

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MARCH 2016 • VOLUME 121 • ISSUE 2

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can your church
best minister
to refugee
neighbors?



BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS—TOGETHER

Why it takes a “village” for Adventist education to thrive

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Building Better Schools— Together

Daniel Granderson

Adventist education is only as successful as the collaborative efforts of each school's leaders, board members, parents and students—a true "village" of like-minded believers. How does this teamwork produce curriculums and create programming to guarantee our schools are on the cutting edge?

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ON THE WEB

HEAVENLY REFLECTIONS

Pearl T. Morgan-Bell, a member of Ohio Conference's Village church in Mason, penned *Reflections and Meditations: An Annual Devotional*, to help readers through the "ABCs of assurance," or as she puts it, build relationships with God like we learn our ABCs—bit by bit. Read our author interview at columbiaunionvisitor.com/reflections.



A CHRISTIAN NETFLIX?

Disappointed by the lack of quality, online streaming options for his family, Edward Veve, a member of Pennsylvania

Conference's Lansdale church, created Morningstar Video. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/morningstarvideo to learn how Veve now offers Sabbath-appropriate content through his Christian DVD and streaming service.

PLAN SABBATH SAFETY

Does your congregation know what to do if a shooter enters the church? Do young, Sabbath School students know what to do if someone attempts to abduct them? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/safetysabbath for information on how to prepare for these and other scenarios.



HELP PROVIDE REFUGE

ADRA, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's international humanitarian organization, released a position on the European refugee crisis and is assisting Syrian and other displaced people. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/ADRAhelps to read the statement and learn how Columbia Union members can help ADRA serve international refugees.

WANT MORE CALENDARS?

Need extra 2016 Columbia Union calendars, with photos illustrating ways our members share messages of love, ministries of grace and seeds of hope? For additional, free copies to share with family and friends, send requests to bweigley@columbiaunion.net (while supplies last).

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

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Volume 121 ■ Issue 2

Is Education “Golden” or Gone?

Not too long ago, I listened intently to a long-time supporter of Seventh-day Adventist education say to me, “Adventist education is not what it used to be. Its ‘golden age’ is behind us and will never return.”

His prognostication was difficult to refute. Measured by enrollment trends only, one cannot deny that Adventist education in the '50s and '60s was formidable. Accessibility, affordability, work-study programs, strong church demographics and other factors optimized Adventist education's growth and impact on the church as a whole in North America.

More than a half century later, however, Adventist education is challenged on many fronts. Some of the aforementioned factors are no longer assets to and of Adventist education. Instead, today they pose significant risks to the long-term viability of one of our church's most vital ministries. For example, escalating costs, particularly for secondary education in a boarding school setting, have had a profoundly negative impact on student accessibility, enrollment and funding to effectively maintain infrastructure, etc.

Add on intergenerational tensions over cultural and theological issues within the church; as well as social, economic, cultural and political realities that continue to tear and shape an ever-changing America, and one must wonder how Adventist education will survive—let alone thrive—in a new century.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Having had the privilege of serving in this ministry for more than 40 years, nearly 24 of which has been in the Columbia Union, I offer five “imperatives” that, I believe, must lead our education system now and into the future:

Adventist education must ...

- **always remain uniquely Adventist.** All aspects of this church ministry should rest upon and/or be filtered through the foundational philosophy and fundamental tenets of our faith. Our system must always have Christ and His Word at its very core—focused on teaching students of Christ's love, call to mission and soon return.
- **secure new and sustainable revenue flows.** We need to lessen the current, heavy dependence on parent-provided tuition dollars.
- **be flexible and adaptable.** We should be systemically prepared to take full advantage of available and/or emerging technologies to ensure highly effective, cost-efficient delivery of instruction at all levels.
- **uphold excellence as more than a mere descriptor; it's a perpetual hallmark!** Our education system must be led by decision-makers who won't “settle” for a product that is described as good or even very good. Excellence must be the critical thread woven into the system's curriculum, teacher preparation and professional development, school classroom environments, leadership and governance strategies.
- **continue to seek new and effective means to “tell its story;”** not only to its internal market, but also particularly to others who seek to provide a values-driven, academically rigorous and, above all, Christian education to their children.



Hamlet Canosa serves as vice president for education for the Columbia Union Conference.

Newsline

KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

FORMER GC PRESIDENT DIES

Robert Stanley Folkenberg, 74, former General Conference (GC) president, died December 24, 2015, surrounded by family at his home in Winter Haven, Fla. Family held a memorial service January 10 in Avon Park, Fla.

Folkenberg served in several capacities: as pastor, conference secretary and conference president. He was elected GC president during the 1990 GC Session. Upon retirement in 1999, he founded and developed the ShareHim ministry, which works to empower and mobilize laypersons to be active in a lifestyle of evangelism.



NEW WAH FACILITY APPROVED

The Maryland Health Care Commission granted formal approval for Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) to develop a replacement facility in the White Oak section of Montgomery County.

"This project means the region will have a thriving new hospital in White Oak while also having access to key population health services in Takoma Park," says Erik Wangsness, WAH president.

The new, 170-bed, acute care hospital and medical campus will sit on 48 acres and include all-private patient rooms, ample space for outpatient services and physician offices, and on-campus parking for staff, physicians, patients and visitors. Construction on the \$331 million project will begin in early 2016, with the

opening scheduled for early 2019. Learn more about WAH's future on page 40.—Lydia Parris

KAHC ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERS



At the conclusion of 2015, Fred Manchur, CEO, announced changes in the top leadership at Kettering Adventist Healthcare (KAHC). Roy Chew (above), who most recently served as president of Kettering Medical Center, will step in as KAHC president. Jarrod McNaughton (below), who recently served KAHC as an executive vice president, replaces Chew as Kettering Medical Center president.

"Kettering Adventist HealthCare is well positioned for our future," says Manchur. "With a seamless transition of leadership, supported by a highly talented and experienced team, we can focus on our strategy to utilize our strengths to improve the care experience for our patients, and continue to make a positive difference in our community." Read more about these and other title changes at ketteringhealth.org/aboutus/leadership.cfm.—Christina Keresoma



PENNSYLVANIA BOY WINS \$30K FOR SCHOOL

December 17 the Mountain View Christian School in Williamsport received a \$30,000 check from the Uncle Ben's "Ben's Beginners" cooking video contest. Second-grader Jackson Fulmer's (pictured, left) video submission about how to make haystacks, his favorite meal, won the prize for the school.

In addition to financial benefit, the contest has helped the school "become much more visible to our community, and for good values," says Franklin Stahl, principal. "The local TV station has done three segments, a Christian radio station did an interview and the story made front page in the newspaper."

Read more on page 27.

—V. Michelle Bernard



TWO KAHC HOSPITALS EXPAND

On the same day in January, two Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) hospitals celebrated additions to their facilities.

Sycamore Medical Center, located in Miamisburg, Ohio, celebrated the completion of its third-floor expansion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for elected officials, community leaders, and KAHC and hospital leadership. The evening included an open house with tours, free health screenings and refreshments. The 27,000 sq.-ft. expansion includes 32 private rooms and will accommodate the increased demand for medical surgical services, including orthopedic and bariatric surgery patients.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Soin Medical Center, located in Beaver Creek, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its fifth-floor expansion, which included an afternoon reception and open house. This latest expansion for Soin, which opened its doors in 2012, includes 30 private rooms and additional therapy space to support the hospital's orthopedic services for joint and spine care.

CUASI CONCERT BENEFITS AFFLICTED

The Columbia Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (CUASI) raised money for several humanitarian aid programs during its December 2015 Live for One benefit concert at Potomac's Capitol Memorial church in Washington, D.C. Live for One, a group of Adventist music professionals, performed the concert to "raise funds, increase awareness and lead Christians to pray for persecuted, suffering believers around the world," says Emanuel Pelote, CUASI director.

Preparations are underway for the 2016 CUASI convention, April 8-10. Learn more about CUASI at <https://cuasi.org>.

REACH SEEKS URBAN MISSIONARIES

The first cohort of the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School launched in June 2015 with 13 students. During the past 10 months, students have participated in literature evangelism, Bible work, urban gardening, food giveaways and tutoring inner city kids.

"I don't know anything about your God, but I do know you are making

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST TAKEAWAY FROM THE EMOTIONAL WELLNESS SUMMIT?

The Emotional Wellness Summit, held January 13-17 in Orlando, Fla., was designed for health professionals and leaders, pastors and those who want to know more about prevention, treatment and recovery strategies for better mental health. Two union attendees answer our question about the event, sponsored by the North American Division Adventist Health Ministries, the South American Division and General Conference:



As a licensed counselor, it was validating to be in the presence of so many children of God from around the globe who [feel] called to minister to people's psychological needs. There were four talks on Sabbath morning that related to childhood trauma and resiliency. It was great to hear case studies and how specific biblical principals were relevant to [their] healing process.—*Marissa Smale, MA, LPC, a member of Pennsylvania Conference's Bucks County church in Philadelphia*



It was encouraging to meet Adventist professionals whose ministries impact mental well-being. Workshops and meetings focusing on suicide, trauma, grief and addictions gave me valuable resources to help with my clients and inspiration for church ministry. Our call, "Saved to Serve," becomes more sure when our Christ-centered health message appropriately includes emotional wellness.—*Robert Davidson, MA, NCC, a member of Potomac Conference's Silver Spring (Md.) church*

a difference in my daughter's life," shares the mom of a student tutored by REACH.

"REACH has literally saved my life ... I know this is exactly where God wants me to be," says current student Will Remigio from

Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Church members interested in spending a year as an urban missionary while earning university credit should consider applying now for the June 2016 cohort. Apply at: reachcolumbiaunion.org.

\$236K Amount in tuition scholarships Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., awarded last month to union academy students that attended the annual MusicFest

Noticias

KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

FALLECE EX PRESIDENTE MUNDIAL ADVENTISTA

Robert Stanley Folkenberg, ex presidente de la Asociación General (GC), falleció el 24 de diciembre de 2015 rodeado por su familia en su casa en Winter Haven, Fla. El servicio conmemorativo se realizó el 10 de enero en Avon Park, Fla.



Folkenberg desempeñó varias funciones durante su ministerio: fue pastor, secretario y presidente. Fue elegido presidente de la GC durante el congreso mundial adventista en 1990. Después de jubilarse en 1999, fundó y desarrolló el ministerio ShareHim, que capacita y moviliza a las personas laicas para ser activas en el evangelismo.

APERTURA DE IGLESIA INCLUYE UN CASAMIENTO Y BAUTISMOS

Después de reunirse por cinco años como un grupo pequeño, la iglesia Hispana de Lancaster 2 en Pennsylvania celebró su primer Sábado en un nuevo edificio con un casamiento y un bautismo—y le dieron la bienvenida a alrededor de

CREDITO: RAY HARTWELL



12 miembros nuevos. Ray Hartwell, presidente de la asociación y su esposa, Jeanne; Will Peterson, vice presidente de Misiones y Administración; Gabriel Montalvo, coordinador de los Ministerios Hispánicos y Juan López, ex coordinador de los Ministerios Hispánicos, junto a su esposa, Daisy, asistieron a la iglesia colmada para un servicio especial.

El nuevo edificio permitirá que la iglesia continúe creciendo. También permitirá que los miembros puedan servir mejor a su comunidad.

El Pastor Feleidi Garcias (en la foto con Elleane Rodriguez Mercado y Leonardo Rivera) y los líderes de la iglesia están trabajando para abrir un banco de comida y un centro para suplir otras necesidades. Los miembros también repartirán literatura e invitarán a la comunidad para asistir a sus eventos evangelísticos.—Tamyra Horst

JÓVENES HISPANOS DE WOODBRIDGE CAMBIAN NOMBRE A “WAYS”

Cuando la asistencia al programa de los jóvenes de la iglesia empezó a disminuir, los miembros de la Iglesia Hispana de Woodbridge (Virginia) decidieron que era el momento para reenfoque y crear un grupo dinámico y multifacético, con una identidad positiva. El grupo comenzó por cambiar su nombre a WAYS—Sociedad de Jóvenes Adventistas de Woodbridge (las siglas están en inglés)—y desarrollaron un logo para poner en sus camisetas.

“Realmente nos ayudó a afianzar nuestra identidad,” dice Adalid Durán, ex directora de jóvenes de iglesia hispana de Woodbridge. “Los adultos nos han apoyado al comprarse las camisetas. Queríamos que nuestra visión se extienda más allá de los jóvenes y que sea percibida por los adultos también.”

El grupo se quería enfocar en brindarles entrenamiento a sus líderes, consejería espiritual y oración intencional. Empezaron a elegir temáticas mensuales



(arriba) Esther Bertresse, Katherine Perdomo y Nataly Garay con (abajo) Aarón Sosa y Fabián Barrera participando en una actividad de WAYS.

para presentar en los programas semanales. Reabrieron un hogar iglesia para jóvenes, trabajaron en su imagen en las redes sociales y realizaron una red de oración dirigida por jóvenes.

