

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

FEBRUARY 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 2



**WGTS**

Operating on a  
Prayer Frequency

Plus: Do Millennials  
Know How to Keep Their  
Peers in the Church?

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**About the Cover:** Several members of the WGTS staff are photographed at their studio in Takoma Park, Md., by Paul Morigi/AP Images.

## ON THE WEB

### CHRIST ON THE RADIO

Did you know WGTS 91.9 FM hosts a weekly worship service and concerts and even holds meetings in a local pub? Watch this month's *Columbia Union Story* at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/WGTS919](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/WGTS919) to see listeners share how the many ministries of this Columbia Union radio station are changing hearts and lives.

### IN THE NAME OF LOVE



#ThrowbackThursday on the *Visitor* Facebook page this month is dedicated to sharing some favorite wedding photos of union members. Like us on [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](http://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) to see if you recognize any of the couples.

### 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR EVANGELISM

Start preparing your heart and church for the April Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac conference evangelism efforts. For tips on how to help your church prepare for the event, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/2015evangelism](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/2015evangelism).

### SHARE MONDAY'S MANNA



Every Monday Allegheny East Conference communication staff post Monday's Manna, a short devotional video, on the conference Facebook page and on [visitaec.org](http://visitaec.org). Why not share the video with your friends?

### SHARE THE CALENDAR

We created the 2015 *Visitor Calendar* as a way for you to share your faith. Teach others—in a beautiful way—about the truths we hold dear and the many ways we show Christ's love to others. Email [bweigley@columbiaunionvisitor.com](mailto:bweigley@columbiaunionvisitor.com) for additional copies.

# VISITOR

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The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Volume 120 ■ Issue 2

## Music Can Change the World

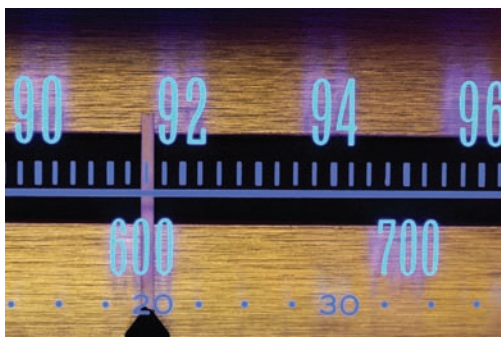
**M**y wife plays the harp, my daughter the violin and my son the bassoon. They all play the piano and sing. I, on the other hand, can't carry a tune inside the proverbial bucket. Yet, I spent a significant portion of my pastoral ministry promoting high-quality music programs in my churches. I may not be musically inclined, but I do understand music's amazing power to soften and sensitize and produce compassion and caring. Music can change the world.



Those who know my musical background find it ironic that I now serve as chairman of the board of Washington Adventist University's (WAU) contemporary Christian radio station, WGTS 91.9 FM, based in Takoma Park, Md. But, please, keep things in perspective. WGTS is not for me. Neither is it for some of you. Rather, it is for the half a million listeners who tune in each week, 40 percent of whom are disenchanted with traditional religion and have no formal connection to a local congregation. They tune in to hear their favorite Christian artists, and through them they find encouragement, hope and peace. Sometimes they don't even

tune in to hear the music. Instead, they listen because the station provides the closest thing they have to a Christian family.

Commuters all over the Washington metropolitan area listen as they travel to and from work each day. Young people listen to it on their smartphones. It plays in offices



in the White House, and in Senate and congressional offices on Capitol Hill. Its presence is felt on military bases. It provides the backdrop to some of the area's most influential business centers, as well as doctor's offices and restaurants. And, people around the world listen on [wgts919.com](http://wgts919.com).

### NUDGING PEOPLE TOWARD THE KINGDOM

In its early years, the station focused on my musical taste and that of a few thousand other classical music buffs. It was largely a Seventh-day Adventist audience, but it simply could not compete in the D.C. market. Year after year it struggled to raise its meager budget. Today, however, its contemporary Christian format places WGTS in the top 10 of all station formats in our market area. Their operating budget is now more than \$2.5 million.

Impressively, WGTS receives no subsidies from the church or WAU. On the contrary, it provides \$175,000 in labor opportunities for WAU students and returns more than \$325,000 to the university for rent and other services. And, from operating reserves, it loaned WAU \$2 million to help with the construction of the new music building.

Please don't think that the story of WGTS is simply about the music or the numbers. It is not. It is about ministry. It is about the listeners and what God is doing in their lives (as you'll read in this month's feature). Nothing is more rewarding than hearing how the station has nudged them closer to Christ and His kingdom. WGTS music is changing the world—one heart at a time.

*Rob Vandeman is the executive secretary for the Columbia Union Conference.*



PHOTO BY EVAN MORSELL

## BLADENSBURG MEMBERS MARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Allegheny East Conference's Bladensburg (Md.) church, under the leadership of Pastor Noah Lafayette Washington, joined the mayor of Bladensburg in a peaceful December march and prayer to protest social injustice. Their outing coincided with a national march to honor those killed by police in recent months. "We want to do our part in our community to give solidarity to what is going on," says Washington.

## UNION SELECTS GC SESSION DELEGATES

During the Columbia Union Year-End meetings last fall, the Columbia Union Executive Committee voted the names of 28 members who will



be asked to serve as delegates to the GC Session. The session convenes every five years where delegates elect officers of the world church and its 13 world divisions; make changes to the fundamental beliefs, constitution and bylaws; hear reports and updates from leaders in

each region of the world church; and handle other business, such as the discussion on creation.

Each world division and union is given a certain number of delegates based on membership. The Columbia Union, where membership stands at 141,000, gets 28 of the North American Division's 237 slots.

According to Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary, the selection process is very complex and must be balanced according to gender, race, age, role and position. Each of the three union officers and each of the union's eight conference presidents are automatically selected. The remaining 17 slots must be allotted based on the above criteria.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

## WAU, UNION EVANGELISM SCHOOL SIGN AGREEMENT

The Washington Adventist University (WAU) Department of

Religion will soon offer courses in field evangelism to students interested in urban ministry who are also participating in the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School (RCUES) in Philadelphia. The two schools and the Columbia Union Conference signed a memorandum of understanding recently that will guide the joint training effort.

"Washington Adventist University has long been a gateway to service, offering encouragement to faculty, students and staff who participate in mission trips locally and abroad,"



says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. "This agreement offers students yet another opportunity to learn how to better serve others."

Dave Weigley, union president, adds, "Engaging young adults is a priority for the Adventist Church and the Columbia Union. This partnership will provide a great opportunity for us to help our young people experience the mission of our church firsthand."

As part of the signed agreement, faculty from the WAU Department of Religion will provide leadership training in discipleship, community development, urban agriculture and various aspects of evangelism. The RCUES' hands-on curriculum is offered as a 12-month training and experiential program that prepares students for ministry in cities and urban areas throughout North America. Read more on page 38. —*WAU Staff*

## OHIO CONSTITUENTS DISCUSS FUTURE OF MVA

Though not an easy decision, delegates to the special constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference

voted by handwritten ballot last month—257 “yes” and 82 “no”—to proceed with a recommendation that requires Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) to raise a total of \$3 million by March 10, 2015, if it is to continue operations next school year.

“Significant measures must be taken in order to secure MVA for the long term,” said Vince Waln, co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee that studied the issues and options for MVA and presented a report on the declining enrollment, lack of finances and ongoing challenges.

Following the four-hour session, Ron Halverson, Jr., Ohio Conference president, released a statement. “Whatever happens, secondary education remains a priority in the Ohio



Conference, and we will continue to seek ways to provide the opportunity for our young people to access quality, Adventist Christian education,” he assured members. Read more on page 29.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

## AWC ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN TREASURY

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Executive Committee recently voted Haycin Candace Nurse to serve as the conference’s interim



treasurer. Nurse has been an integral member of the treasury team for eight years. She joined as a business intern/staff accountant and worked her way to assistant treasurer and human resources coordinator.

She replaces Zenobia Seward, who retired December 31 with 32 years of denominational service, including the past 13 at AWC. Her service includes stints at Oakwood University and Oakwood Academy in Huntsville, Ala., and the Allegheny East Conference.

“Zenobia has done a tremendous job of promoting the quality of work in Allegheny West throughout the denomination, and we thank and appreciate what she has done to better the conference,” says William T. Cox, president. Read more on page 17.—*Bryant Taylor*

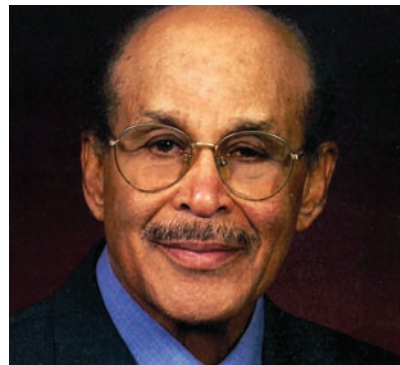
## FORMER UNION PUBLISHING ASSOCIATE DIES

Robert “Bob” LaGrone, who served the Adventist Church in the publishing work for more than 42 years, died last month. He was a young adult convert into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but after converting soon started full-time literature evangelism work in the Southern Union as a way to help others discover God’s love.

LaGrone later served as publishing director for the Central States and Allegheny East conferences, then finished his church career as associate publishing director for the Columbia Union Conference (1980-1995). He also served on many boards and committees, including the North American Division

“What made [Martin Luther King Jr.’s] work great is that it was God’s work.”

—*Charles Tapp, pastor of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., speaking at Washington Adventist University’s MLK prayer breakfast last month*



Publishing Board and Review and Herald Publishing Presidential Committee. Additionally, he participated in numerous studies of church history and its publishing work.

“Elder LaGrone is remembered with great fondness by those that worked with him here at the Columbia Union,” says Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary. “He was passionate about the publishing ministry and worked tirelessly to assist conferences with their literature evangelist programs.”

51,200

The approximate pounds in food that Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington collected and distributed to low-income families in the Washington, D.C., area during the holidays

### LA UNIÓN ELIGE A LOS DELEGADOS DE LA SESIÓN DE LA ASOCIACIÓN GENERAL

Durante las reuniones de fin de año de Columbia Union el otoño pasado, el comité ejecutivo de Columbia Union votó por los 28 miembros que servirán como delegados de la Sesión de la Asociación General. La sesión se reúne cada 5 años en la que los delegados eligen a los oficiantes de la iglesia mundial y sus 13 divisiones mundiales; realizan cambios en las creencias fundamentales, la constitución y los estatutos; escuchan los reportes y actualizaciones de los líderes en cada región de la iglesia mundial; y otros asuntos, tales como la ordenación de la mujer.

A cada división y unión mundial se le asigna un cierto número de delegados basado en la cantidad de miembros. Columbia Union, cuyo total de miembros es 141,000, recibe 28 de los 237 asignados a la División Norteamericana.



Según Rob Vandeman, secretario ejecutivo de la unión, el proceso de selección es muy complejo y debe ser equilibrado según género, raza, edad, rol y posición. Cada uno de los tres oficiales ejecutivos de la unión y cada uno de los presidentes de las 8 asociaciones de la unión se seleccionan automáticamente. Los 17 restantes deben asignarse basado en los criterios anteriores.  
—Celeste Ryan Blyden

### WAU, LA ESCUELA DE LA UNIÓN FIRMA EL ACUERDO

El departamento de religión de Washington Adventist University



(WAU) pronto ofrecerá cursos de evangelismo de campo para los estudiantes interesados en el ministerio urbano que también están participando en el REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School (RCUES) en Philadelphia. Las dos escuelas y Columbia Union Conference recientemente firmaron un memorando de entendimiento que guiará el esfuerzo de capacitación conjunto.

“Washington Adventist University ha sido una puerta de entrada al servicio, ofreciendo apoyo a profesores, estudiantes y empleados que participan en viajes misioneros locales y en el extranjero”, dice Weymouth Spence, presidente de WAU. “Este acuerdo ofrece a estudiantes aún otra oportunidad para aprender a servir mejor a los demás”.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la unión, agrega, “involucrar jóvenes adultos es una prioridad para la Iglesia Adventista y Columbia Union. Esta alianza ofrecerá una gran oportunidad para que ayudemos a nuestros jóvenes a experimentar de cerca la misión de nuestra iglesia”.

Como parte del acuerdo firmado, la facultad del departamento de religión de WAU proporcionará capacitación en el discipulado, desarrollo comunitario, agricultura urbana y diversos aspectos de la evangelización. El currículo práctico de RCUES se ofrece como un programa experimental y de formación por 12 meses que prepara a los estudiantes para el ministerio en ciudades y zonas urbanas a lo largo de Norteamérica. Leer más en la página 38.—*Facultad de WAU*

### POTOMAC RECIBE UN NUEVO DIRECTOR DE JÓVENES

El comité ejecutivo y la administración de Potomac Conference recientemente eligió a Josant Barrientos como su nuevo director de ministerios juveniles. Barrientos fue el pastor de niños en el Community Praise Center en Alexandria, Va. Posee una amplia experiencia en ministerios juveniles



e infantiles y ha servido en varias áreas en Potomac Conference, incluyendo pastor juvenil y asociado, y obrero bíblico.

“Josant ha sido un gran recurso para la asociación por años”, dice Bill Miller, presidente de la asociación. “Tiene una pasión por traer a gente joven a Jesús, discipular y capacitarlos para participar activamente en la vida de una iglesia local. Especialmente se le conoce como un orador dotado y por tener una gran facilidad para conectar con diferentes grupos de edades y culturas. Durante los años, ha sido invitado a participar en congresos de jóvenes, series evangelísticas y retiros de jóvenes alrededor del mundo, lo cual indica su enorme talento”.

Leer más en la página 33.

—Tiffany Doss

### SE BAUTIZAN 344 EN LA CAMPAÑA DE NEW JERSEY

La Caravana de la Esperanza de New Jersey Conference, una iniciativa evangelística para esparcir el evangelio por todo New Jersey, terminó este otoño. José Cortés, presidente de la asociación, y Jorge Agüero, director de ministerios personales, organizaron los programas



especiales que comenzaron en julio.

