

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Faithful to Our Calling ... In a Changing World

27th Columbia Union Constituency Report

In This 5-Year Report:

- Meet the Leadership Team
- Discover How We Helped to Advance the Seventh-day Adventist Church Mission
- 43 Reasons to Praise the Lord





4 | Special Feature

27th Columbia Union Conference Constituency Session Report Faithful to Our Calling ... In a Changing World

In this quinquennial report, Columbia Union Conference President Dave Weigley shares how the union's leadership team has worked to grow the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States through healthcare, education, evangelism, the development of new ministries and innovative initiatives. Meet the team, find out how they addressed needs and pursued opportunities to advance Adventist mission during the past five years, and why we have so many reasons to praise the Lord.

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board



ON THE WEB

WHEN WE ALL GET TOGETHER

Ever wonder how the Seventh-day Adventist Church is structured, and how it operates? To start, it is organized with a representative form of church government run by church members with four levels of organization: conference, union, division and world. Learn more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/structure.



WHAT IS A CONSTITUENCY SESSION?

Columbia Union Conference church members have designated about 310 delegates to represent them during the 27th quinquennial constituency session occurring May 21-22. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/2016session and discover what the session is all about.



WHAT HAPPENED AT SESSION?

You don't need to wait until the June Issue of the *Visitor* to learn what happened at the constituency meeting. Follow us on Twitter at @visitornews for #ColumbiaUnion updates all weekend long, and visit columbiaunionvisitor.com for reports soon afterward.

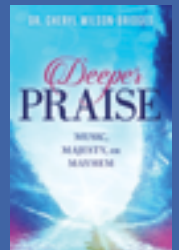


SERVE THE CITY

What happens if a church family leaves their building every Sabbath to serve the community? Allegheny East Conference's Miracle City church in Baltimore has done this for several months. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/miraclecity, and watch what took place during their outings.

FIND DEEPER PRAISE

In Cheryl Wilson-Bridges' book *Deeper Praise: Music, Majesty or Mayhem*, members—especially pastors and music ministry leaders—can find practical, Scripture-based methods for identifying foundational truths for church worship. Wilson-Bridges, pastor of worship at Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., shares more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/deeperpraise.



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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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Keep it Straight

When I was seven, I had a near-death experience. My oldest brother and I were putting up fence posts on our dairy farm. I was driving the tractor, pulling a small wagon that contained the posts, and every so many feet, we would drop a post. Soon we came to a very steep hill with a rather precipitous descent. There was a lever on the tractor that, when you were on level ground or an incline, pulling it would reduce the speed. However, if you were descending it caused the opposite—in fact, it made the tractor coast. In my nervousness approaching the hill, I attempted to slow progress, and pulled the lever causing the tractor to go faster, not slower. It began to pick up speed, and, before I could change my predicament, I was flying down the hill exposed to the potential of losing control, rolling the tractor and being terribly hurt or worse. My brother ran for a time next to the tractor, and I can still hear his instruction to me, “Keep it straight, Dave, keep it straight!”

That counsel protected my life that day, and its essence can be applied in how I relate to my role of leadership today. It is so easy and tempting to become absorbed in the many issues—in and out of our church—that are important, but not the most important. In the midst of so many voices demanding attention, there is another that can be heard above the fray, calling us to “Go, teach, baptize and make disciples” (see Matt. 28:19-20).

More than 50 million people live and work in the mid-Atlantic United States where we serve. This region is very diverse, and advancing the gospel here demands a varied and multipronged approach. It’s an awesome challenge, however, we remain focused on reaching lost people and sharing the good news of Christ’s salvation, grace and imminent return.

In this issue of the *Visitor*, we share a report about activities and accomplishments of the last five years. It provides a look at how your leaders have attempted to “keep it straight”—to execute the great commission, invite all to “Experience the Mission” in their God-given call and faithfully advance Christ’s mission in the Columbia Union.



Courage,

President

In Mission, Values and Priorities

These objectives guide and inform our actions and activities and keep us focused on our purpose—helping more people in our territory come to know Christ and hear the good news that He is coming again soon.

