that Garland brought out the best in everybody. ... I can’t wait until I can see him again on that beautiful day.” Read more at pcpsda.org/garlandday.

Potomac People

Attendees to Herndon Evangelistic Meetings Respond to Call

Willie Benzaquen remembers that Sabbath morning clearly. As he preached at the Herndon Spanish church in Herndon, Va., he noticed a new face. When he went to greet him, “He didn’t speak Spanish but said he liked the music,” recalls Benzaquen, who at that time served as the church’s pastor. The man said he was from Southern Asia and had moved to the area for work.

The man was not alone. Several years ago, while driving into the Herndon area, Bill Miller, conference president, noticed new developments within the community. “I learned there was a high population of people from Southern Asia—India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma and the surrounding nations,” says Miller.

Benzaquen felt torn by this newfound reality. “Here I was pastoring an Hispanic church but we were surrounded by people of other cultures,” Benzaquen says. “Yet, I knew that we had the responsibility to preach to whoever is around us.”

He also wanted to adequately serve the needs of a community he did not know. That was when Miller and Benzaquen approached Franklin David, who pastors the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md. They made plans to hold several seminars at the Herndon Spanish church, starting with a marriage seminar and a Vacation Bible School for the children. Several months later, they held health and wellness seminars to draw attention to the health message. One event even featured samples of Latin American dishes.

“It was kind of a strange sight,” says Benzaquen. “The two groups didn’t understand each other’s languages, but in this case, food was the language.”

The health meetings were well attended, and it was



The first evangelistic meeting of the new Southern Asian church plant in Herndon gets a great response, showing the significant need for a plant like this.

evident that another Adventist church would be a welcomed asset to this community. So, the conference formed a Southern Asian church plant under the supervision of John Daniel (pictured), assistant pastor at the Silver Spring church.

At the conclusion of the meetings, Pastor Daniel received a call from one of the attendees. Anmol Wadhwa asked Daniel if he would consider coming to his home to give his family and friends Bible studies. Daniel immediately agreed and made arrangements to meet with them. Wadhwa says he was shocked by this response and felt this was a clear answer to his prayer.

Three days later, Pastor Daniel rang the doorbell of Wadhwa’s home, fully expecting to meet with a small group of people. To his surprise, 42 people were waiting. “I realized immediately this was a God-given opportunity,” says Daniel. “Sitting before me was an answer to many prayers by the Southern Asian congregation. I praise God for the gift He has given us.”

The group was comprised of eight families, all of whom are still attending regular Bible studies. Cornelius Kamei, the new Bible worker assigned to this territory, is taking on the day-to-day responsibilities from Pastor Daniel. All are eager to see what God has in store for the Herndon church plant.



The Wadhwa family lead song service at the first meeting of their Bible study group.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

HAPPENINGS



APRIL 2014

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Dual Credits Help Graduates Advance, Excel in College

Emily and Natalie Dickerhoff (right)—Just last May, Emily graduated with high honors from Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) as co-valedictorian of her class. Her high PSAT scores also earned her recognition as a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Since leaving SVA, she has already been accepted into the nursing program at Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Tennessee. She classified as a sophomore at the beginning of second semester thanks to the dual credit coursework she was able to take while attending SVA.

Natalie also graduated from SVA with high honors and as valedictorian of the Class of 2010. She decided to pursue a bio-chemistry/pre-pharmacy major at SAU. Because of her dual credit coursework at SVA, she is on track to graduate next month and, subsequently, enter medical school at the age of 20. She decided to use the extra year to enroll in the Adventist Colleges Abroad program in Argentina for a bilingual certification in Spanish. This fall Natalie will make her way to California to attend Loma Linda University, where she earned substantial scholarships due to her high PCAT scores.

Nick Lapido (below)—Interested in a career in ministry, Lapido, a 2012 graduate, decided to pursue a degree in theology at SAU. After just a few months



there, he qualified as a sophomore because of the dual credit course classes he finished at SVA. At the end of his second year, however, he struggled financially.