Desde que reforzaron el programa, el grupo ha crecido en tamaño, energía y participación. Durán dice que ahora hay un nuevo ambiente—es más jovial, creativo y acogedor.—Tiffany Doss

LÍDERES LE DAN LA DESPEDIDA A “FIELES SERVIDORES”

El presidente de la Asociación de New Jersey, José H. Cortés y Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, presentan premios al servicio a los pastores Eleazar De Gracia (en la foto con su esposa Naty) y José Guevara durante un servicio en honor a sus años de ministerio. Lea más en la circular New Jersey News en la página 24.—Raquel Guevara



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:

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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.



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How can Adventist Churches Minister to Refugees in Their Neighborhoods?

The worldwide refugee crisis is prompting the United States to open its immigration doors to a larger number of people from regions in turmoil. According to the United States Department of State, nearly 70,000 refugees came to the U.S. last year—the world’s top resettlement location—yet recent political instability in Asia, Central America, the Middle East and Africa will boost admissions to 85,000 this year and 100,000 in 2017.

This dramatic increase will undoubtedly enhance the chances that families fleeing persecution may move into our communities in the near future. How should Seventh-day Adventists respond when refugees from Syria, Burma, Iraq, Honduras, Guatemala and other nations become our neighbors?



EXTEND A HELPING HAND

“The church can become like an extended family for refugees coming to the United States, and we can focus on a more holistic engagement with their physical needs, then social, mental and eventually spiritual needs,” says Sung Kwon,



executive director of the North American Division’s Adventist Community Services, which runs Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries.

“When people come to America, whether through migration or as refugees, they are very vulnerable,” Kwon adds. “They are in a new community without having any support structure or family, and they find themselves isolated.”

That’s when church organizations play a major role. According to the U.S. Department of State, faith groups assist about 70 percent of refugees who resettle in the U.S. Adventist churches across the country have been helping refugees learn significant skills that help them assimilate into their new communities, such as how to speak English, navigate a grocery store, read nutrition labels and use a gas stove. They also give them driving lessons.

Some congregations in the Columbia Union have firsthand experience in adopting refugees in their local communities. These churches are actively, if not proverbially, feeding, clothing and providing shelter for the displaced people.

EBENEZER CHURCH BECOMES A “SAFE HOUSE”

When a resettlement agency contacted Allegheny East

Conference’s Philadelphia Ebenezer church about working with a family of eight Adventists arriving from refugee camps in the Republic of Congo, the congregation jumped at the opportunity.

At first, communicating with the new members was difficult, recalls Crystal Drake, who is a leader in the church’s refugee ministry. “We did a lot of pointing and gesturing trying to get our message across,” she says.

The church decided to purchase translation equipment and hired an interpreter for the sermons. They obtained Sabbath School lessons in the Kinyarwanda language. They organized a thrift store giveaway to provide clothing, small appliances, cookware, bedding and televisions to the displaced families. They raised money for school uniforms and winter clothing. They sought volunteer van drivers to transport the refugees to church. They sent social workers and English teachers to the newcomers’ homes. Longtime Ebenezer families adopted Congolese families and met often to socialize. They also consoled refugees fired from jobs for refusing to work on Sabbath.

The number of Congolese refugees grew to 75. “The church accepted them as brothers and sisters,” says Drake, adding that the immigrants referred to the church as their “safe house.”

7 Biblical Principles for Nurturing Refugees

Refugees, including Jesus and his parents, are some of the most important people in Scripture. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/refugees to learn seven biblical principles on how to minister to displaced people.

Underscore

Unfortunately, the resettlement agency was unable to provide meaningful employment, drastically curtailing the thriving ministry and forcing the refugees to relocate away from the area. This resulted in tearful goodbyes, says Drake. “I believe our church gained more than we gave. We were able to witness, up close, why we need to be thankful and faithful.”

Today some Ebenezer members use Facebook to stay in contact with their Congolese friends. Meanwhile, the church took in a new, five-member refugee family, also from Congo.

HAVE A CARING HEART

Three refugee families from Rwanda and Burundi have been a blessing to Potomac Conference’s Charlottesville (Va.) church, a congregation with 100 members. The International Rescue Committee, a major resettlement agency, introduced the displaced families to the members.

To this church, refugee outreach ministry means sending someone to help the newcomers set up a Wi-Fi connection, complete school applications, drive parents to teacher conferences, assist children with homework and serve as a reference on job applications, among other duties.

“Imagine being uprooted, placed in some country across the world,

not speaking the language, and being told to figure it all out,” says Pastor Daniel Xisto.

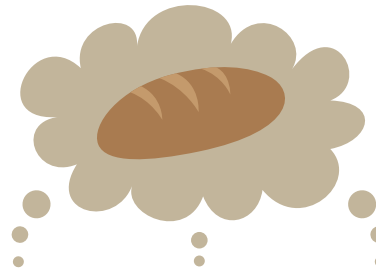
One time a Charlottesville member went to the home of an African refugee and found her lying on the couch, gravely ill. When the member asked the refugee if she had been to the doctor, the refugee said she didn’t have enough money. Xisto adds, “Our member asked her if they accepted the insurance that the International Rescue Committee set them up with, to which she responded, ‘What is insurance?’”

Some of the 11 individuals among the three refugee families were Adventist before getting settled in Virginia, and they now serve as deacons, praise leaders, audio-visual technicians, kitchen staff and Bible study leaders at the church.

The experience in Charlottesville has been a blessing and learning opportunity for the refugees and congregants. Karen M. Flowers, a church elder, says, “As our journeys merge, we become increasingly aware of just how difficult it can be for an immigrant family to make their way in a strange, cultural setting, and among many who do not fully appreciate their journey.”

Pastor Xisto recommends other churches participate in similar outreach. All it takes is volunteers who are patient and willing to help, he says. “No PhD in foreign policy is required; just a caring heart. Anyone can help.”

Kwon adds that participating in refugee outreach ministry provides congregations with a unique opportunity to share their faith. He points to a church near San Diego, Calif., with a successful refugee outreach program that has resulted in hundreds of baptisms. He warns, however, “Don’t just look at people as prospects for membership growth, but as precious souls who belong to God,” Kwon says. “You want to genuinely care for them, and help them. That’s how Jesus lived His life.”



7 Steps to Starting a Refugee Ministry

- 1 Prayerfully study the Great Commission and the inspired counsels on reaching out to “the stranger in our midst.”
- 2 Get acquainted with refugees and immigrants near your church—in apartment complexes or grocery stores that specialize in ethnic foods.
- 3 Contact refugee resettlement agencies that help identify and place refugees in local communities.
- 4 Identify church members who can teach English as a Second Language classes, provide transportation, assist with tutoring school children or know about the availability of meaningful jobs or employment agencies.
- 5 Appoint a coordinator who will be sensitive to the refugees’ needs and fears.
- 6 Prepare the church by educating congregants and engaging families to accept the diversity refugees bring; embrace differences and similarities.
- 7 Gather Bibles and other church materials in the refugees’ native language, and find interpreters.

Source: *Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries of the North American Division*, refugeeministries.com



Daniel Granderson

BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS TOGETHER



Jesus came not just to preach, but also to teach. Is it any wonder then that He was referred to by His followers as rabbi (teacher)? He held class on the mount and in fishing boats. Wherever there were ears to hear, He saw opportunities to educate.

Today there are more than 1.8 million pairs of ears still receiving the teachings of Christ through the schools, colleges and universities the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates worldwide. These modern teachers develop not only the intellect, but also the spirit, allowing the ministry to live on beyond the pulpit. In these schools, there is no ministry without education. The two are twin branches growing together on the same gospel tree.

“If Adventist education remains Christ-centered, and our own church members recognize the competitiveness of our education, the schools will flourish. Continue to point students to Jesus, and our schools cannot fail,” notes Vilas Urtekar, board chairman at the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School in Piscataway, N.J.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Just as modern ministries supplement traditional church outreach with technological advances and leverage the high infinite reach of social media, so too does Adventist education continue to grow through support and shared ideas. Schools are increasingly incorporating programs such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) into their curriculums and expanding beyond K-8 levels. They are dedicated to exploring learning opportunities beyond core class subjects, while also re-emphasizing the importance of whole body health and wellness.

However, the adaptive programming and ever-improving curriculums of our schools are made possible through a collaborative effort that extends beyond principals and teachers to include school board members, parents and students. Some might even say the success of Adventist education depends on the collection of each voice, each goal—a true “village” of like-minded believers.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: United They Plan

As guardians of the Adventist educational system, these men and women effectively shape the experience students have through the programs they implement. Here are ideas they helped implement, or would like to:

JOYCE HAHN, CO-CHAIR OF THE HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY IN CENTERVILLE, OHIO:

The mission of the Home & School Association, a parent volunteer group, is to bring the staff, student body and parents together [to plan] fundraising, educational, social and spiritual activities.

Three years ago, I [proposed] starting a health program for our students and staff. Our school already serves vegetarian food and, rather than focusing on what *not* to eat, we wanted to encourage eating more unprocessed whole foods, getting regular exercise, drinking [mostly] water and limiting TV, video games and recreational computer time. The results were mixed. During the last three years, we noticed the lower-grade students, with parental help, responded the best.

This year we decided to try a health fair in the gym for the middle and high school students, [which] was more successful. In the future, we plan to continue our focus on health—not just for the physical, but also for the mental and spiritual benefits.

[We also hope] to bring more spiritual emphasis to our activities. We sometimes get distracted by “competing” with local public schools on academic performance or in sports, and we lose sight of the fact that we are to be different.

We also decided to start this school year off with a spiritual convocation to dedicate our school, staff and families to our mission to serve Christ. Our hope is that this will bring to focus the importance of placing Christ at the center of educating our children.



VILAS URTEKAR, BOARD CHAIR, LAKE NELSON SEVENTH-DAY SCHOOL IN PISCATAWAY, N.J.:

Some parents do not want to send their children to non-Adventist schools after eighth-grade graduation. During the 2013-14 school year, we piloted a program to start a ninth grade. [Those] three students were housed in the same classroom as the eighth-graders. The following year, we created a stand-alone high school classroom and finished the year with 10 students: eight freshmen and two sophomores. Currently (2015-16) we have 30 high school students up to 11th grade.

Even our K-8 program has seen increases of more than 15 percent this year. The differentiation between the high school and elementary programs was a great success, which also helped us further departmentalize our course offerings. With teachers focusing on their areas of expertise, our school has been maximizing the quality of education.

We also started expanding our school building. With help from the New Jersey Conference Department of Education, an application for senior academy status is in progress. (Read more on page 24.) We plan to continue working on our senior academy status with a full-fledged science program and a state-of-the-art science laboratory. We also plan to continue strengthening our language and math programs to build a solid foundation for high school, college and beyond.



PARENTS: Family Ties Meet School Pride

They fill our schools with agape love and care for students, and offer suggestions and feedback on programs that better guarantee a school's success:

JEWEL WALWYN, GEORGE E. PETERS ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN HYATTSVILLE, MD.: My kids have been involved in four or five different events since enrolling this school year: Christmas programs and spelling bees, STEM competitions and foreign language classes. The school also offers opportunities for kids to participate in non-core classroom activities. My oldest daughter is learning to sew.

This is an educational environment that extends beyond the spiritual benefits. That's important because our children should be able to compete in the real world. Kindergartners at most schools are just learning to identify shapes and colors, but my kindergartener is reading and identifying words she's never seen before.

I know that my children aren't just being taught, they are being cared for. This sets aside any barriers they have from learning. It begins with how accessible the principal is to the kids, and trickles down to the teachers who know they have support from parents.





C'CELIA VERNON, DESMOND T. DOSS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN LYNCHBURG, VA.: The students are not only being taught about Jesus Christ and His life, but ... my son comes home and tells me what they learned and what it means to them as youth growing up in the knowledge of Christ. These lessons are not only applied in the classroom but also to the sports programs, which is important to me as a parent of an active child. He learns how to be a gracious winner *and* loser. He learns to respect teammates and opponents alike.

I also appreciate that my son's classroom is split so that he's in the same class as fifth-graders. [This] helps reinforce what he learned the previous year and helps build his self-esteem. There's true quality in the classroom.

I trust the staff with my son's well-being. They are almost like a surrogate parental support system, going above and beyond to make sure the children have what they need. That kind of care keeps me confident that when the school finds out about new programs that could benefit the students, they will consider implementing them.



ALICIA CURRY, DUPONT PARK ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.: I like that Dupont holds guilds (clubs) for the students, which may [focus on] life skills such as cooking and etiquette, or learning about science and public speaking. It ... introduces them to subjects they may not otherwise be exposed to.