MISSION

The Columbia Union Conference exists to advance and fulfill the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the mid-Atlantic United States. We provide administrative leadership, governance, and support services to our conferences, ministries, healthcare networks, elementary and secondary schools, college and university. Above all, we assist and enhance the ministry of these organizations in sharing the three angels' messages and preparing people—locally and globally—for Christ's soon return.

VALUES

In the Columbia Union Conference, we pray and strive to embrace and embody:

Christlikeness · Unity · Respect · Excellence · Equality · Integrity · Service

PRIORITIES

Youth/Young Adults: Engage and partner with youth/young adults to further the mission of the church

Evangelism: Impact our communities by revealing the love of Christ, inviting people to accept Christ as their Savior and sharing the distinct Seventh-day Adventist message

Education: Foster excellence in spiritual and academic development in Adventist schools, and support programs that promote affordability and increased enrollment

Local Church Revitalization: Promote healthy families and church by uniting members through personal spiritual renewal and active engagement in ministry

Innovation in Church Ministry: Embrace innovation in ministry to respond relevantly to the changing needs of our church and community

Leadership Development: Maximize the vitality of the church by supporting leadership development, promoting effectiveness and assuring equality





REACH Engages Young Adults in Urban Evangelism

REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School began as a vision to further the commitment to disciple young adults and engage them in learning how to make disciples. Tara VinCross was selected as the director of the new school, which is located in Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the United States. Through partnership with Washington Adventist University, REACH Columbia Union is able to offer courses for university credit. The first cohort was launched in June of 2015 with 13 students from across the Columbia Union and beyond.

The cohort of young adult students began their experience in partnership with Allegheny West and Ohio conferences, serving 10 weeks of their summer semester in Columbus, Ohio. The students returned to Philadelphia to begin their urban ministry education through a blend of hands-on experience and academic courses. Learning in the areas of discipleship, community development, urban agriculture and various aspects of evangelism was both beneficial and transformational. They ministered in cooperation with a vibrant young adult church plant and lived incarnationally within the neighborhood; developed a working understanding of the cycle of transformational evangelism through their experiences in personal and literature evangelism; and visited Adventist churches across Philadelphia to learn about the inspiring ministries taking place. In the fall, REACH partnered with Mountain View Conference for a three-week canvassing and evangelism focus in West Virginia. This month they'll partner with Potomac Conference for a three-week canvassing blitz in Virginia Beach. Watch a video about the school at columbiaunionvisitor.com/REACHCU.

Young Adult Advisory Gives Voice to Millennials

During this quinquennium, six young adults served on the Columbia Union Executive Committee, giving voice to younger generations and involving them in the decision-making process at the union level. In addition, they met as a subcommittee to discuss how to reach and reclaim younger members and engage them in the mission of the church. The Executive Committee approved their recommendations that each conference must have a young adult serve on their executive committees and each should appoint a young adult coordinator. The young adults, who would like to organize a unionwide young adult retreat, are pictured left to right: Natalie Chandler, Tim Ko, Marcia Moore, Sanjay Thomas, Claudya Hernandez Barrientos and Jason Ridley.



FAITHFUL TO OUR CALLING ...

In Evangelism

More than 50 million people live and work in the eight states of the mid-Atlantic United States where we are located. There is great opportunity to minister, serve and invite people to join the Adventist family of faith. Here are two initiatives that resulted in nearly 1,000 baptisms.



Caravan of Hope Brings 626 Baptisms

After 16 stops across the Columbia Union and countless hours of prayer and preparation, 626 new members joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the Caravana de la Esperanza 2015: “Jesus, La Gran Esperanza” (Caravan of Hope: Jesus the Great Hope) event. More than 100 Hispanic churches from all eight conferences in the union prepared the way months in advance by knocking on doors, distributing literature, holding small group meetings and conducting Bible studies. Then, during 10 days of reaping meetings in November 2015, with international evangelist Alejandro Bullon as the main speaker, they celebrated the fruit of their labors as people accepted Christ and stood for baptism. “It has



been overwhelming to experience the joy of congregations celebrating the fruits of their dedicated, loving efforts to reach family, friends and co-workers for Christ,” says Rubén Ramos (right), Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries and event organizer. “To bring a dear friend to Christ is the greatest joy that disciples of Christ can experience in this life.” Watch a video at columbiaunionvisitor.com/caravanofhopevideos.