Los líderes celebraron la ceremonia de clausura el 15 de noviembre en Tranquil Valley Retreat Center en Andover. Varios grupos pequeños de todo el estado participaron en el desfile de grupos pequeños y muchos de los asistentes entregaron sus vidas a Jesús a través del bautismo en el evento.

“Estamos agradecidos a todos los pastores y laicos que trabajaron en difundir el evangelio”, dice Agüero. “Alabamos a Dios por el éxito de este esfuerzo evangelístico”.

Cortés resume que 344 se unieron a la iglesia adventista como resultado de las series.

—Raquel Guevara

## RESEÑA LITERARIA: SUS HISTORIAS: TU VIDA

En su nuevo devocional, Sergio Romero, director de ministerios multiculturales de Allegheny West Conference, se centra en cuatro personajes del Antiguo Testamento: Habacuc, Eliseo, Sansón y Jonás. Aquí está lo que dice esperar de sus páginas:



**Visitor:** ¿Por qué esos cuatro personajes?

**Romero:** Los héroes bíblicos enfrentaron los mismos problemas que nosotros; lucharon al igual que nosotros. Traigo sus historias a nuestros tiempos modernos para que los lectores—desde los jóvenes adultos hasta los adultos—puedan sentirse de la misma manera en que estos personajes se sintieron durante los tiempos bíblicos.

**Visitor:** ¿Qué podemos aprender?

**Romero:** Al comparar nuestros problemas con los de ellos, los lectores pueden encontrar varias formas de crecer y madurar a través de las historias, meditar en las preguntas y actuar de acuerdo a los desafíos que el libro ofrece.

Para una copia del libro, escriba a [sromero@awconf.org](mailto:sromero@awconf.org) o llame al (801) 358-8350.

## Artículo principal de *Visitor*: Frecuencia oración

“Hace apenas una hora uno de nuestros radioyentes llamó y entregó su vida a Jesús”, exclamó Kevin Krueger, el director general de WGTS 91.9 FM. Este líder de uno de los más exitosos ministerios adventistas del séptimo día en el país se refería a una llamada a la estación recibida durante su “Friendraiser” anual.

El día antes de que el hombre llamara, Krueger y el personal de la estación oraron para que Dios guiara a un radioyente a Cristo. “Obviamente necesitábamos fondos, pero sabíamos que también necesitábamos enfocarnos en Dios y lo que Él está obrando”, compartió.

Aunque la oración se ha convertido en la frecuencia que opera WGTS, Krueger todavía está sorprendido en cómo Dios responde a sus peticiones. Cada día de cada semana desde sus estudios en el campus de la Universidad Adventista de Washington en Takoma Park, Md., el personal de WGTS conecta alrededor de medio millón de radioyentes a Cristo. Lo hacen, no sólo a través de música alegre y animadora cristiana contemporánea, sino también a través de un número creciente de programas no radiales para atender a sus necesidades.

Varios miembros del equipo de WGTS hablan de los ministerios que ellos llevan a cabo y comparten algunas de sus historias favoritas de los radioyentes. Es evidente que el hilo que une a esta comunidad es el poder maravilloso de la oración.—*Taashi Rowe*



## What do Young Adults say About Millennials Leaving the Church? Do They Have Solutions?

In a 2012 study by the Pew Research Center's Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 32 percent of Millennials were found to have no religious affiliation. Sadly, these numbers are also reflected in our ranks.

Student campus ministry leaders at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., worked with Rich Carlson, their vice president of spiritual life, to organize the 2014 Summit for Young Adult Retention and Involvement to discuss the issue. Backed by the North American Division (NAD) and joined by Debra Brill, NAD vice president for Ministries, 19 student representatives from Seventh-day Adventist universities and colleges met last October and deliberated over four related questions. (Visit [weareausa.org/summit](http://weareausa.org/summit) to read the summit summary.)

"The biggest outcome was the impression our church leadership left on the students," Carlson says of the event. "[Debra] was in every session, took notes and talked to students in between sessions. By backing the whole event, the church showed that our young adults are a good investment."

Danielle Barnard (below) represented Washington Adventist



University, based in Takoma Park, Md., where she serves as prayer ministries leader. "The young adults were supported so well by the church," she says of the summit. "I left with good expectations that we were taken seriously."

Carlson and Barnard report strides are being made on their campuses to incorporate the ideas and suggestions shared, especially with regard to what young adults can add to the church's appeal and mission. "I was eager to come back and share the information I got ... with the other people I work with in campus ministry," explains Barnard. "I felt impressed to be more intentional about praying for everyone on my campus."

Carlson says he especially appreciated the student leaders who came forward at the end of the three days to share: "'Here are our gifts. Here is what we can bring to the table.' [The church] may look a little different when they get done with it, but it will still be God's church and His mission."

### UNION MILLENNIALS SPEAK

The *Visitor* wanted to bring the discussion home to the Columbia Union. Staff posed versions of the summit questions to four young adults from churches around the mid-Atlantic. Here are their answers:

#### 1. Why are Young Adults Leaving the Church?

**Hannah Schaefer** (24), a member at Ohio Conference's Stillwater church in Vandalia, Ohio: "Adventists are narrow-minded and unwilling to change ... It seems that we look



down on others who don't know as much about Bible prophecy as we do. We need to be open to learning about what others believe and being more accepting of differences."

**Robert Fuller** (32), of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.: "The desire seems to be, 'Let's preserve our church's faith and doctrine,' not



'Let's be on the cutting edge, find new ideas, be open to new avenues.' I don't see it in the top leadership of the church, and the perceived culture of the church leadership is looked upon by many youth as unmoving ... Many young adults don't see the church as some-



thing useful, something good enough and ... worth the effort to stay.”

**Sarah Betack** (31), of Pennsylvania Conference’s Harrisburg First church in Harrisburg, Pa.: “In college, the church caters to that particular age group. Everything is centered around



them. But, in the typical local church, everything is catered to the ages of the members at the church—usually older people who make up the bulk of the membership.”

**Daamon Long** (32), of Allegheny West Conference’s Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio: “Looking back at my personal experience, I don’t see enough men in the church



willing to lead the young men and show them how to be godly. Too many of them come each week and ‘play church’ but don’t sit down and have a conversation with the youth.”

## 2. What Keeps You in the Church?

**Schaefer**: “When I go, I attend mostly because of my family and the friends and connections I still have at

my church. The pastor is another big reason I still go. What he presents makes sense to me. He lives what he preaches. I’ve seen him be God’s hands and feet to the world. He shows his Christianity.”

**Betack**: “I’m convicted on my Adventist beliefs and feel strongly about them. I pretty much go for that reason, not so much because of the church itself. When I started signing up to do things, I began to feel more a part of the church, and it began to feel more like a family. ... It’s now not so much about what the church isn’t doing.”

## 3. What are You Willing to do to Make the Church Better?

**Betack**: “Churches need to be more interested in what [young adults] are doing and ... inviting them to activities and connecting them with someone else in their age group. I’d like to get involved in the already existing Bible studies that are going on ... and become part of the different committees, bettering them.”

**Fuller**: “I’d like to create a young adult group with an inclusive atmosphere, a place where we are accepting of all people, no matter their viewpoint. ... And, having consistency is key. Young adults tend to

look for stuff. The Washington, D.C., area has lots of choices—great pastors, cooler music—something different every weekend. And, they like to go to these venues because they might meet someone there. That’s not entirely bad. When you have a small core group that meets regularly, you can build on that.”

## 4. What Should the Church do to Keep Young Adults Engaged?

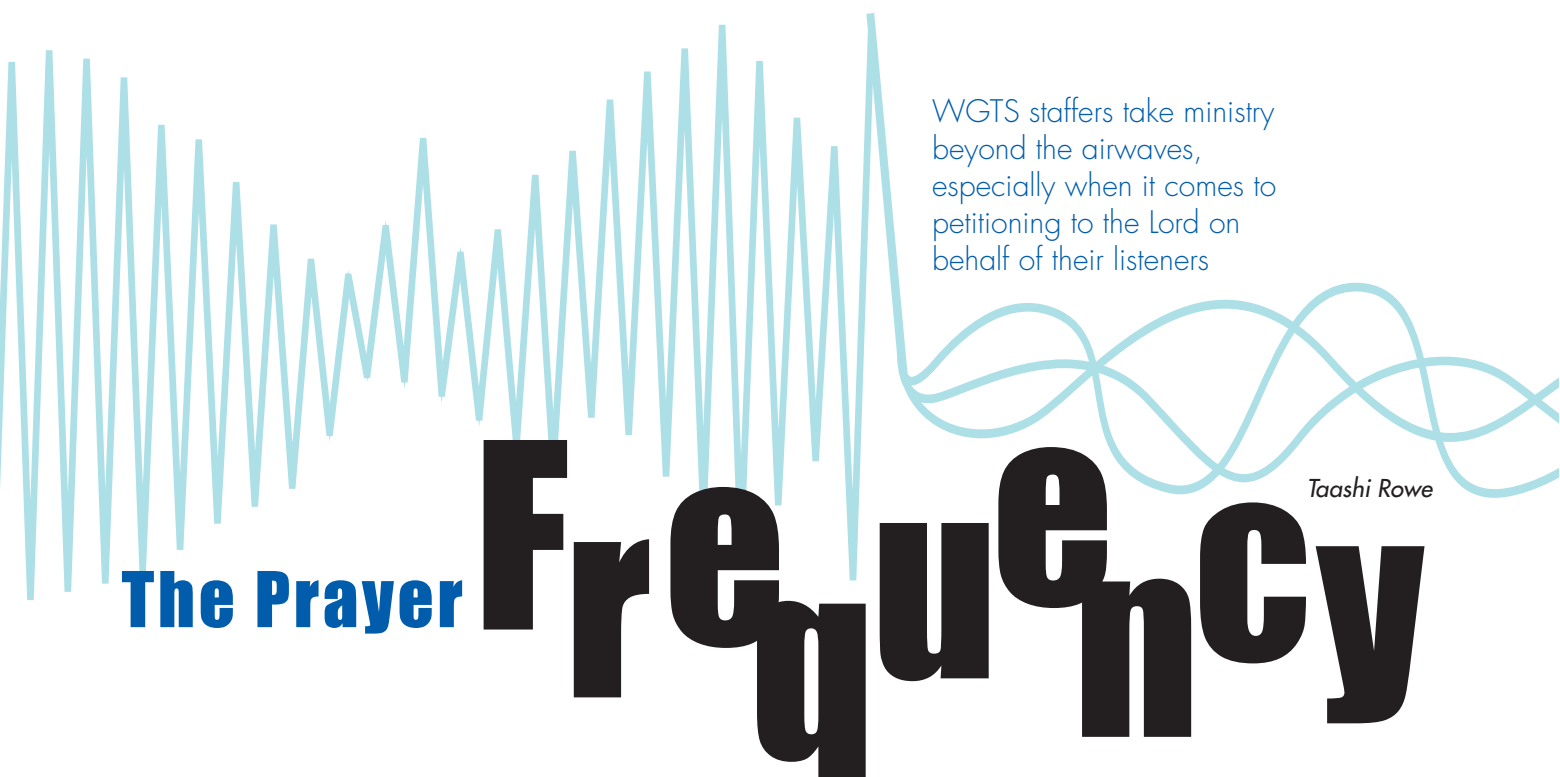
**Fuller**: “Too many programs separate the generations. There will always be a little discomfort with something, but the point is to worship, and I think we need to learn to worship together as much as possible. Each group should be willing to accommodate the other.”

**Long**: “If the head isn’t straight, the body can’t operate like it’s supposed to. Pastors need to share their struggles. If they are always coming across like they are perfect and got it all together, we can’t relate to them. Also, programs like Pathfinders are not realistic. They are earning badges and honors, but are they learning how to deal with real-life issues, like drugs and sexual addictions? They need to have real conversations and need the truth about life. We need to start being real with the next generation.”

## Let’s Keep Talkin’

Better engaging young adults in the church mission work is one of the six priorities of the Columbia Union Conference under the direction of Dave Weigley, president. To that end, the union established a Young Adult Advisory Subcommittee and, last spring, the union executive committee voted to approve the subcommittee’s recommendation that all eight conferences have at least one young adult on their executive committee. The union also created the REACH Columbia Union School of Evangelism, which opens in Philadelphia this spring, where young adults will learn how to become active disciples of Christ.

Join members of the union subcommittee, some of the young adults included in this article and other Young Adult and Youth Ministries leaders around the division to further chat about Millennials in the church. Go to [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor), February 24, at noon.



WGTS staffers take ministry beyond the airwaves, especially when it comes to petitioning to the Lord on behalf of their listeners

Taashi Rowe

# The Prayer Frequency

**“Just an hour ago, one of our listeners called in and gave his life to Jesus,”** exclaims Kevin Krueger, the general manager of WGTS 91.9 FM. This leader of one of the most successful Seventh-day Adventist ministries in the country is referring to a call the station recently received during their annual Friendraiser.

The day before the man called in, Krueger and station staff prayed that God would lead a listener to Christ. “Obviously we needed funding, but we knew we also needed to be focused on God and what He is doing,” he shares.

He says the man wanted to speak with a pastor. When they put him through to Chaplain Pete Garza, the caller explained that the music playing on the radio convicted him. He wanted to know what he needed to do next to become a Christian. Chaplain Garza prayed with him and led him to Christ.

Although prayer has become the frequency that WGTS operates on, Krueger is still amazed at how God answers their requests. Every day of each week, from their studios on the campus of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., WGTS staff connects some half-a-million listeners to Christ. They do it, not only through upbeat and encouraging contemporary Christian music, but also through an increasing number of off-the-air programs to minister to their needs.

“We have been taught over the years that music is filler or happens before the good sermon. We are working to change



Kevin Krueger

that mindset,” says Krueger, who took the controls two years ago after 25 years at a sister station in Washington state.