“I was praying a lot about what to do. I decided if I was going to take a year off to save money ... I wanted to still be involved in ministry and not be diverted for a year,” Lapido explains. “I felt God wanted me to come to SVA. Through a lot of circumstances, God opened the doors for me to become the taskforce boys dean this year. Each guy in the dorm is in a Bible study group this year and that’s never happened before. I’m not studying theology right now, but I still get to reach others for God.”

Lapido plans to graduate with a bachelor’s in theology and wants to serve as a pastor before eventually getting a Master of Divinity at Andrews University (Mich.). “The classes I took at SVA helped me ... be able to take a year off and still be able to graduate from college with the same friends I graduated high school with,” he says. “I’ll be able to graduate with very minimal loans; finishing in three years instead of four helps a lot.”

Graduates to Enjoy “Togetherness” at Alumni Weekend



Ellen Laurence Hughes (left), from Takoma Academy’s (TA) Class of 1964, could barely have imagined 50 years ago, that while preparing for graduation from TA—where her father, J.P. Laurence, was principal—that she would one day be the featured vespers speaker for TA’s alumni weekend. However,

it is these special occurrences that will help make the 2014 alumni weekend, April 25-27, themed “A Time for Togetherness,” a memorable and revitalizing experience for many attendees.

The weekend will begin with the annual alumni golf tournament, held at the Hampshire Green Golf Course in Silver Spring, Md. Co-hosts for the day will be Susan Laurence Cooksey ('79), president of the alumni association, and Cathy Mills ('70). All profits will go to the worthy student fund.

Alumni will next be asked to help chart the future course of the alumni association during the annual business meeting, which will be held at 6:15 p.m. in the TA chapel. This is to be followed by a welcome reception in TA’s foyer, and a Friday night vespers service led by Hughes. Mini reunions of various honor classes, set in various TA classrooms, will cap the opening day’s events.

Beloved former teacher Ken Wilson will herald in Sabbath morning, starting at 9:30, as the guest Sabbath School teacher. “Uncle Willie” has been the source of inspiration for many TA graduates who later entered health professions.

One of the new welcomed features of alumni weekend is the special youth service for the children of alumni. This service will begin at 11 a.m. in the chapel with Shari Loveday (right), a religion student from Bowie, Md. While the youth worship, adults will be equally engaged in the Word of God in the J.P. Laurence Auditorium for the divine service with featured



speaker LeClare Litchfield (left), a retired chaplain who spent 17 years at Collegedale Academy (Tenn.). Honor class pictures and a luncheon in the TA cafeteria will follow.

The weekend will end with the alumni basketball tournament on Sunday at noon, sponsored by Ron Brathwaite ('93).



Honor Class Events

- The Class of 1954 will meet April 26, 6-8 p.m., at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Contact Joy Spicer at (301) 439-0946.
- The Class of 1964 will meet April 26, 6 p.m., at the home of Stewart Bainum, Jr. Contact Cecilia Lopez at cecilia_lopez@choicetohotels.com.
- The Class of 1969 will meet April 26, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Shelly Pollock in Rockville, Md. Contact her at shelleypollock123@verizon.net.
- The Class of 1984 will host a luncheon in the TA library immediately following the alumni weekend divine service. There will also be a Saturday night event at Diane Willis Long’s House, 7 p.m. Contact her at dipooch@hotmail.com or (410) 798-5025.
- The Class of 1979 will enjoy a 35th anniversary reunion dinner, April 26, 7 p.m., at the Holiday Inn in Laurel, Md. Contact Mel Carreno at melcarreno@gmail.com or (301) 237-1650.

Transforming Governance and the Physical Campus

Our Washington Adventist University (WAU) leadership team is set on transforming our school into one of the premier universities in the mid-Atlantic region. Through an ongoing process of evaluation and planning, we have developed strategic themes and imperatives to implement game-changing actions under the six institutional pillars of excellence—Quality, People, Finance, Growth, Service and Community—to improve outcomes, raise our profile nationally and internationally, and expand our services to students and the community. Over the next few months, we will use this medium to inform our constituency of our strategic plan.