My daughter was in a cooking guild for a semester. She wasn't interested in cooking before, but ... now she attempts to prepare meals. She was also in a science guild, which was good for her because she already liked science. She was able to explore more in a field she already enjoyed.

I would like to see bussing or some kind of carpool service added to the school. I live pretty far away and, while the sacrifice is worth it, the commute can be rather arduous. When my child was younger, I chose convenience ... but I realized it wasn't the best choice for her.



MICHELE BLAIR, DESMOND T. DOSS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: Adventist schools tend to be smaller than most other private schools, allowing a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. The teachers have genuine concern and love for the children.

I relocated from New England so that my daughter could attend Desmond T. Doss through 12th grade.

It's what appealed to me the most since a lot of Adventist schools stop at grade 8. I hope to see more Adventist schools expand to the 12th grade.

I also hope to see an expanded cafeteria for Adventist schools so that healthy lunches can be provided. Several children who attend are not from the Adventist faith and the health message would go a long way to help them in life too.

● STUDENTS: Tomorrow's Voices That Resonate Today

Effective schools offer students the chance to discover new talents and build confidence. More importantly, Adventist pupils play a critical role in helping leaders improve the educational model:



TAYLOR ROPER ('16), PINE FORGE ACADEMY IN PINE FORGE, PA.: Pine Forge encourages students to participate and support our sports teams. If one of our teams makes it to the championship, the students are able to travel with the team to support them at the game.

We also have spirit week, [which] creates a spirit of ... camaraderie and togetherness, especially within [each grade]. We also build school spirit while worshipping together. Some of my strongest and favorite memories are of the student body singing praises to God.

From our illustrious choir to our inspirational creative arts ministry, this school offers many activities for students during or after school. However, I would like to see more extracurricular activities. ... Individuality is something I believe is really important, because if a person knows who "he" is, why "he" is here and what "he" has the power to do, there is nothing that can stand in "his" way.

ALEXA CORLEY, ('19), HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MD.: I like that we have the ability to pray and worship at school. I also like our service activities and the many hikes and other things we do in nature that let us see God's work in person. Those all help me feel like I'm part of things and proud of my school.

I just want to see us praying even more. I also wish we could plan some special mini-field trips especially for those who get good grades.



WILLIAM MERCADO, ('19), BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY IN HAMBURG, PA.: I'm a freshman, and I've made a lot of friends being in Aerial Aires (the gymnastics team). Whether it's practicing for a performance or just fooling around on the mats, those memories will never leave me.



STAYING RELEVANT THROUGH STEM

The four pillars of STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—already shape nearly every aspect of our lives, and Adventist educational leaders, if interested in staying relevant in a business-minded world, must embrace its effects. It's becoming clear that American business leaders of tomorrow are the STEM students of today.

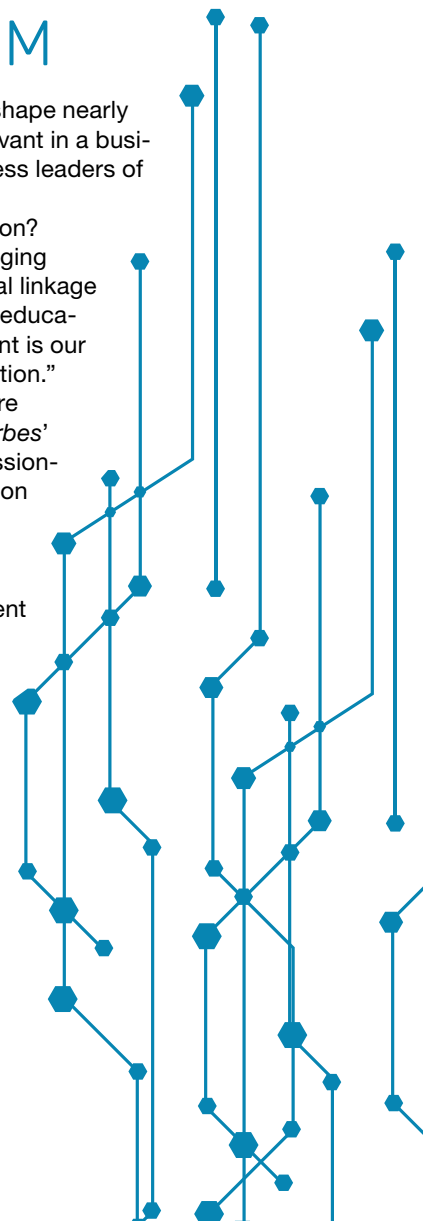
That smartphone glued to your palm? STEM. The homes we live in and the roads we drive on? STEM. "Increasingly, STEM-driven education is making curricular inroads in our schools, bringing greater instructional emphasis to the strategic methodologies and instructional linkage between science and math curricula," says Hamlet Canosa, vice president of education for the Columbia Union Conference. "Of course, what remains pre-eminent is our emphasis in infusing the Adventist worldview and values in all areas of instruction."

Yet, as important as STEM is in our modern world, it is likely to be even more important to our children, especially when it comes to their job prospects. *Forbes'* annual list of the 10 hardest jobs to fill in America almost always includes engineers, IT professionals, accounting staff, as well as mechanics and machinists. It's no wonder that STEM education has become a priority in public and private schools alike.

"I believe that a STEM program prepares our students for the workforce of the future, of which about 70-80 percent of the jobs will be in the STEM fields or will need STEM training," says Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for advancement and STEM coordinator at Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md.

At HVA, Barizo oversees a program that requires STEM students to not only take math and science high school courses, but also to learn robotics, app development, project-based learning and computer science, in addition to completing a STEM internship. HVA also offers STEM outreach activities, which include an after-school STEM outreach, a STEM lecture series and STEMfest, which drew 500 people last October.

At Takoma Academy (TA) in Takoma Park, Md., math and science teacher David Hooker notes that, over the past several years, the school's STEM program has already increased the number of students in higher level classes, such as pre-calculus and physics. As a result, TA established a robotics club, a National Society for Black Engineers club and a HOSA club for future health professionals. The clubs offer not only opportunities for educational field trips, but also allow students to compete nationally with other schools and to find internships. "The net result is better qualified graduates," says Hooker.





WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

TOP 5 IN THE REGION FOR ETHNIC DIVERSITY

43RD BEST REGIONAL COLLEGE

42ND
FOR BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
DEGREE PROGRAMS

46TH
FOR NURSING
DEGREE PROGRAMS

according to U.S. News and World Report



ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

MARCH 2016

Breath of Life Member Receives New Post

Washington Johnson II, a commander in the United States Navy Reserve, recently assumed the position of Officer in Charge (OIC) of Religious Support for Reserve Chaplains serving in the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

“Serving both God and country is an awesome privilege,” says Johnson, a member of the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md. He is currently assigned to the Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. He also serves as assistant director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the North American Division in Silver Spring, Md.

In 2013 Johnson was mobilized to the Horn of Africa as the deputy command chaplain for 4,000 service members and civilians at Camp Lemonnier.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PEARSON

The Brazilian Ministry of Philadelphia sings in Portuguese during AEC's New Year's Eve praise service.



Cmdr. Steven Barstow, deputy chaplain of the USCG; Capt. Gregory Todd, chaplain of the USCG; and Cmdr. Washington Johnson II celebrate Johnson's promotion.

Members Celebrate New Year's With Live Stream

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently hosted its third New Year's Eve Live broadcast to inspire constituents and friends for the new year. The three-hour program included a live audience hosted at the North Philadelphia church in Philadelphia, and a praise and worship service format.

LaTasha Hewitt, AEC communication director, and Keith Goodman, former pastor of the North Philadelphia church, hosted an evening that focused on the diversity within the conference. The program included praise and worship songs, inspirational messages, prayer and special musical selections representing various language groups.

“*Te ethnae* [to all people groups] is a part of our mission statement, and it is our goal to celebrate the diversity that exists within Allegheny East,” shares Hewitt.

The program also featured greetings from U.S. Senate chaplain Barry Black, leaders at the General Conference, North American Division, Columbia Union Conference and Oakwood University (Ala.). AEC church, school and administrative leaders also submitted special greetings.

Next year the program will stream live from another AEC church. View this archived program at visitaec.org.

Capitol Hill Adventurer Designs Club Logo

The Adventurer Club from the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently hosted a contest to develop a new logo for their club T-shirts. Nine-year-old Dylan Johnson won with his logo that depicted the club's name, “Blazers,” with yellow flames inside a circle that includes the church's name and the club's motto.

“Winning this competition is just the beginning for Dylan,” says Christine Williams, Adventurer leader at the time of the contest.

Johnson has been drawing for years and has filled numerous sketch pads with his artwork. He says his dream is to become an illustrator.



Pine Forge Academy Receives Math Grant

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) recently received a math grant of nearly \$2,000 from Loma Linda University (Calif.) for excellence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experiential education. PFA received the grant after Dierra Robin, math teacher, submitted a proposal titled “The Mathematical Model of a Healthy Lifestyle.” Robin says that the project will give students the opportunity to mathematically analyze the impact of a healthy lifestyle at Pine Forge Academy. The funds will go toward new calculators for the math department.

Robin was inspired to write the proposal after attending Loma Linda’s STEM academy last summer with her colleague Ericka Blackwell, PFA science instructor.

“When I was notified that the grant proposal was successful, I was ecstatic. I knew that my prayers had been answered,” says Robin. “I am glad that PFA’s mathematics department will be able to use calculators daily to deepen and strengthen the understanding of mathematics.” Robin says she and her colleagues, O’Shayne Rankine, math instructor, and Norman Niles, distance learning consultant, are looking forward to the department’s new acquisitions.



Dierra Robin, PFA math instructor, demonstrates use of the Texas Instrument-84 Plus CE, the calculator the school plans to purchase with the Loma Linda STEM grant money.

Harrisburg Member Authors Family Devotional

Kelly Holder, a member of the Hillside church in Harrisburg, Pa., recently published *Playdate With God*, a devotional for children and families. She says



Kelly Holder and her children read from her new book Playdate With God.

the goal of the book is to teach about God through acts of play.

Holder, a mother of three, says she was inspired to author the book after searching for a devotional book for kids that did not require multiple supplies. “There were several days when I just wasn’t prepared to do the devotionals because I didn’t have the supplies,” she says. “I started to think about what it would be like to have a devotional based on playing games that required little to no supplies.”

Playdate With God is made up of 10 topics with four devotionals on each. The devotions are each comprised of a game, a short biblical thought called “The Message,” and additional Scripture verses to enhance the understanding of the topic. Additionally, each topic has a Bible memory verse that has been set to a familiar tune to aid with memorization.

Playdate With God is available in softcover and as an e-book. For more information, visit playdatewithgod.com.

New Life Member Refocuses Us on Family

I recently had the honor of attending the We are Family Banquet, planned by Deirdre Bailey, the Women's Ministries leader at the New Life church in Dayton, Ohio. What began as a fundraiser for the New Life Women's Retreat has evolved into a heartfelt yearly event to reinforce the importance of unity in the body of Christ.

How can a body function if all of its parts do not work in harmony? We are one body, and Jesus Christ is the head.

Our churches often seem to work independent of each other. Bailey felt very deeply about putting something in place that would bridge the divide in the body of Christ. She wanted to give the many members in the Dayton area an opportunity to fellowship with brothers and sisters from the community and other congregations.

The banquet evening was filled with fellowship, poetry and music. Attendees gave personal testimonies that lifted our spirits. The room was beautifully decorated—and the ambiance gave a glimpse of what it will be like when we all finally, as one family, sit down at that great banquet in our Father's kingdom.



Deirdre Bailey greets guests at the We are Family Banquet.

If we are not conditioned for this while still here on Earth, we will be most uncomfortable in heaven. As part of *His* family, we must work together, we must fellowship together. This has been God's plan all along. Throughout the Bible, He refers to us as His children.

Bailey gets it, and she wants us to get it too.
—Cherryl Brookshire

Columbus Ephesus Welcomes Two New Pastors

Ephesus church leaders and William T. Cox, Allegheny West Conference (AWC) president; Marvin C. Brown, executive secretary; and H. Candace Nurse, CFO, recently welcomed two new pastors who will continue leading the church's ministry of winning souls.

PHOTO BY ANGELA V. BAKER



Members and conference staff welcomed senior pastor Noah L. Washington, his wife, Twila, and their son and daughter. During the same service, they also welcomed associate pastor Jason Francis, his wife, Veronica, and their daughter and two sons.

Brown gave the charge, an aspirational challenge for the new pastors. Head elder Melvin Pascall presented the pastors with the keys to the church. William E. Joseph, AWC ministerial director, offered the prayer of dedication. Cox led the congregation in a covenant of service in which the church congregation promised to love, respect and follow the pastors. Washington then preached his inaugural sermon titled "You Will Get It Back."

