

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

DECEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 120 • ISSUE 12

**Giving
Cheer
All Year**



9 Amazing ACS
Volunteers

Contents



4 | Newsline

6 | Noticias

8 | Feature

Giving Cheer All Year

Mark Tyler

We found nine amazing ACS volunteers—including a trio of motorcycle “ministers”—who go the extra mile year-round to help those in need in their mid-Atlantic neighborhoods.

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Michael McElroy photographed Jay Estep and Vera Norman at the Newark Adventist Community Service Center in Newark, Ohio. Above: Estep with his mentor, Jim Spitler.

ON THE WEB

REAL

CHRISTMAS JOY

After a miscarriage, Sylvia and Fredy Urrutia, members of Potomac Conference’s Arise church in Silver Spring, Md., found joy and healing delivering Christmas gifts to the homeless in Washington, D.C. This year they want to spread more joy by distributing 100 gifts. Read how to help at columbiaunionvisitor.com/joyhomelessproject.



SURVIVING WITH GRACE

In *Surviving With Grace*, Linda Werman Brawner, from Ohio Conference’s Mansfield church, shares how the Lord helped her navigate depression while caring for a terminally ill spouse plus deal with other trials. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/survivingwithgrace to get Brawner’s tips on how to cope with life’s crises.

WELCOME TO CHURCH

Churches statistically receive the most visitors during Christmas. Is your church ready to welcome them? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/welcome to read tips from Tim Madding, pastor of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church, on how to make visitors feel welcome this holiday season.

HOLIDAY GREETING

Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, shares a holiday greeting and gives a short report on what he and other Columbia Union officers witness on a regular basis in our churches, schools, hospitals and boardrooms at columbiaunionvisitor.com/presidentsgreeting.



PRAY TOGETHER

Join church members around the world in petitioning the Savior during Ten Days of Prayer, January 6-16, 2016, a General Conference initiative. This year’s theme for the daily gatherings is “Abiding in Christ,” based on Ephesians 3:16-19. Register and learn more at tendaysofprayer.org.

VISITOR

Beth Michaels ■ Editor

V. Michelle Bernard ■ Assistant Editor, Digital Media Coord.

Kelly Butler Coe ■ Art Director, Designer

Sandra Jones ■ Advertising, Circulation Manager

The *Visitor* is a monthly publication reaching approximately 60,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area.

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.

CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunionvisitor.com
visitor@columbiaunion.net ■ To subscribe, change address or discontinue *Visitor* mailings, call your local conference as listed below. Ask for the membership clerk. Free to members.
 All others, \$21 annually. Email sjones@columbiaunion.net.

PUBLISHING

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Publisher

Board: Dave Weigley (chair), Beth Michaels (secretary),
 Seth Bardu, Celeste Ryan Blyden, Larry Boggess,
 José H. Cortés, William T. Cox, Henry Fordham, Ron Halvorsen Jr.,
 Ray Hartwell, Bill Miller, Rick Remmers, Rob Vandeman

The *Visitor* is printed at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE

5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
 (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunion.org

Dave Weigley ■ President

Rob Vandeman ■ Executive Secretary

Seth Bardu ■ Treasurer

Frank Bonduant ■ Vice President, Ministries Development
 Hamlet Canosa ■ Vice President, Education
 Walter Carson ■ Vice President, General Counsel, PARL
 Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Vice President, Communication and PR
 Rubén Ramos ■ Vice President, Multilingual Ministries
 Harold Greene ■ Director, Information Technology
 Curtis Boore ■ Director, Plant Services
 Emmanuel Asiedu ■ Secretary-Treasurer, Revolving Fund
 Carol Wright ■ Undersecretary

CONFERENCES

ALLEGHENY EAST: Henry J. Fordham, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com

ALLEGHENY WEST: William T. Cox Sr., President; Bryant Smith, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

CHESAPEAKE: Rick Remmers, President; Samantha Young, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Larry Boggess, President; Valerie Morikone, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org

NEW JERSEY: José H. Cortés, President; Paulo Macena, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org

OHIO: Ron Halvorsen Jr., President; Heidi Shoemaker, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org

PENNSYLVANIA: Ray Hartwell, President; Tamyra Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org

POTOMAC: Bill Miller, President; Tiffany Doss, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcpsda.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

KETTERING COLLEGE: Nate Brandstater, President; Jessica Beans, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Angie Crews, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, President & CEO;
 Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, CEO;
 Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ khnetwork.org

Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Volume 120 ■ Issue 12

Revived Christians Love Others

I admit I have contributed to a problem often seen in churches—the imposition on others my own standard of what it means to be a Christian. We call that being judgmental. When a member of my church, for no apparent reason, began smoking tobacco, I, without seeking to understand her circumstances, threatened her with church discipline if she did not immediately cease. I placed a value on her relationship with Jesus based on an external action.



Happily, Jesus did not relate to people in this way. We see this clearly in His relationship with Zacchaeus.

Although his name meant “pure” or “just one,” truthfully, Zacchaeus did not live up to his name. His countrymen hated him because he was a tax collector. Hearing one day that Jesus would pass through Jericho,

Zacchaeus felt compelled to catch a glimpse of the famous rabbi. Making his way to the main street, he was dismayed to find it crowded with people all with the same idea.

The ever-resourceful Zacchaeus ran ahead of Jesus and climbed a tree so that he could catch a glimpse of Him. You know the rest of the story. Jesus stopped under the tree and invited himself into Zacchaeus’ life by inviting himself to lunch. Overwhelmed by this expression of love and care, the tax collector experienced a healing revival in his life, and the natural response was to give to the poor and restore to those he cheated four times what he fraudulently collected in taxes.



THE ESSENCE OF SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

What does the revived life look like? How is spiritual renewal expressed in one’s life? I think Paul best defines it: “For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another” (Gal. 5:13-15, NLT).

For Zacchaeus, revival included the restoration of relationships exemplified by making things right with those he defrauded. I’ve never defrauded someone financially, but I have been guilty of harshly judging others; I have defrauded my brothers and sisters by applying my own standards to their experience with Jesus. I have been guilty of judging people based on externals. As Paul says, “What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love” (Gal. 5:6, MSG).

I have learned that the essence of spiritual revival is the love and care I give to those whom God places in my life. One way that love is expressed is by not judging another’s experience with Jesus by my own standards.

Maurice Battle is Potomac Conference’s associate director for pastoral ministries.



PENNSYLVANIA RE-ELECTS ADMINISTRATORS

Delegates to the 15th Triennial Session of the Pennsylvania Conference voted to re-elect their officers. Pictured are Ray Hartwell, conference president, and Jeanne; Will Peterson, executive secretary, and Darlene; and Ron Christman, treasurer, and Joyce. Read more on page 29.

WGTS GETS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Nearly 4,000 listeners called or made their gifts online during WGTS 91.9's fall "friendraiser," giving more than \$1.1 million to help keep the station, owned by Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., financially strong.

The station also recently reached a fundamental milestone, an endorsement from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), the largest religious accreditation organization for Christian nonprofit organizations with over 2,000 members. WGTS is the first Seventh-day Adventist organization to ever receive ECFA accreditation.



"We realize that donors trust us to use their gifts effectively for ministry, and the ECFA helps set the highest standards to verify to donors that their trust is well placed," says Kevin Krueger, WGTS vice president and general manager.—*Jerry Woods*

GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE DIRECTOR DIES



Jonathan Leach, executive director of the Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, Ohio, passed away last month. Founded in 1994, the GNH is a nonprofit organization supported by eight area Adventist churches that

collaborate to provide food pantry services, clothing and household items to the underserved in the greater Dayton region.

During his 15-month tenure, Leach and his team exponentially increased the number of people they aid through GNH. "J.D. Leach demonstrated an innate drive to make a great impact, serve others, guide others on a mission greater than they can achieve while following God's code of ethics," says Frank Perez, GNH board chair. Read more on page 28.

AEC LEADERS BIKE FOR EDUCATION

Allegheny East Conference (AEC) leaders recently completed the first iRideAEC bike-a-thon, part of an initiative to raise \$1 million for the long-term sustainability of the AEC school system. The 14-day ride included a stop at each of the conference's 11 schools, spanning five states and the District of Columbia.



As the main biker, Jackson Doggette, Jr., event creator and AEC's general counsel, traveled more than 850 miles. Several AEC members joined along the way. Read more on page 16. —*LaTasha Hewitt*

KC LAUNCHES DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Twenty students are making history at Kettering College (KC) this fall as the inaugural class in the occupational therapy doctoral (OTD) program. The school's first



doctoral program is taking place in the new Kettering College Ollie Davis Center in Beavercreek, Ohio, where elected officials, community leaders, and KC, Kettering Adventist HealthCare and hospital leadership participated in the ribbon cutting (pictured).

“Occupational therapy is a growing field and is demanding more professionals who have post-graduate degrees,” explains Nate Brandstater, KC president. “We are thrilled to be offering an innovative doctoral program that will propel Kettering College into the future of healthcare.”—*Jessica Beans*

NAD ISSUES HUMAN SEXUALITY STATEMENT

The North American Division (NAD) proposed a “Statement on Human Sexuality” at its year-end meeting, which after several revisions, was approved early last month by a vote of 74-17. The statement declares that the NAD seeks to “follow the model of Jesus” and offer “unconditional love and compassion to everyone,” and that

\$100,000

The amount that Adventist HealthCare, based in Gaithersburg, Md., recently donated to Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park for their new \$9.7 million Health Professions, Science and Wellness Center. Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/WAUdonation.

the NAD stands in full support of the General Conference guidelines released in spring 2014 regarding human sexuality, marriage, family, homosexuality and same-sex union.

It is “presented not as a theological document but as one drawing from biblical teachings, some practical understandings and guidelines. ...” Read the full statement at nadadventist.org/SHS.—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

UNION HOSTS COMMUNICATION ADVISORY

This fall Celeste Ryan Blyden, the Columbia Union Conference’s vice president for strategic communication, presented an award of excellence to Steve Hanson (pictured). Hanson coordinated mailing processes for a dozen years when the Review and Herald Publishing Association printed the *Visitor* while it operated in Hagerstown, Md.

Blyden and the *Visitor* staff presented three other awards at the union’s annual communication advisory, where more than 20 communication leaders from health-care, conference, school and other



union entities gathered to share ideas and give updates.

“We appreciate the opportunity to connect with the communication directors from across our union who partner with us to publish the *Visitor*. By working together, we are better able to keep members informed about how God is working in the Columbia Union,” says Blyden.

The one-day event came on the heels of the North American Division’s 2015 Society of Adventist Communicators Convention in Chantilly, Va. Read about other award winners at columbiaunionvisitor.com/advisoryawards.

—*Beth Michaels*

CARAVAN OF HOPE TOURS UNION

Ismael Nuñez, pastor of the Newark Spanish district, baptizes one of 12 at New Jersey Conference’s First church of Newark, the first stop on the Caravan of Hope tour sponsored by the Columbia Union Conference. The tour, which includes 16 stops across the union, follows a synchronized effort of Bible studies that approximately 100 Spanish churches hosted throughout the mid-Atlantic. Read a final report about the tour in the January/February 2016 *Visitor*.



PHOTOS BY EUGENE SIMONOV, KETTERING COLLEGE AND JORGE PILLCO



LA CARAVANA DE ESPERANZA RECORRE LA UNIÓN

En el edificio Higher Places Ministries, los niños forman una línea para el bautismo en la parada Vineland, como parte del recorrido de la Caravana de la Esperanza. Este recorrido, auspiciado por Columbia Union Conference, incluye 16 paradas por la Unión, en el que aproximadamente 100 iglesias hispanas siguieron un esfuerzo sincronizado de estudios bíblicos en el Atlántico medio. Lea el informe final acerca de este viaje en la revista *Visitor* de enero/febrero.

EL CRECIMIENTO HISPANO CONTINÚA EN OHIO

Las iglesias hispanas en Ohio Conference continúan creciendo y prosperando. En un campamento celebrado recientemente en Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center en Danville, Roberto Rivera, pastor de las iglesias hispanas del área de Columbus, reportó que la iglesia First Hispanic de Columbus había crecido más del siete por ciento este año. Este verano, los miembros de la iglesia y sus invitados asistieron al retiro de hombres hispanos del distrito en el área de Columbus, realizado en Buck Creek State Park en Springfield.

Por un tiempo, la iglesia hispana en Springfield había permanecido estática, hasta que Rivera y su esposa Ana animaron a los miembros a comer juntos frecuentemente. “Estos almuerzos son una buena manera de conectarnos”, explica Ana.

Varios miembros de la iglesia central de Ohio son propietarios de empresas y desean testificar a sus empleados. Ellos los invitan a su iglesia como alternativa a trabajar.

Rivera coordina programas regulares de evangelismo cada

año para cada una de sus iglesias. Está planificando además una gran convocación para el 2016 en el centro de la ciudad de Columbus con oradores bien conocidos y un concierto. Sus planes incluyen una posible cuarta plantación de iglesia, agrega él. Lea más en la página 27.