Below, several members of the WGTS team talk about the ministries they lead and share some of their favorite listener stories. It’s clear the common thread that ties this community together is the wonder-working power of prayer:

## **MAKING FRIENDS, SHARING ENCOURAGEMENT**

Starting at 5 a.m. each weekday, Jerry Woods, along with co-host Blanca Vega, keep listeners’ company throughout their morning commutes. With 25 years of Christian radio under his belt, three at WGTS, Woods is clear about his primary role as a WGTS DJ—to build friendships.

“Building friendships gives us permission to go deeper with people,” he says. “We clown around with people when we meet them because they feel like they already know us from listening to us on the radio.”

Woods says he loves when listeners tell him how God is working in their lives. He recalls one man’s testimony: “This one caller told us he was having marriage problems and decided to leave his family while everyone was out of the house. So, he rented a U-Haul truck. When he turned on the engine, the previous driver had left the station on WGTS. The first song he heard was ‘Lead Me’ by Sanctus Real. It was about biblical leadership. He pulled over on the side of the road and cried. He returned the truck, and when his wife came home, he told her he was recommitting to making their marriage work. It’s amazing to know that God used the station to save someone’s marriage.”

Vega started at WGTS in 2000 when she was a student at Washington Adventist University. She feels fortunate to know that she is part of a supportive community that extends beyond the airwaves. “When I share my [experiences], listeners sometimes call and say they are praying for me and it’s very humbling,” she says.

She also considers it a privilege to do the same for them. One particular experience stands out in her mind. “One of our listeners said when she heard about a women’s conference, she just knew she needed to be there. I was getting ready to go on stage, when she came down the hall with tears in her eyes,” Vega shares. “She just wanted me to hug her and pray for



Blanca Vega



Jerry Woods

her. When I did, I could smell the cigarette smoke in her clothes. She said she listened to the station every morning even though she is not a devout Christian. She then told me her daughter was addicted to drugs and expecting another child. Her heart was really broken, and she really needed to be encouraged. It was one of those God moments where you realize how He works in amazing ways to touch someone’s life.”

## **BUILDING A COMMUNITY ON THE GROUND**

Terry Johnsson became a volunteer WGTS chaplain in 1997, but officially became a staff member in 2008 after someone donated a large gift to the station. Even though the station needed



**She introduced me as an Adventist. To her we were not known as the people who tell you not to eat this or drink that, but as the people who will pray for you.**  
—Terry Johnsson

someone on the air, John Konrad, the late general manager, shocked everyone when he decided to put those funds into a chaplaincy program. Konrad hired a full-time chaplain because he knew that 40 percent of WGTS listeners were not connected to any church community.

The chaplaincy program is the station's way of connecting with listeners outside of their on-air program. They focus intensely on prayer as a neutral way to connect people to Jesus. Then they started doing one-night evangelistic meetings at hotels in the Washington, D.C., area called WGTS Night of Hope. The first program in 2010 attracted more than 600 attendees—four times the number they originally expected.

"We have a unique audience that the Lord has brought us; however, at the end of the day, we believe that people are better in community than they are by themselves," Johnsson explains. And, everywhere he goes, he is reminded of that.

"I had finished a procedure at the doctor's office and was scheduling a follow-up appointment with the lady at the counter," Johnsson recalls. "As soon as I started talking, she asked, 'Do I know you?' I told her this was my first time there. Then she said, 'Oh my goodness, you're Terry Johnsson. Wait right here!'"

"She came back with about five people and said, 'Remember those people who said they will pray for you when you have problems? This is him!' She introduced me as an Adventist. To her we were not known as the people who tell you not to eat this or drink that, but as the people who will



pray for you. That really touched my heart to know that we are doing something special in the community."

## A FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Jitesh Ram, who studies counseling psychology with a minor in religious programming at Washington Adventist University, works as a Service Gateway associate and a chaplain's assistant. Service Gateway is what the station calls their front desk. Whenever someone visits or calls the station, their task is to share the same warmth and friendliness that they get from the on-air personalities. The students often end up praying with whomever calls in.

"We call that the first line of defense so it's really important to give them our full passion and care," Ram says. "Recently a man called in because he was really scared because the winter was coming and he felt like his family was going to be homeless for the holidays. He obviously was somebody who didn't want to ask for



help but was at a point where he needed to talk. I talked to him and began to encourage him and lift his spirits. He started to cry, and I teared up too.

"I suggested some social services hot-lines where he could call and get some help," Ram continues. "All he kept saying was that he loved WGTS and that we were the only people he trusted to refer him to some good people. He said, 'Please keep praying for me.' We put his prayer request on PrayerWorks and now hundreds of people are praying for him."

### COORDINATING A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

Veronica "Kiki" Banner has seen first-hand how important prayer is to WGTS listeners so it's not surprising that she also has become an active user of PrayerWorks, WGTS' online prayer community—one of the largest in the nation with some 230,000 participants. Listeners simply log on to [onlineprayerworks.com/wgts](http://onlineprayerworks.com/wgts) and pray for each other and/or make requests.

As the chaplains' office coordinator, Banner shares listener requests from the

site with fellow staff. She also helps with PrayerWorks Live, a once-a-month prayer session WGTS hosts at Gateway Fellowship, their worship service at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park on Saturday evenings for listeners seeking a church family. There are also volunteers who set up a prayer tent at various events around town.

"I just feel like prayer is such a powerful tool. It's like the best gift we can give somebody," says Banner. She remembers how the gift of prayer kept one listener encouraged as she struggled through life's challenges.

"She slept in her car and would listen to WGTS as a constant reminder that God was going to provide. She ended up going to PrayerWorks online where people prayed for her health and living situation and, before she knew it, she found a room to rent," Banner reports. "She let us know what happened by praising God for the room online. Then she started coming to Gateway Fellowship. She is so happy to be part of a loving and supportive community and now volunteers there every week!"



## From the RADIO to the WEB

*There are many ways to stay connected to the station and to learn more about their ministry efforts (and how you can help). Visit [wgts919.com](http://wgts919.com) and:*

- Learn about concerts, support groups and other events on the "Community Calendar" and "Upcoming Events" tabs.
- Download *WGTS 91.9's iBelieve Magazine* app—free for iPad, Kindle and Android—and learn more about your favorite artists and bands, go deeper in your faith and find helpful parenting and relationship tips.
- On "The Story Project" tab, watch listeners tell touching stories of how WGTS has impacted their lives.
- WGTS has helped start another website—[hymnsandfavorites.com](http://hymnsandfavorites.com)—for those who want to listen to more traditional Christian music.



Veronica Banner and Pete Garza

**Did You Know?**  
**WGTS is in the top 10  
of all station formats  
in our market area.**



### THE NEXT FRONTIER

Garza joined the chaplaincy department in 2009 as an assistant chaplain in charge of overseeing the music at Gateway Fellowship. He recalls getting off the stage after leading praise and worship at one of the Nights of Hope: “We had a wonderful time of worship and, after that was done, I went to the bathroom. When I went in, there was a tall gentleman smoking and he immediately apologized. He started pouring out his life to me. I could tell as soon as I saw him that he had been through some rough times. I prayed with him and was so thankful that he felt comfortable enough with me to share. After that, I walked by the prayer room and saw him on his knee praying and asking for forgiveness. This was a big dude, and it was such a beautiful thing to see. I know that the music blessed him, that the spoken Word blessed him. I will probably never see him again, but I know that something beautiful happened that night.”

Staffers started to wonder, though, what if these experiences weren’t limited

to a few one-night evangelistic meetings? What if the bonds forged over the radio and through phone calls and through a virtual community could extend into something more? What if this radio station could venture into a new frontier and help listeners find church homes?

Just last month, Garza found the answer by spearheading a program that introduces listeners to three possible Adventist church homes in Maryland: the Takoma Park and Sligo churches in Takoma Park and the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Staff will connect listeners to these churches through concerts, radio days, a young adult outreach program on Friday nights, PrayerWorks Live and volunteer opportunities.

“We imagine people will come to these churches and start to experience the kind of communities that we as Adventists know and love,” Garza says. And, this end result becomes a distinct possibility every time a listener tunes their radio to 91.9 FM.

*Taashi Rowe writes from Takoma Park, Md.*

PHOTOS BY PAUL MORIGI/AP IMAGES



**NEWS**

**Ghanaian Churches Host African Heritage Day**

More than 300 recently gathered at Trinity Temple Academy in Newark, N.J., to celebrate the first African Heritage Day. Pastor Amofah Asamoah, cultural coordinator of Allegheny East Conference's African Ministerium, and volunteers from his two congregations—the New Jersey Ghana church in Hillside, N.J., and the Parlin Mission in Parlin, N.J.—planned the day that celebrated Ghanaian culture.

Two traditional Ghanaian chiefs taught attendees the common Ashanti kingdom leadership, dress, etiquette and cultural dance practices. "We are immigrants, and although we have assimilated, we want to bring awareness to the culture of Ghana, especially for our children," says Pastor Asamoah.

The celebration helped raise \$10,000 for Hillside's new church building, but the fundraising continues. The Hillside church is scheduled to move into their new church in May.



*Pastor Amofah Asamoah and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoy the celebration of Ghanaian culture.*

**Communication Department Posts Online Encouragement**

In an effort to provide weekly spiritual encouragement to members, Allegheny East Conference communication staff members post Monday's Manna—a two- to five-minute video devotional—on its home page every Monday. Conference communication staff also post the video on Facebook so fans can easily share the encouragement with others.



"The weekly devotionals were designed to give our constituents a quick, power-packed jumpstart to their week," says LaTasha Hewitt, communication director. All devotionals are archived and can be accessed on the conference website at [visitaec.org](http://visitaec.org).

The Facebook page also features daily updates such as Tuesday's Treasure (an inspirational quote); Wednesday's Wit (church humor); Throwback Thursday (old conference photos); and Friday's Fun Fact (little known, but interesting data).

**New Jersey Governor Appoints Mt. Olivet Pastor to Commission**

Chris Christie, New Jersey governor, recently appointed Joseph Thelusca, pastor of the Mt. Olivet church in Neptune, N.J., as a member of the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service.

"My involvement in the commission brings a sense of diversity and necessary representation for our urban communities throughout the state. My main desire is to bridge the gap between various local, nonprofit community entities to the many funding opportunities that are available through the commission," says Thelusca, whose current term extends until May 14, 2017.



## Ephesus Women Sponsor Sports Day for Men



The women of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., recently hosted a sports day in their school's gym to honor the men of their church. Planners aimed to show the gentlemen appreciation in a way that "spoke their language." A big screen television broadcasting a football game greeted the men as they entered. That was just the first surprise. The women of the church also treated them to foot and back massages, manicures and several homemade treats.

The event was more than lounging and relaxing. The ladies led a vigorous cardiac workout. Fitness professionals also shared the importance of exercising and staying physically fit. Two special attendees won a \$25 gas card and a car wash.

Cecil Williams, pastor of the Ephesus church, says the program was ideally suited for the men. "It's almost as if they read their minds."

Yvette Hart, hospitality leader, and Patricia Goodman, Health Ministries leader, spearheaded the event, and were very pleased with the results. Goodman states, "We love the men and appreciate all they do." Hart adds, "Our men are our superstars, and we want to take care of them."

## PFA Young Men Host Handy Hall Weekend

The young men of Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., recently hosted their annual Handy Hall Weekend, an event designed to showcase the gifts and talents of residents of Handy Hall, the boys dormitory.

The gentlemen were responsible for all aspects of the weekend program, including Sabbath School, preliminaries for divine worship, as well as a banquet on Sunday. The weekend began with an open house on Friday, where the young men offered tours to visitors and practiced the art of decorum while entertaining guests. They also hosted a Friday night concert featuring musical artists from the dorm and special



*The Pine Forge boys basketball team plays against Northeastern Academy.*



*Jaymie Pottinger, boys dean, greets the congregation at the Handy Hall concert just before the praise team begins to sing.*

guests Sean Tillery and Changed.

Richard Martin ('07) preached the Sabbath sermon. Saturday evening, PFA's boys basketball team played in the Handy Hall Classic against Northeastern Academy from New York City.

Under the leadership of Jaymie Pottinger, men's dean, a planning committee of Handy Hall's young men, known as the Cosmopolitans, made sure the weekend came together.

"Handy Hall Weekend affords the young men of Handy Hall an opportunity to exhibit and develop their leadership skills, and serves as an effective assessment of the areas where growth is needed," says Pottinger.



## Longtime Treasurer Retires

Zenobia Seward, Allegheny West Conference (AWC) treasurer for the past 13 years, retired December 31 after 32 years of denominational service. She worked for four years as an accountant and director of student accounts at Oakwood University (Ala.), then as business manager at Oakwood Academy (Ala.) for four years. Before transferring to the Allegheny West Conference, Seward worked as associate treasurer for the Allegheny East Conference in Pottstown, Pa., for 11 years.



“Zenobia has done a tremendous job of promoting the quality of work

in Allegheny West throughout the denomination, and we thank and appreciate what she has done to better the conference,” says William T. Cox, president.

In light of Seward’s retirement, the AWC Executive Committee recently voted Haycin Candace Nurse to serve as the conference’s interim treasurer. Nurse has been an integral member of the treasury team for eight years. She joined as a business intern/staff accountant and worked her way to assistant treasurer and human resources coordinator.



## Columbus Pastors Urge Protestors to Pray

Seven Allegheny West Conference pastors from the Columbus, Ohio, area—including John Boston, Jason Ridley, Donald Burden, Harold Palmer, Joel Johnson, Marquis Johns and Bryant Taylor—recently gathered at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus for “a demonstration of peace.” They urged the crowd of about 100 to pray during a time of social unrest following the recent grand jury decisions in the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.



*Pastor John Boston speaks to the crowd during the peaceful demonstration.*



*Members from across Columbus pray together.*

“You can’t meet anger with anger. We want to meet anger with calm, [to] protest with prayer,” said John Boston, pastor of the Central church, to local press.

Pastor Ridley, of the Hilltop Community Worship Center, added that it is important to stand for what is right in the world today. “There is only so much that protesting can do. There are some things that only prayer can do. That is why we are here today, to let the city know we stand firm peacefully.”—V. Michelle Bernard

## Members Pray, Praise in New Year

To praise God for bringing them through the year and to pray for His blessing in 2015, members from across the Allegheny West Conference recently gathered in three churches: the Glenville church in Cleveland, the Central church in Columbus and Hillcrest in Pittsburgh. The cornerstone for each of the services was communion and “at-one-ment” with God.