Prophecies of Hope Partnership Yields 300 Baptisms

In April of 2015, more than 100 churches from three conferences—Allegheny East, Chesapeake and Potomac—launched an evangelism series in the Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia corridor. By joining forces with the Columbia Union leadership to participate in the General Conference’s Mission to the Cities project, adopting the same theme, using cohesive branding and advertising materials and holding meetings simultaneously, they successfully completed the first known collective evangelistic effort in the Columbia Union’s history. Their joint efforts yielded more than 300 baptisms and professions of faith for Christ’s kingdom. “It was beautiful to see the collaboration between

our churches and conferences to take the gospel to the nation’s capital,” says Frank Bonderant, vice president for Ministries Development and director of the Prophecies of Hope steering committee. Watch a video at columbiaunionvisitor.com/pohvideo.



96 Baptisms

During several campus evangelism initiatives, Washington Adventist University students dedicated their lives to the service of Christ through baptism.

FAITHFUL TO OUR CALLING ...

In Using Resources

Using the human and financial resources of the Columbia Union, we are able to pay workers, sponsor dozens of programs and projects that advance Adventist mission, address human need and alleviate suffering—locally and globally. Many more church- and member-led ministries and initiatives stretch those dollars and help to make a tangible difference in the world.

Columbia Union by the Numbers

1907 *Columbia Union Established*
8 *Conferences*
806 *Churches and Companies*
81 *Elementary and Secondary Schools*
13 *Hospitals*
145,924 *Unionwide Membership*
1,044 *Students Enrolled at Washington Adventist University for 2015-16*
61,900 *Visitor Magazine Circulation by Households*



UNIONWIDE TITHE INCOME 2011-2015 IN THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2011.... \$119.5
2012 ... \$119.3
2013 \$121.3
2014 \$122.6
2015 \$126.5



The Columbia Union retains 9% of these funds. The rest goes to higher organizations.

2011 5,112
2012 4,412
2013 4,939
2014 4,492
2015 4,562
 Total new members: 23,517

BAPTISMS/ PROFESSIONS OF FAITH



HOW TITHE IS SPENT

The Columbia Union retained \$11.4 million (9%) of tithe during 2015, allocated as listed:



Auditing ... \$535,148 4.69%
WAU \$1,217,114 10.65%
NAD & World Church \$1,145,779 10.03%
Retirement \$1,647,851 14.43%
Returned to Conferences ... \$2,024,939 17.73%
Union Operations \$4,850,697 42.47%

MEMBERSHIP BY CONFERENCE AND PERCENT OF TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP



Allegheny East 39,356 27%
 Allegheny West ... 15,707 11%
 Chesapeake 14,776 10%
 Mountain View 2,324 2%
 New Jersey 16,138 11%
 Ohio 11,539 8%
 Pennsylvania 11,359 8%
 Potomac 34,725 24%

5 LARGEST MULTILINGUAL GROUPS IN 2015



	Group Membership	Churches/Companies
Hispanic	27,417	244
Haitian/French	1,668	10
Korean	1,172	7
Brazilian	928	7
Ghanaian	797	5

Source: Columbia Union Multilingual Ministries

In Ministry and Service

In the Columbia Union, every leader, ministry and entity works to advance the mission and ministry of Jesus—to be His hands and feet. Our work is done in classrooms, hospital rooms, Sabbath School rooms and boardrooms. The results are remarkable and the blessings provide countless reasons to praise the Lord, 43 listed here.

43 Reasons to Praise the Lord

1. Washington Adventist Hospital Breaks New Ground: We saw the Lord's work during the approval process for the future Washington Adventist Hospital in White Oak, Md. While it was a long journey to get approval, Terry Forde, president and CEO, and his team, remained confident God was leading. The fact that our request received unanimous approval in December 2015 from the Maryland Health Care Commission, affirms the important relationships that have been created with the community that we are blessed to serve. We can see God's hand in our progress, and we know He will continue to guide as we work toward a 2019 opening for our new hospital.