Our fourth strategy is to transform our aging physical campus and meet the spiritual, cultural, learning, teaching, technology and governance needs of our students through the following imperatives:

Imperative 1: Design and build needed academic facilities.

Imperative 2: Renovate buildings and beautify the campus.

Imperative 3: Write and implement a comprehensive technology plan that increases efficiencies and effectiveness through technology capabilities investments.

Imperative 4: Develop a list of capital equipment.

Imperative 5: Design, implement, assess and maintain an efficient governance structure.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

Campus Benefits From Significant Capital Investments

In an effort to improve the physical campus, WAU administrators have made investments of more than \$16 million during the past five years, reaping visible and effective results. The list of completed projects includes a new \$6.3 million music building, a \$1.2 million dining hall renovation, a \$1.1 million activity center, and a host of smaller projects. Construction has also started on a new \$1.5 million ball field, which is expected to be completed within the next few months.

Smaller projects have included new sidewalks near the library, replacement steps for Richards Hall, new furniture for the men's and women's dormitories, new flooring and classroom furniture, and new lockers for the gymnasium locker rooms, in addition to some ongoing and needed maintenance projects.

Transforming the physical campus is part of WAU's *Vision 2020: Growing With Excellence* strategy, which will enable the university to better serve its students, faculty and staff as it goes about the business of "engaging minds and transforming lives." With these capital investments, WAU is moving closer to its goal of becoming one of the premier universities in the mid-Atlantic region.

Students are First Adventists to Participate in AMTA Mock Trial Competition

A team of WAU students participated this year, for the first time, in American Mock Trial Association's (AMTA) regional mock trial competition at the University of Richmond in Virginia. Although WAU students have participated in mock trial exhibitions over the years, this was the first year that students were able to compete following a religious exemption that relieved them from competing on the Sabbath.

Eight WAU students, one timekeeper and two coaches attended. The team competed directly against students from the University of Richmond, William and Mary, Penn State and Wake Forest. During the Sabbath, WAU students worshiped with the Ephesus church in Richmond.



Washington Adventist University is the first and only Adventist institution to participate in the AMTA Mock Trial Competition.

Capitol Hill Internship Gives Senior Valuable Work Experience

With a Capitol Hill internship behind him and graduation just ahead, senior Richard Talbert is a young man on the move toward a bright future. He completed a five-month internship last semester in the office of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, and is now gaining additional experience with the Maryland General Assembly, working as a community liaison for Delegate Alonzo Washington, District 22, Prince George's County.

Talbert's Capitol Hill internship provided him with opportunities to work at what he considers to be the "pinnacle of politics," and to meet people that he'd never have met in any other way. Talbert cited a chance encounter and lighthearted conversation with Sen. John Davison "Jay" Rockefeller IV, while waiting for an elevator, as just one example of an experience he would never have had if he hadn't spent time on the Hill. Rockefeller is a great-grandson of Standard Oil Company founder John D. Rockefeller, who still—decades after his death—ranks among the world's wealthiest men. Talbert found Sen. Rockefeller to be charming and unassuming, and he was impressed by the level of compassion and caring exhibited by Rockefeller and others who work on Capitol Hill.

Talbert's takeaway from his internship was that his WAU education served him well as he worked with Senator Brown's staff on finance and small business aid. Talbert felt comfortable and confident working alongside students and graduates from such august institutions as Harvard, Duke and Georgetown. The experience he gained is already serving him well in his new position with Delegate Washington.



Biennial Band Festival Offers Opportunities, Enjoyment

A series of intensive rehearsals, master classes and world-class performances highlighted Washington Adventist University's recent band festival. Now in its 17th year, the festival attracted more than 65 student musicians from schools throughout the North American Division.