Glenville’s focus was re-consecration, recommitment and reconciliation. Pastor MyRon Edmonds preached “Lord Increase Our Faith.” He reminded the congregation that in making resolutions, we must ask God for increased faith to succeed in our intentions. “Offenses will come, change will be difficult, others



*Ted Williams shares his testimony.*

will test our endurance and, of our own accord, we will not succeed,” he added.

Pastor Edmonds also introduced the 90 Day Faith Challenge. He asked each person to fast from one item of their choosing, pray for one area of deliverance and have regular devotions using *Draw the Circle* by Mark Batterson for the next 90 days. He also encouraged everyone to take the challenge of Malachi 3:10: “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” (NIV). This challenge encourages non-tithers to begin tithing through the 90 days and watch the blessings of God flow.

In Columbus, the 12 area congregations gathered at the Central church at sunset to review, rejoice and



*Sulah Whitely, a member of the Beacon of Hope church, sings “He is Here.”*

renew God’s provisions. Jason Ridley, Hilltop pastor, preached from the book of Joshua and moved the crowd to shouts of adoration and praise. Three special guests shared gifts of praise with the attendees. Anointed, a liturgical praise dance group from the Ephesus church, performed an interpretation of the song “Yes” that moved the audience to their feet in praise. Ted Williams, a formerly homeless voice-over artist, shared how God gave him another chance at life and a career. Black Theatre, a group of youth from the Manantial de vida church in Columbus, performed “Adam and Eve and the Tree” using black lights.

While many in the community/world joined with friends in get-togethers to uncork champagne and sing “Auld Lang Syne,” members of the faith community in Pittsburgh petitioned God to create in them a clean heart and to recalibrate their spiritual priorities.



*A joint praise team from the Columbus area churches leads the congregation to the throne of God.*

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

FEBRUARY 2015

## Leave and Cleave for a Healthy Marriage

As I entered the hospital to visit a church member, I couldn't help but overhear a snippet of conversation from what appeared to be a husband and wife. They were discussing whether or not they should have brought a gift for the person they were visiting. The man finally exclaimed, "She already has a gift: she gets to be away from us for a few days!"

We can wince at what was likely a poor sense of humor, but thankfully, the scriptures provide timely wisdom on how to approach marriage so it is fulfilling and joyous. The first description is simply, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

The first step—to leave—sounds simple but implies a lot. More than just walking out the door, leaving presupposes that someone has the maturity and healthy sense of personal identity to make sound decisions. Leaving does not mean termination of the love or care for your parents, but instead to have the ability to invest in a wholesome, new relationship and place priority on your spouse and the creation of a new home.

To cleave is to hold together and resist separation. There are an endless number of things that will attempt to distract, wear out and pull apart a husband and wife. But, to cleave means to be committed, to make the marriage a continuing priority and value.

When leaving and cleaving are paramount, then the marriage is truly a gift.



**Rick Remmers**  
*President*

## Union Honors Hagerstown, Baltimore First Members

The Columbia Union Conference recently recognized Sandra Martin and Peggy Lee as two of eight notable persons of honor for their significant contributions to ministry in the Columbia Union.

Sandra Martin (below), a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church, is the longtime director of the ACTS 9 Adventist Community Services Center in Hagerstown, which is supported by five area congregations: the Hagerstown church, Williamsport (Md.) church, Highland View church in Hagerstown, Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., and the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church. Martin, a retired nurse, is known in her



community as a capable, compassionate leader who has never retired from helping people. She was nominated for her exemplary servant leadership, says Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union executive secretary.

Peggy Lee (above), a member of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Md., is secretary/treasurer of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF), which provides low interest loans to churches, schools and other organizations. Lee has worked at the Columbia Union Conference for nearly 50 years. The fund has grown from \$3 million at its start in 1980 to \$167.7 million today, partly due to her skillful management.

## NEWS

### Reisterstown Women Gather for Tea, Inspiration

The Women's Ministries team from the Reisterstown (Md.) church recently held a praise event that drew 20 women. Surlina Aaron and Natanya Cambridge, event coordinators, organized a menu of crumpets, fruit and entrees, along with a selection of specialty teas.

Aaron hosted the program at the Randallstown



retirement community where she resides. The evening included music and a devotional on Psalm 23 presented by Carrie Barnes, Aaron's neighbor.

"We had a wonderful time singing, sharing experiences of motherhood, sisterhood and all areas of being a well-rounded Christian," says Cambridge, who serves as the Women's Ministries leader of the 125-member church.

### Martinsburg Hosts Tribute to Civil Servants

The Martinsburg church in West Virginia honored law enforcement and fire safety workers during a recent worship service. Dan Pabon, a chaplain for the Montgomery County Police Department (Maryland), spoke and used the story of Lazarus. He demonstrated the importance for those who put their lives at risk to trust God daily to be their protector and keeper.



Tom Boggess, Martinsburg pastor (third from left), honors local civil servants William Ivany, Dan Pabon, retired judge Mariano Ramirez, Keith Sigulinsky, Richard Molina and Pedro Morales.

Numerous civil servants who work at the state and local levels in Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia, and in the Hagerstown and Frederick, Md., communities attended, including local and state police officers, a fire department official and a retired judge.

"This is our first attempt to honor those who do this line of work," says William Vargas, an elder. "Our goal is to make the service of appreciation and recognition an annual event."—Mark Walker

### Latino Members Mark Milestones

Three Maryland Latino congregations acknowledged milestones recently:

The Baltimore Spanish church in Baltimore, led by Pastor Orlando Rosales, organized a celebratory worship service commemorating the 30th anniversary of the congregation, which also marks the beginning of the Hispanic work in the Chesapeake Conference.

Members decorated the sanctuary with flags from the countries represented and showed a video church members created for the occasion. A luncheon featuring South American cuisine added to the festive occasion.



Justin Jack (6) and Joshua Ngen (8) wait for a piece of cake at the Baltimore Spanish church's anniversary luncheon.

"We're glad to celebrate with the Baltimore Spanish congregation their 30 years of active ministry," says Rick Remmers, conference president. "We look forward to seeing many more churches established as the priority of evangelism is lived out in our 21 Spanish-speaking congregations."

The Hagerstown Spanish company in Hagerstown, Md., now led by Pastor Roberto Clouzet, gained church status. The 188-member congregation formed in 2001 as a Spanish Sabbath School class at the Hagerstown church and grew rapidly. Within a few years, they purchased their own church building.

The Pikesville Spanish group in Pikesville, Md., also recently organized as a company,

## Field Trips Enrich STEM Classes

Several recent field trips enriched STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) classes at Highland View Academy (HVA) this year. Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for STEM; Derek Boyce, math and science teacher; and Lisa Norton, math and computer teacher, took several of their classes on the trips.

The biology and Environmental Science classes visited the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The classes also visited the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences, which featured state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits on climate change, learning, aging and infectious diseases.

The computer and pre-calculus classes visited the National Security Agency's National Cryptologic Museum in Fort Meade, Md. The museum features thousands of artifacts that played a major role in the nation's defense, and allowed the students to get a glimpse of the secret world of code making and code breaking. Students also learned about cryptology's impact on history and the many career opportunities in the field.

The biology class visited the Philip Merrill Environmental Center, headquarters of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, located in Annapolis, Md. It is the world's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Building. As one of the world's most energy efficient buildings, it incorporates natural elements in its design so that it has minimal impact on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Students learned about its unique features and construction. They also learned to interpret various maps of the



Students put on rubber boots as they prepare to seine for marine organisms in Black Walnut Creek.



Students canoe on Black Walnut Creek as they learn how human activities affect water quality.

PHOTOS BY OPHELIA BARIZO



A guide at the Marian Koshland Science Museum instructs the students.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed, went canoeing on Black Walnut Creek, and seined for fish, macro-invertebrates and other marine organisms. They learned to identify what they caught and studied the various adaptations of the organisms. Students also did several water quality tests of the Chesapeake Bay.

Barizo says, "Field trips are invaluable tools for learning in STEM classes, since they give the students interactive and hands-on experiences that reinforce classroom learning and help with retention of material. They make learning fun!"

Several more field trips are scheduled for this school year.

## New STEM Certificate to Prepare Students for Future

Beginning in the 2015-16 year, Highland View Academy will offer students a certificate in STEM. The students will utilize problem-based learning to apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics to real-world problems. This approach engages and motivates students to learn so that they will be prepared for the challenges and demands of a highly technological society, says Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for STEM.

HVA aims to prepare students for college and beyond by offering a STEM program that will educate and inspire students to be technologically literate, innovative problem-solvers and logical thinkers, so that they may be able to make a difference in this global society, adds Malcom Hutchinson, principal.

The STEM certificate will be awarded to students who are accepted into the program and complete a number of requirements, including: a variety of math and science classes with new electives, a STEM internship, maintenance of a minimum GPA and STEM-related community service.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA TANGUAY

Ophelia Barizo leads chemistry students through an experiment in HVA's state-of-the-art science lab.

## Art Students Participate in State Sculpture Contest

Three Highland View Academy students recently competed in the Maryland Department of the Environment's annual Rethinking Recycling Sculpture Contest with more than 60 other participants.

Kristen Gibb ('15), explains, "Our sculpture teacher, Mr. John Zerne, gave us an assignment to create cardboard sculptures that converted everyday objects

to two or three times their average size." Zerne selected three students' sculptures to submit into the contest: *Size 7*, a shoe by Gibb; *Tape*, a tape dispenser by Allison Carbaugh ('15); and *Sunglasses*, a pair of glasses by Jade Draper ('16).

Zerne, Gibb, Carbaugh and Dylan Antone ('15) attended the competition in Baltimore. Carbaugh says she was excited, yet nervous to have "my art displayed for people to look at," but she enjoyed looking at all the different sculptures.

The students were also delighted with another benefit of the contest. As Carbaugh explains, "The best part was that, even though we didn't win the big prizes, every participant received two gift cards and a USB drive."

PHOTO BY JOHN ZERNE



Seniors Dylan Antone, Kristen Gibb and Allison Carbaugh pose with submissions to the Rethink Recycling Sculpture Contest.

### Calendar

#### February

- 8 International Fair
- 14 Spelling Bee

#### March

- 7 Senior Class Play
- 13-14 Chesapeake Conference Music Festival

# SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2015

## Fight With Us

We stand in a time of waves. We feel them pounding on our lives, and we fear a mounting storm in our future. And, as I grip the oars of leadership, I feel the fatigue of everyday challenges. This feeling is mirrored back to me on the faces and hearts of alumni. We do not lack the intensity, passion or desire to maintain the ministry of Seventh-day Adventist education in the Ohio Conference, but have a weariness of spirit that blankets our hope.

If the waves of our challenges are about to overtake your heart, and you feel the blanket of fatigue snuffing out hope, I want you to know that we serve an abundant God. It rests within His capacity to will and to do His good pleasure. I want you to know that the students of Mount Vernon Academy are ready to surf our tsunami of distress. They recently told conference leaders, "If you are tired, we are not. If you do not want to fight, we will!"

Our youth are not worn out. Alyssa Thompson, Student Association president, affirms the spirit of our student body with this appeal: "Do not close your eyes to the school; don't close your hearts to Mount Vernon Academy. We ask you, no, we beg you to fight with us!"



Dan Kittle  
Principal

## Students Share Their Passion for MVA

During last month's special constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference, Andre Scalzo, a Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) Board of Trustees member, read letters from two Mount Vernon Academy students: Taylor Scalzo ('16) and Sierra Winston ('16). Together they shared the positive impact MVA has had on their lives. The students are from two very different backgrounds and cultures, but share the same strong feelings toward the issues regarding the current condition of Mount Vernon Academy.



Sierra Winston and Taylor Scalzo say Mount Vernon Academy has made a positive impact on their lives.

Scalzo shared that she grew up in an Adventist home with two loving parents who had a strong passion for Christ. Attending only private schools, it was only when she came to MVA that her spiritual walk grew. Hoping to dissuade negative perceptions surrounding the school, Scalzo stated, "Adventist education is what is going to prepare our children to be able to stand up for their faith and be confident in their religion when they have to face the real world .... We need to nourish our youth so that they can grow in their relationship with God and receive the education they need to be successful in their spiritual life."

Winston described growing up in a broken home without any spiritual influence. Previously in public school, she opted to attend another boarding academy her freshman year. Feeling inadequate spiritually, she left the academy and returned to public school. Last summer Winston unexpectedly and tragically lost her childhood best friend. A former academy teacher recommended MVA to her.

"I will be completely honest; I wasn't coming to MVA to find a relationship with God. I was coming to run away from all my problems and hopefully rebuild myself after losing such an important part of my life," said Winston. "But, after just a few short months at MVA, God found me. This school is truly vital, not only to the students and staff at MVA, but also to the community of Mount Vernon and the future generation of leaders in our denomination."

# CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

FEBRUARY 2015

## Students Perform *Fiddler on the Roof JR*

Collette Carr, French and drama teacher, and Kimberly Bulgin, choral director, recently introduced 34 middle and high school students to the world of musical theater.

The students performed *Fiddler on the Roof JR*, a special adaptation of the classic Broadway musical that tackles the universal theme of tradition in a way that reaches across race, class, nationality and religious barriers. “Our young performers loved its humor and honesty,” shares Bulgin. “They truly dedicated themselves to the success of this unforgettable musical.”



## Gymnastics Team Strengthens Skills, Relationship With God



Spring Valley Academy’s focus on education for the mind, body and spirit can be especially seen in its elementary and high school gymnastics program. Each year the high school team looks forward to the two-day Acrofest clinic held at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) This year’s theme, “Take it to the Next Level,” reflected advancement in the team’s gymnastics skills and personal relationships with Christ.

Coach Don Shull ('92) shares, “This year we are working toward a couple of goals: trying to get everyone on the team to learn a back handspring and to ... end the year having a closer relationship with Christ than when we began the school year.”