—Heidi Shoemaker

REDEMPTION CHAPEL ALIMENTA AL VECINDARIO

Los líderes de la plantación de iglesia Redemption Chapel en Vineland, en New Jersey Conference, se esfuerzan por esparcir el mensaje del amor de Dios a la comunidad y han comenzado a ofrecer un desayuno mensual a los miembros de la comunidad. Los miembros voluntarios



(en la foto de abajo) compran alimento y materiales, coordinan, cocinan, y sirven los alimentos. Durante la comida, se relacionan con las visitas y participan en un servicio breve que incluye cantos, un sermón y una oración.

“Deseábamos establecer un lugar en donde las personas se sientan bienvenidas para adorar al Señor y puedan satisfacer sus necesidades físicas y espirituales”, dice Raúl Rivero, pastor de Redemption Chapel y de las iglesias hispanas Panamericanas y Vineland. Lea más en la página 26.

—Liza Victoria Monroy

LA DIVISIÓN NORTEAMERICANA APRUEBA LA DECLARACIÓN SOBRE LA SEXUALIDAD HUMANA

La División Norteamericana (DNA) propuso una “Declaración sobre la Sexualidad Humana” en su reunión de fin de año, la cual, después de varias revisiones, fue aprobada a principios del mes pasado en un voto de 74 a 17. La declaración dice que la DNA intenta “seguir el modelo de Jesús” y ofrecer “amor incondicional y compasión a todos”, y que la DNA apoya completamente las normas que fueron publicadas en la primavera del 2014 concernientes a la sexualidad humana, el matrimonio, la familia, la homosexualidad, y las uniones del mismo sexo.

Se “presenta no como un documento teológico sino como uno que se basa en las enseñanzas bíblicas, conocimientos y normas prácticas...”. Lea toda la declaración en nadadventist.org/SHS.—Kimberly Luste Maran

Your Best

PATHWAY *to* HEALTH

Los Angeles

3,000 Volunteers Needed

Dentists, Dental Hygienists & Assistants, Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Nurses, Surgeons,
Doctors of All Specialties, Hair Stylists, Attorney Services, and Non-medical Volunteers

3-day Adventist Medical & Dental Mega Clinic and Convention
Los Angeles, California, April 26-29, 2016



Special convention continues through April 30 with inspiring speakers including Dan Jackson & Mark Finley.
Full children's program available for volunteers throughout the event.



Information & Volunteer Registration at
PathwaytoHealthVolunteer.org

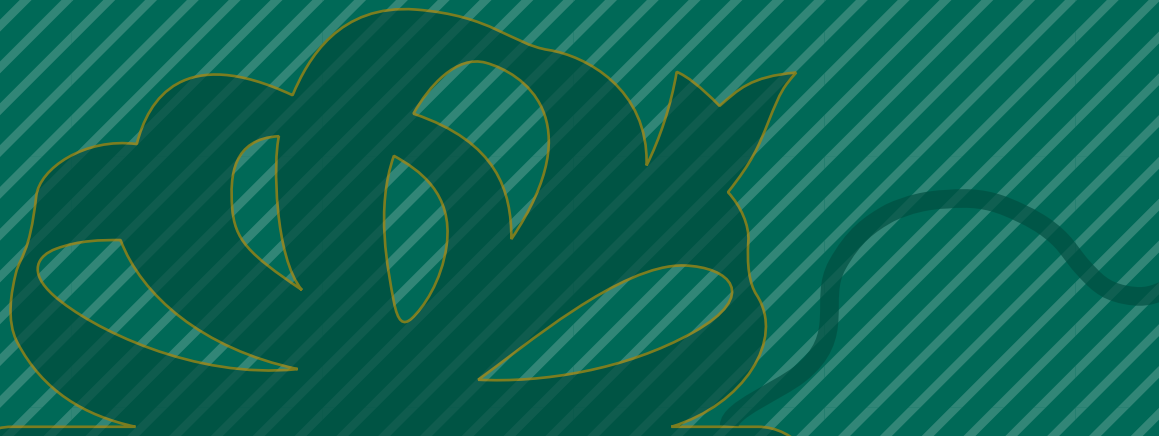


Scan for video



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Your Best Pathway to Health is a service of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries, in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Health, Loma Linda University Health and many other organizations.



Giving
Cheer
ALL
Year

We found nine amazing ACS volunteers—including a trio of motorcycle “ministers”—who go the extra mile year-round to help those in need in their mid-Atlantic neighborhoods

Mark Tyler

Eight women gathered for a prayer group in Battle Creek, Mich., more than 140 years ago with a central idea: the church should provide food and clothing to needy families, minister to the sick and care for the fatherless and widows. Born from that 1874 meeting came the Dorcas Society, an association of female members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that grew to assist countless people in need throughout North America and beyond.

“Those volunteers did such amazing work that almost anywhere in the world, even today, people remember the selfless women of the Dorcas Society,” explains Minnie McNeil, Adventist Community Services (ACS) coordinator for the Columbia Union Conference and director for the Allegheny East Conference.

Today the work of those service-minded ladies continues through ACS, and has expanded to include men, teens and whole families who volunteer together to extend God’s love to others. The Columbia Union is currently home to 14 official ACS centers run by Adventist members who dedicate their time to spread Jesus’ love in ways the early Dorcas ladies may have only imagined.

McNeil suggests there is a common thread that runs through all ACS volunteers: “We don’t see people as numbers; we see everyone as a candidate for heaven.”

Here are nine rather amazing ACS volunteers who dedicate their free time, talents, and certainly lots of love and cheer to those in need across the Columbia Union territory:

Dynamic Duo: Proving Age is Just a Number

Vera Norman and Jim Spitzer, members of Ohio Conference’s Newark Community church in Newark, are the two oldest active volunteers in Licking County—and probably much further.

Norman is a centenarian who has worked with her local ACS center for more than 60 years. She is still vibrant at 101 and has been featured on a secular Newark website for her life of dedication. Every Tuesday

and Thursday, she gets a ride to the Carrousel Thrift Shop, located inside the Newark ACS center, where she does paperwork and tells clients how many toiletries and other items they’re allowed—completely free.

“I enjoy doing it and it needs to be done,” says Norman, who credits her longevity to a vegetarian lifestyle. “It makes me feel good that I’m still healthy enough to do it and don’t have some other thing to pull me away.”

Spitzer, 92, has devoted more than 20 years to the Newark center, which houses the first food bank of Licking County. It opened in 1945. Spitzer, who volunteered with his wife of 70 years, Jean, before her death last year, managed the food until about a year and a half ago. That’s when he trained a new convert, Jay Estep, to take over (see the sidebar on p. 12). Still, Spitzer helps feed more than 1,000 clients each month.

“I just like to see the people that come in and give them a good word and witness to them,” says Spitzer. “At this age, it seems like you’re not very useful any more. But, I still like to work.”



Newark church pastor Tom Hughes says both are examples of what service is all about. “They have motivated generations of young people to take up the mantle of service to others,” he says. “To me, personally, they

are my heroes, especially Jim, who is an elder and an example to the community. He inspires me and makes me want to be a better pastor and a better man.”



A Mother to the Motherless

When Mary Brown was just 14 years old, she was tried as an adult for killing her stepfather, who she caught severely beating her mother. The teen received a life sentence, and nearly everyone seemed to give up on her—except Bernice Webster (left), a member of Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Liberty church in Baltimore.

Webster, who is the ACS federation president for AEC’s Baltimore Extended Area, heard of the teen’s plight and reached out to help. “I became her mother by letter,” Webster explains.

Although Brown’s case seemed hopeless, Webster encouraged her to pray and appeal. After more than 15 years, the harsh sentence was overturned. Now Brown also works with those who have been incarcerated.

“It was a struggle, but it was such a great feeling,” Webster says of parenting Brown through her appeal process. “She still calls me occasionally. Mary is doing alright.”

In addition to personally assisting individuals without a voice, for ACS, Webster works with soup kitchens, teen tutoring and adult tax advice programs. She builds relationships with state and local legislators, establishes



public/private partnerships and marshals resources so that Adventists are known as people who care.

Webster, 89, began volunteering when she was 17 years old and never stopped. Liberty church pastor Mark McCleary says she is inspiring because she proves more diligent than much younger members. “I am mesmerized and motivated [by her],” he says.

Webster says her mission is reaching people in tangible ways. “My biggest joy is trying to pass the love of Christ to people through my actions,” she says.

A Speedy and Joyful Responder

When people call the ACS center of New Jersey Conference’s Laurelwood church in Deptford, they rarely get an answering machine—they get Julia Krug (pictured right, with husband, John Crews). “If you have an emergency pantry, you have to have someone they can contact,” Krug explains.

That’s why Rep. Donald Norcross’ office calls them when they have people in need. One of the congressman’s aides once left messages for social service agencies all across town trying to secure assistance for a couple burned out of their home. When they reached Krug, she says she gave service without delay.

“They were really under the strain and stress of losing everything in the fire,” she says, and gave them food and gift cards for personal items. “This helped to bridge the gap as they waited for their renter’s insurance to kick in.”

The Laurelwood church, which has offered emergency response for 20 years, also opens the ACS center after church two Sabbaths per month. The center’s sign-up sheet is posted inside the church lobby before the worship service. People receive immediate assistance after church, whether or not they attend church.

The ACS center receives some supplies from local establishments through the Second Harvest program, a nonprofit that encourages restaurants to donate surplus food. On their wish list right now? A commercial freezer, which would allow them to accept more donated food and help more people, Krug says.

“We want to hit the mark, and if we’re serious about service, hunger doesn’t wait,” she says.

Krug, 57, who grew up in an orphanage, says she will always be driven to serve because she understands what it is to struggle. “Until I take my last breath, this will be my joy,” she states.

An Advocate for the Hungry

Mary K. Rinehart (left), a member of the Winchester (Va.) church, doesn’t turn her head away when she sees people on the roadside with “Homeless. Please Help!” signs. She rolls down her window and hands them a sack full of love.



It’s nothing fancy: just a brown paper bag with a can of ready-to-eat pasta, a small can of peaches or mixed fruit, a bag of chips and a box of juice. But, with so many struggling with hunger and homelessness, it fills a great void, she explains.

“It doesn’t change the total picture of their lives, but it shows that there is hope and there are those who care,” says Rinehart. “We tend to not notice what we’re not looking for. But, when you start making an effort, you start to notice that there is more of a need than you thought.”

Rinehart doesn’t work alone. A team of about 20 in her Potomac Conference congregation, just an hour outside of Washington, D.C., spends Sabbath afternoons making similar nonperishable bag lunches so that everyone in the church can help the homeless during their daily commutes.

“When someone makes a commitment to a ministry, the Lord will provide the people who He wants you to serve,” Rinehart suggests.

Pastor Debbie Eisele, one of a team of three pastors serving eight area congregations, including Winchester, says Rinehart remains committed even after last year’s death of her husband of nearly 50 years. “Her heart is full of compassion as she ministers, and her head is full of new and creative ways to serve,” Eisele says.

Rinehart, who also heads the Winchester ACS center, says church volunteers have opened the center weekly for more than 10 years, providing financial assistance for rent and utility bills, along with food and clothing. They serve some 250 families per year at the center, countless others on the streets.

“We’re a small church, but we try to do big things,” Rinehart says.

A Man of Many Ministries

Leif Christiansen, a member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Hamburg church, not only volunteers through ACS, he spends his limited spare

time in numerous forms of service. When he is not working as a private practitioner of internal medicine serving two hospitals, Christiansen runs a community health clinic for the uninsured through the Adventist WholeHealth Network, a nonprofit organization in Wyomissing, Pa. Christiansen, who helped start the clinic, explains that their clients have no access to healthcare.

“Some can’t afford the care they are supposed to sign up for, and then you have people who are unfortunately down and out, and we see them more routinely,” he explains.

Clinic volunteers typically serve 20-30 people per month. Some need assistance filling out forms as they try to get insurance, some bring children for school physicals, while many others fear using other area facilities because they have immigration issues, Christiansen notes.

“This has been a great community outreach,” he says. He believes that once you meet their needs and show sympathy for their situations, the next step of introducing them to Christ comes easily.

Jeannette Dare, Pennsylvania Conference ACS director, who serves on the Adventist WholeHealth Network board of directors, says Christiansen does more than anyone could reasonably expect. Through the ACS center, he organizes an annual blood drive and helps put on a “fun run” and performs health screenings at Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting. He also hosts cooking classes and gives diet and lifestyle lectures through his local church.



“In addition to fervently conceptualizing and implementing Adventist programs to the community, it is not unlike Dr. Christiansen to lend his time and expertise to nonprofit social service agencies outside the denomination,” Dare says. “He is a consistent, broad spectrum, outwardly-focused, Christian volunteer committed to the betterment of humanity.”

Mark Tyler writes from Elkton, Md.

3 Bikers Update the Face of Service in Ohio

Jay Estep (far right) rode his bumblebee yellow, Harley Davidson Super Glide motorcycle to the Newark, Ohio, strawberry festival three years ago simply looking for a good time. Instead, he found Jesus in a way he never would have expected—through the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry (AMM) led by Pastor Tom Hughes of Ohio Conference’s Newark Community church in Newark.

Now Estep is part of a biker trio that helps run the Newark Adventist Community Services (ACS) center and thrift store, which includes Phil Harper (center) and Tom Schell (left). Estep recently replaced 92-year-old volunteer Jim Spitler as the food pantry manager. Harper is the new director. Schell helps wherever he’s needed.