Participating students worked under the tutelage of Craig Mohr, band festival director, who has served as the band director for Glendale Adventist Academy in California for the past 25 years. He is a frequent conductor and trumpet soloist for a variety of ensembles, community bands, orchestras and brass groups in the golden state area. Preston Hawes and Jose Luis Oviedo, WAU's interim band directors, organized the festival. WAU adjunct music faculty and other

area musicians, conducted festival master classes, which offered students an opportunity to learn directly from musicians at the top of their field.

The four-day festival culminated with a Friday evening performance at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and a Saturday morning performance at the nearby Sligo church. The performances featured a variety of music, including all three movements of "A Sacred Suite" by Brant Karrick, "Mansions of Glory" by David R. Gillingham and "For the Children," composed by Timothy Hansen in memory of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Plans for a WAU ChoralFest, under the direction of James Bingham, are in the works for next year.

Profiles in Caring



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 Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
 Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
 of Maryland
 Adventist Behavioral Health
 Adventist Home Care Services
 The Reginald S. Lourie Center for
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What Matters Most

This column begins with some news: after serving Adventist HealthCare since 2000, I have accepted the position of President and CEO of MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, Washington. I'm excited about a new challenge—and I'm taking something with me that I learned during my 14 years.

When someone asks me what the best thing about Adventist HealthCare is, I have a ready answer: the people of Adventist HealthCare. There is a great team here—in every nook and corner of the organization. I am a different person today than the person I was when I started here; this team is a big part of the reason why.

There is something very important and profound about being completely focused on a common mission with a group of people in whom you have confidence and respect. The mission of Adventist HealthCare is best read in the lives and hearts of our team. It is a mission that is constantly made real by the way we work together to deliver compassionate care with excellent results for those we serve. The results also have an impact on our individual lives. The people there have most certainly had an impact on mine, and I am grateful. I would be remiss if I did not thank the many of you throughout the Columbia Union Conference who have also enriched my life.

There is a distinctive wisdom that can be learned from a community, and that only comes from being a part of that community. We can't really understand it until we're a part of it. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Adventist HealthCare and Columbia Union community for the past 14 years. Thank you for all that I've learned from you. Thank you for the way that you enliven a faithful, mission-centric community of care every single day.

The promise in the Old Testament book of Lamentations is that God's blessings are "new every morning." This has certainly been my experience here. May it always be so.



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

New Adventist Behavioral Clinic Provides Therapeutic Support for the Community

Adventist Behavioral Health's new Outpatient Wellness Clinic offers compassionate behavioral health care that focuses on healing the mind, body and spirit.

Located at Adventist Behavioral Health's Rockville Maryland campus, the clinic provides outpatient treatment for children, adolescents and adults suffering from a range of conditions including depression, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder and substance abuse.

Marissa Leslie, MD, medical director of outpatient services for Adventist Behavioral Health and board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, helped launch the Outpatient Wellness Clinic in November 2013. The clinic offers behavioral health assessments, individual therapy, psychoeducation and medication management. The newly created space features a children's play therapy

area, a therapeutic play room with a two-way mirror for use in observing interactions between children and families, and two medical examination rooms.

A key benefit of the Outpatient Wellness Clinic is that it provides behavioral health care on an outpatient basis, which means that people with mental illness can receive the regular assessments, therapy and medication management while remaining in the community. Regular outpatient care can also help reduce the risk of an acute psychiatric episode.

"It is so rewarding to see patients who come to us with severe limitations as a result of their mental illness progress during their treatment," said Dr. Leslie. "For adolescent patients, progress could mean a return to school and social activities while for adults it could mean being more

productive at home and at work."

Dr. Leslie and her staff work closely with individuals and families to provide therapy that emphasizes wellness, including establishing healthy emotional attachments and coping skills, maintaining good physical health and spiritual care.

"Working with a faith-based organization empowers me to talk openly with families about their spiritual needs if they request it, said Dr. Leslie, a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "We are pleased to offer on-site pastoral care services to families in need."