2. Hispanics Top Multilingual Growth: More than 10,200 people joined the union's Hispanic constituency bringing their membership to more than 27,400.

3. Union Pathfinder Camporee: In 2012 some 1,600 youth participated in the unionwide Pathfinder camporee held at Camp Mohaven in

Ohio. Another camporee experience is planned for this fall.

4. A Display of Faith: Six Kettering hospitals feature murals about God's creation week in their main lobbies. Leaders are now working to install murals in two more hospitals and in their freestanding emergency centers and network facilities to highlight our faith and beliefs.

5. Washington Adventist University (WAU) Serves: Students found time outside their studies to impact the community by volunteering 20,416 total hours. Two of their projects included conducting VBS programs for 3,300 children and feeding 2,400 homeless people.

6. Kettering College's 5k raises funds for Good Neighbor House, the Dayton area Adventist Community Services center. This annual charity run, started in 2009, has raised \$53,305, \$10,340 in 2015.

7. Caring for the Community: Adventist HealthCare's Faith Community Nurse/Health Ministry Program, founded on the principle that health and healing comes from a wholeness of body, mind and spirit, has 37 area Adventist churches and 122 others engaged in caring for the community.

8. 30 New Church Plants: Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, specializes in bringing conferences together

to collaborate on projects. He energetically advocated for church planting and assisted conferences in obtaining funds from the North American Division and General Conference Adventist Mission to establish 30 new churches.



9. 60-second Video Devotionals Prove Popular: Since 2013 Kettering:60 has produced a weekly, 60-second video source of inspiration and reflection with hosts who

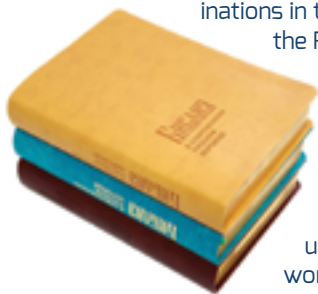


share messages from the Bible. More than 3,000 subscribers watch Steve Carlson and Keren Tanguay on mobile devices; another 800 view their devotionals on YouTube.

10. PrayerWorks! WGTS 91.9 FM, WAU's media ministry, which draws 500,000 listeners each week and more online, continues to grow and expand. During this quinquennium, they hired a chaplain to minister to their virtual flock. Each week the chaplain and a group of volunteers meet to pray for listeners. In 2012 they expanded this ministry by creating an online network called PrayerWorks! that, so far, has engaged more than 280,000 listeners. They also engage listeners with monthly devotional videos called "Words of Hope," a weekly worship service called "Gateway Fellowship" and "Night of Hope" evangelism meetings.

11. New Russian Bible: WAU was recognized at the 2015 General Conference Session for its leadership and collaboration with the country of Russia and other denominations in translating

the Russian Bible into Modern Russian. Now millions more will be able to read the Bible and understand the word of the Lord.



12. Defending Liberty: Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel, helped approximately 200 members seek workplace religious accommodations from 2011-2015. He also hosted religious liberty forums, conducted presentations and training events, provided *Liberty* subscriptions to pastors, supported trust services initiatives and provided legal counsel to union leaders and officers.

13. Students enrolled in REACH, the union's urban evangelism school, were actively involved in

local church ministries during their inaugural year, 2015-16. They gave out more than 400 boxes of food on Sabbaths, tutored over 200 hours and received more than 300 leads for Bible studies. Applications for the 2016-17 urban mission experience, which starts in June, are now being accepted.



14. Welcome, New Members! More than 23,000 new members joined the Columbia Union during the last five years through baptism and profession of faith, bringing total membership to 145,924. Every conference experienced growth including Allegheny East and Potomac conferences—the two largest conferences in our union.

15. Demonstrating God's Care: Adventist HealthCare provided more than \$77,818,000 in charity care and community benefits in 2015.



16. Tithes is Up: Tithes in 2015 reached a record \$126.5 million and total tithes for the last five years topped the previous five-year period by 7 percent.