There are other AMM members who help benefit the ACS center. Leroy Bennett organizes an annual “Ride for the Hungry,” which last year raised \$6,000 for the center. Bret Opdyke helps organize and manage additional events to support the ACS and AMM ministries.

“Ours is an active ministry of kinship and kindness, and we let the Holy Spirit work,” Opdyke says. “It’s all about our motorcycles, riding and fellowship.”

Go to columbiaunionvisitor.com/ACSBikers to read more about how Estep became one of these tough-looking servants and how they, together, now help keep the oldest food bank in Licking County, Ohio, going strong.



Peace on EARTH

Featuring

Shawn Boonstra

Speaker/Director Voice of Prophecy

Jean Boonstra

Associate Speaker Voice of Prophecy



*Plus Award Winning
Musical Artists*

CHRISTINE WOLLMANN



THE KING'S HERALDS



ADVENTIST CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Filmed Live at the Spencerville
Seventh-day Adventist Church

WATCH LOCALLY IN BALTIMORE

And tell a friend!



WMAR (ABC), Channel 2
December 24 at 7 p.m.
And December 26 at 2 a.m.

Visit www.vop.com/peaceonearth for a full station listing.

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

A few years ago CURF helped Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy realize its dream of building a new, state of the art 21st century educational facility. The 100,000-sq.-ft. building was the first LEED-certified building in Montgomery County, Maryland, and received a bronze award for its energy-saving features. It includes a 375-seat auditorium, college-sized gymnasium for PE and varsity sports, certified kitchen for serving hot lunches, spacious classrooms with natural light, wireless technology, smartboards, and ergonomic furniture.



By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF helps further the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

(866) 721-CURF | columbiaunion.org/CURF



Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$168 million resource that makes ministry possible.



This advertisement does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy securities. Any offer to sell securities issued by CURF is made only through its Offering Circular. No one should consider any investment in CURF Notes other than by careful reference to the Offering Circular. Neither FDIC, SIPC nor any other government agency guarantees or insures repayment of CURF Notes.

NEWS

Beth-el Sponsors School Supplies Giveaway

Troy Levy, pastor of the Beth-el church in Jersey City, N.J., recognized a need to give adolescent residents in the mostly underserved communities of the city some sort of head start before school began.

“We have challenged our church to not be satisfied with holding a tax-exempt status in Jersey City and not give back to the community in some sort of tangible way,” Levy says.

To meet that challenge, members of the Beth-el church recently sponsored a school supplies giveaway at Audubon Park, a community park across the street from the church.

Many church members volunteered their time, promoting the event several Sabbaths before the event took place, and donated supplies including paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, glue, rulers and more.

The church purchased drawstring backpacks and volunteers filled them with the supplies for preschoolers, elementary and high school students. They distributed a total of 342 backpacks and gathered contact information from registrants. Church members will use the contact information to invite community members to upcoming evangelistic efforts.



Beth-el church volunteers pass out free school supplies to community members at the church-sponsored giveaway.

Attendees also had the opportunity to jump in an inflated bouncy house and listen to Taurus Montgomery, pastor of the Harbor of Hope church in Benton Harbor, Mich., who encouraged the children to stay in school and avoid using drugs.

Spanish Ministries Holds Annual Fellowship Day

The Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Spanish Council of Churches recently gathered at the Jesus Love Temple in Milford, Del., for their annual fellowship day.

More than 1,500 participants from 40 congregations gathered for the occasion themed “En Espíritu y Verdad (In Spirit and in Truth).”



Adriana Perera, fellowship day presenter, shares a message about music and the church.

Adriana Perera, associate professor of music theory and composition at Oakwood University (Ala.), preached about worship and the use of musical instruments in the church. Perera also conducted a seminar series called “Seventh-day Adventist Music Today.” Henry Fordham, AEC president, also gave remarks.

“Attendees left with a renewed vision of what God expects of us in our worship to Him. It is the prime battle between good and evil,” shared Ramon Escalante, Spanish ministries council coordinator.

Other weekend highlights include 19 baptisms, a graduation ceremony for 56 students from the AEC’s School of Theology for Lay People and a concert by a trio from the Emmanuel church in Mt. Rainer, Md.

The theme for next year’s gathering is “Medical Cadets.”

Members Deliver Message at March

During the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., Allegheny East Conference members distributed more than 30,000 copies of *Message* magazine. Volunteers came from as far as North Carolina to volunteer, and each had their own reason for participating. Read more about the event and watch a video at columbiaunionvisitor.com/millionmanmarch.

Baltimore Junior Academy Celebrates 100 Years

Baltimore Junior Academy (BJA) in Baltimore recently celebrated 100 years of service, making it the oldest existing school in the Allegheny East Conference.

“It’s very humbling. It is awesome to know that leaders had the insight to know that the school needed to be started when it did and then rallied the resources to make it happen,” shares Carol Cantu, principal.

School staff and community members celebrated throughout the year leading up to the anniversary. The official celebration took place during BJA’s alumni weekend. The event included a meet-and-greet in the BJA cafeteria, a Sabbath service at the War Memorial Building in downtown Baltimore, evening vespers and games. The celebration culminated with a black-tie gala at Martins West in Windsor, Md.

During the gala, BJA leaders honored exemplary alumni, such as Rear Adm. Barry C. Black, retired chaplain of the United States Senate.



Baltimore Junior Academy supporters celebrate the school’s centennial at a black-tie gala.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH KANE

First Conference Bike-a-thon Supports Education

Allegheny East Conference leaders recently completed the first iRideAEC bike-a-thon. iRideAEC is part of an initiative to raise \$1 million for the long-term sustainability of the AEC school system.

The bike-a-thon included a 14-day journey to each of the 11 schools in the AEC territory, spanning five states and the District of Columbia. Jackson Doggette, Jr., the iRideAEC leader and AEC’s attorney, came up

with the idea and traveled more than 850 miles. Melvyn Hayden, III, pastor of the Pine Forge church in Pa., accompanied Doggette on most of the trip.

David Starks, a member of Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., also joined the riders for two days. José Wagner, a member of the Macedonia church in Chester, Pa., provided encouragement and advice.

Judy B. Chiles-Dent, education superintendent, and Shayla-René Little, project manager, manned the support and gear (SAG) vehicle, and provided water bottles, “quick fuel” snacks and made sure the riders had everything they needed.

The team stopped off at each of the 11 schools in AEC, where roaring crowds of students, faculty, staff and members of the local community greeted them. Each school provided the SAG vehicle with water, Gatorade, coconut water and fresh fruit before sending the riders on their way. AEC Women’s Ministries volunteers from the respective areas provided the team with a full meal at each stop.

Plans are already underway for the 2016 bike-a-thon. Visit irideaec.org for more information.

Benjamin Dub`e, a member of the Pine Forge (Pa.) church, joins Jackson Doggette, Jr., and Melvyn Hayden, III, on one leg of the ride.



NEWS

Shiloh Bids Farewell to Pastor King

The Shiloh church in Cincinnati recently bid farewell to Pastor Harcourt King and his family. After more than 30 years of service to God, King is retiring from pastoral ministry.

From the onset of his seven years at Shiloh, King made it known that his goal was for every member to be saved, and for each one to reach others with the message of salvation.

“Evangelism was the cornerstone of his teaching, and as a result, hundreds have been baptized during the course of his ministry,” says Debbie Howard, Shiloh church Personal Ministries leader. “Praise the Lord!”

More than 350 members and guests attended his recent farewell Sabbath service. William T. Cox, Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president, delivered the divine message. Several conference leaders demonstrated their love and support for King by delivering words of acclamation, praise and honor for a job well done.



After the luncheon, each church department presented gifts to King and his family, followed by the playing of DVD’s especially made by the respective departments. Individual members and guests also presented their tokens of appreciation to a well-loved and respected pastor, his wife, Cynthia, and daughter, Sharai.

New Pastor Leads Westside Church

The pastors of the northern Ohio area—covering Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Pittsburgh—recently gathered at their monthly ministerial meeting to lay hands on Derrick Thomas, the new pastor of the Westside church in Cleveland. Under the leadership



Members of the Northern Ohio Ministerial District anoint Derrick Thomas, the new pastor of the Westside church in Cleveland.

of Jerome Hurst, president of the Northern Ohio Ministerium (NOMA), the pastors anointed Thomas.

According to his peers, Thomas hit the ground running as one of the conference’s newest pastors, visiting his community, generating Bible study interests, running meetings and performing baptisms. Originally from New York, Thomas has served as a Bible worker in several AWC districts.

His colleagues wanted to lay hands on him and ask God’s blessings and power as he daily leads and takes ministry beyond the walls of the church. “I feel so blessed and excited to be a part of the AWC team, and it feels great that my brothers in ministry took the time to pray over me and my ministry,” says Thomas.

Miracle of Faith Hosts Women’s Breakfast

The women of the Miracle of Faith church in Waynesboro, Va., recently hosted 22 ladies from churches in Charlottesville, Roanoke and Afton, Va., and Gordonsville, Ohio, for a women’s prayer breakfast. Joan Carpenter, Miracle of Faith Woman’s Ministries leader, organized the event and set the theme: “Our Praise to God for Who He Is.” Harry Britt, Miracle of Faith pastor, provided a devotional thought during the breakfast.

“The women’s prayer breakfast was socially and spiritually enlightening,” says Clair Cole, a Miracle of Faith church member. “What was most interesting was our speaker, Pastor Harry Britt, who spoke about the various women in the Bible who had great influence in their day.”

Young Adults Gather for Retreat

About 100 young adults from across the Allegheny West Conference recently came together for a dynamic and fun weekend retreat at the Allegheny West campgrounds in Thornville, Ohio.

Je'Rie Hurst, the founder and leader of Heart Feeders, sponsored the event. Heart Feeders is a ministry that provides young adult Christians with an avenue to grow spiritually and personally through social activities, community outreach and worship. Hurst, a pastor's daughter, has always had a passion for young adults and got tired of seeing the 18-35 age group missing from church.

Bryant L. Smith, pastor of Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, and keynote speaker, used Nehemiah's story to highlight everyone's need for purpose, passion, position and planning. Jerome Hurst, pastor of the Southeast church in Cleveland, also



Young adults pray during a special session.



Young adults participate in praise and worship time at the retreat.



Pastor Bryant Smith preaches about passion from the book of Nehemiah.



spoke. Attendees enjoyed a performance by Christian comedian Chris Cherry, as well as a laser tag game, where the entire campground was turned into a laser tag field.

Je'Rie says she planned the retreat with the goal of empowering, inspiring and igniting the young adults to return to their home churches on a mission to change their communities.

"What a life-changing experience," says Joppa Person, a member of the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, Ohio. "In one weekend, we experienced an amazing encounter with God at this young adult retreat. Lives were changed, hearts were transformed, people were healed, souls were saved and people—young people—were set free ... of all the things that have been weighing us down."

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

DECEMBER 2015

What's in a Name?

There is a book in my library titled *The Names of Jesus*, in which the author, Elmer Towns, lists more than 700 names and titles by which Jesus is known in the Bible. Each one, Towns says, is uniquely different from the others and expresses something unique about our Lord. Frankly, I am kind of surprised there are so few! The more I study the Bible, the more convinced I am that mere human language cannot articulate the full meaning of God.

Yet, there is one name of the 700 that is venerated above all others: "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved," (Acts 4:12, RSV). That name, of course, is Jesus. The angel announced to Joseph, "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21, RSV). This is the name that is above every name, and identifies the only One through whom we are saved.

During this holiday season, I hope we hear His name repeated often and not just in church or during Christmas concerts and pageants. Who among your friends, relatives or acquaintances might benefit by hearing the name of Jesus associated with the word "Christmas" this year? The suggestion might sound a little strange, but let's face it, for far too many people Christmas has little or nothing to do with religion and even less to do with Jesus. What sad irony!

So, perhaps you can make a difference in someone's life this year by the simple, yet well-timed expression of His name: Jesus. And, who knows, you may even have an opportunity to share with someone the virtues of just one of His many names, and the true meaning of Christmas.



Jerry Lutz
Executive Secretary

Willow Brook Member Receives Adventist Heritage Award

Adventist Heritage Ministries recently presented Frank De Haan with a plaque of recognition during a Sabbath service at the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md.

De Haan, who lives in Hagerstown, Md., has been on the Adventist Heritage board for 10 years and has actively supported several projects—the most

recent being the restoration of William Miller's childhood home.

"I've always been a fan of William Miller," De Haan explains. He admires the fact that the early advent preacher "never took a penny off of anybody. Whenever he ran out of money, he would sell another couple acres off his farm."

De Haan showed the same spirit of sacrifice during the renovation projects. At one point, the 89-year-old World War II veteran cashed in his GI life insurance policy to cover construction expenses.

The William Miller site in upstate New York attracts 2,000-3,000 visitors each year, says Donald Sahly, Adventist Heritage executive director. De Haan also restored the schoolhouse at Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Mich., which has up to 10,000 visitors each year.

"We just wanted to publically thank him—in front of his family—for his contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the many programs he has supported," Sahly says.—*Kim Peckham*

Dolly De Haan stands by her husband, Frank, as he is honored with a plaque of recognition from Adventist Heritage Ministries.