The gymnastics team demonstrated this growth when they performed at an assembly, and team members Andrew Anspach, Grace Betances and Sarah Ionescu led the school in worship.

## Artist Inspires Students With Stories of Faith

Nathan Greene, a contemporary Seventh-day Adventist artist, recently spoke at a Spring Valley Academy assembly and shared how the Lord inspired his work throughout the years.

Greene works in the tradition of the golden era of American illustrators, such as Harry Anderson, whom he personally knew and looked to for creative insight. In 1990 Anderson was asked to do two sizable commissions, “The Family of God” and “Chief of the Medical Staff.” Anderson recommended Greene for the job. Greene, pictured with his wife, Patty, shared how those now iconic Adventist paintings were instrumental in his transition to full-time corporate commissions and prints.

“SVA is proud to have several of his paintings displayed in our halls, which now hold a special meaning in knowing the story behind each one,” says Darren Wilkins, principal.



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



# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

FEBRUARY 2015

## Clarksburg Youth Practice What They Preach

The five youth attending the Clarksburg (W.Va.) church regularly take part in church services. Four times during the past two years—each spring and fall—they organized and prepared the entire church service. This year each person wrote and presented a short sermon on a youth in the Bible who served God.

The group took the project a step further this past fall. After preparing and delivering the entire service, the group decided to apply what they preached. That night, they visited the home of a church member who needed help cleaning. His wife passed away years ago and the house had been without a woman's touch for years, says Priska Volpe, youth leader.

The youth, including the young men, jumped in to vacuum, clean the shower stall and dust. "What a sense of accomplishment these youth felt as they enjoyed working together, while at the same time making someone else's life happier," says Angela Volpe, one of the participants. "[The youth] saw a need, and it was so nice to help when nothing was received in return."



PHOTO BY PRISKA VOLPE

*Heather Hickman enjoys helping in the kitchen as other Clarksburg young people work hard to clean other areas of a church member's house.*

The participants say they experienced the joy of serving Christ by serving others, as urged in Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

## Marlinton Congregants Grow Thru Witnessing

After years of members driving an hour one way to attend Sabbath services, Pastor Robert "Doc" Michael decided to hold an evangelistic series in Marlinton, W.Va. If he could start a new congregation there, members wouldn't have to travel such a long distance.

Pastor Michael held the first 10 meetings in the public library. After a local group stopped the meetings, the mayor, who had been attending, allowed the series to

continue in the municipal building free of charge. One person was baptized as a result of these meetings, and another was baptized one and a half years later after taking Bible studies.

The Marlinton Company has met regularly since 2006, growing with area Seventh-day Adventists attending, along with several who connected with the group after taking Discover Bible studies.

Church members are very active in the community. When an entire block of businesses and apartments burned in December 2013, the church donated money to each of the eight displaced families. Members also frequently visit and give Bible studies to nursing home residents. Several are active in the local Lions Club, and two conduct weekly Bible studies with the inmates at the federal women's prison in Alderson, W.Va.

Other members witness to the guests and employees at a local bed and breakfast operated by a member and at a local ski resort. The church also sponsors four boxes that distribute free *Signs of the Times* magazines.

The growth isn't over yet. "I am encouraged by the prayer meetings each Thursday evening, as we share a meal and have a Bible study together, and [by] the increased number of guests that are attending our meetings," says Art Jeronimo, current pastor.—Yonnie Michael



PHOTO BY YONNIE MICHAEL

*Carol Welch (right), a Marlinton member, visits the local nursing home to spend time with her sister, Rose.*

## Classmates Reunite Over Truth

Williamson (W.Va.) church members witnessed the power of God through a young couples' baptism in December. Andrew and Tammy Williams joined the church after being reunited with member Chris Trent, Andrew's former classmate.

Trent and his wife, Rebecca, joined the East Pea Ridge (W.Va.) church in 2013. He carried a burden for his hometown friends and family in southern West Virginia, so he traveled more than 40 miles from his Fort Gay, W.Va., home to share Bible truth through literature and Magabooks. Andrew expressed a desire to study the Bible so Chris gave Andrew's contact information to Jim Buchanan, pastor of the Williamson church. Andrew and Tammy began weekly studies that soon increased to twice a week studies over a five-month period.

"I'm happy to see an old friend come to the truth," shares Chris. The Williamson members are so excited to have Andrew and Tammy, and their son, Ryder, join their fellowship, says Pastor Buchanan.—*Elaine Buchanan*



PHOTO BY ELAINE BUCHANAN

*Pastor Jim Buchanan baptizes Andrew and Tammy Williams.*

A promotional graphic for a conference. It features a person standing on a large rock, looking out over a landscape with trees and a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**March 27-29**  
**STANDING ON**  
**THE PROMISES**  
**YOUNG ADULT PRAYER CONFERENCE**

Register at  
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### Evangelism in Work Clothes

The most powerful and effective form of evangelism takes place in work clothes. It is performed by the one who lives and shows love and practices the compassion Jesus showed to people before He told them, "Follow me!" This kind of evangelism is backed by a kind church, actively ministering to and helping people in the community.

Evangelism like Jesus practiced is not only words. I have been an evangelist for more than 43 years and know the Word is important. But, authentic evangelism goes deeper. It touches on the most ultimate consequences. An authentic evangelist sees the person of Jesus in his mission: in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned. Jesus summarized this mission well: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matt. 25:35-36, NIV).



**José H. Cortés**  
*President*

### Couples Celebrate Joyful Marriages at Retreat

The Family Ministries Department recently hosted its annual couples retreat at the Wyndham Hamilton Park Hotel in Florham Park. "Un Matrimonio Gozoso (A Joyful Marriage)" was the theme for this year. Ruber and Ketty Leal (pictured, below), Family Ministries directors for the Texas Conference, spoke at the event. About 60 couples attended and learned how to build closer, better and more loving marriages according to God's plan.



"In this time, where the institution of marriage is under attack, we are grateful that through programs like the couples retreat, many couples are finding the tools to strengthen their commitment to God and each other," says Jorge Aguero, director of Family Ministries and event organizer.

William Perla, a member of the Atlantic City Spanish church in Atlantic City, shares, "It was a blessing to be able to listen to the testimony [about] other marriages. Their experiences and trials help me to strengthen my marriage. Many times we think our problems are bad, but then we hear a couples' testimony, and you realize, you can make it, too, with God's help."



## Spanish Caravan of Hope Ends, Produces 344 Baptisms

The Spanish Caravan of Hope, an evangelistic initiative to spread the gospel throughout New Jersey, ended this fall. Jorge Aguero, Personal Ministries director, and José Cortés, president, organized the events. The caravan included special programs across the state, starting in July. During the initial phase, which spanned to October, leaders baptized 169 people. During the November 1-15 phase, 185 people in central New Jersey gave their lives to Christ and were baptized.

Leaders held the closing ceremony November 15 at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover, ending the third phase. Various small groups from across the state participated in a small groups parade, and many attendees gave their lives to Jesus through baptism at the event. “We are thankful to all the pastors and lay



Jorge Aguero celebrates with baptismal candidates at the Bridgeton Spanish church in Bridgeton.



At a harvesting celebration, small groups from across the state share what God is doing in their groups.

members who worked on spreading the gospel,” says Aguero. “We praise God for the success of this evangelistic effort.”

Omar and Nesity Grieve, directors of La Voz de la Esperanza, spoke at the closing event. Junior Kelly Marchena, an internationally known Seventh-day Adventist singer, performed at the closing event and at events during the initiative.

Cortés says he firmly believes that the Holy Spirit is working among the church to God’s glory. He summarizes that 344 joined the Adventist Church as a result of the Spanish Caravan of Hope.—Raquel Guevara

## Parkway South Concert Raises Funds for Cancer Patients

The Parkway South church in Marmora recently hosted the Family Aid Fund Benefit Christmas Concert to help support the Brendan Borek High Tides Memorial Fund. Borek was a local surfer diagnosed with bone cancer, who died at age 18. The fund provides assistance to Cape May County (New Jersey) children and their families dealing with cancer.

Ingrid Forss, pianist, and Karla Rivera Bucklew, vocalist, have performed spring and winter Family Aid concerts at the church since 2006. Forss, who is a member of the church, started the series as a way to help others in need. Since then the concerts have raised more than \$12,000.

“We enjoy performing together and are glad we can use our musical talents to help others,” says Forss about the collaboration with Bucklew. “The concerts are a great way for us to get involved in our community and practice friendship evangelism.”

The ladies will host a spring concert March 14 at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but donations to the Family Aid

Fund are greatly appreciated. Visit [facebook.com/familyaidconcert](https://facebook.com/familyaidconcert) to listen to music from previous concerts.—Carrie Foulke



Ingrid Forss and Karla Rivera Bucklew perform two Family Aid Fund Benefit Concerts a year.

## Constituents Discuss Future of Mount Vernon Academy

Delegates to the specially called constituency meeting about the future of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) on January 11 voted to adopt a process that the conference will carry out over the next few months. Essentially, it says that MVA needs to raise a total of \$3 million by March 15 or will cease operations at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

This was by no means an easy decision, but the 340 delegates in attendance who came together and heard the reports on the finances, enrollment and needs of the beloved academy, courageously and prayerfully voted—257 for, 82 opposed—to accept the December 2, 2014, recommendation of the Ohio Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM), which states:

**“WHEREAS**, EXCOM has received the findings and recommendations presented by the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC), and

**“WHEREAS**, EXCOM has received the MVA Board of Trustees (BOT) action dated December 1, 2014, and

**“WHEREAS**, EXCOM places great value on providing long-term Adventist secondary education for the constituents of the Ohio Conference ...

**“EXCOM recommends** accepting the BOT action dated December 1, 2014, with the following changes/additions to its benchmarks: raise \$1.5M by February 10, raise another \$1.5M by March 10 and any sale of real estate assets are restricted to debt reduction and capital improvements and not current operations.



Brian Murphy, a member of the Eastwood church in Columbus, shares during the constituency meeting.

**“In the event these benchmarks are met, EXCOM recommends the following:**

Develop long-term vision and action plans by March 15, 2015, that will provide steps and strategies for a sustainable future of the academy, encompassing the three core components of leadership, enrollment and finances, as identified by the BRC.

EXCOM Personnel Committee will conduct an assessment of current administration and faculty and make the necessary recommendations regarding continued employment or change.

**“In the event the benchmarks are NOT met by March 10, 2015, EXCOM recommends the following:**

MVA and its BOT will immediately begin the process necessary to cease operation of the academy by the end of the 2014-15 school year.

EXCOM will develop alternative options for secondary education for current and future Ohio Conference students, including funding options and scholarships.”

## Leaders Remain Committed to Secondary Education

It takes \$3 million to operate Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) annually. If that money can be raised by March 10, the school will enter the 2015-16 school year debt-free with the necessary working capital. If the money is not raised, the conference will have to take the necessary steps to cease operations.

Whatever happens, secondary education remains a priority in the Ohio Conference, and leaders will continue to seek ways to provide the opportunity for young people to have access to quality, Adventist, Christian education. In the meantime, conference leaders will continue to lend strong financial oversight



Dan Kittle, Mount Vernon Academy principal, is flanked by Ron Halvorsen Jr. and Vince Waln, co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee.



Ham Canosa, Columbia Union Conference vice president for education; Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union executive secretary; and Ron Halvorsen Jr. listen during a presentation.

of MVA's operations to ensure financial prudence.

"The situation with MVA has precipitated a conversation about Adventist education that leadership will continue to pursue—with union and division leadership and locally within the Ohio Conference family," says Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president. "Together, the church needs to figure out how to make Adventist education viable—now and in the future. As Ohio seeks alternative options, it will take more prayer, study, idea sharing and conversations like those at the three December town hall meetings."

## Leaders Request Prayer and Support

Conference staff will continue to post updates about MVA at [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org), its Facebook page and in *Visitor* magazine.

To lend financial support to MVA and secondary education at this critical time, contact Lyle Litzenberger, Ohio Conference interim treasurer, at (740) 397-4665, [treasurer@ohioadventist.org](mailto:treasurer@ohioadventist.org) or write to Ohio Conference,



PO Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Donations can also be made online at [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org) (earmarked for "secondary education special").

Conference leaders urge friends of Mount Vernon Academy to continue to keep the students and staff of MVA in prayer, and join them in seeking God's direction for secondary education in the Ohio Conference.



# Pennsylvania Pen

FEBRUARY 2015

## Three Lessons I Learned While Serving the Homeless

**M**aria was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at 18 years old, then ripped away by drugs. As she received a bottle of water one Sabbath in downtown Reading, she asked our group, “Why are you doing this? Are you all from a church?” Yes, we replied, from the Grace Outlet Seventh-day Adventist Church. Tears filled her eyes as we prayed together. Maria left praising God: “I asked You to talk to me today, and You have answered my prayer.” Serving Maria taught me that no matter how far we think we have fallen, Jesus is right there with open arms.

Juhenio always hangs outside the liquor store. As I handed him a lunch, I told him that Jesus could help him if he wanted, and added, “You know, Juhenio, Jesus really likes you.” The Holy Spirit then convicted my heart that the word “like” wasn’t strong enough. I added, “Juhenio, Jesus is in love with you. How else can we explain the cross? Only those who are in love do crazy things like give their lives away.” Serving Juhenio taught me that Jesus doesn’t just like us, He’s in love with us.

After handing Dave a lunch and making small talk, I asked him if it would be okay if I prayed with him. He said that I could, but that he knew it wouldn’t make a difference. Then he shared his story. “One day my mom told our priest how worried she was for me and asked if he would pray for me. He responded, ‘I’ll pray for him, but it won’t make any difference.’” I told Dave, “That priest was wrong. I am going to pray for you now and it *will* make a difference because the same Jesus who knew you needed a lunch today is the same Jesus who is going to answer this prayer.” Serving Dave taught me to keep praying because, even when we can’t see the results, Jesus is always doing something in response to prayer.