17. New Website: Both the redesigned corporate website, columbiaunion.org, and the designated *Visitor* news website, columbiaunionvisitor.com, launched in 2014, are helping us reach more and younger members online. Over 100,000 unique users visited those two sites in 2015.

18. Responding to Crisis: Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for strategic communication and

public relations, authored *Crisis Book Camp*, a guide to help church leaders and members communicate effectively during crisis situations. During the past five years, she has been called to help with 57 crisis situations and conduct 13 workshops.

19. New Doctoral Program: Twenty students made history at Kettering College in the fall of 2015 as the inaugural class in the occupational therapy doctoral (OTD) program, the school's first doctoral program and one of only 21 OTD programs in the United States.

20. Gifts and Trusts: \$31,696,582 is the total amount in gift agreements (2011-2015); \$13,660,209 is the total five-year amount of gift maturities.

21. New Cancer Center: AHC Shady Grove Medical Center opened the Aquilino Cancer Center in 2013; it's Montgomery County, Maryland's only comprehensive outpatient cancer center.

22. Blessing the Hands: AHC's Pastoral Care department offers the opportunity for a Blessing of the Hands, a yearly dedication service where chaplains pray with health-care professionals (pictured) to bless their healing ministry to our patients and the community.



2015

23. AHC's Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness, a national pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health, serves more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area and will expand its services throughout Maryland in the coming years.

24. Making Ministry Possible: The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF), established in 1968, loaned approximately \$84.5 million to 300 churches, schools and entities for building projects, renovations or emergency needs.



25. Revitalizing WAU's Campus: The completion of the new music building in 2012, the first new building in 40 years, was the first of five revitalization projects on campus at the Takoma Park, Md., university. President Weymouth Spence and his team also completed a major renovation to the dining hall, athletic field and student center, and will be breaking ground on a new Health Professions and Wellness Building next month (below).



26. Chaplains Pray for Patients: AHC's Pastoral Care Department chaplains counseled and prayed with 67,745 patients and health-care employees in 2015.

27. Leading the Little Ones: Leaders held the first-ever, unionwide Adventurer/Pathfinder Leadership Convention in 2013.

28. Upgrading Service: During this quinquennium, the union Information Technology (IT) department, directed by Harold Greene, helped seven sites convert to the Adventist Church Web-based accounting software, conducted computer training, implemented server upgrades at two academies and five conferences, and created a network security policy, setting standards for passwords, encryption and data security.



29. Kettering Celebrates 50 Years: Charles F. Kettering Memorial Hospital opened 50 years ago to serve southwest Ohio. Since then Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC), now under the leadership of CEO Fred Manchur, has grown into a thriving healthcare network that includes eight hospitals, 1,783 physicians, 11,968 employees and numerous volunteers. Each year they handle nearly 300,000 emergency visits.

30. Equipping a Mobile Workforce: The Columbia Union Conference started using cloud-based services, where appropriate, to reduce the need for hardware and IT support at local conferences. The IT department has also adapted its services to assist the union's

increasingly mobile workforce, which often uses laptops, smart phones, and other devices and tools.

31. Talking About Freedom: Available free on iTunes, this podcast series hosted by Walter Carson, union vice president and general counsel, features conversations about freedom of religion and church-state issues with experts in the field.



32. Historic Vote: At a specially-called constituency session in July 2012, delegates voted an historic motion—"That the Columbia Union Conference authorizes ordination to the gospel ministry without regard to gender." The vote was 209 for and 51 against, with nine abstentions, which means delegates voted 4 to 1 in favor of the motion. To date more than a dozen women have received full recognition for

Many, Lord my God,
are the wonders You have
done, the things You planned for
us. None can compare with You;
were I to speak and tell of Your
deeds, they would be too many
to declare.—Psalm 40:5, NIV

their dedicated service to the cause of Christ.

33. 100,000 Homes Visited: During the school year, REACH students canvassed door to door and distributed 9,000 pieces of literature and prayed with residents of 15,000 homes.

34. Pastors Gather for Renewal and Rejuvenation: More than 700 attended our April 2013 spiritual retreat for pastors and spouses, our first since 2004. For three days, we met together for worship, to participate in workshops, to gather resources and to fellowship over meals. We enjoyed the opportunity to connect with God, our families and colleagues; and receive physical, mental and spiritual nourishment. Many renewed their commitment to Christ's call and mission and, based on the response, returned to their homes, churches and communities more committed to finish the work in our territory.