"I am excited to be where God has called us to be in this season," says Washington.—Angela V. Baker

William Joseph says a prayer of dedication over pastors Jason Francis and Noah L. Washington as conference leaders lay hands on the men.



600 Visit Three Angels Message Church

The Three Angels Message church in Danville, Va., recently hosted more than 600 visitors at their worship service. Members decided that, on that day, they would offer free gifts to kids in the community if their families attended church. During the special service, more than 300 children received snack bags and learned about Jesus from church volunteers.

The parents stayed in the sanctuary where, according to Pastor John Coaxum, "It was so packed that we had chairs in the aisles, and I had to tell my members to give up their seats for the sake of our guests."

Many members wearing T-shirts that read "We specialize in changing lives" served all around the church. Coaxum preached to the full sanctuary of parents on the importance of being good examples



Community kids receive snack bags and Christian books, and learn about Jesus during a recent outreach day.



for their children and having God in their lives. Dozens came forward for anointing during the appeal. A family of five even joined the church through baptism that day. Many more are currently taking Bible studies. After the service, members distributed more than 700 gifts to visitors. A local television station and newspaper also covered the service.

Coaxum credits Ralph Rhyne and all the church members for a successful day. "This is how it's supposed to be done," says Coaxum. "The more needs we meet, the more people we will win."

Virginia Pastor Writes Book

John Coaxum, senior pastor of the Three Angels Message and Emmanuel churches in central Virginia, recently wrote *When God Calls*, a book about answering God's call to ministry. "It's what I wish I knew about ministry before I started," says Coaxum. "Many dash into ministry hastily and end up disillusioned and disappointed because of expectations God never promised and sacrifices they were never ready to make. This book is a practical guide for anyone who senses God calling them to serve—and what they should know before they answer."

Coaxum has been a pastor in the Allegheny West Conference for more than three years. He hopes the book will not only help the upcoming generation of theology majors, pastors, chaplains and ministry leaders, but also those who are still in their first years of ministry. The book can be purchased at amazon.com and other online sites.



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Phone: (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org ■ President, William T. Cox ■ Communication Director, Bryant Smith

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

MARCH 2016

Look to Jesus for the Answer!

Why do dogs bark? What makes the sun shine? Why do leaves fall? A child's desire for answers can leave parents feeling stretched to the limit, trying to come up with correct, age-appropriate answers.

We grow up, but our questioning nature never goes away. *Why am I here?* is an important question for all of us to answer. *Is there a purpose in my life? How do I go about finding it?*

A quick Internet search will lead to many coaches, philosophers and advisers giving their formula for discovering our purpose. The common denominator in all of them seems to be an inward search to discover what we enjoy, like or desire.

But the deeper, more comprehensive questions are: *Why did God create me? What is His intended purpose for my life?* While each person will need to give individual expression to the question, there are some key answers in God's Word.

"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God," (1 Cor. 10:31, NKJV). A core purpose for each of our lives is to give glory to God. This becomes a pervasive principal that can help align all our thinking, speaking and doing.

Another foundational purpose "is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another," (1 John 3:11, NKJV). There are many practical ways to demonstrate compassionate love for others. Everyone has basic needs to be met but, in the spiritual realm, one of the best ways to express love for others is to point them to Jesus. Help others discover the peace, joy and hope that is only found in Him.



Rick Remmers
President

NEWS

Women Craft Caps for Kids With Cancer

The Baltimore Hispanic church's women's ministry group recently knitted about 50 wool hats for children with cancer. During one of the group's monthly meetings, members came up with the idea to make the hats for the pediatric oncology department at Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore.—*Cristina McConnell*



Nurses receive wool hats from Baltimore Hispanic church members: Cristina McConnell (center), Sandy Lira and Yolanda Flores, Women's Ministries leader.

Dover Church, School Donate Care Packages to Shelters

The Dover First Christian School partnered with the Dover First church in Dover, Del., to make 84 care packages for area homeless shelters. Students placed containers in the school, churches and their homes to gather socks, gloves, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste and other personal care items. On a recent Friday after morning worship, teachers and students in pre-K through eighth-grade assembled the gender-specific packages that included a Bible verse and note of encouragement.—*Jennifer Miller*



Sixth-grader Alex Cornell displays a completed care package.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER MILLER



THE Gathering

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

JUNE 14-18, 2016 HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY IN HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND.

Reserve your space now for this gathering of the Chesapeake family of believers. Be encouraged by messages brought by weekend speaker Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker/director, and weeknight speaker Marquis Johns, pastor at Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hyattsville, Md., evangelist and television host. Soloist David Griffiths brings inspiring music. Join us for worship, music, recreation and exciting programs and special features for all ages!

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1

You can register:

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

ITEM	PRICES	QUANTITY	TOTAL
DORMITORY ROOMS All rooms air-conditioned; windows have blinds			
GIRLS DORM – 1st & 2nd floor, adults only (18 yrs and older) – 3rd floor, families and adults			
1st floor - mens' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights		
2nd floor - ladies' rest rooms	price is for 2 people		
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$8.00/night each additional person		
BOYS' DORM -- FAMILIES & ADULTS			
1st floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$115.00/5 nights		
2nd floor - mens' rest rooms	price is for 2 people		
3rd floor - ladies' rest rooms	\$8.00/night each additional person		
<i>Fire code prohibits cooking in rooms. Bring your own bedding. Dorm rooms must be rented for the full time. There must be two persons in the room. Third and fourth persons will be \$8.00 per night per person.</i>			
TENTS (Available in trailer area only – must pre-register. Limited availability, first come first serve.)			
With concrete floor & electricity	\$45.00/5 nights		
	\$14.00/night		
Single cot with mattress	\$4.00 each		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
PERSONAL TENTS (With Use of Bath House)			
Space for your own personal tent	\$30.00/5 nights		
	\$7.00/night		
Space for your own personal tent w/electricity & water	\$40.00/5 nights		
	\$9.00/night		
Folding table	\$2.00 each		
Folding chair	\$1.00 each		
TRAILERS Length of trailer: _____ ft.			
Trailer space w/electricity, water, sewer	\$75.00/5 nights		
	\$17.00/night		
Trailer space w/electricity, water	\$65.00/5 nights		
	\$14.00/night		
Trailer space without hookups	\$35.00/5 nights		
	\$7.00/night		
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED		\$	

NAME: _____ HOME CHURCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____


TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

ELECTRONIC CHECK: ABA ROUTING #: _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT #: _____

BANK NAME: _____



MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

MARCH 2016

Reach a Child for Jesus

I've had the privilege of holding a Children's Ministries promotional Sabbath in every church in the Mountain View Conference (MVC). It has been a joy to meet the children and see them participate in the church service, and to become acquainted with those who work with the children.

I realize that some MVC churches do not have children attending, but Children's Ministries encompasses more than just conducting a weekly Sabbath School. We have an obligation to reach the children within our "world" who do not know Jesus. This includes the children in our immediate and/or extended families, as well as the children living on our street. If we know their parents and they trust us, they will not have a problem sending their children to activities at church, such as Vacation Bible School, Sabbath School or church services.

Church leaders should also consider hosting activities, such as ice cream socials, pizza parties and family fun nights. Ambitious churches should consider a Truth for Youth evangelistic meeting, a children's health expo or a Rainbow Kids Club, where children learn about nutrition and cook/eat foods from every color of the rainbow.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the [children]. The Savior mingled with [them] as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

My prayer is that you take time for the children in your family, your church and your community, and introduce them to the best Friend they will ever have—Jesus.



Diane Gregg
*Children's Ministries
Director*

Adventurer Clubs Reach Children for Jesus

The Mountain View Conference is reaching children for Jesus through their four active Adventurer clubs at the Frostburg (Md.), Parkersburg, Summersville and Charleston (W.Va.), churches. The club at the Moorefield (W.Va.) church is just getting started.

Adventurer club leaders at the Frostburg church regularly plan activities to help their 15 registered members grow in faith and community. The Adventurers recently partnered with Frostburg's Pathfinder club and hosted a fundraising booth at Higson's Fall Festival in Wiley Ford, W.Va., where they sold baked goods and honey sticks and distributed literature. The Adventurer group also enjoyed a visit from Brady Harden, a church member and firefighter who taught the children about safety, led them in a practice fire drill and let the excited children try on Harden's heavy coat and hat. The children later visited the fire station.

"Adventurer clubs offer a great opportunity to reach children in the community, even if you do not currently have children attending your church," says Diane Gregg, MVC Children's Ministries director. "Adventurer clubs are a wonderful way to touch a child's life for Jesus," she adds.

Contact Gregg at (304) 672-6775 for support in starting an Adventurer Club in your community. The MVC Children's Ministries department provides a free Adventurer club starter kit.



Members of the Frostburg church's Adventurer club enjoy spending time with firefighter Brady Harden.

NEWS

East Pea Ridge Hosts Family Fun Day

Members from the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va., thought outside the box and recently held a family fun day at the Hurricane Wave Park in Hurricane, W.Va. Darryl and Anita Jones, Primary and Junior Sabbath School leaders, organized the day that consisted of family-friendly games, a petting zoo, food and a special visit by the Reptile Man, Gary Bussa from Ashland, Ky.

Bussa's presentation, where children experienced hands-on learning about God's creatures, was the highlight of the day. Fifty attended the family friendly event, including approximately 20 children.

"It is always great to interact with the community and to make friends," says Pastor Bill Hunt.



Reptile Man Gary Bussa shows off an iguana during East Pea Ridge church's family fun day.

Buckhannon Church Hosts Angel Breakfast

The Buckhannon (W.Va.) church often gets creative in reaching children in the community. As part of this effort, members sponsor an annual Christmas Angel Breakfast which allows parents to shop without their children for a couple hours during the holidays. At the event, children hear the story of Jesus' birth, sing songs, make crafts and eat a breakfast that includes a West Virginia favorite—biscuits and gravy. The Christmas Angel Breakfast made the headlines in the local newspaper with a feature article and color photos. This year's breakfast is planned for Black Friday, so parents can drop their children off and enjoy a few hours of shopping.

"The parents [are] pleased that the breakfast program is not only fun for their children, but also educational," says Pastor Rick Cutright. "The children



Micah Molina and Robert Michael Furr make crafts during the Buckhannon church's Christmas Angel Breakfast.

were taught about Christ's birth, and the craft they did illustrated that Christ is the Light of the world."

Adventurers Enjoy "Fun Day"

Last fall conference staff held an Adventurer Fun Day for children aged 5 to 9 at the Valley Vista Conference and Retreat Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. During the event, children could win a "fun and fly award" after visiting stations and learning about different types of flight.

Participants also built and decorated their own kites. "Even though it was a calm day, God blessed with enough wind to get their homemade kites up in the air," says Diane Gregg, MVC Children's Ministries director.

Conference staff will soon release information about the spring 2016 Fun Day.



Adventurer Fun Day participants display their homemade kites.

Get Involved!

The 2016 New Jersey Conference theme is an invitation and a challenge. It is clear, simple and powerful—“Get Involved!”

We need all hands on deck in order to fulfill the mission of the church. This is the spirit that prevailed during the 2015 North American Division Year End Meeting and at the General Conference Annual Council. The call is resounding around the world church—and we must listen.

Total membership involvement is necessary. We can do things together that we could never do alone. Not everyone can be a public evangelist, but every member of the church can do something to bring people to the feet of Jesus. When we focus on practicing compassion, there are many different ministry options. They are all branches of the “evangelism tree.” Remember, the only evangelism that doesn’t work is the evangelism that we do not do.

Please, brothers and sisters, according to your spiritual gifts and talents, make yourselves available for ministry. Our church believes in the priesthood of all believers, and according to Annual Council reports, we have about 19 million members. Can you imagine what would happen if every member in the church wakes up and engages in a particular area of service? We may shake the world!

God needs all of us—women, men, seniors, youth and children. God is calling every one of us. We have eight conferences and nearly 146,000 members in the Columbia Union territory. We have about 17,000 in the New Jersey Conference, and we are happy with our active members and leaders. Now, we are inviting those who have been waiting for an opportunity to serve. The time is now.

You are an important part of the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In order to fulfill our mission in New Jersey, we need you. We need your family. We need your support. Please, get involved!



José H. Cortés
President

Browns Mills Church Shows Compassion

On a recent Compassion Ministries Day, a day of community service for churches across North America on the second Sabbath of each month, members of the Browns Mills church Sabbath School raked leaves around the homes of senior citizens. “We are working with the senior citizen center here in Browns Mills, and are offering our services to do things that are difficult for some folks,” Pastor Tom Dunham says. “There are those who need help with raking, small repair work and snow removal, and struggle to pay for it. We can share our love for Jesus by doing these simple tasks for them.”