PHOTO BY KIM PECKHAM

Maryland Men of Faith Celebrates 10 Years

The 10th Annual Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) Conference recently drew about 160 men to the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for fellowship and spiritual enrichment.

Keynote speaker Dwayne Lemon challenged the group to “get ... out of Facebook and into ‘God’s Book.’” Other presentations included: Philip Collins, “The Protein Myth”; Pastor Geoff Crowley, “Mentoring Young Men”; Pastor Volodymyr Grinchenko, “Never Satisfied, Marriage Lessons”; Dan Jensen, “The Power of Prayer”; Eli Rojas, “End Time Warriors”; and Pastor Tyler Trahan, “Freedom From Addiction.” Attendees also collected more than \$2,300 to help a missionary in Japan buy a vehicle that will be used for outreach.

“The theme was based on a relevant thought for today’s man: ‘To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test,’ from *Testimonies for the Church*,” says Rojas, conference Ministerial and Family Ministries director. “It had a powerful impact on the men that attended the event.”

Attendee E. Geoffrey Greaves, of the Dundalk church in Baltimore, says, “I came away with a new



PHOTO BY MARLON MING

Patrick Barrett of the Pikesville International church in Pikesville, Md., and Doug Mench of the Chestertown (Md.) church, discuss passages from the Bible together.

resolve to be faithful to my clear calling.” The next MMOF Conference is planned for October 1, 2016. Visit mmof.org to hear sermons and get details.

Women Gather for Seaside Retreat



Many women aged 15 and up recently converged in Ocean City, Md., for the “High Heels and High Callings—Women of the Word” spiritual retreat. Tamyra Horst, Pennsylvania Conference Women’s Ministries director, was the keynote speaker for the English-language sessions, and M. Alexandria Harter, associate pastor at the Kettering church in Ohio, spoke for the Spanish-language sessions. There were also programs planned specifically for younger women aged 15-21.

Attendees donated food and gift cards and tied fleece blankets as part of an outreach project aimed to positively impact the local community. Weekend activities included a Friday evening bonfire on the beach, worship, a concert and seminars, and a prayer room was available for quiet time with God.

One participant called the weekend “a spiritual shot in the arm.” Another wrote, “It was fun to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. The spirit was positive and joyful—it’s great to see Christian women having fun and supporting and praying for one another.”

Visit the conference’s website, ccosda.org, to listen to sermons and see details for the 2016 retreat as plans develop.

Ladies display fancy footwear during the Saturday evening social that began with a shoe fashion show and concluded with karaoke.

PHOTO BY EDSON TANAKA

School Celebrates, Dedicates Senior Class

During a cool fall weekend on the Highland View Academy (HVA) campus, Principal Mitch Hutchinson, faculty and staff recognized and dedicated 45 seniors during Senior Recognition Weekend. This year's senior class includes representatives from five countries and many American states.

Located 60 miles west of the United State's capital and at the crossroads of interstate highways 81 and 70, HVA serves the four-state region of Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and the crossroads of the world.

On Friday evening, 250 friends and family enjoyed musical performances by the students and talks from each senior, who shared their dreams and goals with the audience. Many faculty members shared humorous memories in readings about each student. Dan Kittle, a private consultant for education and spiritual life, and former principal of Mount Vernon Academy, challenged all present to recognize that God has given them a name with eternal implications: child of the King.

On Sabbath morning, alumni, members of the HVA board of trustees and more friends and family packed the campus church to celebrate the Sabbath and dedicate the members of the Class of 2016. Kittle built on Friday evening's message with a sermon that reminded everyone that, because they are children of God, Jesus invites them, "Come and take My hand."

The Bellringers bell choir and the Highlanders vocal choir gave their 2015-16 debut performances and various seniors performed special music.

The Class of 2016 includes several second-generation HVA students.



Pastor Dan Kittle shares the message during Senior Recognition Weekend.



Highland View Academy presents the Class of 2016.

"Each person present was blessed with seeing the fruits of ministry over the years and the full impact that Seventh-day Adventist education has on families and communities near and far," says Hutchinson. "All who attended experienced a life-enriching Sabbath day's blessing."

Da'Vita Foods Helps Renovate Campus Entrance



Da'Vita Foods, a company located on the HVA campus that hires student workers to make its products, including Ezekiel Bread, recently invested \$20,000 to upgrade the campus by widening the entrance, adding new curbing and making landscaping improvements.

STEMfest Adds Features, Attracts More Visitors

More than 500 students, teachers, parents and people from the community attended Highland View Academy's second annual STEMfest, topping last year's attendance of nearly 400 visitors.

STEMfest 2015 began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new solar field. The solar panels will provide electricity for the school, the Highland View church and the nearby Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center. It is estimated the solar panels will save the academy \$30,000 annually.

STEMfest featured booths from 30 different federal and private STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) organizations, industries and universities. Several federal organizations from the Washington, D.C., area participated, including the Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

HVA's STEM department also offered several stations that provided hands-on, interactive activities for all ages.

Organizers included two new features this year: a Kids Korner and breakout sessions on cutting-edge, multidisciplinary engineering research.

The Kid's Korner provided LEGO bricks, construction kits, gear kits and various STEM-related toys for young children.



A STEMfest visitor experiments with the Makey Makey invention kit.

"We need to instill the love for STEM in young children by providing them with activities for creative play, and, hopefully, we will sustain that interest through high school," says Ophelia M. Barizo, vice principal for advancement and STEM. "According to statistics, 50 percent of students lose interest in science by the time they are in the eighth grade."

Another new feature was several breakout sessions on multidisciplinary engineering research. Scientists from the City College of New York showcased research that included virtual reality applications for the blind; facial computing; vibrotactile, wearable devices; and navigational, assistive technologies for the visually impaired.

Engineers from Pennsylvania State University presented applications of origami engineering and its several novel applications, such as origami-folded solar space arrays, surgical tools and medical diagnostic devices. E-NABLE, a global network of volunteers who use 3-D printing to create prosthetic fingers and hands for children and adults, showed 3-D printed prosthetics and had an engaging breakout session, during which attendees got to try out some samples.

Organizers also gave away door prizes and awarded a \$500 STEM scholarship to Alyssa Henline, an eighth-grader at Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md.

"We hope this event will inspire a new generation of young people to pursue STEM careers, and fill the ever-increasing need for a STEM-literate workforce in this country," concludes Barizo.



A STEMfest visitor learns about Enabling the Future, a nonprofit group that provides 3-D printed prosthetics to children and adults with upper limb differences.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

DECEMBER 2015

NEWS

Highland School Honors Grandparents

The Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently celebrated grandparents with a luncheon and special program. Students greeted their grandparents at the door with a handmade card then took them on a tour of the school.

The school orchestra and choir performed, followed by the whole school singing and reciting a portion of the Declaration of Independence for the audience. Lunch was the finale of the program.

"We hope to make this an annual event," says Cheryl Jacko, principal. "Family is really important to us, and we know how much grandparents enrich our lives. This event gave us the opportunity to meet a lot of people from our community who are very important in the lives of our students. We hope they will be back often to visit."



Youngsters line up to begin a game of soccer.

"I enjoyed walking along the river with my friend, Elaine," shares Kay Thaxton, who drove 75 miles from Williamson, W.Va., with her family to participate in the day's activities. "It was great exercising with others, and we had a lot of fun doing it."—*Kathy Pepper*



Barbara and Henry Simmons enjoy being with their grandchildren, Joseph and Rebekah Harris, at Highland Adventist School's special luncheon.

Charleston Church Hosts "Let's Move!" Day

The morning of "Let's Move!" Day kicked off with a short devotional, a rousing game of soccer for the children and volleyball for the adults.

More than 40 individuals from the Charleston, Buckhannon and Williamson (W.Va.) churches, along with members from Allegheny West Conference's Berea church in Charleston. Students from the Boulevard Adventist School also took part in this special event held at the Charleston church.

Laura Hoffman, Pathfinder director of the Charleston church, and her Pathfinder/Adventurer staff, organized the event. Volunteers served haystacks for lunch and participants competed in a relay water race.

Students Learn About Gravity on Math Day



Andrew Sproul, a second-grader at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., shows off his "gravity painting." Conference school and home-school students learned about gravity and participated in fun and challenging math games and activities at the Math/Science Field Day recently held at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

A Delay Brings Added Blessing to Logan Church

Carolyn Belcher's interest in the Seventh-day Adventist Church started when she received a Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Bible study request card in the mail. She sent in the card and Jim Buchanan, pastor of the Logan and Williamson (W.Va.) churches, and his wife, Elaine, visited her.

"At the time of our visit, the family was involved with a close relative's funeral, so they were busy," Elaine says. "We offered prayer, gave Carolyn the book *Steps to Christ* and the first *Discover* lesson and got her phone number. Later I tried to get together with her for in-home studies but she was unavailable. I then suggested she mail in her completed lessons and take the studies at her convenience." Elaine tried one more time to visit, but that failed too.

About six months later, Bible worker Chris Trent moved to the Logan, W.Va., area and received the names of all the inactive VOP Bible study interests to visit. One of those names was Carolyn Belcher.

When Trent visited her home, Belcher said, "I'm already a Christian and a member of the Freewill Baptist Church, but I'm willing to receive Bible studies, as I want to know all I can about my Lord, Jesus."

When it was time for the first Bible study, Belcher's son, Jonathan, who had moved back in with her, tried to go into his nephew's room, but the nephew was not in his room and the door was locked, so Jonathan joined the study and says he was "hooked" immediately.

Week after week, Trent continued studying with the family. Carolyn says she was happy that her prayers to



Carolyn Belcher stands next to Bible worker Chris Trent, after Pastor Jim Buchanan baptizes her son, Jonathan.

send someone to reach her son were being answered.

As the studies progressed, Jonathan wanted to be baptized, but Carolyn was hesitant about joining a new church. She had questions about the Sabbath. As Trent shared more, Carolyn made her decision to be faithful to God and keep Saturday holy, but Carolyn says she still had concerns about Christian standards and adornment.

Buchanan shared Scripture, asking her to pray about it, and the Holy Spirit led her to make a decision.

Jonathan has since been baptized and Carolyn joined the Adventist Church by profession of faith.

"It is thrilling to have these folks as members," Elaine says. "They are a real asset to the Logan church."

Women Gather for 24th Annual Retreat

Women throughout the Mountain View Conference recently traveled to the Valley Vista Adventist



Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., to attend the 24th annual women's retreat themed "Into His Image."

The weekend was filled with music, biblical teaching, a potter who shared his skillset and practical lessons via DVD, games and a class on how to recycle old things into something new. Attendees also partook in prayer, thanksgiving and great meals throughout the weekend.

As a way to give back to the community, attendees donated hundreds of warm winter caps and mittens to be distributed to three local humanitarian organizations in West Virginia.

Deana Fine (second from the left) directs members of the Charleston (W.Va.) church in a musical presentation about women of the Bible.

A Call for Total Membership Involvement

After I returned from the 2015 General Conference Annual Council, I realized I needed to share very exciting news with you, and also call your attention to some very important facts that will help us recognize the real challenges we have to face as God's people.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the fastest growing Christian movements in the world. According to the Adventist Church's Archives, Statistics and Research Department, there are more than 18.5 million Adventists worldwide. Amen!

On any given day, more than 3,000 people join the church. Every hour we baptize about 133 people. Every minute we baptize two people. An estimated 25-30 million men, women and children attend weekly Adventist worship services. Praise the Lord for that!

But, my concern is that the world population, some 7.349 billion as of July 1, according to the medium fertility estimate by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, still need to hear the gospel truth.

In the North American Division territory, we have close to 1.4 million church members in 6,116 congregations. But, in the United States our mission field is 321,368,864. Do you feel ready to face the challenge of reaching all these people?

Fifty million people live in the eight-state territory of the Columbia Union. Our membership is just over 144,000. Are you feeling the heat yet?

In New Jersey, my "home state" of more than 8.938 million inhabitants, we have only around 16,000 members. I am so thankful and happy for every single one of them. But, do we understand the challenge we are facing?

It is time for TMI, Total Membership Involvement!, a new initiative from the General Conference. We need every single person in our conference to be involved in the mission. Men, women and children of all ethnic and language groups need to mobilize.

Today I am inviting our loved ones who abandoned the faith to please come home! If somebody left the church following disagreements, please listen to my plea. I am calling everybody to come together under the flag of Jesus' compassion. Let's go to our communities, out of the walls of the churches to share the message of love, the message of the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Just in the United States, we have an estimated 100 million people who don't go to any church. Look to these numbers and wake up! Let's go reach out to them. If we want to accomplish the Great Commission, we cannot fight among ourselves. We need to join together to share the message of Jesus.

Seventh-day Adventists, this is the time of Total Membership Involvement. Will you join?



José H. Cortés
President

Burlington Church Hosts "Let's Move!" Day

The Burlington church recently hosted its first "Let's Move!" Day 4K Run/Walk and health fair. Volunteers provided chair massages, financial planning advice, health screenings, community health resources, and information about occupational therapy, combatting childhood obesity and on the eight laws of health.

"It was a daunting task, but the Lord led, guided and empowered our many sponsors to help facilitate the success of our community health service event," says Beulah Williams, Health Ministries director.