**Kris Eckenroth**  
Pastor of the Grace  
Outlet Church

## BMA Students are Senators for a Day

**S**even Blue Mountain Academy students recently joined a session of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania at the Pennsylvania State University Berks Campus in Reading.

The participants, honor students from the U.S. Government class taught by Doug Stewart, joined eight

area schools for the Senator for a Day program. Each student was assigned to one of four committees: education, finance, transportation or state government. Each committee split into two groups that each had to study an issue and create legislation to help fix the problem. Students practiced debating, amending and voting on the legislation.

“It was a good experience and gave a good perspective of how laws are made,” says Denisse Izquierdo (’15), who helped work on a piece of legislation that eliminated school property taxes.

Combining academics with experience is a must, says Stewart. “It gives a real-life experience of what government and politics are about,” he adds.

—Caron Oswald



Sen. David Garal (third from right) takes a picture with BMA teacher Doug Stewart and students Denisse Izquierdo, SeAun Hill, Amanda Mott, Rachel Munene and Omar Campbell.

## Grace Outlet Offers “Lunches for Jesus”

When Kris Eckenroth, pastor of the Grace Outlet church in Reading, preached a sermon on Matthew 5, Jesus’ words convicted his heart. “Jesus says that when we feed the hungry, it is as if we are literally feeding Him,” he explains. “It was a simple, yet intentional way to interact with Jesus and people.” He took Jesus’ words literally and began taking a couple of sack lunches with him Sabbath afternoons into downtown Reading to connect with people and feed them after church.

One Sabbath he held up one of the sack lunches and invited people to join him. The following Sabbath he took five lunches and three volunteers. Lunches for Jesus began. Now each week, members of Grace Outlet pack lunches for the homeless and bring them to church.

Kathy Ludwig and Bonnie Doll, two regular volunteers, recently approached a man in a wheelchair and asked if he was hungry. “I’m starving,” he responded. They handed him one of the lunches. Each week they find him on Penn Street and offer him a lunch. “Each time we are able to connect with him his face lights up, and we feel blessed,” shares Ludwig. “We were told about a woman in a motorized wheelchair who has been living on Penn Street for six months. We were able to connect with her and share our lunches with her as well.”

Lunches for Jesus is simple. It includes finding hungry people, giving them a lunch, offering to pray with them and then heading home. But, once a month, on Grace Outlet’s Jeans Sabbath, the ministry grows to more than 20 people handing out lunches, soups, clothes and more. It’s a day to not only worship by attending church, but to worship through service. “We



*Bonnie Doll connects with James, one of the people who requested Bible studies.*



*Jeff and Sonya Johnson make balloon animals for children in the community.*



*Grace Outlet members distribute clothes to people in the community.*

want people to come to church prepared to ‘get dirty’ for Jesus by getting involved in ministry to our community,” explains Pastor Eckenroth. “We believe that once people get involved and get a taste for serving people, church as they know it will never be the same,” he says.

People now look for the red shirts on Sabbath afternoons. “We have made a lot of friends! We know lots of people by name and they know us,” shares Eckenroth, who is excited about how God is growing this simple ministry. “Many look forward to their lunch from us on Sabbath. There’s lots of praying with people. And, we get to see Jesus every week!”



# Potomac People

FEBRUARY 2015

## Conference Selects Youth Ministries Director

The Potomac Conference administration and executive committee recently selected Josant Barrientos, former children's pastor at Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., as their Youth Ministries director. Barrientos has an extensive background in Youth and Children's ministries and has served in a number of capacities for the Potomac Conference, including youth and associate pastor and Bible worker.

"Josant has been a great asset to the conference over the years," says Bill Miller, president. "He has a passion for bringing young people to Jesus, discipling and equipping young people to be active in the life of a local church. He is especially known as a gifted speaker and having a knack for connecting with different age groups and cultures. Over the years, he's been invited to be a part of many youth congresses, evangelistic series and youth retreats around the world, which speaks to his tremendous talent."

In 2007 Barrientos graduated from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., with a degree in theology, an emphasis in metropolitan ministry and a minor in biblical languages. Four years later, he graduated with a Master of Business Administration and is currently studying for his Master of Divinity at Andrews University (Mich.). He is married to Claudya, who serves as Potomac's conference clerk.



## 73 Baptized During Hispanic Evangelism Efforts

Twenty-two Hispanic churches recently participated in a week of evangelism as a preamble to a large crusade featuring international evangelist Alejandro Bullón. These small church efforts helped lead 41 people to choose baptism.

"We encourage our nearby churches to do their

own evangelism, because it's less intimidating for visitors to become acquainted in a smaller church setting," explains Jose Esposito, director for Hispanic Ministries. "By the end of the series, many of our newcomers felt comfortable and fired up enough to attend our bigger event."

Bullón presented the messages themed "Hope Lives!" at the weeklong crusade held at the Southern Asian church (SASDAC) in Silver Spring, Md. The messages focused on the heavenly sanctuary and highlighted the hope that Jesus brings each day. Every night more than 1,000 people attended, with more than 1,400 attending on the last Sabbath. More than 100 people accepted Jesus as their Savior and 32 chose baptism during the meetings.

On the last Sabbath, Franklin David, SASDAC senior pastor, not only welcomed everyone to the event that day, but also mentioned that the doors to his church were open to anyone who wanted to learn about Jesus, no matter what language they spoke.

"Our prayers were answered, the gospel was preached, pastors joyously baptized new souls, Christ was exalted and the mission was accomplished," says Esposito.



More than 1,400 people attend the final day of "Hope Lives!" a weeklong evangelism effort.

# Potomac People

## Help Us Keep an Evangelism Momentum in 2015

The Holy Spirit is creating a movement in Potomac. Our churches are going out to the community with a redeeming presence and making the vision of reaching one precious soul at a time a way of life. Almost 190 Bible requests came back after taking a leap of faith in a place considered spiritually dead. Hispanic camp meeting attendees continue planting churches. Revived churches are baptizing neighbors. People are providing an oasis as they transform their houses into a Home of Hope. Communities are noticing the presence of our churches.

I believe inspired people, in simple and ordinary ways, can break down walls for God's kingdom. This is why we believe training, teaching and empowering our laity is key in perpetuating this movement.

The year kicked off with an initiative called Hope for Today, where members learned how to start a Home of Hope (mentioned in the January *Potomac People*). March brings the start of the School of Discipleship, a two-year training course that will instruct students how to create a strong presence in their community and how to have spiritual conversations with secular people.

Two more exciting events, developed by the North American Division's Evangelism Institute, take place in March: Life Works, a seminar which shows how intimacy with Jesus makes Christians an irresistible influence, and Church Works, which focuses on training church teams how to strategically plan community involvement that will bless others and allow members to share their faith and invite people to Christ.

Starting April 11, the Potomac, Chesapeake and Allegheny East conferences will host a combined evangelism effort. A prayer rally at the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., will lead up to the evangelism effort, where members will converge to seek the Lord's



Hispanic camp meeting attendees continue to plant churches and baptize people into the kingdom.



Attendees of Potomac Conference's first EQUIP meeting learn simple and ordinary ways to break down walls for God's kingdom.

guidance and blessing. Each participating church will then begin an evangelism series.

Finally, in the fall, at the third annual SEEDs conference, experienced church planters will share practical steps for training those interested in church planting. The year will end full circle with a Hope for Today initiative and School of Discipleship programs.

For more information on events or how to get involved, call (540) 886-0771.—Peter Casillas

### Get Involved at a Local Event

**March 6-7:** Life Works at the Patterson Avenue church

**March 21, 4-6 p.m.:** Prayer rally at the Southern Asian church

**March 27-29:** Church Works at Tidewater Adventist Academy

**April 11:** Living With Hope at churches across the Potomac Conference

**August 1:** Mini-Seeds at the New River Valley church

**August 14-15:** Mini-SEEDs at Redeeming Grace Fellowship

**September 11-12:** SEEDs Conference in the Washington, D.C., metro area

**Oct. 17:** EQUIP in the Tidewater, Va., area

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY

# HAPPENINGS



FEBRUARY 2015

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

## Students Look Forward to Making February Memories

February is an exciting time at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Staff members say it is often filled with exciting activities and opportunities for making memories, and this year is no different.

The basketball teams travel to Michigan to participate in the annual Andrews University Basketball Tournament. "This is *the* tournament we all look forward to," says Alex Jensen, senior and starting center. "Coach Bob Kilgore has taught us to work hard, to be determined. He knows we want to win, but he teaches that there is much more than just winning. He teaches us to remember, above all, to represent SVA and Christ in our play and in our attitude."

Later in the month, the Shenandoans travel to Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., for the university's three-day choir festival. For juniors and seniors, events like this offer an opportunity to see the university up close as a

potential destination to further their education.

"The WAU choir festival only happens every other year," says Marceline Ndahayo, senior soprano. "It's an event we students really look forward to. We learn new pieces, meet amazing singers and really enjoy the spiritual and worship aspects of it."

Students also take part in celebrating Black History Month. The student-led chapel, one of several ways SVA celebrates, is a highlight for many of the students. "Celebrating black history isn't for holding on to our past," says James Matthews, a senior. "It is about appreciating our present and looking to our future with more hope than ever before."

SVA leaders are asking alumni to share memories of attending the school or to help a potential student create their own memories. To help, contact Chris Simons at (540) 740-2202 or [chris.simons@sva-va.org](mailto:chris.simons@sva-va.org).



## Twomley Returns for Third Turn as Principal



With the recent resignation of John Wagner as interim principal, the Shenandoah Valley Academy Board of Trustees, in December, invited Dale Twomley to once again take the helm. Twomley served as principal from 1974 to 1978, when enrollment hit its peak at 398. He then returned from 2006 to 2008 when enrollment increased from 135 to 240. Twomley was previously the dean of the School of Business at Andrews University in Michigan and looks forward to helping work toward furthering the mission of the school.

"SVA is focused on providing each student with an environment where they can enrich their spiritual journey with peers and a staff that loves Jesus," says Twomley. "We are also focused on providing a learning environment where students will engage in rigorous studies that will prepare them for college and careers."

# www.ta.edu TATODAY FEBRUARY 2015

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## Academy Ranked Among Top 100 Private Schools

Niche, a company that provides school reviews for potential students, recently ranked Takoma Academy (TA) among the top 100 private schools in Maryland. In Niche's Best Private High Schools, it ranks 3,880 high schools based on student statistics and more than 120,000 opinions from 16,000 students and parents. This ranking expresses that the school provides exceptional academics and has a diverse set of high achieving students who rate their experience at TA very highly.

Principal Carla Thrower was thrilled with the news. "I feel that this validates the great strides we have been making at the school to have a spiritual and academic environment that propels Takoma Academy to the top tier of academic institutions," she says.

Niche measures academics, which account for 60 percent of the ranking; student culture and diversity, accounting for 30 percent; and survey responses at 10 percent. High Niche rankings generally indicate that students are happy with all aspects of school life, including academics, teachers, health, safety, resources, facilities, sports and fitness.

The company states that its top-rated schools have exceptional academics, as seen in the teachers, students, resources for learning and student outcomes.



PHOTO BY KEVIN CHHANGTE

*Alban Howe, chair of the TA Math Department and one of the reasons Takoma Academy received a high ranking, instructs Erin Stewartson ('16), Eliseo Jacebo ('15), Chynna Smith ('16) and Elizabeth Hardy ('15).*

TA meets these requirements, along with having a diverse population and fostering a positive, accepting school culture. TA students are also actively involved in a variety of extracurricular and sports activities at the school, another mark of top schools.

## College Career Class Boosts Early Admissions

The first half of the school year has been busy but rewarding for the Takoma Academy Class of 2015. The students completed early admissions to more than 200 colleges and universities during TA's College Career class. Results of those early admissions have been outstanding, says Jewel Walwyn, college and career counselor. The list of acceptance letters reads like a "who's who" of Seventh-day Adventist and secular educational institutions, including offers from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., Andrews University (Mich.), Southern University (Tenn.), Southwestern Adventist University (Texas), Pacific Union College (Calif.), Adventist University of Health Sciences (Fla.), Carnegie Mellon University (Pa.), Hampton University (Va.) and the University of Pittsburgh.

The amount of financial assistance awarded is as impressive as the schools offering admittance to TA students. As of December 19, 2014, the schools awarded students more than \$360,000.

Takoma Academy's robust curriculum includes innovative programs like Junior College Night, where the junior class and their parents get an evening with admissions officers to learn about their colleges and universities. At a 2014 event, Southwestern Adventist University representatives presented to the group and were impressed with the students. Walwyn says she was proud of the Class of 2015 for their "drive and ambition to succeed, which has also been a factor in them being offered so many letters of acceptance from colleges throughout the U.S."

## The Benefits of Gratitude

One of the many joys of leadership is the opportunity to say thank you. It is a relationship strengthening emotion because it requires me to realize that I have been supported and affirmed by other people. Over the past decade, hundreds of studies have documented the social, physical and psychological benefits of gratitude. The research suggests these benefits are available to anyone who practices it, even in the midst of adversity. Some of the top reasons for practicing gratitude are that it brings us happiness, reduces anxiety and depression, helps us sleep better, makes us more resilient, promotes forgiveness and strengthens relationships. Studies suggest that it makes students feel better about their school and makes teachers feel more satisfied and accomplished and less emotionally exhausted.

I thank the students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and the entire WAU constituency for your support and contributions to the vision, mission and values of Washington Adventist University. May the joys of the Lord always be yours. We also give special thanks to our prayer partners and donors, as your gifts have supported our students and help the institution to grow with excellence. Thank you!

*This is Washington Adventist University!*



**Weymouth Spence**  
President

## Education Department Receives Endorsement

The North American Division Office of Education (NADOE) recently gave the maximum possible endorsement period of six years to the Washington Adventist University Department of Education. The university met or exceeded all of the standards for endorsement.

Carol Campbell, NADOE associate director, and members Ham Canosa, Columbia Union Conference

vice president for education, and June Florito, chair, School of Education at Canadian University College (Alberta), conducted the evaluation. Their visit included a thorough review and evaluation of the university's accreditation documents, program philosophy, course descriptions, syllabi, bulletin information, portfolios, assignments, student work samples and alumni testimony.