One homeowner says she was delighted that the church members helped her. She asked what she could pay them and a member responded, “Just a big smile!” She paid in full.



The Compassion Ministries team from the Browns Mills church fellowship with a local senior citizen after raking her yard.

Lake Nelson School Continues to Expand

The Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School (LNS) has provided a Christ-centered, quality education in the Piscataway area since 1959. LNS provides an education to a large portion of the conference and its surrounding communities. In 2011 the constituent churches—the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway and New Brunswick English church in New Brunswick—voted to expand the school to offer a full junior academy program.

The school operated for 20 years without a ninth-grade program until the fall of 2013, when the school once again presented this option. In the fall of 2014, LNS started offering a full junior academy with pre-K through 10th-grade classes. School leaders hope this will lead to offering a full day academy program.

“The expansion of our school is a natural consequence of the realization that we are expanding possibilities for our children. We are widening the doors of opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and to recognize their God-given talents and purpose,” says Elisa Maragoto, principal.

Last May the constituent churches and the New Jersey Conference held a ground-blessing ceremony



Special guests and New Jersey Conference and school administrators celebrate the ground-blessing ceremony at the Lake Nelson school.

on the expansion that will include four classrooms and two bathrooms. The projected completion date is February 2016.

LNS continues to experience an increased enrollment and currently has 196 students.—*Sadrail Saint-Ulysse*

Leadership Says Goodbye to “Faithful Servants”

New Jersey Conference staff recently bid farewell to retiring pastors Eleazar De Gracia and José Guevara. De Gracia is a Panama native. He graduated in



New Jersey Conference president José H. Cortés and Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, present Rosy and José Guevara with an award of service.

1978 from Montemorelos University in Mexico, where he met his wife, Naty. They moved to the New Jersey Conference in 1988, and served in several districts there. The De Gracias have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Guevara graduated in 1972 from Unadeca, the Seventh-day Adventist University in Costa Rica. While studying there, he met his wife, Rosy, and they married in 1973. The Guevaras served in several countries and moved to New Jersey in 2004. Pastor Guevara says, “We have been blessed in every place we have been. My wife and I always say we have never had a bad district, just challenges that God has transformed into blessings, and we are humbled by the privilege of serving our Savior.”

José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president, says, “We thank Pastor José and Rosy Guevara, and Pastor Eleazar and Naty De Gracia for their faithful ministry. We shall miss them, and we look forward to seeing them in heaven, where we will hear the words, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’”

—*Raquel Guevara*

Galion District Shares Hope in Community

Erick Flickinger, *It Is Written* television evangelist and associate speaker, recently presented an eight-night seminar at the Polk Township Hall in Galion. The series was titled “A Revelation of Hope—Finding Peace When the World is Falling Apart.”

Local Galion District churches invested in the series, hosting pie auctions to help raise evangelism funds and conducting Bible studies with neighbors and friends. To prepare for the series, they also mailed nearly 10,000 advertisements to the Galion and Blooming Grove communities.

The series initially produced five baptisms or re-baptisms. Two months later, another four joined the church through baptism at the Galion and Blooming Grove churches. A fifth person joined the church as a direct result of “relational evangelism” by members



The Galion leadership team—Richard Baldwin, Eric Flickinger, Jason Williams and Pastor Marcellus de Oliveira—gather before a meeting.



Blooming Grove member Andrew Jones shows a flyer to fellow member Irene Morris as speaker Eric Flickinger looks on.

of the nearby Marion church. And, another two were baptized this spring.

Members say they were excited to witness such growth and transformation in the lives of those reached. Some new believers are sharing the gospel to friends, generating new Bible studies for Jason Williams, a Bible worker hired by the churches. Williams says the series had a very Christ-centered message. He adds, “Fear was not the focus, and subjects were presented in a sensitive manner without diluting our message.”

Marcellus de Oliveira, district pastor, shares, “We presently have 13 personal Bible studies continuing. Our plans with the newly baptized members is to get them involved in small group settings and active roles in the [various] churches.”

Small Town Hall Meetings Return

This spring Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president; Oswaldo Magaña, secretary; and Karen Senecal, treasurer, will visit regional churches to share updates and information about the state of the Ohio Conference. Locations, dates and times are below:

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Northeast	<i>Monday, April 4</i>	Akron First church	<i>7 p.m.</i>
Cleveland Area	<i>Tuesday, April 5</i>	First Cleveland Spanish church	<i>7 p.m.</i>
Columbus Area	<i>Tuesday, April 19</i>	Worthington church	<i>7 p.m.</i>
North	<i>Thursday, April 21</i>	Toledo First church	<i>7 p.m.</i>
South	<i>Monday, May 2</i>	Chillicothe church	<i>7 p.m.</i>
Dayton Area	<i>Tuesday, May 17</i>	Miamisburg church	<i>7 p.m.</i>

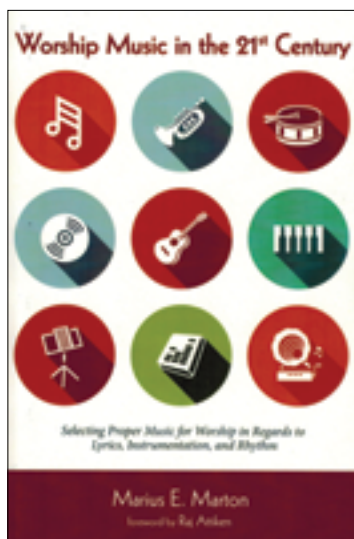
For additional information, email information@ohioadventist.org or call (740) 397-4665.

NEWS

Cleveland Area Pastor Publishes Book on Worship Music

It took three years to complete, but Marius E. Marton, pastor of the Westlake and Elyria churches, recently published *Worship Music in the 21st Century: Selecting Proper Music for Worship in Regards to Lyrics, Instrumentation, and Rhythm*.

“This book was born out of necessity and [my] desire to learn about proper church music in regard to melody, harmony, lyrics, instrumentation and rhythm,” Marton says. “Clearer guidelines for pastors and musicians are needed since there are many debates and divisions over worship music.



“I desired a deeper understanding as a professional musician who was criticized for my choice of instruments, style and genre,” adds Marton.

According to Emma J. Justes, Marton’s friend and former professor, “Marton addresses an issue that has become very troubling for the church today. The church has become split

between traditional and contemporary worship. Marton provides scholarly, sensitive and passionate guidance for the churches to overcome their worship dilemma.”

Worship Music in the 21st Century aims to help music leaders make better decisions when it comes to building a church band and selecting proper music.

“This book also responds to some myths people have about instrumentation, style, rhythm, lyrics and harmony with respect to theology, culture and musicology versus personal preference. It should also help mend the gap between generations in regards to change,” says Marton. The book is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and wipfandstock.com.

Conference Revamps Website

The Ohio Conference has revamped their website. “While it may take some getting used to, information will be more readily available to our constituents,” says



Heidi Shoemaker, Communication director.

Additional content is coming, including messages from Ron Halvorsen Jr., president, and periodic video updates. Check it out at ohioadventist.org.

Ohio Conference Calendar of Events

Ohio Conference leaders urge members to consider saving the dates for the following events. Visit ohioadventist.org or email information@ohioadventist.org for more details.

April 2: *Conference Wide Prayer Emphasis Day* with Ruthie Jacobsen, North American Division Prayer Ministries coordinator; all day, at the Cincinnati Clifton church.

April 10: *Life After Abuse: Who Am I?* Women’s Ministries seminar with Pastor Lori Farr. 10 a.m.–2 p.m., at the Worthington church.

May 20-22: *Men’s Ministries Retreat* at Camp Mohaven in Danville.

July 10: *Prayer.* Women’s Ministries seminar with Pastor Buffy Halvorsen; 10 a.m.–2 p.m., at the Worthington church.

September 16-18: *Jesus is All You Need;* Women’s retreat with Pastor Pranitha Fielder, from Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

October 21-23: Marriage retreat with Buffy Halvorsen at Camp Mohaven.

Pennsylvania Pen

MARCH 2016

Lancaster Church Launch Includes Wedding, Baptisms

Five years after a small group began meeting as a church plant, the Lancaster Hispanic 2 church in Lancaster celebrated the first Sabbath in their new facility at 719 Marietta Avenue. During the ceremony, members celebrated a wedding and baptism, and welcomed nearly a dozen new members (some pictured).

Ray Hartwell, conference president; and his wife, Jeanne, associate ministerial director; Will Peterson, vice president of mission and administration; Gabriel Montalvo, Hispanic Ministries coordinator; and Juan Lopez, retired Hispanic Ministries coordinator, and his wife, Daisy, joined church members in the packed, new sanctuary for this special Sabbath worship.

"The church has steadily grown through the years, and this new building will provide the opportunity and space to continue growing and to better serve their community," says Pastor Feleidi Garcias.

Garcias and church leaders are working on setting up a food bank that will likewise offer clothing, shoes



PHOTO BY RAY HARTWELL

and other necessities. The members will also distribute literature and invite the community to their evangelistic events, which leaders say are an important part of their work. "We know that God is in control, and that He will lead us in all of our plans," shares Garcias.

Mountain View Second-Grader Wins \$30,000 for School

A \$30,000 haystack? That's how much Jackson Fulmer, a second-grader at Mountain View Christian School (MVCS) in South Williamsport, won for his school with his video entry featuring him creating a haystack in the Uncle Ben's "Ben's Beginners" video contest. The nationwide contest encouraged children to make

healthier meal choices and encouraged parents to start cooking with their children at an earlier age.

Fulmer and his mom, April, with help from his dad, Jeff, and his brother and sister, created a video featuring Jackson as "Uncle Ben Boy," a superhero who helps create healthy meals. His recipe featured rice in a haystack and collected enough votes to be one of five finalists who won cash for their school, as well as \$15,000 for his family. His parents are putting the money into a college fund—though Fulmer hopes to get a toy or two first.

Monies awarded to the school are to go toward unrestricted cafeteria improvements. MVCS provides one meal a week for students. Meals are prepared in a small kitchen off the gym, but the school currently lacks a separate eating area. The school board is beginning to discuss ideas for utilizing the funds in a way that will best benefit students.

"Our school family is ecstatic to have this opportunity," says Frank Stahl, principal. "We are extremely grateful to the Fulmer family for taking the enormous amount of time to come up with a creative video storyline, editing the footage and submitting it on behalf of MVCS."



The Fulmer family and principal Frank Stahl (center) accept a \$30,000 check for the Mountain View Christian School from Mars Food Company representatives.

Princess Tea

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

Sunday, April 10, 2016

1:00-4:00 pm

\$15.00 per person

*Philadelphia Boulevard
Seventh-day Adventist Church
8441 Resenett Blvd
Philadelphia, Pa*

Sunday, April 24, 2016

1:00-4:00 pm

\$15.00 per person

*Washington Heights
Seventh-day Adventist Church
1641 Washington Rd
Apollo, Pa (east of Pittsburgh)*

Register online at www.paconference.org/women-s-ministries

*Or for more information, contact Tanya Cox, at thorst@paconference.org
or 610.374.8331.*



Pennsylvania Conference Women's Ministries invites you to...

A Journey to Joy & Grace

April 15-17, 2016

with featured speaker

Jean Boonstra, Associate Speaker

Voice of Prophecy

Holiday Inn Middletown-Harrisburg

815 South Eisenhower Boulevard

Harrisburg, PA

To register online, go to www.paconference.org/women-s-ministries. For more information, call 610.374.8331 or email thorst@paconference.org.



Potomac People

MARCH 2016

There Is Power in a Statement

I recently read a Society of American Archivists blog post that expressed the importance of mission statements, stating they “can provide a clear direction for our operation decision-making and they can inform external audiences, ... about our work,” (Blog Entry 8: “The Importance of Mission Statements,” <http://tinyurl.com/jcwuvru>).

The Potomac Conference’s mission statement is “To Grow Healthy, Disciple-Making Churches.” What does this mean? Why is this important?

Our direction as Christians is to be connected to Jesus. If we are connected to the Vine, we will grow into healthy and loving disciples for Him. We are called to be part of the nurturing body of Christ that fosters positive community in and outside of our church walls, allows for daily growth in our spiritual, emotional and physical lives and continually draws people into our family. Simply put, we are called to live as mission statements—loving the Lord with all our mind, body and soul (see Luke 10:27).

Ellen White reminds us that “knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, gratitude and zeal are all aids in the good work; but without the love of Jesus in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure,” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 815). When we grow healthy, disciple-making churches, we share Jesus’ love. There is no better mission.