Sharanah Ridore, a Rowan University medical student and volunteer, says, "It was refreshing to expose the community to the interdisciplines of health in a nondominating, nonforceful, spiritual fashion. In addition to advocating and promoting health, we transmitted a spiritual love, a quality that is invaluable."



Beulah Williams, Pastor Tom Dunham and Maureen Little enjoy helping put on the Burlington church's first "Let's Move!" Day event.

Redemption Chapel Hosts Community Breakfast

Leaders of the Redemption Chapel church plant in Vineland strive to go into the community to spread the message of God's love. To help reach this goal, they started hosting a monthly breakfast for community members.

"We wanted to establish a place where people feel welcome to worship the Lord, and where they can get their physical needs and their spiritual needs met," says Raul Rivero, pastor of Redemption Chapel and the Panamerican and Vineland Spanish churches in Vineland.

Member volunteers purchase food items and materials, coordinate, cook and serve the meals. During the meal, volunteers serve and fellowship with guests and participate in a brief service of singing, a sermon and prayer. After the meal, volunteers pack up the extra food into takeout containers and distribute it in the community.

Loretta Adams is one of the community guests that became acquainted with Redemption Chapel through

the breakfast. Adams says she enjoyed the atmosphere of love, sharing and learning about God so much that she

Yanet Perla, a member of Redemption Chapel, makes pancakes during a community breakfast.



Liza Victoria Monroy spends time with Loretta Adams, one of the newest members of the Redemption Chapel family.

returned to other church events and Sabbath services.

Adopted by a family in Redemption Chapel, Adams then attended a weeklong campaign with the aid of another church member who translated the Spanish sermon into English. During the last night of the campaign, Adams shared her testimony of how she survived an abusive domestic relationship and that she decided to be baptized.

Now she attends all Sabbath services and helps encourage and uplift new guests at Redemption Chapel's community breakfast.

"I am so happy because I knew I needed something in my life," Adams says. "I am grateful for my new family and I'm most grateful to God."—Liza Victoria Monroy

Couples Retreat Helps Add Spark to Marriages

Forty couples recently gathered for a couples retreat themed "Put a Spark on Your Marriage" at the Hotel



Crown Plaza in Edison. Samuel Peguero, a pastor in the Greater New York Conference, presented several seminars planned to help attendees bring vivacity and happiness to their marriages.

"The participants not only enjoyed the seminars, but also the good food and a spirit of joy, fellowship and prayer," says Jorge Aguero, director of Family Ministries and event coordinator.

Newlyweds Anthony and Yayris Baffi attended the event. "It was a wonderful blessing during our first year of marriage, to be able to come to this couples retreat. It was an opportunity for growth and enrichment for my wife, Yayris, and I," Anthony shared.

Ohio Conference Sets Day of Prayer and Fasting

To begin the year anew, the Ohio Conference leadership invites all constituents, pastors, churches and schools to join together in a day of prayer, fasting and spiritual commitment January 9.

“As we enter into a new year, we would like to dedicate our lives to the Lord and His service,” says Oswaldo Magaña, Ohio Conference secretary and director of clergy care and leadership development.

Coming together for a prayer emphasis day enables members and leaders to unite as one and to focus on the needs of local churches and the vision and future of Christ’s work in the conference, says Ron Halvorsen Jr., president. This is the time for larger churches to incorporate creative things in the church service for corporate prayer, he adds.

Halvorsen encourages members to place on their prayer lists Adventist education in Ohio, youth, outreach to communities and the equipping of Ohio’s lay members in local churches.

“We look forward to hearing and sharing stories of these answered prayers,” Halvorsen says.

Magaña encourages churches in area districts to “come together for a special district program” for the day. Find more information at ohioadventist.org.



Hispanic Church Growth Continues in Ohio

Hispanic churches in the Cleveland area and throughout the Ohio Conference continue to grow and thrive.

At the recent Hispanic camp meeting held at the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville, Roberto Rivera, pastor of the Columbus area Hispanic churches, reported that the First Hispanic church of Columbus alone has grown more than 7 percent this year. Church plants in Columbus West and Dublin also continue to thrive.

For a period of time, the Springfield Spanish church in Springfield had remained static, until Rivera and his wife, Ana, encouraged members to hold frequent potlucks.

“Potlucks are a way to bond,” says Ana of the reason for increased attendance. “People [now] feel welcome at church.”

Several central Ohio church members own their own companies and want to witness to their employees. Not wanting their employees to work on Sabbath, they invite them to church as an alternative to work.

Like their brethren in the Cleveland area, lay members in Columbus credit involvement and personal interaction as the key to growing churches.

The Hispanic community in the Columbus area is close knit and regularly plans layperson-led Bible studies. Members also personally invite friends to special church events.

Rivera coordinates regular evangelistic programs each year for his churches. He is also planning a big meeting in downtown Columbus next year with well-known speakers and a concert featuring Kelly Marchena and Philip Garibo. His plans include a possible fourth church plant, he adds.

Though there are several groups meeting, “we are one body, working as one for the Lord,” says Rivera.

PHOTO BY ROBERTO RIVERA



Church members and their invited guests attend the Hispanic District Men’s Retreat this summer.

Good Neighbor House Mourns Loss of Director

Jonathan Leach, executive director of Good Neighbor House (GNH) in Dayton, died October 30. “This is a true loss of a good friend,” says Tiffany Collie, director of operations and development. “His quiet strength, peaceful spirit and agreeable nature will be truly missed at Good Neighbor House.”

Founded in 1994, GNH is supported by eight Dayton area churches that collaborate to meet the needs of working poor in underserved Montgomery County. Services provided by GNH are designed to encompass the whole person—from medical, vision and dental needs to food, clothing, education, faith and wellness—resulting in Good Neighbor House empowering healthier communities.

During his 15-month tenure, Leach and his team were able to exponentially increase the number of people aided by GNH. Prior to his death, Leach noted, “Our food pantry alone has already experienced a 67 percent increase in the number of lives served compared to last year. . . . GNH is where the underinsured come for medical, dental, food and clothing. We will have served almost 10,000 more people this year than 2014.” Last October Leach himself estimated they were on the way to having served 30,000 people in 2015.

The January/February 2016 Kettering Adventist Healthcare *Visitor* newsletter will share more highlights of Leach’s contributions and leadership at GNH.

Learn more about GNH and their outreach at goodneighborhouse.org.



Adventist Health Ministries Serves Inmates

Earlier this fall, members of the Adventist Health Ministries team (right) from the Worthington church held a health fair for inmates at the Madison Correctional Institution in London.

Dan Thorward, Ohio Conference Health Ministries coordinator, and Marge Hay, Health Ministries leader at the Worthington church, led a group of 25 volunteers that checked inmates’ blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, lung strength, cardiovascular fitness and body mass index.

Over a four-hour period, the group screened 360



Yuliyen Filipov, pastor of the Worthington church, prays with an inmate.



inmates and recommended follow-up care for 18 inmates. Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s Kettering Medical Center in Kettering supplied all medical supplies, and Yuliyen Filipov, senior pastor of the Worthington church, and Robert McGhee, Family Life pastor at the Worthington church, offered spiritual guidance and prayers to participating inmates.

One inmate was touched by the care with which the group treated attendees. “Though prison staff work hard to treat conditions and emergencies, it’s not often we receive a general health evaluation,” wrote one inmate. “Not only did your group help to bring peace of mind, they also allowed the brightness of God’s glory to shine through their actions. It is wonderful to be reminded that there are people out there that care about the body and souls of the men here.”

Pennsylvania Pen

DECEMBER 2015

Delegates Re-Elect Conference Administrators

Delegates to the 15th Triennial Session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists voted to re-elect Ray Hartwell, conference president; Will Peterson, executive secretary; and Ron Christman, treasurer. They also voted to elect Jeff Bovee, vice president of education; Tim Bailey, director of leadership and spiritual growth; and Tamyra Horst, communication director, to serve for the next three years.

"We join together across Pennsylvania as church families in revealing Jesus and looking with joy for His second coming. It is a privilege to serve alongside Pennsylvania Adventist members in the mission of Jesus," states Hartwell.

Four churches were voted into the Pennsylvania Conference: Shalom Hispanic in Reading, Frazer Hispanic in Exton, the Pilgrim church in Philadelphia and the REACH church in Philadelphia. Hartwell prayed with delegates from each church as they were officially welcomed into the constituency.

During the meeting, Blue Mountain Academy, Adventist Health Ministries, Laurel Lake Camp and Retreat Center, and Mission to the Many leaders



Ray Hartwell, president, speaks during the 15th Triennial Session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

presented reports to the delegates. Christman also presented financial reports for the conference, Blue Mountain Academy and WholeHealth.

Watch a video report shown at the meeting that highlights the focus and ministries of the conference: vimeo.com/paconference.

BMA Students Savor "New" Apple Orchard

Staff at Blue Mountain Academy, nestled against the mountains where Johnny Appleseed once wandered, seek to move students away from the



Boris Huang, junior; Hanfei Xiong, freshman; Jinghui Li, senior; and David Morgan, principal, enjoy picking apples.

hustle of today's culture.

One aspect of this environment is BMA's Agriculture Department. More than 25 years ago, BMA staff planted an apple orchard but, neglected over time, the trees stopped producing fruit. Three years ago, staff pruned the orchard in hopes it would once again bear fruit.

This year the trees are producing a crop. Students have enjoyed handpicking apples, taking them to the cafeteria and learning to make applesauce with them, says David Morgan, principal.

"This simple way of introducing students to the Creator through agriculture provides students with something more simple and enriching than cell phones, video games and TV shows," Morgan says. "The satisfaction that comes from an honest day's work picking the apples, cleaning, cutting, boiling, then mashing them is clear to see as they take a bowl of their hard work and savor the taste of the applesauce. Johnny Appleseed would approve!"

Philadelphia Churches Team up for NEWSTART

More than 70 people attended this year's NEWSTART program in Philadelphia sponsored by the Pennsylvania Conference's Pennsylvania Korean church and the Allegheny East Conference's Philadelphia Korean church.

The NEWSTART Lifestyle Program is a health recovery program designed to prevent and reverse disease through natural methods. NEWSTART is an acronym that stands for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in a Divine Power.

Pastor Il Kwon Yang, a Korean health seminar speaker, began this year's program by leading participants through a detox program he developed. More than 20 volunteers, including community friends, helped behind the scenes with the NEWSTART program—preparing and serving food, welcoming people and assisting in other ways throughout the week.

Many attendees reported significant weight loss. Others said they no longer needed to take medicine for diabetes or high blood pressure because the lifestyle changes they made by following the program. At the close of the program, many attendees joined church



members for Sabbath worship and to eat a vegetarian meal prepared by volunteers. Participants also formed a 2015 NEWSTART Club that meets Sabbath at the Pennsylvania Korean church.

"We hope to continue to build relationships with people and eventually invite them to join in Bible studies," says Sanghae Kim, associate pastor of the Pennsylvania Korean church.

The Pennsylvania Conference Family Ministries Department invites couples to attend

A Night at the Carnival

with speakers
Roger and Kathy Hernandez

Marriage Retreat
February 26-28, 2016
Sheraton Hotel
Harrisburg Hershey

For more info or to register online,
go to paconference.org

Potomac People

DECEMBER 2015

Capital Spanish Church Focuses on Evangelism

The Capital Spanish church in Washington, D.C., recently ended a one-year focus on evangelism. Elvo Soto, pastor, says the goal of the initiative was to involve members in ministries they felt passionate about.

"The community had been reached out to in the past by our Pathfinder club and we wanted to connect with those contacts, [both] children and adults," Soto says.

With the goal to bring 20 new people to Christ and develop a discipleship program to confirm new members into the faith, members developed groups focused on meeting church and community needs.

Some of the group activities included fellowship and Sabbath breakfasts, small group meetings every week in different homes, and programs for youth created by Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, including food collection for the poor.

Capital Spanish church leaders organized training for every department to maximize their work, and planned three evangelism series, including a Pathfinder-led series focused on salvation with the objective of bringing local parents and Pathfinders to church. Following these evangelism series, 19 people were baptized.



Guest speaker Pastor Rafael Soto calls people forward to accept the call to baptism during a week of evangelism at the Capital Spanish church.

A church spiritual retreat at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., ended the year of evangelism emphasis. More than 155 people attended, including more than 50 new attendees the meetings had brought in. Attendees celebrated a time of spiritual renewal with their newly expanded church family.

Longtime Church Employee “Retires”

“Is retirement really a thing?” jokes Sharon Cress, who recently retired after 41 years in ministry, including nearly five years in the Potomac Conference as an associate for pastoral ministries. While Cress is officially off the books as an employee, she says her duty to do the work of the Lord will never end.



Sharon Cress stops along Pilgrims' Trail in Switzerland.

“I, like everyone, am called to make a difference, and that work will never be done,” Cress says.

Cress plans to continue working with women in ministry, which has always been one of her passions. She also plans to volunteer more of her time visiting seniors in retirement homes, and says she will likely take on other projects.

Cress is also checking off items on her personal bucket list. Recently she completed her goal of visiting all 50 states in America and will be traveling to Antarctica for the 100th anniversary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's imperial trans-Antarctic expedition, as well as hiking across the Pyrenees Mountains.