"We want the Outpatient Wellness Clinic to be a place where people can feel a sense of hope," said Dr. Leslie. "Our goal as behavioral health providers is to provide the therapeutic support people need to thrive in their communities."



Dr. Marissa Leslie, medical director of outpatient services and child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Outpatient Wellness Clinic.

To learn more about the Outpatient Wellness Clinic, call 301-838-4912

or visit our website at

www.AdventistBehavioralHealth.com

Adventist HealthCare in the News

Washington Adventist Welcomes Clinic to Campus

As the national focus on keeping patients healthy and out of the hospital grows, Washington Adventist Hospital and Community Clinic, Inc. (CCI) have forged an innovative partnership and opened a new clinic on the hospital's campus intended to improve access to primary and preventive care for uninsured and under-insured patients.

The partnership between Washington Adventist Hospital and CCI makes it possible to specifically help underserved patients at high risk of hospital readmission through discharge and transition planning. The program, one of the first collaborations in Maryland between a hospital and a Federally Qualified Health Center, reflects the growing change in Maryland and across the nation on how health care is delivered, linking patients with primary care providers and disease management specialists with the goal of improving their health.

"Having the clinic on the grounds of the hospital enables our caregivers to provide an unbroken transition from hospital to home for at-risk patients," said Joyce Newmyer, President of Washington Adventist Hospital. "Patients have direct access to the clinic where they can make appointments with a new primary care physician as soon as they leave the hospital."

As part of its mission of improving the health of people and communities, Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist HealthCare maintain a staunch commitment to providing access to high-quality health care to all community members regardless of their ability to pay. An expansion of CCI's clinical space is planned for later this year,



Photo by John Keith

Love Your Heart

Adventist HealthCare held a day of lectures, screenings and other events tied to heart health on Feb. 8 at Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, Md. Close to 300 people received free screenings and tests to inform them of any potential risks for heart problems. In addition, Adventist HealthCare physicians spoke to audience members about warning signs of a heart attack and what to tell your doctor during regular check-ups. Above, Proshat Nikou, MD, a primary care physician with Adventist Medical Group, and Michael Chen, MD, cardiologist at both Washington Adventist Hospital and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, speak to the audience.

which will allow for more primary care providers, disease management specialists and treatment rooms to accommodate 12,000 patient visits a year.

CCI provides quality primary care, nutrition services, and other Women, Infants and Children (WIC) health-related services to medically under-served persons, promotes improved access to health-care services, and conducts its mission in a non-discriminatory manner, sensitive to the needs of the community.

Home Health Named Elite Agency

Adventist Home Health has been named a 2013 HomeCare Elite agency, a compilation of the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified home health agencies in the United States. This is the fourth time and second

consecutive year that Adventist Home Health was recognized. Adventist Home Health is the only agency in Montgomery County and one of only five agencies in the state of Maryland to achieve this recognition.

HomeCare Elite winners are ranked by an analysis of publicly available performance measures in quality care outcomes, best practice implementation, quality improvement and consistency, patient experience (Home Health CAHPS®), and financial performance.

"We are honored to be recognized among the top performing home health agencies in the country and credit the commitment of our compassionate caregivers whose dedication has made it possible to continue bringing quality health care home to our community for more than 40 years," said Keith Ballenger, vice president of Adventist Home Care Services, which oversees Adventist Home Health.

Adventist Home Health serves the Maryland suburban area including Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's, Howard and Anne Arundel counties. It is part of the Gaithersburg, Md.-based Adventist HealthCare system and has served the community for more than 40 years through a dedicated team of skilled nurses, therapists, nursing aides and social workers providing home health services tailored to each patient's specific needs.

The 2013 HomeCare Elite award is sponsored by OCS HomeCare by National Research Corporation, the leading provider of home health metrics and analytics, and DecisionHealth, publisher of the most respected independent newsletter in the home health profession, Home Health Line.