Bill Miller
President

Award-Winning Latina Author Visits TLC Prep

I think sometimes kids believe that authors have some sort of spectacular life, but they don’t realize that they already have everything they need to be writers,” says Meg Medina, award-winning, Cuban-American writer of young adult fiction and recent guest speaker at the Tree of Life Preparatory School (TLC Prep) in Fredericksburg, Va.

Medina says a reigning conversation in literature is the fact that most books are written by Caucasian authors and feature Caucasian characters. “But, that’s not who’s in the seats,” she says. “The big issue is invisibility in the literature and the reader’s sense of self. I was in college before I saw a Latina in the pages of a book.”

Students from Manassas Preparatory School in Manassas, Va., joined the TLC Prep students when Medina shared stories from her childhood that she used as inspiration for her writings. Medina later walked upper-grade students through a writing workshop designed to show students how writing can be natural, encouraging them to write about any memory that came to mind. “This is a surprising prompt for most kids,” says Medina. “But, it shows them how to

use memory to create something that connects with the reader.”

Student Emily Gutierrez says she hopes to be an author like Medina one day. “I learned that stories don’t have to be perfect; you can take anything from your past, put it into a book and it can be inspiring.”



*Author Meg Medina reads her picture book *Mango, Abuela, and Me* to students.*

Potomac People

Woodbridge Youth Change “WAYS”

When attendance numbers for the church’s youth program started to shrink, members at the Woodbridge Spanish church in Woodbridge, Va., decided it was time to refocus and create a dynamic, multifaceted group with a positive identity. The group began by changing its name to WAYS—Woodbridge Adventist Youth Society—and developing a logo they printed on shirts.

“It really helped us cement our identity,” says Adalid Duran, former youth director at Woodbridge Spanish. “Adults have supported us by purchasing the shirts for themselves. Whenever we see them wear it, it visually confirms the support they have for our ministry. We wanted the vision to extend past the youth and be perceived by adults as well.”

The group wants to focus on providing training for its leaders, as well as spiritual mentorship and intentional prayer. They have begun choosing monthly themes to cover during the weekly programs. They’ve reopened a youth home church, increased their social media presence and started a youth-led prayer network.

Since revamping the program, the group has grown in energy and participation. “Revamping enabled us to find leadership areas each person likes and is strong in. This has given [us] a greater sense of ownership to that role and the group,” says Duran. “The best part has been watching the younger leaders blossom once they were given the responsibility.”



Woodbridge youth Domingo Suriel, Andrew Vela and Rebeca Jovel help children from the community ride horses.



WAYS members prepare to visit elderly people fighting Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.



WAYS group members deliver a handwritten thank-you note to a firefighter.

Duran says many teens have gone above and beyond and become mini-leaders in their own right. One young man, who tends to be shy, led a prayer group for upcoming events where more than 20 young people participated.

Duran reports that the church’s prayer group had been dwindling, so they decided to join the youth. “This was a blessing for the whole congregation,” she says.

Overall, Duran says the church has a different atmosphere now—it is more youthful, creative and inviting. “We are really excited for the future, and [we will] continue developing this program and our young people as leaders,” she says.

Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

Here at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), we encourage students to not only strive for academic excellence, but also to be outstanding members of the community,” says Stephen Reese, vice president of finance. To accomplish this, staff works with students to help them achieve success through test scores, scholarships and other opportunities that may benefit their futures. Close to 50 percent of the student body recently received a total of more than \$37,000 in academic scholarships because of their Iowa Assessment Test (ITED) scores. One of these students is junior Luis Moreno.

Besides winning an ITED scholarship, Moreno received the Widener University High School Leadership Award. This awards program recognizes high school students in the region, like Moreno, who embody the university’s commitment to develop and inspire leaders to affect positive change. This award recognized Moreno’s ability to demonstrate courage by standing up for what is right, finding a way to address a wrong and making a difference in a significant way.

To be eligible for the scholarship, Moreno had to write an essay on leadership. He attended a leadership retreat this past fall, which helped him choose his specific topic, “Being a leader sometimes means taking a step back.” After graduating, Moreno is considering pursuing a degree in philosophy or psychology with a minor in economics.

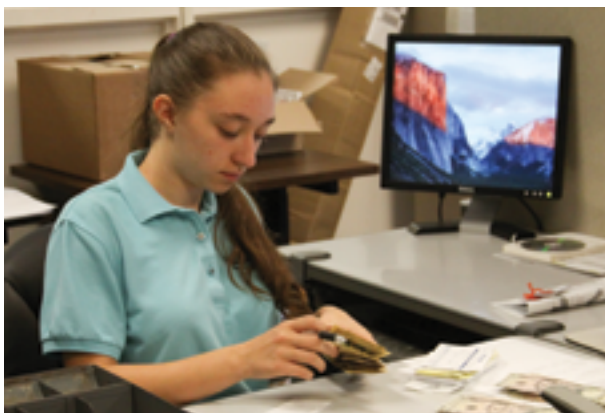


Luis Moreno, who recently received the Widener University High School Leadership Award, works in the business office.

Sophomore Iliana Dialectakis was also recently recognized and nominated for a scholarship, but from a different organization, the Carson Scholarship Fund.

To be eligible for this award, students must be nominated by an educator at their school. Only one student per school is able to apply, ensuring that each nominee epitomizes academic excellence. Carson Scholars must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, and display humanitarian qualities through community service. Besides her strong academic achievements, Dialectakis is actively involved on campus, and a member of Bel Canto. “We hope Iliana wins this award. Her academics and leadership exemplify the type of excellence we value at Blue Mountain Academy,” says Reese.

Both Dialectakis and Moreno work in the Blue Mountain Academy business office with Reese. “We knew that Iliana and Luis had all of the qualities and strengths necessary to receive these awards,” he says. “We’re so proud of them and their success!”



Carson Scholar candidate Iliana Dialectakis works in the business office.

Students Contribute to Campus Spiritual Life

Highland View Academy's (HVA) mission is to inspire and mentor students to excel in all Christ calls them to do. "The faculty and staff believe that Christ calls the students now, not just sometime in the future and, therefore, the students have many opportunities each day to lead out in the spiritual activities that occur on campus," says principal Mitch Hutchinson.

Each school day, the students enjoy Prayer and Praise, a mid-morning break from classes when the students and faculty gather to sing praise songs and pray together. During Prayer and Praise, students lead out in the praise band, the highlight of the students' morning, says senior Jacob Antone. On the weekend, students run the vespers and Sabbath School programs as well, with various classes and clubs taking the lead on a rotating basis.



The student praise band leads the church congregation in singing.

Once a month, students lead the Highland View church service on campus. On these Sabbaths, students fill all of the roles involved in the divine service, from leading song service to presenting the sermon. During a recent student-led Sabbath, freshman Darlene Ntakirutimana told the children's story, and senior Staie Raphael's sermon, "Are Those Strawberries?" encouraged the congregation to further develop the fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

Cesar Grassiotto, Highland View church pastor, and Omar Gomez, chaplain, mentor the students as they hone their spiritual leadership skills through these



PHOTOS BY LORI ZERNE

Staie Raphael ('16) preaches on the fruits of the Spirit.

various opportunities on campus.

Students also strengthen and share their spiritual leadership by participating in various events off campus. For instance, when the choir visits a church, they provide the music but also participate in other ways, such as giving the sermon.

Seniors Alissa Tanguay, class pastor, and Trishauna Robinson, yearbook co-editor, attended the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference in Louisville, Ky., hoping to gain more training and inspiration so they can be better leaders on campus. While at the conference, they attended seminars on finance and stewardship, medical missionary work and witnessing; sang in a mass choir and participated in outreach in a local, low-income neighborhood.

"I was challenged to let God lead my life, even if that means surrendering my plans to Him," says Tanguay. "The experience brought me close to God and inspired me to work faithfully for Him wherever He leads me."

Hutchinson adds, "Christ calls all, even high school students, to serve Him, and HVA students are answering the call—on campus and off."

CALENDAR

March	12-13	Senior Class Play
April	21-24	Music Festival
	24-25	Spring Academy Days

Spotlight

on Spencerville

MARCH 2016

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Students Launch Internet Radio Show

When Cliff Wright, Jr., joined Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) last August as part of a principal fellowship, no one knew that he also hosted his own talk show called CliffNotes on Brite Radio, a Christian Internet radio station. Seeing the talent of SAA students and their drive to have an impact in the world, Wright pitched an idea to the Brite Radio general manager for a show produced and hosted by high school students. Four months later, *The Buzz Weekly Radio Show* was born.

Through producing the show, students apply and enhance their mathematics and language arts skills. Wright also introduces radio show participants to basic elements and skills needed for radio broadcast production, including broadcast news writing, sound engineering, and the laws and ethics of broadcast and Internet radio.

Sophomore Joyce Adebonojo says, “I feel strongly about economic and political issues, and Internet radio seems like a great venue to share my point of view and relate with other students. For me, it is important to be a part of something that helps people connect.”

Jordan Carter, a sophomore, shares, “It intrigued me that actual teenagers could host a real radio show. We get an opportunity to tell the world how we really see things. We don’t just take selfies and laugh at dumb jokes. We actually do use the beautiful brains God gave



Jordan Carter, Sonali Prillman, Isabele Arteaga, (back row) Joyce Adebonojo, Arnon Cornette, Ethan Wu and Cliff Wright, participate in The Buzz Weekly Radio Show.

us. We’re here. We see. We think. That’s what I want to share, and that’s what I know I will do.”

Another sophomore, Sonali Prillman, says, “I decided to join the show because I love entertaining people—whether it be singing, playing an instrument or being on stage in a play. Being on Brite Radio will allow me to voice my opinion and entertain others.”

Wright says, “True mentorship is discipleship. It is possible to educate someone without mentoring them, but it is impossible to mentor someone without educating them. Mentorship was Christ’s example—being intentional about sharing real-world knowledge and skills is essential to growing our students academically, socially, physically and, most importantly, spiritually.” He adds, “The students have a vast audience and an opportunity to witness and serve worldwide right from the school.”

Brite Radio is considered a 3CM (Cross Cultural Christian Music) station, and plays 24/7 with no commercials, so there is no concern about advertisements that could potentially share conflicting views. The only break in the music is for original shows hosted by other Christians in Maryland. Listen to *The Buzz Weekly Radio Show*, Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m., at briteradio.org.



Sonali Prillman, Jordan Carter and Ethan Wu record The Buzz Weekly Radio Show.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

MARCH 2016

Miracle on a Bus

While striving to prepare our students for lucrative careers in science, technology, engineering and math, we are blessed by periodic reminders that our mission is to educate the whole child for citizenship in an everlasting kingdom. We had one such reminder on the recent high school choir tour to Chicago.

Thirty-two students packed into a city bus to return to our hotel after a Chicago Bulls game. A passenger with obvious mental health issues became very confrontational and threatened one of our adult sponsors. The situation could have easily escalated.

Instead, a miracle happened. Another sponsor quietly suggested the students sing. They did, timidly at first, and then from the diaphragm. The beautiful sounds of Christmas filled the bus. The tormentor was annoyed, then resigned, then moved to tears. The final note triggered applause throughout the bus. Spontaneously the choir struck up "O Holy Night." It sounded like a bus full of angels weaving through the dark streets of Chicago. Song after song washed over the passengers. The angry one forgot his rage and absorbed the news of peace on Earth, good will to men.



Darren Wilkins
Principal

NEWS

Students Bring History to Life

Parents, friends and family recently enjoyed a historical, living wax museum lesson presented by the fifth- and sixth-grade class students. Each student dressed in character and used props to portray scientists, authors, illustrators, religious leaders, inventors, artists, engineers, missionaries and more.



Fifth- and sixth-grade Spring Valley Academy students brought historic stories to life during their living wax museum presentations.

As the event commenced, each student staged themselves at platforms where they came to life, presenting an oral biography of a famous person.

Teachers Alison Jobson, Cali Campillo and Sam Joseph helped prepare students for the event. "The student's creativity and commitment to this project was exciting to watch unfold, especially as they gave their performance [of] the character they were representing," says Jobson.

Leaders Urge Alumni Weekend Attendance

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) leaders urge all alumni to make plans now to attend Alumni Weekend 2016, April 16. This year the school will honor classes ending in "1" or "6." They also welcome all alumni musical members to perform with the SVA band and choir.

The Meet & Greet begins at 9:30 a.m. A worship service, featuring guest speaker Richard Schwarz, health and wellness associate professor at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and former SVA gymnastics coach, starts at 10:30 a.m.

Alumni honor class photos will be taken immediately following the service, and a free luncheon will be provided in the cafeteria at noon. The alumni versus varsity basketball game will begin at 9 p.m. For weekend updates, visit springvalleyacademy.org and click on the "Alumni" tab.