“I'm excited to see what new things lie ahead for me and what new avenues of ministry await,” says Cress. “It has been a privilege to work with the most incredible group of people on Earth—our pastors and their families. For me, there is nothing more energizing than being surrounded by people who have the same passion in making the world a better place through Jesus Christ.”

Potomac People

SASDAC Bridges Religious Gaps in Virginia

Mandeep Kaur grew up in a staunch Sikh (Punjabi) family. As a child, her parents regularly took her to the Sikh place of worship known as a Gurdwara, a place for spiritual learning and religious ceremonies. Kaur says she learned about Christianity from her time in nursing school and through the outreach ministry of the Herndon (Va.) church in Virginia, a plant of the Southern Asian church (SASDAC) in Silver Spring, Md.

“Over 100 years ago, missionaries from North America came to the shores of Southern Asia to win our forefathers to the advent movement,” says Franklin David, senior pastor of SASDAC. “Many of them lost their children and spouses to epidemics. Tombs stand as a memorial of their commitment. They brought truth. Now people from that region and of those native religions are moving into North America, and we hope to bring them into the light, right here in North America.”

As part of their outreach ministry, Bible worker Cornelius Kamei and his wife, Pretti, visited the area where Kaur lives to distribute literature and invite people to church events. “Many weren’t interested, but Kaur answered the door and asked if we were Christians,” recalls Kamei.

The couple answered Kaur’s questions and prayed with her as she shared some of her troubles. “We earnestly pleaded with God for a miracle,” says Kamei.



N.V. Wickramasinghe, Mandeep Kaur and Anil Singh prepare for baptism.



Pastor Franklin David baptizes Mandeep Kaur.

“The Lord answered. This is one of the experiences that strengthened Mandeep’s faith.”

With a husband who is a devoted Sikh and co-workers encouraging her to embrace Islam, Kaur faced spiritual challenges at home and work, but she stood her ground. Diligently reading her Bible, she began falling more in love with Jesus.

“We prayed that her husband, in-laws and co-workers would not interfere with her personal decision,” says Kamei. “To our joy, the Lord granted our petition and Kaur decided to be baptized.”

Kaur was baptized along with two new friends, N.V. Wickramasinghe and Anil Singh. Six others devoted their lives shortly after.

David and the Herndon and SASDAC associate pastors and members continue reaching out to this demographic.

“Personal invitation and friendship is by far the most effective way to bring someone to Christ,” says David. “Those of different faith, but of the same culture and country of origin, find it more comfortable in attending the meetings. Many accept Jesus Christ as one of the saviors, but to accept Him as the only One who can save is a difficult proposition for them to accept. With God’s help, we continue to work to answer their questions, be their friends and pray that they accept Jesus.”

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2015

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Alumni Relaunch Cross-Country Program

Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) cross-country team members relished the opportunity to train and test themselves against the competition; however, they learned far more than how to best their times under the direction of volunteer coaches Dale Pickett ('06) and Tim LaPierre ('92), Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary (SVAE) principal.

Pickett and LaPierre re-established the cross-generational, cross-country team this semester. The committed Christian mentors enjoyed coaching the eager students and found them to be "persevering, supportive of their teammates and possessing a strong desire to be a part of something greater than themselves," says Pickett.

LaPierre agrees, "Coaching this fine group of young Christian athletes is an honor. They demonstrate positive attitudes, dedication, discipline and Christ-like love for each other and competitors. I see God's love when they wrap their arms around one another and pray before each race!"

Team member Madeleine L. Ware ('17) says there was a real sense of camaraderie and teamwork in the group. "If someone struggled, the whole team encouraged them to not give up and cheered them on. We are a small team, but in competition Shenandoah always had the most school spirit."

The season culminated with the team competing in the Second Annual Run for Rescue 5k/10k, an event that supports the New Market (Va.) Fire and Rescue Department. Shenandoah Valley Academy, SVAE and the New Market church sponsor and organize the community outreach event. In two years the event



Cross-country teammates Madeleine L. Ware ('17), Haneul Lee ('16), Brenda Ngetich ('17) and Linsey Smith ('18), demonstrate Christ-like love in character and attitude, say coaches.

has raised \$6,900 for the fire and rescue squad.

Dale Twomley, SVA principal and race organizing committee member, explains his philosophy behind the cross-country team and race: "Tim and Dale's mentorship as alumni role models and Christian leaders, as well as the character demonstrated by our athletes, exemplifies the true success of the cross-country season. The efforts of campus leaders, church members, academy and elementary students over the last several years in working toward the goal of all three campus entities engaging in multigenerational ministry outreach on all levels is coming to fruition and permeates campus culture."

Twomley adds, "Individuals of every age work together to plan and support the race, as well as many other community bridge events to which we invite our neighbors. These efforts are acts of love and deeds of faith given freely to reach others for Jesus. We are compelled by the love of Christ to work and build relationships with each other and our neighbors, so all will come to know Jesus as friend and Savior. This is the measure of true success for our campus."

Coaches Tim LaPierre and Dale Pickett flank the cross-country team after the Run for Rescue 5k/10k.



Freshman Becomes Love & Barks CEO

While growing up, Takoma Academy freshman Miya Jeon-Marshall was surrounded by business owners and entrepreneurs because her parents and grandparents have their own businesses. Being an animal lover, she noticed there was a void in the market for homemade organic treats and unique clothing for dogs. Combining her love for dogs, especially the Marshall family's two yorkies, along with her passion for fashion and baking, Jeon-Marshall launched Love & Barks in 2015.

After many hours of research, Jeon-Marshall developed a business plan and sought investors to purchase the materials she needed to launch her company.

Love & Barks offers branded organic dog treats in different flavors. Each dog treat provides different health benefits, Jeon-Marshall says. Some of her signature flavors include Peanut Butter & Pupkin, Pupkin Pie, Pupperoni Pizza and Apple Crunch Pupcakes. Love & Barks also creates handmade couture clothing for dogs and offers dog-walking services.

She also serves clients in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and plans to launch an online store in the first quarter of 2016.



Miya Jeon-Marshall displays some of her organic dog treat creations.



Jeon-Marshall's parents believe that attending Takoma Academy helped her tap into her unlimited potential. "I have seen Miya blossom into an independent, focused and driven young lady," says Tony Marshall, her father. "I credit Takoma Academy for not only creating an environment where students can discover and embrace their talents and abilities, but also encouraging them to develop and use their God-given talents to glorify Him and benefit others."

Inspired by the Christian way of life and the importance of community service that Takoma Academy has instilled in her, Jeon-Marshall donates 5 percent of Love & Barks' sales to various charities.

"TA is filled with love, everlasting friendships and joyful teachers, and has helped me expand my knowledge, allowed me to find my voice and has been instrumental in discovering my passion. I would like to thank Takoma Academy's administration and teachers for helping me become the best version of me," Jeon-Marshall says.

While balancing her academics and athletics, Jeon-Marshall works to grow Love & Barks into an international brand and to raise \$1,000 for charity. Ultimately, she says she plans to open a Love & Barks boutique in Georgetown.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

DECEMBER 2015

Why We Exist

As I greet students at the door each morning, I'm struck with just what a miracle each is—each one with the breath breathed into Adam by God Himself. There is a part of each one of us that was created to last forever. That eternal part of each kid is the whole reason Spring Valley Academy exists.

What a huge responsibility we have, to nurture the seed of eternity that still lays in our fallen nature. A stated goal of Adventist education has long been “to restore in man the image of God” (*Education*, p. 16). Every time His image is restored in a young person through a relationship with Jesus, His kingdom comes to Earth as it is in heaven. A beam of light pierces the darkness. Something transcendent happens.

It is no small thing to put the name Christian on your school. That name commits us to educate students for more than the competitive market of earthly success. It calls us to develop a counter-intuitive character, put others first, love our enemies and pursue excellence in order to serve not vanquish. These are the qualities of the soul that will last forever. Their opposites will eventually consume themselves.

I'm praying, each day, that this will be a year when our students will see the matchless charms of Christ in us in ways that will be irresistible to them. I'm praying that they will hitch their own wagon to Jesus and eternity will come to life in their hearts.



Darren Wilkins
Principal

Seniors Participate in Annual Dedication Vespers

Twenty-six Spring Valley Academy (SVA) seniors recently assembled at the Centerville church in Dayton, Ohio, for the 15th annual senior dedication vespers. The evening commenced with the introduction of the seniors by class sponsors, Vicki Briley and Erin Galloway. Kate Baldwin, vice principal, then welcomed the audience.

Organizers designed the vespers as a spiritual consecration of SVA seniors. Family and faculty prayed for the students as they embark on their future endeavors. Donald Huff, band director, performed a trombone solo of “Be Thou My Vision.” Chaplain Brooke Wong then delivered an inspirational message.

Cristy Doria, choir director, also performed a vocal solo of the song “I Need You, Lord” as a prelude to the prayers of dedication led by Jacqueline Maurosa, parent and SVA Spanish teacher, and Cory Rowe, parent.

“It was so moving to see the students surrounded by their parents and faculty in prayer,” says Baldwin. “What a testimony to the spiritual focus we strive to achieve, inspiring students to know, follow and share Jesus!”

Ernie Stevens, guidance counselor and senior Bible teacher, challenged the students to be mindful of

God's love in all their future endeavors and presented each senior with a personalized Bible commemorating this occasion.



Parents surround the Class of 2016 for a prayer of dedication.

CONNECTIONS

Little SVA Program Kicks Off

This school year, Spring Valley Academy leaders launched the Little SVA (Stallion Village Adventure) program for potty-trained children aged 3-5.

Students meet every Wednesday and Friday from 8-11 a.m. under the guidance of Stephanie Oberer, affectionately known as “Mrs. O.” Activities include worship, crafts, games, centers, lessons, play and outdoor adventures.

“My daughter enjoyed Little SVA so much that we decided to enroll her in the E5 program,” shares parent Mindy Harvey. Early 5 (E5) is a kindergarten program for students that are 4 years old by the first day of school.

“Our desire is that community and constituent parents have the opportunity for their children to enjoy our early childhood education programs,” says Kate Baldwin, SVA vice principal.

For more information about the Little SVA program, email Karin Peebles, director of the Little SVA program



Stephanee Oberer spends time with the Little SVA students.

and E5 kindergarten teacher, at kapeebles@springvalleyacademy.org.

Alumna Writes 2016 Teen Devotional



Olivia (Nieb) Gold ('08) says she recalled the words of Kerrie Schnell, her Spring Valley Academy teacher, “Every object has a lesson to teach us about God’s love,” when Gold was crafting classroom devotionals as a new English teacher in 2012.

Inspired by the notion that even the most random objects can point to the design of our Creator, Gold charged her students to submit random objects that she would use in daily worship talks. She then found a corresponding Bible verse and tied the object back to God. The students loved the idea, she says. Their enthusiasm and encouragement inspired to turn her devotionals into *That Was Random*, the 2016 teen devotional published by the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

Gold graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) in 2012 and taught English at Pine Tree Academy (Maine) and Tampa Adventist Academy (Fla.). She credits the creation of the book to both her Adventist education and her experience working as an Adventist educator.

“Without Mrs. Schnell’s random-object worship point in my SVA English class, I never would have considered this theme for a book,” Gold says. “If I hadn’t taught in an Adventist academy, I never would have had the opportunity to give worship talks each day, and my students certainly would not have thought to suggest I write a devotional. Without Adventist teachers, I may never have learned to use writing as a means of conveying my passion for the Lord.”

The Value of a WAU Education

Some things cannot be measured in dollars and cents. For example, there is no way to put a price tag on a young person's heart and mind, or to calculate the worth of a person who is doing the will of God from the heart. Washington Adventist University (WAU) students are experiencing the value of Christian education and the incredible difference this investment makes in their lives.

From orientation, where students and parents are introduced through Commencement ceremonies, and where we celebrate the academic achievement of our students and all that lies in between those two events, we work at integrating the Christian understanding of life into every academic discipline, into every class, into every residence hall, into every mission trip—indeed, into every mind.

All of our faculty members are committed Christians and experts in their field of study. We have education faculty who have been teachers and principals, business faculty who have worked in large and small organizations, and English faculty who are published writers. We have Bible faculty who have been pastors and history faculty who have and are writing about important elements of history. But, most importantly, we are integrating the life and teachings of Jesus in all aspects of the educational process.



Weymouth Spence
President

NEWS

University Moves Up in Rankings

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is ranked fifth in best ethnic diversity among regional colleges of the north in the 2016 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges edition. WAU also ranked 43rd among regional colleges of the north, moving up from the 46th position.

“Our improved position in the best colleges ranking confirms that our ongoing efforts to develop a culture of excellence on this campus are working,” says Weymouth Spence, WAU president.

Psychology Students Get Affordable Path to PhD

A new partnership agreement forged between WAU and Argosy University (Va.) will provide psychology students with an affordable path to earning their doctorate degree. The agreement includes discounted tuition at Argosy for students who earn their master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at WAU.

David Erikson, Argosy University president, and Simone Lambert, Argosy Counseling department chair, initiated the partnership when they noticed that WAU graduates who had entered their psychology doctoral programs demonstrated a high level of knowledge and skills in their field.