Nueva clínica del Adventist Behavioral brinda apoyo terapéutico a la comunidad

La nueva Outpatient Wellness Clinic del Adventist Behavioral Health ofrece atención compasiva en salud del comportamiento que se enfoca en la sanación de la mente, el cuerpo y el espíritu.

Localizada en el campus de Rockville, Maryland del Adventist Behavioral Health, la clínica brinda tratamiento de servicio externo a niños, adolescentes y adultos que padecen de una gama de afecciones que incluyen depresión, trastorno de estrés postraumático, trastorno bipolar y abuso de sustancias.

La Dra. Marissa Leslie, directora médica de servicios para pacientes externos del Adventist Behavioral Health y psiquiatra pediátrica y del adolescente certificada por la junta, ayudó en el lanzamiento de la Outpatient Wellness Clinic en noviembre de 2013. La clínica ofrece valoraciones de salud del comportamiento, terapia individual, psicoeducación y control de medicamentos. El espacio recién creado ofrece un área de terapia de juego para niños, un salón de juegos terapéuticos con un espejo de doble vía para usarlo en la observación de interacciones entre niños y familias y dos cuartos de examen médico.



Un beneficio clave de la Outpatient Wellness Clinic es que proporciona atención de salud del comportamiento en la forma de paciente externo, lo que significa que las personas con enfermedades mentales pueden recibir valoraciones, terapia y control de medicamentos con regularidad mientras permanecen en la comunidad. La atención regular como paciente externo también puede ayudar a reducir el riesgo de un episodio agudo de psiquiatría.

“Es muy satisfactorio ver cómo los pacientes que vienen a vernos con limitaciones severas como resultado de su enfermedad mental progresan durante su tratamiento”, comentó la Dra. Leslie. “Para pacientes adolescentes,

el progreso podría significar regresar a la escuela y a actividades sociales mientras que para los adultos podría significar ser más productivos en casa y en el trabajo”.

La Dra. Leslie y su personal trabajan de cerca con individuos y familias para brindar terapia que hace énfasis en el bienestar, e incluye establecer vínculos emocionales saludables y habilidades para afrontar obstáculos, mantener una buena salud física y el cuidado espiritual.

“Trabajar con una organización basada en la fe me faculta para hablar abiertamente con familias sobre sus necesidades espirituales si lo solicitan, señala la Dra. Leslie, miembro de la iglesia adventista del Séptimo Día. “Nos complace ofrecer servicios de atención pastoral en el sitio a las familias necesitadas”.

“Queremos que la Outpatient Wellness Clinic sea un lugar en el cual las personas puedan tener un sentido de esperanza”, señaló la Dra. Leslie. “Nuestra meta como proveedores de salud del comportamiento es proporcionar el apoyo terapéutico que las personas necesitan para prosperar en sus comunidades”.

Para obtener más información acerca de la Outpatient Wellness Clinic,

llame al 301-838-4912 o visite nuestro sitio web en

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TRAVEL/VACATION

TOUR ISRAEL with author Andy Nash and violinist Jaime Jorge (performing on site). Sites include: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Bethany, the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Cana, Joppa, Caesarea, Megiddo, Capernaum, the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee. Tour dates are August 12-22 and Nov. 20-30. Contact andynash5@gmail.com or (423) 298-2141.

WALK IN THE STEPS OF THE REFORMERS. You are invited to join the North American Division Stewardship Reformation Tour, September 3-10, with an extended tour, September 10-14. Hosts: John Mathews and Don and Marti Schneider. For more information, contact Margaret Botting: (916) 792-1815, MargaretBotting@gmail.com, or visit GiveSDA.org and click on the bulletin insert. Register at Plusline.org. Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime.

LEGAL NOTICES

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE QUADRENNIAL SESSION

The fifth quadrennial session of the Mountain View Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 4,

2014, at Valley Vista Adventist Camp, Becky's Creek Road, Huttonsville, West Virginia.

The purposes of the meeting are to elect the conference officers, Conference Committee, Board of Education, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term, as well as to transact other business as may properly come before the conference at that session.