Connections is published in the *Visitor* by Spring Valley Academy ■ 1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville, OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

MARCH 2016

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

A Decision Made Easy

Families choosing a Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school embark on a decision-making process that often includes a serious assessment of family priorities: spiritual, financial, academic and interpersonal. It is often a time when parents rededicate their teen to God and reaffirm Him as the number-one priority in their lives. There are five criteria we hope families prayerfully consider in choosing a high school:

1. Safety—physically, spiritually and socially
2. An atmosphere that helps develop a loving, saving relationship with Jesus
3. Academic rigor that will turn abilities into academic accomplishments
4. An environment that grows self-sufficiency and confidence
5. An environment with wholesome fun and Christian friends

For 107 years, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) has provided quality, Adventist Christian education to more than 7,000 graduates and attendees. We believe our program meets the above criteria and more. We invite those serious about attending an Adventist Christian school next fall to visit our campus. We pray for the parents and young people who are making this all-important, life decision.



Dale E. Twomley
Principal

Students Show Character Development in Action

Striving for excellence in Christian character sets before each student the goal of “attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:1).

SVA faculty and staff focus on one SVA character development trait each month during chapels, worships and faculty family prayer time. At the end of the month, the Student Association Senate selects candidates who exemplify this trait in word and action. The student body then elects a Student of the Month who best demonstrates the trait. In May faculty and staff

will select a Student of the Year who they believe best demonstrated all nine traits during the school year.

The students of the month recognized through December 2015 include:

Karen Vallado, a senior from Beltsville, Md., recognized in September for the “brother’s keeper” trait—demonstrating understanding and concern for others

Pedro Pereira, sophomore from New Market, Va., recognized in October for the “courage” trait—standing for what is right even if you stand alone

Janice Pakkianathan, junior from Beltsville, Md., recognized in November for the “honesty” trait—revealing truth through thoughts, words and behavior

Allie Mae Magtanong, sophomore from Virginia Beach, Va., recognized in December for the “initiative” trait—moving from thought to action



Janice Pakkianathan ('17), Pedro Pereira ('18), Allie Mae Magtanong ('18) and Karen Vallado ('16) are the fall 2015 SVA students of the month.

Upcoming Events

April

6 – 9 Potomac Conference Elementary Music Festival

10 – 11 Academy Days

15 – 17 Alumni Weekend

May

27 – 29 Graduation Weekend

Happenings is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Dale Twomley ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

Alumni Inspire Excellence in Students

Three years ago, Takoma Academy instituted the Alumni Speakers Series. The program grew from the vision of principal Carla Thrower to invite alumni to return and inspire current students.

The Alumni Speakers Series has proven an overwhelming success, says Thrower. Speakers have included the Honorable James D. Smith ('79), former Chief Judge of the U.S. Patent Office, and Steve Silver ('71), managing partner of the Onix Group, LLC, in Kennett Square, Pa. One of the most recent speakers was Jeffrey Vargas ('84).

Vargas (right) currently serves as the chief learning officer and director of the Office of Talent Management and Leadership Development for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for developing and overseeing the strategic learning direction of the commission, ensuring that all of the 750 CFTC employees have the necessary technical, management and leadership skills to oversee the \$600 trillion swaps, options and futures marketplace.

Last August Vargas celebrated his 20th year in the federal service. Prior to working at the CFTC,

he served as the chief learning officer for the \$11 billion Nuclear Security Administration in Washington, D.C., where he provided the strategic learning vision for 4,000 individuals responsible for the nation's nuclear weapon complex.



During his presentation, Vargas told the students not to be afraid of "failure" because it's the first step in learning. He also told them to surround themselves with a solid network of outstanding friends who are doing positive things.

Other members of the Class of 1984 who helped guide Vargas' life to its current level of success also participated in the program. His friends, also well accomplished, work in careers ranging from representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Capitol Hill to vice president of operations of one of Maryland's leading construction companies.

Vargas shared that the greatest source of his inspiration, next to God, is his family, specifically his daughter Xotchi Rose. Although she has cerebral palsy, she hasn't let this physical condition dictate her life. Her life, as Vargas pointed out, can serve as an example for the students. They should give their best every day; and "give 150 percent in going for and reaching [their] dreams."

Senior Brandon Wells states that Vargas' presentation "was the best" of all the speakers so far. Senior Melody Douglas adds, "The chapel with Mr. Vargas was both inspiring and profound. One important lesson I learned from him was to live everyday like his daughter Xotchi Rose, and choose good people to be around."



Several members from the Class of 1984 return to Takoma Academy to support Jeffrey Vargas (front, second from the right) and inspire students to strive for career and academic excellence.



Weymouth Spence
President

Providing Affordable Christian Education

After visiting Rusangu University in the Southern province of Zambia to congratulate and support the newly appointed Vice Chancellor, I received this message from a

member of their university community:

"We are indeed blessed with your presence at [Rusangu] University. Hope and pray that you reached safely back home... Sir, on Friday, I was in a bush praying for him [his son] and for the rains. We received rains on the next day and also good news for him from you. I believe that it is God's plan and also believe that you came to Rusangu University just for my petition on behalf of my son. He completed his grade 12 with all distinctions and is now doing A-levels in the same school in Livingstone."

Parents desire to send their children to an Adventist Christian school, but there is a realistic concern about the affordability. At WAU, we have kept tuition at the same rate and offered the eighth semester free to students who finish in four years. These actions are creative ways of responding to the rising costs. Yes, we believe some things cannot be measured in dollars and cents. 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. I am happy to report that at WAU students are experiencing the value of an Adventist Christian education and the incredible difference this investment makes in their lives

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence

WAU Education Paved Way for Service in a Leadership Position

Engaged and knowledgeable professors and required internships set the stage for Marcel Wright, '98 business graduate, to launch his career in a way that takes advantage of his leadership skills and gives him the opportunity to serve in the community.

Shortly after graduating he accepted a management position in Richmond, Va. He says, "I look at my WAU experience as giving me a significant jump-start on other students in my age-group and career. Getting experience is a requirement. It wasn't something I did because I was a highly motivated person – it was an expectation! In a good way, WAU forces you to get out there, improve your interviewing skills and work ethic."

Understanding what your goals are and how higher education helps increase your opportunities for success is critical for succeeding in college. It doesn't come naturally to everyone and sometimes staying focused in college is difficult. "You have to be committed so you can get where you want to go, and education is a part of that process," says Wright.

Wright advises current students, "Be careful and intentional as you start out. It's hard to catch up. You can start off well and experience bumps along the way, but it's a lot easier to manage those bumps than it is for you to not take it seriously at the beginning and then try to make up the ground. Work to find that balance."

In 1998, Wright completed his bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management and Personnel Administration from Washington Adventist University. He later completed his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland in 2007.

Wright serves as the Executive Director for the Lourie Center for Children's Social and Emotional Wellness, a member of Adventist Healthcare. The center is dedicated to improving the social and emotional health of young children and their families. See more of Wright's story at vimeo.com/wau.



Marcel Wright

Washington Adventist University, Incorporated Constituency Meeting

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that a constituency meeting of Washington Adventist University, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under and by the virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland, will be held Friday, May 20, 2016 at 9:30am in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland, according to Article III, Section C.2 of the Washington Adventist University Bylaws.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees, hear reports of officers, and transact other business that may be necessary or proper to come before the constituency.

KETTERING COLLEGE



Nursing student Tyler Callahan screened residents for high blood pressure and educated them about diet, exercise, and wellness.



'Awe-inspiring' mission in Belize broadens nursing student's perspective

By Jessica Beans

Students are given the option of joining medically-focused, short term mission trips throughout their time at Kettering College. Chaplain Steve Carlson explains, "This experience is one that will bring to life the world of medicine our students may have only experienced through textbooks. I love when students embrace the opportunity to serve and to become the healing hands of God."

As a group of 33 from Kettering College gear up for a medical mission trip to the jungles of Peru this March, a nursing student shares his reflections on the last mission trip to Belize:

"I was humbled to be part of a team of 25 students, faculty, and staff from Kettering College that traveled to Belize on a 10-day medical mission trip. We had our work cut out for us, as we organized and ran six health fairs encountering

between 600 and 800 people in the western portion of Belize. I was assigned to screen blood pressures and educate individuals about hypertension and the effects of diet and exercise on their blood pressure and overall wellness. Traveling to Belize put the first stamp in my passport, as it was my first international trip. I would not trade my experience for the world, meeting some of the most beautiful souls I have ever encountered; their stories were awe-inspiring. My experience in Belize broadened my views of the world and expanded my perspectives as a more cultured individual spiritually and as a future healthcare provider. Belize left its fingerprint on my heart. I'm hoping that Peru will do the same for the team of Kettering personnel going in March to touch the lives of countless more individuals." – Nursing student Tyler Callahan

 **KETTERING**
COLLEGE
KETTERING MEDICAL CENTER



Profiles in Caring

The Journey

One of the best parts of my job is meeting with young people who are just beginning their careers. Often someone seeks my advice on how they should best plan for the future.

I confess that I don't feel like much of an expert, and I often come away from these conversations feeling inspired by their optimism and willingness to learn and grow. Nonetheless, I do try to be helpful – mostly by being honest. And hopeful. I think hope plays a big role in understanding what matters most in making good career decisions. An optimistic approach raises our sights and allows hope to be the context for considering three big questions.

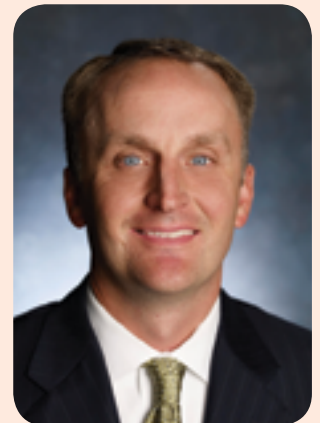
The first question is: "What do you love?" Knowing what YOU – not someone else – care about deeply is key to knowing the things that give you energy and that you are passionate about, and understanding the way your life has value and makes a difference. By focusing on those things that will enable you to do what makes you proud and do what you love, you will develop your own personal mission. "Work is love made visible" is the way that the poet Kahlil Gibran expressed it, and I've never heard it said better.

The second question requires awareness of your gifts and talents: "What are you good at?" Everyone hopes they can use their talents in their job – and that hope will help motivate finding a place where your strengths are prized. It's almost impossible to stay focused, motivated and effective when you are doing something that you don't feel utilizes your gifts – or that ignores your unique set of talents, experiences and interests. Pursue career interests that align with where you can excel.

The third question is very practical: "What does the world need that I can be paid to provide?" Matching your gifts and skills to the marketplace will be a lifelong process – and the answer to this question will probably change several times over the course of your life. However, much of what you love to do doesn't fit into a professional career, so it becomes your personal pursuit; it is no less important, but is not captured by the work you are paid for. When you know that who you are is not defined by a job, you can create a balanced life that includes the work you do professionally as well as all of your other interests and pursuits.

Part of being a lifelong learner – which itself is a function of hope – is being open to new experiences, new information, and new expressions of your talents and gifts. Perhaps that's why life is not so much a puzzle that we spend our time solving, as it is a journey that leads us into new discoveries. You will be blessed in this journey of discovery, so watch for those blessings. Pay attention to the way your efforts to make a difference come back to you.

When you pursue the things that challenge you to develop and use your strengths – and you do so with hope and optimism – the work that you find to do really can be "love made visible."



Terry Forde

President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare

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Groundbreaking Celebration for New Hospital

Adventist HealthCare leaders and employees will be joined by Maryland and local politicians and community supporters on March 7, to officially break ground for the new Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital.

On Dec. 17, the Maryland Health Care Commission granted formal approval for Adventist HealthCare to develop the new hospital in the White Oak section of Montgomery County. The project is part of the hospital's longstanding plan to expand access to care in the region and includes keeping healthcare services on its current Takoma Park campus.

"I know God has been guiding us along this journey and many of us prayed each day to him to give us strength during this process" said Terry Forde, President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare. "We are also blessed to be standing on the shoulders of previous Adventist leaders who had the vision to come to the Washington, D.C. area in 1907. We are honored and humbled to continue their mission."

The new, 170-bed acute-care hospital and medical campus is on 48 acres at Plum Orchard Drive and Cherry Hill Road, along the border of Montgomery County and Prince George's County. It will be located near the Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters. It will also be close to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters, which partners with the hospital on medical and scientific issues. The \$331 million project is expected to open in early 2019.

Frances Phillips, a member of the Commission who led the review of the hospital's Certificate of Need (CON) application, recommended approval of the plan in November saying, "[From] a broad healthcare delivery system perspective, [Washington Adventist Hospital] plays a very important role in providing services to the

residents of southeastern Montgomery County and western and northern portions of Prince George's County."