As a result, WAU graduates who earned a 60-hour clinical mental health counseling master's degree are encouraged to consider seeking admission at an

Argosy University doctoral psychology program.

“We are extremely pleased with this partnership as it provides external validation that our professors and adjuncts are providing exceptional educational instruction,” says Grant Leitma, chair of WAU's department of psychology.



Grant Leitma (left) and Grethel Bradford (center) from WAU's Department of Psychology, mark a new partnership with Argosy University that will allow psychology students an opportunity to earn their doctorate degree.

Students Inspired by Baltimore Community Service

Around 300 WAU students and employees took to the streets, grounds and kitchens of community centers, schools and other service organizations in Baltimore for their annual community service day held in September. Usually the university hosts service day at places near campus in Takoma Park, Md., but this year, Baltimore was their focus.

WAU leaders coordinated with the mayor of Baltimore to work on projects relevant to the city.

“We believe that we must be connected to the community in providing service here,” says Weymouth Spence, WAU president. “The university wants to be of benefit to the city of Baltimore and various projects that the mayor of Baltimore identified.”

While serving, students say they found themselves changed by the experience.

One was Latoria Gordon, who helped perform yard



WAU students Caroline Lamonge, Naomy Rodrigues and Emelia Nyarko are ready to go to work serving Baltimore.



WAU students Deonta Taylor and Tania Guevara pull weeds in a Baltimore community.



WAU students Latoria Gordon and Andre Berg place mulch around trees and other landscaping at the Lakeland Elementary-Middle School in Baltimore.

work and laid mulch on newly planted trees at the Lakeland Elementary-Middle School.

“As a Baltimore native, I feel as though this project was very helpful because I can remember having a total lack of motivation to learn while attending Baltimore City Public Schools, simply based on how dirty and unkempt the surroundings were [inside and out],” Gordon says. “I feel happy to know that now, as the children walk upon the school’s premises, and as they play on the playground, it will actually look like a place where they want to be and a place that welcomes their presence.”

Other students and staff were also inspired by the opportunity to serve in Baltimore. “Jesus said that to be the greatest is to serve, and what better way to serve than coming here to Baltimore and helping our fellow neighbors that really need help right now?” says Joseph Khabbaz, pastor for youth and young adults at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

The service opportunity also made students more aware of the needs in the local community. “Most of the times, we have an idea that there’s a need outside of the country and in Third World situations, but this definitely gives perspective on our local need and how much people in our community do need our help,” says Avery Huggins, WAU Student Association president.

Correction: In the November issue, we printed that Emilie Flores is from Hyattsville, Md. She is from Burtonsville.

PHOTO BY ROSS PATTERSON



Profiles in Caring

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

WATCH US ON YOUTUBE

VISIT OUR BLOG ON WORDPRESS



Going Up

Like most adults, I have mastered getting on and off the elevator: First you walk up to the elevator doors and push the button. When the door opens, you step inside all the way or the door will keep re-opening. Then you push the button for the floor you want. (It is not polite to push additional buttons – even if you are only four years old and desperately want to do so.) It is customary to stand facing the front, but some people look around or face the back as a joke. When the door opens, you can acknowledge the other passengers by nodding pleasantly or saying thanks. Skip this step if you are by yourself. Walk out of the elevator, and off you go!

It's not just the elevator that I've mastered – there are dozens of things that I can do routinely, without even thinking about them. I don't have to create the skills from scratch each time I need them.

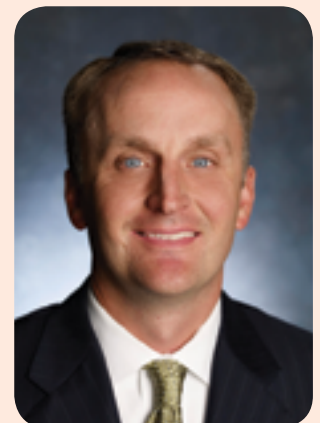
But what happens when life breaks the routine? When the elevator is out of order or stops between floors? (Or a four-year-old gets on and does push ALL the buttons?) How do I respond to that? That's when it gets tricky.

It turns out that life is not just collecting a lot of routines; it is actually more about how to respond when the routines don't really cover the situation. The elevator is a rather silly example, but every single day we are faced with decisions that call on us to use our brains, to figure out what to do, to be more than a collection of the tried and true.

In healthcare we can never simplify things down to just a collection of protocols or policies or processes. Sure, we need all of that – couldn't do our jobs without it. We follow the directions on the label. We abide by the rules. But we keep our eyes open (and our hearts, I might add) for the moment when the script isn't already written and the path isn't well defined. How we respond to those moments – and we have many of them every day – is what really determines the effectiveness of our care.

Just as I learned how to use the elevator, I have learned that when I respond to the daily challenges of life with hope and optimism, I get better results than when I respond with anxiety and pessimism. Hope transforms challenging situations – especially the ones that go beyond our immediate understanding. The things we do can make a real difference. If we have faith and confidence in that fact, we will enable different results than if we just go through the motions without caring about the impact of our actions. And love – even the smallest smidgen of love – recasts challenges as opportunities. As Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

So the next time you push the button on the elevator, think about it. And rejoice in the non-routine opportunities we are given to make a difference in people's lives every single day.



Terry Forde

President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital Introduces More Advances In Cardiac Care

When facing troubling heart conditions, people across the Washington, D.C. region have trusted Adventist HealthCare's skilled physicians, nurses and cardiac care teams for more than 50 years. By offering quality care with the most advanced and least invasive procedures that consistently achieves top honors, Adventist HealthCare's cardiac experts continue to lead the way in making innovative heart care available close to home.

Heart Surgery: Rising Above the Rest

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital has been a pioneer in the field of cardiac care since performing its first heart surgery in 1962, and achieving the region's first open heart surgery less than a decade later. Today, the hospital ranks among the top 10 percent of heart centers nationwide, with the highest quality rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for coronary artery bypass graft surgery and aortic valve replacement surgery. The society's top three-star rating certifies that Adventist HealthCare offers optimal surgical techniques and that our patients experience fewer complications and better survival rates than in most hospitals across the nation.

A Leader in Transradial Heart Catheterization

One of the most advanced interventional cardiology procedures available through Adventist HealthCare is the transradial approach, which uses an artery in the wrist instead of the groin to gain access to heart arteries during cardiac catheterization. With this minimally invasive technique, patients benefit from reduced pain and a lower risk of bleeding. Additionally, they are mobile very soon after the procedure.

Recently, Washington Adventist Hospital became the first in the Washington, D.C. metro area to open a state-of-the-art Radial Recovery Lounge, which provides transradial patients with a more homelike setting for their short recovery. Specialized lounge chairs allow patients to rest comfortably in the proper upright position after the procedure.

High-Tech Methods to Manage Heart Disease

To ensure our most critically ill patients receive the continued support they need after leaving the hospital, Washington Adventist Hospital offers telehealth, a combination of services to enable remote home health monitoring, for those suffering from congestive heart failure and other chronic conditions. Patients are given a scale, a blood pressure cuff and a glucometer for measurements at home, allowing the care team to evaluate vital signs and symptoms remotely in real time to quickly detect and respond to health issues.



Top: Nurse Sadhana Jaladhi is one of the expert staff members at Washington Adventist Hospital who provides specialized care in the new Radial Recovery Lounge. Bottom: Patients are able to recover from procedures comfortably on specialized equipment in private areas that allow for family or other caregivers to remain at their side.

For more information about
our programs of care, please visit
www.TrustedHeartCare.com.

Adventist HealthCare Honored for Service to Community

The Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church (SASDAC) in Silver Spring, a community of more than 900 members, held a Sabbath celebration in appreciation of Adventist HealthCare's service to the community. This event marked the first "Adventist HealthCare Day" held by the church and brought together Adventist HealthCare staff, leaders, chaplains together with the Southern Asian church family to join in a special service that was broadcast live to a host of online worshippers.

The celebration began on Friday, Sept. 25, with an interactive worship service led by **John Sackett**, president of Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center and chief operating officer of Adventist HealthCare.

Continuing on the Sabbath morning of Sept. 26, **Terry Forde**, Adventist HealthCare president and CEO, led a sermon on the "Healing Ministry" and its vital role in fulfilling God's work. He spoke about how Adventist HealthCare is advancing the work started more than 100 years ago by Ellen White, a leader in ensuring great medical care who had a focus on prevention and wellness.

Terry stressed that providing quality health care is just part of what the organization does. "At its best, healthcare is mission-focused love in action," Terry told the congregation. "Our mission is, 'we demonstrate God's care by improving the health of people and



Terry Forde along with his wife, Marijane, and members of the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church during "Adventist HealthCare Day."

communities through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.' It is our purpose. It gets me up in the morning."

Hospital leaders and staff further contributed to the celebration in meaningful ways. Terry's talk was followed by an intercessory prayer by **Erik Wangsness**, Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital president. **Robert Jepson**, vice president of Business Development, gave a sermon on Stewardship, and **Yuesha "Shasha" Chen**, vice president and chief financial officer, led a children's story. SASDAC members **Anju Lall** of Washington Adventist Hospital and **Samson Khandagle** of Shady Grove Medical Center participated in a scripture reading and benediction.

In addition, **Kathleen Coleman** and **Nadine Monforte** from the Adventist HealthCare Center for Health Equity & Wellness, joined Adventist HealthCare's pastoral care team to offer valuable information about our hospitals and pastoral care programs to church members.



Left: Washington Adventist Hospital Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Shasha Chen reads a children's story to gathered families.



Right: Washington Adventist Hospital President Erik Wangsness leads an intercessory prayer and shares plans for the future of the hospital.

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital presenta más avances en la atención cardíaca

Las personas de nuestra región, cuando han padecido afecciones cardíacas preocupantes, han confiado en los hábiles médicos, enfermeros y equipos de atención cardíaca de Adventist HealthCare durante más de 50 años. Desde traer los procedimientos más avanzados y menos invasivos hasta ofrecer una atención de calidad que consistentemente alcanza los más altos honores, los expertos cardíacos de Adventist HealthCare continúan liderando el camino para poner la atención cardíaca innovadora a su disposición cerca de su casa.

Cirugía de corazón: Nos destacamos por encima de los demás

Washington Adventist Hospital de Adventist HealthCare ha sido pionero en el campo desde que llevó a cabo su primera cirugía de corazón en 1962, y la primera cirugía a corazón abierto en la región de Washington, D.C. menos de una década después. Hoy en día, el hospital se encuentra entre el 10 por ciento superior de los centros de corazón a nivel nacional, con la calificación de calidad más alta otorgada por la Sociedad de Cirujanos Torácicos por cirugía de injerto de derivación de la arteria coronaria y cirugía de reemplazo de válvula aórtica. La calificación de tres estrellas de la sociedad, demuestra que los pacientes experimentan menos complicaciones, mejores índices de supervivencia y técnicas quirúrgicas óptimas.

Líder en cateterismo cardíaco transradial

Uno de los procedimientos de cardiología intervencionista más avanzados disponibles a través de Adventist HealthCare es la vía radial, que utiliza una arteria de la muñeca en lugar de la ingle para acceder a las arterias del corazón durante el cateterismo cardíaco. Con esta técnica mínimamente invasiva, los pacientes se benefician de menos dolor y de una reducción del riesgo de sangrado, y pueden recuperar la movilidad muy pronto después del procedimiento.

Recientemente, el Washington Adventist Hospital se convirtió en el primero en el área metropolitana de Washington, D.C., en abrir una sala de recuperación radial de última tecnología, proporcionando a los pacientes intervenidos por vía transradial un ambiente más acogedor para su corta recuperación. Unos sillones especializados permiten que los pacientes descansen en posición vertical y cómodamente después del procedimiento.

Métodos de alta tecnología para tratar las enfermedades del corazón

Para asegurar que nuestros pacientes con enfermedades más críticas reciban el apoyo continuo que necesitan después de salir del hospital, el Washington Adventist Hospital ofrece telehealth, un programa de supervisión remota en el hogar, para quienes padecen de insuficiencia cardíaca congestiva y otras enfermedades crónicas. Una balanza, un brazalete para la presión arterial y un glucómetro se colocan en el domicilio del paciente, permitiendo que el equipo de atención evalúe los signos vitales y síntomas de forma remota y en tiempo real para detectar y responder a los problemas de salud rápidamente.



En Washington Adventist Hospital de Adventist HealthCare, los pacientes que se someten a cateterismo cardíaco transradial pueden recuperarse en la comodidad de una sala especializada.

Para más información sobre los servicios de Adventist HealthCare, visite www.TrustedHeartCare.com

Para más información sobre los servicios de Adventist HealthCare, visite www.AdventistHealthCare.com

Your Degree is Waiting for You



Call Us Today 410-884-9319

Launch an exciting new career in **NATURAL HEALING**
The only Online accredited school that showcases and emphasizes the
Adventist Health Message

Degree Programs:

Bachelor of Science in Original Medicine
Master of Science in Original Medicine
Doctor of Naturopathy in Original Medicine

Certificate Programs:

Certified Medical Missionary
Certified Herbalist in Original Medicine
Certified Nutritional Counselor

In Business Since
1994



An Online Natural Health College
A Christian Natural Health Institute of Higher Education



American Naturopathic Medical Accreditation Board

www.iiomonline.com

Call Us Today 410-884-9319

Educating students to make service a life calling and to view health as harmony with God in body, mind, and spirit.