"Our faculty, staff and students demonstrate hard work and commitment throughout the year, and this endorsement is a wonderful reflection of their contributions and accomplishments," says Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, provost.

WAU is accredited by the Adventist Accrediting Association, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Maryland Department of Education.



Accreditation Complete: Cheryl Kisunzu, Carol Campbell, Weymouth Spence and June Florito

## Mark Your Calendar for Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend is scheduled April 9-12. Celebrations planned include the School of Graduate and Professional Studies 30th anniversary, the Honors Program 10th anniversary, the Alumni Awards Banquet, a 5K fun run, an Acro-Airs home show and more.

For more information, contact Ellie Barker at ebarker@wau.edu or (301) 891-4151.

## Banquet Showcases Employee Accomplishments

The Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees recently sponsored a banquet to recognize WAU faculty and staff for their professional accomplishments and service.

The board honored the following faculty: Melissa Henley, assistant professor, Department of Social Work; Ralph Johnson, dean of the Betty Howard Center for Student Success; Mikhail Kulakov, professor, Department of Religion; Grant Leitma, chair, Department of Psychology; Kristin Mitas, program director, Department of Medical Imaging; and Melinda Villanueva, professor, Department of Biology.

The following staff won peer-nominated awards: Wanda Colon-Canales, director of admissions, dedication to teamwork; Jean Innocent, assistant dean of men, for modelling spiritual leadership; Ellie Barker, director of alumni relations, for passion for her work and for WAU; and Becky Barker, First Year Experience coordinator, for outstanding service to students.

Faculty and staff also bid farewell to retirees Gary



Weymouth Spence (far left) and Dave Weigley (far right), Columbia Union president and WAU board chair, flank awardees Jean Innocent, Wanda Colon-Canales, Ellie Barker and Becky Barker.

Shewell, maintenance technician; Jean Warden, vice president for student life; Lee Wisel, library director; and Roger Wright, senior programmer.

## WAU, Union Evangelism School Sign Agreement

The Washington Adventist University Department of Religion will soon offer courses in field evangelism to students interested in urban ministry who are also participating in the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School in Philadelphia.



Dave Weigley, union president (second from left), and Weymouth Spence (third from left) sign the agreement that will provide urban ministry training opportunities to students.

The joint effort will provide students with the opportunity to gain a unique experience in metropolitan/urban ministry through a selection of courses that will enrich their experience in urban ministry. The REACH Urban Evangelism School's hands-on curriculum is offered as a 12-month training and experiential program that prepares students for ministry in cities and urban areas throughout North America.

"Washington Adventist University has long been a gateway to service, offering encouragement to faculty, students and staff who participate in mission trips locally and abroad," says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. "This agreement offers students yet another opportunity to learn how to better serve others in our North American cities and urban areas."

Students interested in participating in the evangelism school program will be able to earn up to 15 credits that will be transferrable to any college and counted toward a degree. The WAU courses that will be offered include: Jesus and the Gospels; Ellen G. White and the Gift of Prophecy; Knowing and Sharing Christ; Ministry in the City; The Theory and Practice of Urban Ministry; and Church Growth in the Urban Setting.

**Correction:** Please note that Shawn Fordham is the correct spelling of the name of the WAU alumnus mentioned in the December 2014 article about the 30th anniversary of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.



# Profiles in Caring

## Prayer a Key Part of Spiritual Health

As a faith-based healthcare system, Adventist HealthCare is intentionally engaged with the spiritual dimensions of healing and health. While it might be most evident through our chaplains and various programs for spiritual care, it is something that ripples through and impacts everything that we do.

Speaking personally, there are few things more fundamental to me than how prayer is part of my spiritual health.

I can't remember when I first learned to pray. It was undoubtedly when I was very young—and it has always been an important part of how I live my life. There are several times during the day when my prayers are quite structured (such as when I first awaken in the morning or at mealtime). And formal prayers such as those we have before Adventist HealthCare meetings or in church are a part of my daily routine.

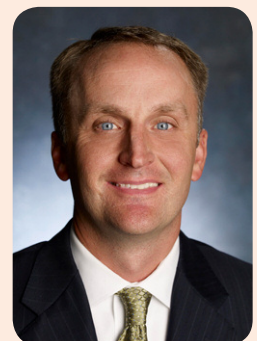
But that's just a small part of my prayer life. Very early on I was taught that "prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend," and innumerable times each day I find myself opening my heart to God, expressing my gratitude or concerns, and seeking the grace and guidance that comes from the Divine. I think the best prayers are the most direct and honest prayers, and so I find myself saying "Help me" and "Thank you" a lot. I suspect I'm not alone in this.

Prayer is an essential part of how healthcare engages with the spiritual aspects of patient care. While every faith and tradition has different practices relating to prayer, we appreciate and respect the role that prayer plays in the lives of each of our patients, their families, and our caregivers.

When patients are facing the complex set of issues related to health and healing, prayer can be such an important part of life. In the search for answers, in the management of pain, in the successful implementation of therapies, in end-of-life care or in confronting loss, prayer can play a significant role. And in moments of great joy—such as the birth of a child or the achievement of a milestone in healing or recovery—the gratitude that comes from our hearts forms the richest prayers of our lives.

Our commitment to the physical, mental, and spiritual healing of our patients, and the way that is expressed in our service within our communities, will continue to motivate our own inquiry into the fundamental connections between body, mind, and spirit. It's a process I deeply care about, and it is in my prayers, every day.

Through its commitment to return the soul to medicine, integrative medicine will continue to develop innovative and meaningful ways to address the fundamental connection between mind, body, and spirit in health and healing.



**Terry Forde**

*President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare*

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## Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services Receives National Quality Award

Adventist Home Health, part of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, has received the 2014 HomeCare Elite Award for the third year in a row. This award, which is presented by The National Research Corporation, recognizes the top-performing home health agencies in the United States.

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. Out of 9,994 home care agencies considered for the award, only 2,501 are named elite agencies.

“We are honored to be recognized once again as one of the top performing home health agencies in the country,” said Keith Ballenger, vice president of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. “We credit this achievement to our highly skilled caregivers that visit homes each day to provide quality healthcare services and support to patients.”

Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services has provided in-home care to 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. Today, Adventist HealthCare



To see the compassionate, dedicated team in action, visit

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

and view the video on the right. Watch as staff join “Team Feinberg” to ensure a patient could attend his twin grandsons’ birthday party.

Home Care Services, which is part of the Gaithersburg-based Adventist HealthCare system, offers care throughout Suburban Maryland including Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary’s, Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

The 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.

“The 2014 HomeCare Elite winners demonstrate a commitment to providing high quality care in their home health communities and we recognize them for their remarkable achievements,” said Mary Oakes, Senior Vice President of Post-Acute at National Research. “We congratulate Adventist Home Care Services on being recognized as a top home care agency.”

Adventist Home Care Services has served the community since 1973 to help patients recover and function as independently as possible in their homes. Today, Adventist Home Care Services’ team of skilled nurses, therapists and social workers deliver comprehensive services with compassionate care to homes throughout Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary’s, Anne Arundel and Howard counties. Adventist Home Care Services offers specialized care for a range of patients including adults, pediatrics and new mothers.



## Adventist HealthCare in the News

### **Adventist Hospitals Achieve National Recognition from Joint Commission**

The Joint Commission has named Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville



The Joint Commission  
Top Performer on  
Key Quality  
Measures®  
2013

and Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park as Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® for 2013. The hospitals are among 18 in Maryland to earn this national distinction for 2013 performance—and two of 12 state hospitals that demonstrated excellence in processes to improve care for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgery.

In addition, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in Hackettstown, New Jersey—also part of the Gaithersburg-based Adventist HealthCare system—achieved recognition as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® for 2013. Hackettstown also achieved excellence in the areas of heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

“We are honored to receive these national recognitions for the high quality, complex care we provide to our communities,” says Terry Forde, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, the first and largest provider of healthcare in Montgomery County, Md. “I would like to thank our employees and physicians for their hard work and dedication to Adventist HealthCare and to those we serve.”

The Joint Commission is the leading accreditor of healthcare organizations in the country. This is the second

consecutive year that all three Adventist HealthCare acute-care hospitals achieved Joint Commission’s Top Performer designation.

To achieve designation as a Top Performer, hospitals had to meet at least 95 percent compliance with certain measures for 2013. Each measure represents an evidence-based practice that is used to improve patient outcomes. This includes giving aspirin to a heart attack patient at time of arrival and giving antibiotics one hour before surgery.

Hospitals also had to achieve a minimum of 95 percent compliance with measures in at least one individual area measure set. The Joint Commission recognized all three hospitals for high compliance in using evidence-based treatments for four measure sets: heart failure, heart attack, surgical care and pneumonia.

“At Adventist HealthCare, our first priority is the safety and well-being of our patients,” says Susan L. Glover, senior vice president & chief quality/integrity officer for Adventist HealthCare. “These designations represent the ongoing collaboration and dedication of our care team to consistently provide evidence-based, expert care to our community.”

### **Adventist HealthCare Names Fennell and Melendez to Board**

Adventist HealthCare, the largest provider of healthcare services in Montgomery County, Md., has named Walt Fennell, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and Rosemarie Melendez, a nursing leader with the organization, to its Board of Trustees for three-year terms ending in October 2017.

Fennell has been with PwC for 22 years and currently works in the Public Sector Practice. Prior to joining PwC, Fennell

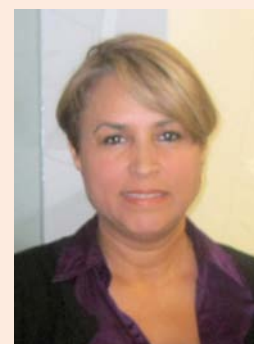


*Fennell*

worked in the accounting department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring. He is a member of the Spencerville Adventist Church.

Fennell earned a master’s degree in accounting from George Washington University and a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Southern Adventist University.

Melendez currently serves as the director of the Emergency Department and Nursing Administration for Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, where she has worked for 24 years. She is a member of the Spencerville Adventist Church.



*Melendez*

By leading both Nursing Administration and the Emergency Department, she has been able to leverage her global perspective of issues related to patient care with her expertise in emergency operations to positively impact the hospital’s patients and staff.

Melendez earned a bachelor’s degree in Nursing with Honors from Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) and is currently working on her master’s in Nursing Business Leadership at the university.

# Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services recibe el premio nacional a la calidad

Adventist Home Health, parte de Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, ha recibido el premio 2014 HomeCare Elite Award por tercer año consecutivo. Este galardón, presentado por The National Research Corporation, reconoce a las agencias de atención domiciliaria de la salud con el mejor desempeño en los Estados Unidos.



*Para ver el equipo compasivo trabajando, visite [www.AdventistHomeCare.com](http://www.AdventistHomeCare.com) y vea el video a la derecha.*

Los ganadores de HomeCare Elite se clasifican a través de un análisis de medidas de desempeño disponibles públicamente que calculan los resultados de atención de calidad, implementación de mejores prácticas, mejora y consistencia de la calidad, experiencia de los pacientes (Home Health CAHPS®) y desempeño financiero. Solo se nombraron como agencias de élite a 2,501 de las 9,994 agencias de atención domiciliaria de la salud consideradas para el premio.

“Nos enorgullece ser reconocidos nuevamente como una de las agencias de atención domiciliaria de la salud con mejor desempeño en el país”, indicó Keith Ballenger, vicepresidente de Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. “Atribuimos este logro a nuestros profesionales de la salud sumamente expertos que visitan hogares todos los días a fin de brindar servicios de atención de la salud y apoyo de calidad a los pacientes”.

Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services ha brindado atención domiciliaria a la comunidad durante más de 40 años a través de un equipo especializado de enfermeras, terapeutas, auxiliares de enfermería y trabajadores sociales expertos que brindan servicios de atención domiciliaria de la salud adaptados a las necesidades específicas de cada paciente. En la actualidad, Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, que forma parte del sistema Adventist HealthCare con sede en Gaithersburg, ofrece atención en toda el área Suburbana de Maryland, incluidos los condados de Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's, Howard y Anne Arundel.

El premio cuenta con el patrocinio de OCS HomeCare de National Research Corporation, proveedor líder de métrica y análisis de atención domiciliaria de

la salud, y DecisionHealth, editorial del boletín informativo independiente referido a la profesión de la atención domiciliaria de la salud más respetado: Home Health Line. “Los ganadores de 2014 HomeCare Elite demuestran un compromiso por brindar atención de alta calidad en sus comunidades de atención domiciliaria de la salud y los reconocemos por sus logros extraordinarios”, manifestó Mary Oakes, Vicepresidenta Senior

de Post-Acute en National Research. “Felicitamos a Adventist Home Care Services por ser reconocida como una de las principales agencias de atención domiciliaria de la salud”.

Adventist Home Care Services ha estado al servicio de la comunidad desde 1973 para ayudar a los pacientes a recuperarse y desempeñarse con la mayor independencia posible en sus hogares. En la actualidad, las enfermeras, los terapeutas y los trabajadores sociales expertos del equipo de Adventist Home Care Services suministran servicios integrales con atención compasiva en los hogares en todos los condados de Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's, Anne Arundel y Howard. Adventist Home Care Services ofrece atención especializada para una serie de pacientes que incluye a adultos, niños y madres recientes.

Para más información sobre los servicios de Adventist HealthCare, visite [www.AdventistHealthCare.com](http://www.AdventistHealthCare.com)



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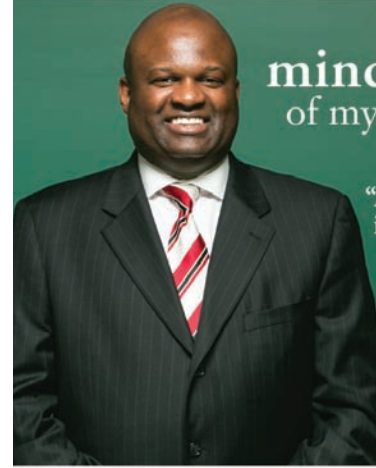
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## EMPLOYMENT

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time, qualified psychology professor, beginning July 1. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant, [sargeant@swau.edu](mailto:sargeant@swau.edu). Position is open until filled.