A meeting of the Organizing Committee, described in Article IV, Section I, of the bylaws, will convene at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 13, 2014, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1901 Park Avenue, Parkersburg, West Virginia. The purposes of this meeting are to select members of the Nominating Committee for the session and to nominate members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term.

Larry Boggess, President
Victor Zill, Secretary

FIRST TRIENNIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION OF RAMAH JUNIOR ACADEMY

Notice is hereby given that the Ramah Junior Academy Constituency will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, April 27, 2014, at the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1443 Addison Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

The purpose of this meeting is to transact business that may properly come before the session at that time. The six constituent churches are representatives to this session.

William T. Cox, President
Marvin C. Brown, III, Executive Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH PEWS FOR FREE: 26 are 16-ft. long, and five are shorter. Pulpit and Communion table included. Request e-pictures at BulletinTriadelphia@gmail.com. If very interested, phone Jessie, (301) 854-0306, to meet at the church. Must pick up at the Triadelphia church near Clarksville, Md., May 11-16.

SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADE CONCERTS at the Hagerstown (Md.) church, 7 p.m.: April 5, Laura Moreno Grassiotto, Brazil's first lady of Christian vocal music; April 26, Jaime Jorge returns with his dedicated violin and testimony; May 3, brass instrumental ensemble—outstanding in the Washington area—plays sacred favorites; and, May 17, saxophone trio focuses on Spirit-filled worship. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call (301) 331-0625.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 7-9 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of

	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	May 2
Baltimore	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:53	8:00
Cincinnati	8:04	8:11	8:17	8:24	8:31
Cleveland	7:54	8:02	8:09	8:17	8:24
Columbus	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:20	8:27
Jersey City	7:23	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:53
Norfolk	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:48	7:54
Parkersburg	7:52	7:59	8:06	8:13	8:19
Philadelphia	7:27	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:55
Pittsburgh	7:46	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:15
Reading	7:30	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59
Richmond	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:54	8:00
Roanoke	7:44	7:50	7:57	8:03	8:09
Toledo	8:02	8:10	8:17	8:25	8:32
Trenton	7:26	7:33	7:40	7:47	7:54
Wash., D.C.	7:34	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01

1963 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1933, 1943, 1953 and 1963. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181, or visit glaa.net for further information.

DUPONT PARK CHURCH HOME & SCHOOL ASSN. is sponsoring an Alumni Black Tie Gala, Saturday evening, April 26, at the beautifully appointed Camelot in Upper Marlboro, Md. The theme: "An Evening in Paris." Special guest: comedian, Jonathan Slocumb. All are invited. For more information, please visit: dupontgala.eventbrite.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CHARLESTON BOULEVARD CHURCH, 622 Kanawha Blvd., W., Charleston, WV 25302. Please join us for a special reunion as we come together to praise the Lord. Guests include Prof. Jim Daddysman, Lonnie Melashenko, special musical presentations and more. For additional information, email Tom Bailey, tcb136@aol.com, or call (304) 552-4440.

50TH YEAR CAMP CHEROKEE REUNION WEEKEND! Inviting all former staff and volunteers! Join the fun at Camp Cherokee on Labor Day weekend, August

29-Sept. 1. Please go to nyconf.org/charokee50 for more information. Come celebrate the memories of your time at Camp Cherokee with us!

OBITUARIES

BANGE, Samuel J., born October 14, 1932, in Hanover, Pa.; died January 29, 2014, in Spring Grove, Pa. He was a member of the Hanover church. Survivors: his wife, Peggy Bange of Spring Grove; his sons, Ben and Jon Bange of Spring Grove; his daughter, Sue Smith of Abbottstown, Pa.; and daughter-in-law, Jonelet Bange of Spring Grove.