KC.EDU



21 Adventist Channels
Plus more than 60 other FREE Christian Channels
and 4 News Channels on Adventist Satellite Dish

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters

High Definition and DVR

Connect to any TV • Record your favorite shows*
*optional USB memory required for recording



Please ask us about **INTERNET options:**

SafeTV Television
Positive Life Radio,
Walla Walla

Complete satellite system only \$199
Plus shipping

No Monthly Fees
No Subscriptions
Includes 36in Dish
FREE Install Kit



Two Room System \$299
Plus shipping

866-552-6882 toll free www.adventistsat.com



Annual Christmas Concert
Presented by the Department of Music
Conducted by James Bingham and Preston Hawes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 at 7:30 PM
at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
located on the university's campus

The evening will feature performances by the university's orchestra and chorale.

The concert is free and will also be live streamed on sligochurch.org/media

Bulletin Board

VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES

Advertising ■ The *Visitor* does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised and does not accept responsibility for typographical or categorical errors. For advertising guidelines and rates: columbiaunionvisitor.com/advertising

Ad Submissions: sjones@columbiaunion.net

Obituary Submission ■ Obituaries are posted free of charge for members of the Columbia Union. To submit an obituary: columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary

Subscriptions ■ Nonmembers of the Columbia Union may subscribe to the *Visitor* for a fee. For more information: columbiaunionvisitor.com/subscription

Contact Us

Columbia Union *Visitor*
5427 Twin Knolls Rd
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 997-3414
visitor@columbiaunion.net

EMPLOYMENT

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks candidates for chair, Department of Health, Wellness and Physical Education. The chair leads and creates a visionary program plan and conducts classroom instruction, which affirms the Adventist ministry of teaching, and incorporates insights from the Adventist Blue Zone advantage. Requires: Doctorate with curriculum awareness in one of the following: physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise, health education or exercise science; minimum three-five years of experience teaching physical education, health, wellness and related fields (kinesiology, exercise physiology, sports management or related disciplines); and at least two years of academic supervisory experience. Visit wau.edu/careers to view position and to apply.

WGTS 91.9 seeks mission-minded candidates for position of chaplain. WGTS 91.9 is a listener-supported FCC licensed, noncommercial radio station. The chaplain will manage all aspects of the chaplain's department, ensure the spiritual care and well-being of the WGTS 91.9 team, and oversee the spiritual direction and tone of the ministry. Master's degree or equivalent experience in related field; five or more years of experience in a ministry, pastoral or chaplain position in the Seventh-day Adventist Church; chaplain certification preferred; strong counseling skills; and at least two years of counseling experience. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist in good and regular standing. Visit wau.edu/careers to view position and to apply.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

seeks manager for college market. Candidate should possess a degree/experience in business/management or related field. Knowledge and experience in merchandising, logistics and financials. For information, visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is a great place to work! Vacancies in hourly positions include human resources officer, office manager, cashier, preschool teacher, flight instructor, recycling and driver. For information, visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

BLACK HILLS HEALTH AND EDUCATION CENTER, Staffing needs: Vegan food service supervisor and women's massage therapist. School starts soon: plan now to attend the six-month school of massage program, beginning February 2016. Visit BHHEC.org or call (605) 255-4101, for more information.

PLANT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), New Market, Va., is seeking a person to be the director of Plant Services. This person will be responsible for the maintenance of campus facilities, grounds and an active transportation department. The director must have strengths in organization and project management, and enjoy being around teenagers. The successful candidate will have a trade-knowledge of HVAC, electrical, mechanics, plumbing and vehicle repairs. SVA uses local contractors to assist Plant Services personnel when necessary. Standard denominational salary and benefits are available. Please send your résumé to principal Dale Twomley, dale.twomley@sva-va.com.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks dean for School of Business. This individual is responsible for the operation of the Andrews University School of Business Administration and will report to the provost. The candidate must be dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and service, and is expected to cultivate strong alumni and external relationships to support and grow the School of Business Administration. Candidate must have a terminal qualification in business or educational administration and have administrative/mid-management experience in higher education or in a business setting. The candidate should also have experience in teaching/scholarship, as well as some knowledge of accreditation processes. For more information and to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/900.

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist master's-prepared PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date is June 1, 2016. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

EARLITEEN AND YOUTH: ELLIOTDYLAN.COM for the *Undercover Angels* book series for Christian teens that builds on biblical principles and reinforces integrity. Great for Sabbath reading, church schools, home schools and gifts! Youth will enjoy these Christian novels filled with action, character-building lessons and Bible truths. Kindle and large print editions are available.

DOWNLOAD FREE SERMONS from AudioVerse.org! Access thousands of free Seventh-day Adventist sermons, audio Bibles, Spirit of Prophecy audiobooks, and messages from your favorite annual conferences. (ASI, GYC, etc.) Also available in other languages: Spanish, German, French and Chinese. Download the iOS and Android app today and listen to AudioVerse anywhere you'd like!

Ezekiel 4:9 Bread

The pinnacle of nutrition!

Arriving to a nearby Costco!
Item #901291

Ask for the famous
Food For Life
Sprouted Grain Bread

From the Holy Bible
with love from above!

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many others. Invest in your health and call (800) 634-9355, for more information, or visit wildwoodhealth.com.

VICTORIOUS LIVING LIFESTYLE 28-DAY PROGRAM

for individuals challenged with addiction issues: drugs, stress, alcohol, appetite, smoking and depression. Program dates are flexible. Cost: \$4,800. Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, Tenn. Register online, butlercreekhealth.org, or call (931) 213-1329.

NEW BOOK BY AGATHA

THRASH, MD, *Nature's Healing Practices, A Natural Remedies Encyclopedia*, published 2015, now available as beautifully bound paperback and hardback editions. This 545-page encyclopedia includes a large section on Conditions and Diseases, followed by Home Emergencies, Natural Remedies, Herbal Remedies and Dietary Information. Call Uchee Pines, (877) 824-3374, to order.

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE AGENT IN VIRGINIA

For Buyer and Seller

Call:
Sarah Kwon, Realtor
ABR, CIPS, CNE, e-PRO
United Real Estate, Reston, Va.
(703) 887-8469

Email:
dba.sarahkwon@gmail.com

BUYING? SELLING? RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN MARYLAND

Call:
The MdSmartBuy Team

Phyllis Newman
(301) 922-5166
and
Janice Valois
(301) 502-2103

Re/max Realty Center, Inc.
(301) 774-5900
(800) 586-4669

mdsmartbuy.com

Email:
phyllisnewman@realtor.com
janice@janicevalois.com

READY TO LEAVE THE CITY?

Small town, country living. Spacious, brick, 2,700-sq.-ft. home with 3BR, 2 glamour baths, custom chef's kitchen, 3,600-sq.-ft. guest annex, indoor pool, garage, organic gardens, fruit trees and berries. Four acres fenced. Four southwest Virginia Adventist churches nearby. \$459,000. Phone (276) 686-5695, or email scott@sclandscape.com, for details and photos.

ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT AT FLETCHER PARK INN

on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, N.C. Spacious villa homes and limited rental apartments available now. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet on the day of your no-obligation tour. Call Loretta for details: (800) 249-2882, and visit fletcherparkinn.com.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! DENTAL PRACTICE FOR SALE

in beautiful Mount Dora, Fla., land of hills and lakes in central Florida. Near two Florida hospitals, approximately 35 minutes to academy, Orlando and Disney. Established with a great reputation. Attractive 1,800-sq.-ft. facility, with 4 ops. We use PracticeWorks Software and digital X-rays. Above average income; 4-day week. Contact centralfloridadentist@gmail.com.

SERVICES

MARYLAND ADVENTIST

PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it is needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel: (301) 317-6800, Greenbelt: (301) 345-5200, or Columbia: (410) 531-6350.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID,

has practices located in Silver Spring, Ellicott City, and a new office at 9256 Bendix Rd., Ste. 202, Columbia, MD 21045. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-

WINNING AGENCY: Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

AUTHORS of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, call (800) 367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats and distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our new titles at your local ABC or TEACH-Services.com. Used Adventist books at LNFBooks.com.

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH

SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, (800) 274-0016, and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at HOPESOURCE deliver on time.

ADVENTISTSINGLES.ORG:

Free 14-day trial! Join thousands of active, Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles and match notifications! Two-way compatibility match, photos and confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat and forums. Since 1993. Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches. Top ranked.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FESTIVE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Featuring:
"Brother Heinrich's Christmas"
by John Rutter

Presented by the world-renowned New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University
Dr. Preston Hawes, Conductor
Dr. Deborah Thurlow, Conductor

At the
Frederick Adventist Church
6437 Jefferson Pike
Frederick MD 21703

**Saturday, Dec. 12,
4:30 p.m.**

For further details:
(301) 662-5254
ariseforgod.org/

Sunset Calendar

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25	Jan 1
Baltimore	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53
Cincinnati	5:15	5:15	5:17	5:20	5:25
Cleveland	4:57	4:57	4:58	5:02	5:07
Columbus	5:07	5:07	5:08	5:12	5:16
Jersey City	4:29	4:29	4:30	4:34	4:39
Norfolk	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:54	4:58
Parkersburg	5:03	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:13
Philadelphia	4:36	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:45
Pittsburgh	4:54	4:53	4:55	4:58	5:03
Reading	4:38	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:47
Richmond	4:52	4:52	4:53	4:57	5:01
Roanoke	5:02	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:12
Toledo	5:04	5:04	5:05	5:09	5:14
Trenton	4:33	4:33	4:35	4:38	4:43
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:46	4:48	4:51	4:56

LIBERTY
IMAGINE YOUR WORLD WITHOUT IT!
WWW.LIBERTYMAGAZINE.ORG

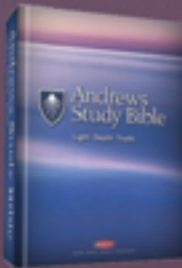
BEFORE THEY CALL

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING
JANUARY 23 2016



LivingWell
 12004 Cherry Hill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904
 301-572-0700 • LivingWellABC.com
 Find more information about our name change at: livingwellabc.org

The Andrews Study Bible
 Premium Leather



Sale Price \$79.99
 Regular Price \$119.99
 (No Coupon Necessary - through December)

The Andrews Study Bible is an innovative and practical presentation of the Scriptures. It is designed for both the new believer and the experienced Bible student.

We have a wide selection of other Bibles to choose from.

Inah Superior Grape Juice



Inah Superior offers an alternative to wine. It is made 100% from grapes: Merlot, Cabernet, Sauvignon and Shiraz. The thermoflash extraction means there is no sugar added, no alcohol and all the health benefits found in wine grapes. Try Inah Superior products this holiday season. Use the coupon below to save \$1 per bottle.

This coupon is good for \$10 off any in-stock Bible \$49.95 or more. Limit 3.



Expires 12-31-15
 LivingWell

Bulk Trailmix Party Trays
 Perfect for your holiday parties.



This coupon is good for \$1 off per bottle of Inah Superior grape juice.

Expires 12-31-15
 LivingWell



LivingWell is as easy as ABC

LEADING CHANGE AND TRANSFORMING CHURCH FOR EFFECTIVE MISSION



RESTORE
 A CONFERENCE ON MISSION
 WWW.FLORIDACONFERENCE.COM/RESTORE

JANUARY 10-13, 2016
 Camp Kulaqua, FL



A Conference for Church Leaders Supporting Transformation for Mission

72+
 Hours

20+
 Speakers

20+
 Breakout Sessions

1
 Unique Opportunity

Featured Speakers | See all speakers on our website.



David Kinnaman



Jonathan Dodson



Tara VinCross



Jesse L. Wilson



Dan Jackson



REGISTER / WATCH VIDEO

RESTORE THE VISION • RESTORE THE MISSION • RESTORE THE CHURCH



CHANGING
THE WORLD.

it
ALL
BEGINS
WITH
YOU



This holiday season, buy a gift that can change the world. It's easier than you think. With ADRA's *Change the World Kit*, you can provide water for an entire community, rescue a pre-teen from sex trafficking, and more. It's easy. And, it all begins with you.

Call **1.800.424.ADRA (2372)** to request
or visit **GiftCatalog.ADRA.org**.

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR
FREE
CHANGE
THE
WORLD **Kit**
1.800.424.ADRA (2372)



It's your story. Make it...



ACADEMIC
ARTISTIC
ATHLETIC
SOCIAL
SPIRITUAL



Looking for a high school where you can grow spiritually, soar academically, and connect socially? Well, look no further!

Takoma Academy offers you a rigorous character-based education designed to prepare you for success in this life and the life to come. Our demanding college preparatory curriculum is coupled with an array of stimulating athletic and fine arts pursuits. At TA you will learn in the classroom, sing in the chorale, hone your game, take the stage, meet your Savior, and serve the world.

Make your story C.P.I.C. at Takoma Academy!

Contact us or visit our website



8120 Carroll Avenue | Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
301.434.4700 ta.edu  [twitter](#)  [facebook](#)



So what are you waiting for? Isn't it time you discovered God's amazing dream for your life? Start Here!