35. First Female VP: In March 2014, Celeste Ryan Blyden, who began serving the church as a volunteer 23 years ago, was elected vice president for strategic communication and public relations—a first for women in the Columbia Union's 109-year history. She frequently speaks at churches and events,



is a local elder and member of several boards and committees, and serves as publisher of the Columbia Union *Visitor*.

36. Hiring More Adventists: AHC and KAHC have become more intentional about recruiting Seventh-day Adventist employees. During the past 18 months, KAHC has added more than 133 church members to its staff and AHC has added 100.

37. Training Teachers: During the past three summers, more than 150 teachers across the K-12 spectrum



received Differentiated Instruction training; and more than 100 K-8 educators received multi-grade teacher training. More training is scheduled for summer and fall of this year.

38. Inspiration in Ocean City: More than 2,000 members attended the 2015 Hispanic Festival of Evangelism for worship, fellowship and training. The weekend event also featured a baptism for new believers.

39. Hospital Week of Prayer: Each year KAHC designates a special week of spiritual renewal for hospital employees and patients. Highlights are the video devotional series and a spiritually uplifting booklet offering Bible studies. More than 600,000 booklets have been distributed during the past few years, yielding 265 requests for Bible studies.

40. 57 Weeks of Evangelism and Revival: Convened by Ruben Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries, these meetings yielded 1,283 baptisms. This included the weeklong Caravan of Hope with stops across the union and a total of 626 baptisms. Read more on page 6.

41. Praying for Educators: The Education department has "prayer partnered" with every union educator, support staff, etc., via prayer letters, in each quinquennium for the past 20 years. "It's one of my favorite parts of the ministry," says Hamlet Canosa (pictured, far right), vice president for education, who plans to retire in June after 24 years of service in the Columbia Union and a total of 44 for the church.

42. Giving Back: During this quinquennium, we returned more than \$2 million to local conferences for ministry and mission, \$1 million through the union's Homeland Missions initiative, coordinated by Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development. These monies go back to local conferences to fund church ministry programs, outreach projects and mission schools—all designed to share the gospel message. In the last five years, we were able to support 37 projects in cities and towns across the Columbia Union, including Pennsylvania Conference's Simplicity Urban Outreach program in Allentown, Pa (pictured below).



43. Missions Abroad Provides Help and Hope: Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare helped the Columbia Union to advance missions abroad in Argentina, China, India, Vietnam, Liberia and Zambia, etc. In 2013 their donation of \$25K to the Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in India helped the hospital obtain much-needed equipment to perform cataract surgeries. During the Ebola outbreak in 2014, the Columbia Union Executive Committee voted to donate \$25K (matching a General Conference donation) to help Cooper Adventist Hospital in Liberia, keep its doors open.



FAITHFUL TO OUR CALLING ...

In Leadership

God has blessed us with a wonderful leadership team and supportive staff who are committed to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the values and priorities of the Columbia Union.

Columbia Union Leadership Team

	Dave Weigley, <i>President</i>		Rob Vandeman, <i>Executive Secretary</i>		Seth Bardu, <i>Treasurer</i>		Carol Wright, <i>Undertreasurer</i>
	Celeste Ryan Blyden, <i>VP for Strategic Communication and Public Relations</i>		Frank Bondurant, <i>VP for Ministries Development</i>		Hamlet Canosa, <i>VP for Education</i>		Walter Carson, <i>VP and General Counsel</i>
	Ruben Ramos, <i>VP for Multilingual Ministries</i>		Harold Greene, <i>Director, Information Technology Services</i>		Emmanuel Asiedu, <i>Director, Columbia Union Revolving Fund</i>		Tara VinCross, <i>Director, REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School</i>
	Beth Michaels, <i>Editor, Columbia Union Visitor</i>		Terry Forde, <i>President and CEO, Adventist HealthCare</i>		Fred Manchur, <i>CEO, Kettering Adventist HealthCare</i>		Weymouth Spence, <i>President, Washington Adventist University</i>