HAMM, Doris Emma, 87, born July 31, 1926, in Harrisburg, Pa.; died December 21, 2013, in Apopka, Fla. She was a member of the Forest Lake church in Apopka, Fla. During her lifetime, she gave generously to Christian education. After retirement she volunteered as a Pine Lady for the Adventist Health System. She was married in 1965 to William Hamm, who preceded her in death in 2012. She is survived by a son, Ray Clayton of Fairbanks, Ark.; a brother, Harry Dietrich of Campbobbello, S.C.; and sisters, Eileen Busch and Sally Rhynearsom, both of Columbus, N.C.

Bulletin Board

SEELEY, Eileen C., 91, born December 14, 1922, in TyTy, Ga.; died January 26, 2014, in Rocky Mount, Va., quietly at home surrounded by her family. She was a charter member and one of the founders of the Rocky Mount church. Eileen was the organist for many years, and held numerous other church offices. She loved children and enjoyed teaching elementary school and kindergarten classes, as well as children's Sabbath School. Eileen was also famous for her delicious vegetarian cooking, and her dishes were favorites at fellowship dinners. Survivors: her husband of 68 years, James Seeley, of Rocky Mount; her daughter Elita Elliott, also of Rocky Mount; son, James Seeley, MD, and daughter-in-law Pam Seeley of Old Hickory, Tenn.; her sister Sarah (Art) Cushing of Loveland, Colo.; sisters-in-law Mary Baker of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., and Sally Fuller of Ooltewah, Tenn.; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

TURKO, Betty E. (Stephens), 89, born September 25, 1924, in Ebensburg, Pa.; died November 26, 2013, in Indiana, Pa. She was a member of the Indiana church since 1964. Survivors: her son, Peter Turko of Fairfax, Va.; her daughter, Pam Turko of Indiana;

her sister, Joann McKotch of Ebensburg; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

WEBSTER, Alice L., born March 24, 1924, in Detroit, Mich.; died November 27, 2013, in Dayton, Ohio. She was a member of the Kettering (Ohio) church. Alice was in the graduating Class of 1945 at Cedar Lake Academy, in Cedar Lake, Mich. Survivors: her husband, Franklin Webster of Dayton; her sons, Richard Webster of San Diego, Calif., Ted (Teri) Webster of Cedar Lake, George (Lynnae) Webster of Cloverdale, Calif., and Perry (Lesley) Webster of Dayton; grandchildren: Amy, Alisha, Jessica, Jordan and Matthew Webster. Alice was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Frances Hughes; brothers, Thomas and Richard Hughes and Ted Shull.

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GCWM Contact Information
www.adventistwomensministries.org

NADWM Contact Information
www.nadwm.org

Register online at
www.adventsource.org/events

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Silver Spring, MD

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 Adventist 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 Junior Academy, Calvary Adventist School, DuPont Park Adventist School, Ephesus Adventist School, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist Elementary, 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 School, Chester River Adventist School, Crest Lane SDA School, Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School, Frederick Adventist School, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Gateway Christian Academy, Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, Rocky Knoll SDA School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Susquehanna Adventist School, Wilmington Junior Academy

Mountain View—Boulevard Adventist Academy, Brushy Fork Christian School, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Mountaintop SDA School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Valley View SDA School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson SDA School, Meadow View Jr. Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

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

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

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, John Nevins Andrews School, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Robert 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 School, Vienna Adventist Academy

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union is busy building the body of Christ through its many entities. As union membership increases, so does the need for churches, schools, conference offices and other structures.

The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) is the organization hundreds of Adventist entities have depended on for 44 years to get low-interest funding to fix, purchase, expand or build. Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., bought a new property with a CURF loan. Ohio Conference's Worthington congregation built a new church and school with a loan from CURF. Since it started, CURF has provided some 1,800 loans to institutions in the Columbia Union.

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APRIL 17-19 2014
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Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

Thursday



Karl Haffner
Mission Strategist, Author,
Kettering Health Network Pastor

Friday



Gary Wimbish
Columbia Community
Center Pastor

Sabbath AM



Dave Weigley
Columbia Union Conference
President

Sabbath PM



Bob Folkenberg
Past General Conference
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