The new facility will be located off major roads with enhanced public transportation options, dramatically improving services for the community. The new White Oak location will feature:

- Large, all-private patient rooms
- Patient care areas optimized for clinical efficiency
- Outpatient services and physician offices
- On-campus parking for caregivers, patients and visitors

"This project means the region will have a thriving new hospital in White Oak, while also having access to key population health services in Takoma Park," said Erik Wangsness, President of Washington Adventist Hospital. "I want to thank the hospital employees, physicians and numerous community supporters who have worked with us to expand access to care."

The current Takoma Park campus will remain home to the 40-bed Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health and Wellness unit, Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation services and the women's center clinic, which provides prenatal care and other services for low-income women. Other services in Takoma Park will include:

- An urgent care center
- A Federally Qualified Health Center operated by Community Clinic, Inc.
- Physician offices
- Imaging, lab and other ancillary services
- Space leased to Washington Adventist University

To support our ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing by helping build the new Washington Adventist Hospital in White Oak, visit www.OurCommunityTransformed.org

News & Notes

M&T Bank Thanked for Philanthropic Commitment

Adventist HealthCare recently gave the Spirit of Partnership Award to M&T Bank and its regional president, Peter Black (pictured center with Terry Forde, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare (left) and Jim Damron, Vice President & Chief Development Officer for Adventist HealthCare), for a deep commitment to fostering the well-being of all in our community. The award was given at Adventist HealthCare's annual gala in November. M&T Bank has sponsored the health system's "Help Stop the Flu" campaign, as well as funded a Circle of Governors gift for the future Washington Adventist Hospital at White Oak.



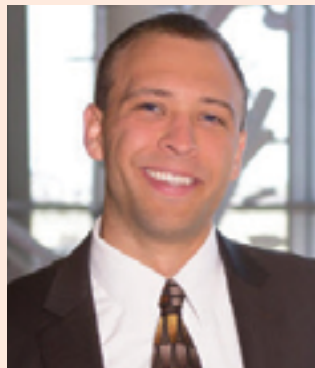
Shim Named VP of Business Development and Strategic Planning

Eunmee Shim has been named the Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning for Adventist HealthCare. In her new role, she will oversee the planning and implementation of business initiatives across the system, including expansion of urgent care centers, imaging centers and outpatient services. Shim will also work with the Board of Trustees to support the development of the Adventist HealthCare strategic plan.

Shim joined Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in November 2011 as Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. Under her leadership, the hospital achieved numerous accolades and awards for quality care and performance. Chief among these is the Silver Award from the Maryland Performance Excellence Awards, which is the first step in our Baldrige process. Last year, she was selected as an Executive Fellow for the national Baldrige program. Shim will use her expertise to guide our systemwide Baldrige efforts.

Johnson Joins Adventist HealthCare as Human Resources Leader

Brendan Johnson has been named Associate Vice President and Senior Human Resources Business Partner for Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center. Johnson joins Shady Grove after nine years with the Centura Health system in Colorado. Most recently, he served Castle Rock Adventist Hospital as its director of revenue management and also led business operations for the hospital's orthopedic and spine service lines. Under his leadership, Castle Rock ranked first in the Centura system in key financial indicators for fiscal 2015. He also held leadership roles in business operations at Porter Adventist Hospital in Colorado from 2009 to 2014.



Johnson is deeply passionate about mission-based healthcare, a conviction that has guided him professionally and led him on three mission trips to Belize and Nepal in the last five years.

Advancing Health Equity

In keeping with our dedication to promote health equity, Adventist HealthCare signed the **"#123forEquity Pledge to Eliminate Health Care Disparities."** This program, instituted by the American Hospital Association, encourages hospitals nationwide to take deliberate steps toward helping all individuals reach their highest potential for health including:

- Choosing a quality measure (e.g., readmissions) to stratify by race, ethnicity, language preference, or other socio-demographic variable
- Determining if a health care disparity exists, and if so, addressing that concern
- Providing cultural competency training for all staff, or finalizing a plan to ensure that staff receives this training
- Dialoguing with the board and leadership teams on how each reflects the community served, and what actions can be taken to address any gaps if those teams do not reflect the communities served

To learn more about this program, visit www.EquityOfCare.org/Pledge.

La celebración por el inicio de obras del nuevo Washington Adventist Hospital será el 7 de marzo

El lunes 7 de marzo, el liderazgo y los empleados de Adventist HealthCare estarán acompañados por políticos de Maryland y locales y partidarios comunitarios para inaugurar oficialmente la obra del nuevo hospital Washington Adventist Hospital de Adventist HealthCare.

El 17 de diciembre, la Comisión de Cuidado de la Salud de Maryland le otorgó oficialmente su aprobación a Adventist HealthCare para desarrollar un nuevo hospital en la sección White Oak de Montgomery County. El proyecto es parte del antiguo plan del hospital de ampliar el acceso a la atención médica en la región y tiene previsto continuar prestando servicios de atención médica en su campus actual de Takoma Park.

"Sé que Dios nos ha guiado constantemente en este viaje y muchos de nosotros hemos rezado todos los días para que Él nos dé fuerzas durante este proceso", dijo Terry Forde, Presidente y CEO de Adventist HealthCare. "También tenemos la suerte de habernos subido a los hombros de los anteriores líderes de Adventist que tuvieron la visión de venir al área de Washington, D.C. en 1907. Estamos honrados y agradecidos de continuar con su misión".

El nuevo hospital y campus médico de atención de pacientes agudos de 170 camas está emplazado en 48 acres en Plum Orchard Drive y Cherry Hill Road, cerca de la frontera de los condados de Montgomery y Prince George. Estará ubicado cerca de la sede central de la Iglesia Mundial Adventista del Séptimo Día. También estará cerca de la sede central de la Administración de Medicamentos y Alimentos de los EE. UU. (FDA), que colabora con el hospital en temas médicos y científicos. Se espera que el proyecto, de \$331 millones, abra sus puertas a principios de 2019.

Frances Phillips, miembro de la Comisión de Maryland que llevó a cabo la revisión de la solicitud del Certificado de Necesidad (CON) del hospital, recomendó la aprobación del plan en noviembre declaro que desde el punto de vista del sistema médico [Washington Adventist Hospital] tiene un rol

muy importante en lo que respecta a los servicios que se dan a los residentes del área sureste del Condado de Montgomery y las partes oeste y norte del Condado de Prince George."

El nuevo centro de atención estará ubicado cerca de avenidas principales y con mejor transporte público, lo que mejorara drásticamente los servicios para la comunidad. La sede de White Oak ofrecerá habitaciones grandes y privadas y áreas de atención al paciente para la eficacia clínica.

El campus actual de Takoma Park seguirá albergando a la unidad de Bienestar y Salud Mental de Adventist HealthCare (Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health and Wellness), que cuenta con 40 camas, a los servicios de Salud Física y Rehabilitación de Adventist HealthCare (Adventist HealthCare Physical Health & Rehabilitation services) y a la clínica del centro de mujeres, que brinda atención prenatal y otros servicios para mujeres de bajos recursos. Los siguientes son otros servicios que se brindarán en Takoma Park:

- Un centro de atención urgente
- Un Centro de Salud Federalmente Calificado manejado por Community Clinic, Inc.
- Diagnóstico por imágenes, laboratorios y otros servicios auxiliares
- Consultorios médicos
- Espacio arrendado a la Universidad Washington Adventist



Para más información, visite www.OurCommunityTransformed.org

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

IT IS WRITTEN is seeking a full-time, Planned Giving field representative to serve the states of the northeastern United States. The candidate must be a motivated individual who will live in the region, work from a home office, travel regularly to communicate with supporters and represent the ministry at assigned church events. NAD Trust Certification is preferred but not required to apply. If interested, please visit adventistmediacenter.com to download an application, and email application and résumé to mmendoza@adventistmediacenter.com.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Office of General Counsel is seeking a law student for an 8-10 week summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and would best be suited for 1Ls. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties will include legal research and other projects with an emphasis on religious liberty and First Amendment work. It is the policy of the GC to hire only Adventist church members. Please send résumé, writing sample and transcript to [Karnik Doukmetzian at karnikd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org).

UNION COLLEGE seeks Vice President for Student Services (VPSS) beginning in July. The VPSS leads out in the vision, strategy and execution of the college's student services goals. Qualified Adventist candidate will be student centered and an experienced leader in higher education. See ucollege.edu/staff-openings. Send résumé to Dr. Vinita Sauder, visauder@ucollege.edu.

NOW HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package based on competence and experience. Native English speaker who holds a BA, preferably with early childhood teaching experience. The education center is run by Adventist professionals. Visit sgg.com/sg/career/jobs.htm, or email gateway@sgg.com.sg.

MISCELLANEOUS

BUTLER CREEK HEALTH CENTER, Victorious Living Seminar: A live-in lifestyle change

program for those seeking victory over depression, stress, smoking, alcohol, drug-related dependencies and lifestyle diseases. Included are hydrotherapy treatments, personal one-on-one counseling, cooking classes, personal fitness plan, and a lecture series on the physiology of change and developing will power. Programs are tailor-made for each individual guest; beginning and ending dates are flexible. Register online or call (931) 213-1329, butlercreekhealth.org.

FOR SALE: BURIAL SITE, George Washington Cemetery in Adelphi, Md. \$2,000 or best offer. Call (503) 791-9186.

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.

NATIONAL FAMILY RETREAT, March 30-April 3. Practical messages, breakouts, family recreation and exhibits. Topics: parenting, family, marriage, youth, young adult and media. Speakers: Waters, Rayne and Nebblett families; Scott Ritsema. To be held at the Wewoka Adventist Center near Oklahoma City, Okla. For more information, visit restoration-international.org/nfr, or call (918) 827-7012.

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.

REAL ESTATE

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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, fletcherparkinn.com.

SERVICES

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one state to another! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Contact one of our dedicated, move counselors today for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at (800) 248-8313. Or, learn more about us at stevensworldwide.com/sda.

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!

LOOKING FOR COMPASSIONATE AND SKILLED HEALTHCARE in the Philadelphia area? LJD Healthcare Staffing can handle all your healthcare needs. As a Seventh-day Adventist-owned and -operated healthcare agency, we can provide hospital, nursing home and in-home care from RNs, LPNs, CNAs and more. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment with one of our staff, call (267) 523-5668, email office@ljdstaffing.com or visit ljdstaffing.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, INCORPORATED CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that a constituency meeting of Washington Adventist University, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under and by the virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland, will be held Friday, May 20, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Md., according to Article III, Section C.2 of the Washington Adventist University Bylaws.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees, hear reports of officers and transact other business that may be necessary or proper to come before the constituency.

Weymouth Spence, *President*

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 27th regular constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held May 21 and 22, 2016, at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The first meeting will convene at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, May 21. The second meeting will begin Sunday, May 22, at 9 a.m.

This 27th meeting of the constituency will be held for the purposes of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2015; the election of officers, and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Dave E. Weigley, *President*
Robert T. Vandeman, *Secretary*

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, will be held Sunday, May 22, 2016, in connection with the 27th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference, at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees for the ensuing five-year period and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Delegates to the 27th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the association meeting.

Dave E. Weigley, *President*
Robert T. Vandeman, *Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MT. VERNON ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 29–30, at the Mt. Vernon Hill church and elementary school in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Any questions, please contact Dayne Thomas, begone1@frontier.com or (304) 481-8603. The school may be gone, but we're not!

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 30–May 1, at N. Aurora church, N. Aurora, Ill. Mark your calendars! Call your classmates! Honor classes: 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2006. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch and afternoon music program. For more information and to send your email addresses, contact Dale Rollins: drollins0233@gmail.com or (224) 407-0233.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA) ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 22–23, on LSA campus. Please update your mailing address and contact info to jnelson@lsak12.com or (951) 351-1445, ext., 244. Honor classes '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06 and pre-50 year classes. For more information, lsak12.com.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 3–5, for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1936, 1946, 1956 and 1966. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181, glaa.net or ljcurtis@rocketmail.com.

Sunset Calendar

	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25
Baltimore	6:02	6:09	7:16	7:23
Cincinnati	6:33	6:41	7:48	7:54
Cleveland	6:20	6:28	7:36	7:44
Columbus	6:27	6:34	7:41	7:49
Jersey City	5:50	5:58	7:06	7:13
Norfolk	6:02	6:08	7:15	7:21
Parkersburg	6:21	6:29	7:36	7:43
Philadelphia	5:55	6:03	7:10	7:17
Pittsburgh	6:14	6:22	7:29	7:37
Reading	5:58	6:06	7:13	7:21
Richmond	6:06	6:13	7:20	7:26
Roanoke	6:16	6:23	7:29	7:36
Toledo	6:28	6:36	7:44	7:52
Trenton	5:54	6:01	7:09	7:16
Wash., D.C.	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:25

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FIRE



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Where is your child?



Gunfire erupts during
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Do you know what to do?

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