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at (817) 202-6684 or [vnaukkar@swau.edu](mailto:vnaukkar@swau.edu).

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**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY,** Communication Department, seeks full-time professor in advertising/public relations or radio/TV to begin July 1. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at [magee@swau.edu](mailto:magee@swau.edu).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks a full-time

nurse educator to serve as nursing department chair beginning fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at [arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu).

**LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY** currently has positions in biochemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and criminal justice. See posting: [asierra-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.job-search](http://asierra-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.job-search).

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S** Business Department seeks faculty to begin fall 2015. Master's degree required, PhD preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing and accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and provide service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at [mosesa@swau.edu](mailto:mosesa@swau.edu).

**ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO** (AWR) in Silver Spring, Md., seeks a Web/media strategist to take the lead on keeping AWR at the forefront of new media outreach. This experienced individual can translate trends into compelling, actionable digital strategies and identify how best to leverage the Web to serve new audiences. (It is the policy of the General Conference to hire only Seventh-day Adventist church members.) Contact [stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org](mailto:stavenhagenr@gc.adventist.org).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a faculty member to teach full time in the Department of Communication. Qualified person should have a PhD/doctorate in communication, journalism, public

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SPRING 2015 MEDICAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION, MARCH 20-22.** "Finding Balance—Commercialism, Professionalism, Spiritualism, Legalism, Fanaticism & Separatism." Speakers: Dr. Norman McNulty, Harold Lance, Wilbur Atwood, Lew Keith and more. Meetings, limited accommodations and meals are free. For more information or to register online, [butler-creekhealth.org](http://butler-creekhealth.org), or call Lew Keith, (931) 724-2443.

### UNION COLLEGE

**HOMECOMING, April 2-5.** Honor classes: 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Special tribute to business/computer graduates and Gymnasts. For more information, contact the alumni office at (402) 486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

## OBITUARIES

**DOERING, Robert E.,** born April 2, 1941, in Columbus, Ohio; died April 17, 2014, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He was a member of the Mt. Vernon church. He was in the literature evangelism work for a number of years. He is survived by his wife, Aneita, of Mt. Vernon; son, Dave Doering, of Howard, Ohio; daughter, Beth (David) Keen, also of Howard; grandsons, Zack Keen of Howard, and Alex of Parris Island, S.C.

**FLOWERS, Finis Lemuel,** born July 1, 1930, in Dyer County, Tenn.; died March 15, 2014, in Winchester, Va. He was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. He is survived by his wife, Ingrid Christensen-Flowers of Woodstock, Va.; his daughters, Cathy Flowers Mills of Silver Spring, Md., Jennie Lynn Allen of Newbern, Tenn., and Gail Erickson of Dyersburg, Tenn.; his son, Clayton Lemuel Flowers of Sunshine, Md.; grandsons, David Shawn Mills of New Market, and Joseph and Jeremy Robitaille of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; granddaughters, Andrea Mills Khandagle of Silver Spring, Leslie Allen Warren of Trimble, Tenn., and Catherine Robitaille of Nashville, Tenn.; 17 great-grandchildren; five sisters; and four brothers. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one brother.

**GRANT, Irma M.,** born August 13, 1924, in New Philadelphia, Ohio; died August 22, 2014, in Bellbrook, Ohio. She was a member of the Lady Lake (Fla.) church. She was a graduate of Mt. Vernon Academy in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Class of 1942.

# Sunset Calendar

	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 6
<b>Baltimore</b>	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:55	6:03
<b>Cincinnati</b>	6:03	6:12	6:19	6:27	6:35
<b>Cleveland</b>	5:48	5:56	6:05	6:14	6:22
<b>Columbus</b>	5:56	6:04	6:12	6:20	6:28
<b>Jersey City</b>	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:44	5:52
<b>Norfolk</b>	5:34	5:42	5:49	5:56	6:03
<b>Parkersburg</b>	5:51	5:59	6:07	6:15	6:23
<b>Philadelphia</b>	5:25	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:57
<b>Pittsburgh</b>	5:43	5:51	6:00	6:08	6:16
<b>Reading</b>	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52	6:00
<b>Richmond</b>	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:01	6:07
<b>Roanoke</b>	5:49	5:56	6:03	6:11	6:17
<b>Toledo</b>	5:55	6:04	6:12	6:21	6:29
<b>Trenton</b>	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55
<b>Wash., D.C.</b>	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:05

Irma and her husband, "Chuck," donated their time and money to build a new church and church school, Columbus Eastwood church in Ohio in the 1960s. After retirement to Leesburg, Fla., in 1983, they helped build both the Mt. Dora and Lady Lake churches. They both served as church treasurers and teachers throughout their marriage. Irma loved sewing and sharing recipes and was a terrific cook. Survivors: her daughters, Judy Grant of Leesburg, Fla., and Diann (Dr. Richard) Grant Bromberg of Centerville, Ohio; and her sister, Marjorie Weiser of Canton, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Grant, who died in 2002.

**HILLEBERT, Mildred,** born February 19, 1920; died January 6, 2014. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Millie worked at the Review and Herald Publishing Association when it was in Takoma Park, Md. She is survived by her son, Gary Hillebert.

**JACOBSON, Albert,** born July 27, 1930; died January 26, 2014, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. He served in the Korean War and received a purple heart. His family and Korean War buddies will miss him. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his sons,

Alex, Matthew and Thomas; his daughters, Laura Shay and Beth Voulgaris; and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**KNARR, Virginia M.,** born November 17, 1917, in Reading, Pa.; died June 13, 2014, in Berks County, Pa. She was a member of the Fleetwood (Pa.) church, where she served God willingly until she died. Even though not employed, she loved to work with her husband, Charles, who was employed by the Pennsylvania Conference as a literature evangelist. Virginia is survived by her daughter, Christine Bayne of Auburn, Pa.; sons, Thomas of Fleetwood, Pa., Edward, Kenneth and Timothy each of Blandon, Pa., and Daniel of New Ringgold, Pa.; 21 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles S. Knarr; daughter, Sandra Lee Hillegass; son, Ronald; and infant son, Timothy.

**KNICKERBOCKER, Robert Norman,** of Laurel, Md., and Big Pine Key, Fla., died July 14, 2014. Bob or "Knick," as he was most often known, was a retired administrative officer with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md. During his time

## Bulletin Board

at NIH, he managed the National Institute of Communicative Diseases and Stroke, retiring in 1995. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, with a total of 40 years in the military and civil service. During his retirement, he worked at A Key Encounter in Key West, Fla., as a caretaker, and as a tour guide for Adventist Heritage Ministries' William Miller Farm outreach in Whitehall, N.Y. He stayed physically active, gardening when at home, and keeping the William Miller Farm clean and repaired. He was active in his local church, the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., as a Sabbath School teacher. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Angela Cerovski, his brother Jerry, his parents L.M. and Julia Knickerbocker, and one son, Michael. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Betti; four sons, John (Darlene), Tim, Eric (Teresa) and Robert (Barbara); and one daughter, Beth (John); one brother, Ron (Jeannette); five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**KOVALSKI, Paul**, born January 21, 1924, in Perth Amboy, N.J., along with twin brother, Peter, to John and Malvina Kovalski; died January 4, 2014, in Falling Waters, W.Va. Paul served in the Army during the Korean War. Following his military service, he attended camp meeting in New Jersey, where he was introduced

to Joan Haliniak of Paterson, N.J. They were married in 1952, and had two children: daughter, Linda, and son, Paul, and four grandchildren: Rebecca and Jessica Peck and Paul and Joanna Kovalski. Paul owned his own business doing asphalt paving and tractor work. Paul and his family first attended the Perth Amboy (N.J.) church. He was instrumental in starting the Hightstown church, where he served the Lord in many ways, including as head deacon for many years. He loved potlucks, church picnics, ingathering and sunshine bands. He had a beautiful voice and loved to sing all the hymns. After retirement, Paul and Joan moved to Asheville, N.C., where they lived for 10 years, and attended the Mt. Pisgah church. They then settled in Falling Waters, W.Va., and joined the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church. Paul was active in both churches, especially in Community Services, until he was unable due to illness.

**ROBERTS, Andrew**, 88, of Homosassa, Fla., died March 7, 2014, at his home. A native of Stamford, Conn., he was born June 23, 1925, to Andrew and Grace (Deicke) Roberts, one of five children. "Andy," as he was known to many, was a retired high school teacher and enjoyed a long teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse in Portsmouth, Va.,

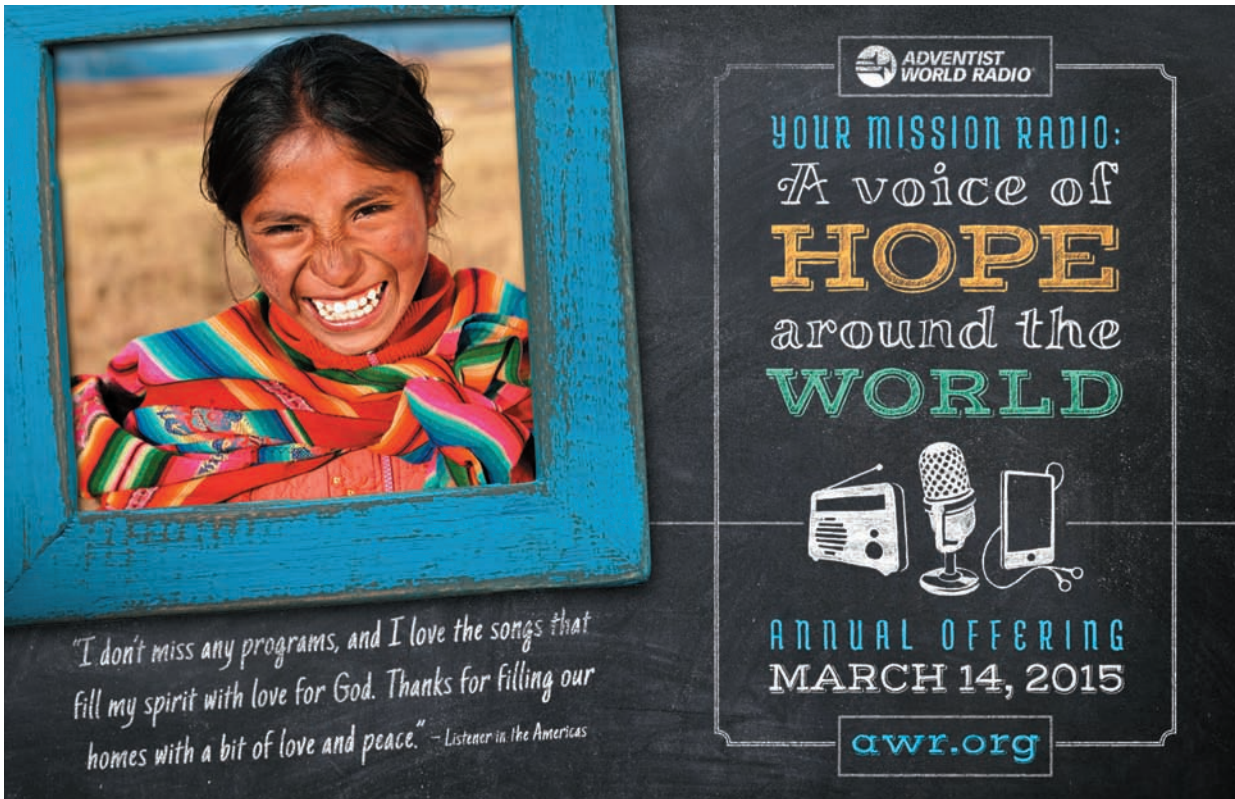
and then taught at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., for over eight years. He then served for the next 24 years at Robert E. Peary High School in Rockville, Md., as their Social Studies Department head, and completed his teaching career at Poolesville High School, in Poolesville, Md. Andy was a World War II, U.S. Army veteran, and moved to Homosassa 12 years ago from Bunker Hill, W.Va. He was an active member of the Homosassa church and enjoyed woodworking, gardening, golf, boating and fishing. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Virginia Mae Roberts of Homosassa; his daughter, Patricia Ann (Derek) Aldridge of Austin, Texas; his son, James Paul (Nina) Roberts of Missoula, Mont.; daughter-in-law Lisa Jane Roberts of Dallas, Texas; his sister, Christine Carlo of Connecticut; and grandchildren, Jordan, Catherine (Richard), James, Thadeus, Mathew (Holly) and Ciara. Andy was preceded in death by a son, William A. Roberts, in 2012; and siblings, Laura Walker, Robert Roberts and Beatrice Parsons.

**RODRIGUEZ, Antonio Delgado**, born January 17, 1948, in Guayana, Puerto Rico; died May 11, 2014, in Hagerstown, Md. He was a member of the Hagerstown church. "Tony" enjoyed singing and wherever he went a quartet was started.

He worked in the publishing and printing business, employed by the College Press in Collegedale, Tenn., and retired from the Review & Herald Publishing Assn., in Hagerstown. He is survived by his wife, Minerva; his son, Antonio, Jr.; his daughter, Ivette Odum; his brothers, Alex and Ray Rodriguez; his five sisters, Iris, Celimar, Alma, Jenny and Miriam, all from Puerto Rico; two grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

**STITELY, Robert N.**, born February 1, 1917, in Thurmont, Md.; died April 8, 2014, in Williamsport, Md. He was a member of the Chestertown (Md.) church. Survivors: his wife, Ruby, of Williamsport; his son, Edward (Loretta) Stitely of Barclay, Md.; his granddaughter, Elizabeth (Howard) Bankes of Falling Waters, W.Va.; and his great-grandchildren, Nathaniel and Emily-Jean Bankes, both of Falling Waters.

**SUPER, Mary Lee (Gibbons)**, born August 12, 1935, in Louisville, Ga.; died January 14, 2014, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. Survivors: her daughters, ViAnn Johnson and Altonese Barnes; her sister, Rena Thompson; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.



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