Transitions

During this quinquennium, we welcomed several new leaders and thanked others for faithful service:

New Leaders

	Rick Remmers, <i>President, Chesapeake Conference (2011)</i>		William Cox, Sr., <i>President, Allegheny West Conference (2012)</i>		Henry Fordham, III, <i>President, Allegheny East Conference (2012)</i>
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Thank You

	Peggy Lee, for 35 years of service in the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, 23 as sec./treas.		Terry Forde, <i>President and CEO, Adventist HealthCare (2014)</i>		Ron Halverson, Jr., <i>President, Ohio Conference (2014)</i>		Nate Brandstater, <i>President, Kettering College (2014)</i>		Charles Scriben, <i>for 30 years in the Columbia Union, 12 as president of Kettering College</i>
	Raj Attiken, for 25 years of service in Ohio Conference, 15 as president		Charles Cheatham, for 49 years of service in Allegheny East Conference, 12 as president		William "BILL" Robertson, for 14 years as president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare		Charles Scriben, for 30 years in the Columbia Union, 12 as president of Kettering College		

PHOTOS COURTESY: JOEL AVERY, LINDA CRAIG, DIMITRY HAMOULIN, KRISTAL IRIGANG, DAVID LEIVA, LEANDER TOMAZELLI, ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE, KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE, WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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Dorys Horner
Claudya Barrientos
Sanjay Thomas

Representative Committee Provides Oversight

Some 52 members from across our territory were elected to serve on the Columbia Union Executive Committee, the representative governing board that gives oversight to the union's activities between constituency sessions. Membership (as listed above) is comprised of a majority of lay members, one pastor from each conference and one president from each entity. They meet each quarter to hear reports and set policy, etc.

Mentoring Program Prepares Leaders

Treasurer Seth Bardu started a mentoring program to prepare newer treasurers for greater service. His protégés (pictured in 2013), represented from most of the conferences in Columbia Union, have covered areas including general financial leadership; governance at the ecclesiastical, higher education, healthcare and development agencies of the church; examined financial statements, church policies and the role of treasury; and how to handle the most important assets of the church—people.



COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

With a CURF loan, Ohio Conference's Good Neighbor House purchased and renovated an 11,105-sq.-ft. facility in Dayton that houses a food pantry, a department of clothing and household items and a community healthcare center with dental, medical and eye care for underserved and underinsured people. In 2014 this Adventist Community Services center provided health and human services to more than 20,000 neighbors in need.

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF is helping the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in South-west Ohio and all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

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



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

CURF 
Helping finance the Gospel Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Montclair Pastor Produces Animated Sabbath Series

Paula Olivier, pastor of First church of Montclair in Montclair, N.J., says that for years the Lord impressed her to explain the Sabbath in a different way. “As Seventh-day Adventists, I think we excel at explaining the ‘what’ of our beliefs, but sometimes pay little attention to the ‘why.’ I believe that once [we] define the ‘why,’ we can teach others to embrace the Sabbath as an extension of God’s love for us,” she adds.



This desire to present the Sabbath message in an attractive, effective way led Olivier to create an animated series. “Instead of an intense, contentious approach, the *Sabbath*

Series makes you smile as you learn,” shares Olivier. The series includes three “bite-sized,” animated videos that increase in depth with each episode.

The three-part series can also be viewed in French



and Spanish. The translators, who were not Adventists, were intrigued by the message and requested more information about the seventh-day Sabbath.

The English version comes with a free, animated gospel presentation, and a prayer to jumpstart a personal relationship with God.

Visit pastorpaula.com for more information.

Pine Forge Students Celebrate MLK Day

To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, students from Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., participated in several community service day activities. The Pine Forge Academy choir, under the directorship of Andrew Marshall, sang the negro spiritual “We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace” during a special service at the Second Baptist church in Pottstown, Pa. The choir also performed at the 31st annual National Bell Ringing Ceremony, an event at the Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia that was organized by the Philadelphia Martin Luther King, Jr. Association for Nonviolence.

Another group of PFA students, faculty, and church members distributed shoes and socks to residents of the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center of Montgomery County. They distributed more than 100 pairs of shoes and socks to 60 facility residents.

To culminate the weekend, PFA’s choir and creative arts group performed at the New Hanover United Methodist church in Gilbertsville, Pa. The Boyertown (Pa.) Area Ministerial Association sponsored the annual community-wide event.



Pine Forge Academy students and church members volunteer at the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center of Montgomery County.

Germantown Church to Start School in Philadelphia

Ever since the Sojourner Truth Adventist School closed in 2006, Germantown church members have desired to restore a stronger Adventist education presence in this Philadelphia locale. In 2012 a glimmer of hope emerged when Pete Palmer, Germantown pastor, and a few members visited a school property with 48,000 square feet of finished space and 60,000 unfinished square feet. The property, previously listed for \$6.25 million, was reduced to \$4.9 million.

After much prayer and deliberation in 2013, the church purchased the property for \$3.3 million, half the original asking price. This came on the heels of Pennsylvania legislating funds to provide scholarships to students desiring private education and tax credits to those businesses providing the service. "This confirmed for us that the Lord was leading in this venture," says Palmer.

After acquiring the property, church leaders discovered that in addition to the facility, they now owned desks, tables, chairs, flat screen televisions and more, increasing the property value to \$14 million.

Just prior to acquisition, a local school district who was interested in leasing the property, contacted Palmer. The Germantown church entered a 29-month lease with the school district. The lease payments exceed the mortgage expense, leaving room for money to be set aside toward the fall 2017 opening of Ivy Hill Christian Academy: a Seventh-day Adventist School.



The Germantown church plans to open a school in the fall of 2017.

"With the crisis in the Philadelphia public school system, we want to offer a school to the community, as well as our Adventist families," says Palmer.

As they move closer to their opening year, Germantown members are requesting prayer. "We need our brothers and sisters to pray that we will remain open to God's will as we develop our mission-focused school," Palmer says.

They are also in need of financial support toward scholarships for students. "Our goal is to become known in Philadelphia as the largest provider of affordable, Christian private education," adds Palmer.

Online Courses Offer Church Officer Training



The start of a new year can sometimes mean the start of a new position in one's church. To assist in giving them a favorable start, the church ministries department of the Allegheny East Conference has produced an online officers training series.

"Through this online training series, church officers will be able to get the information and resources they need to feel equipped in their local ministries," says LaTasha Hewitt, communication director.

The short, five- to 10-minute segments can be viewed at visitaec.org.

Leah Scott, director of Health Ministries, tapes an episode for Health Ministries leaders.

Ethan Temple Member Receives Congressional Award

In a surprise visit to Ethan Temple church in Dayton Ohio, U.S. Rep. Michael Turner of Ohio visited the church to present the Congressional Community Service Award to longtime member Don G. Black. The award included an American flag that had flown on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Black has been an active church member since his youth, and has had a long and distinguished career in business and community service. His background in public relations, photography and as founder and publisher of Dayton's longest published African-American newspaper, the *Dayton Weekly News*, is well documented.

He has also received numerous awards and citations from many other local, regional and national organizations and groups. Aside from being a newspaper publisher and editor, he is host of a weekly television talk show, *News From A Different View*, shown on local public television.

Black is married to Glenda and they have two adult children, Shrona Smith of Atlanta, Ga., and Donerik Black of Dayton. They have two grandchildren, Taylor



U.S. Congressman Michael Turner (center) presents Don G. Black with a "Congressional Community Service Award," as Glenda Black looks on.

Black and Carlos Karrington Smith.

William Cox, Allegheny West Conference president, gave the sermon during the service.—*Gene Singleton*

Ephesus Prison Ministry Serves for Decades

In the late 70s, Annie Sutton and Earl Harris, members of the Ephesus church in Columbus, started a prison ministry. That ministry is still going and now includes members from two other churches.

When starting the ministry, Sutton and Harris approached the leadership of the Chillicothe



Volunteers from Ethan Temple, Ephesus and Shiloh churches stand in front of the Chillicothe Correctional Institution after leading a worship service.

Correctional Institution in Chillicothe, Ohio, to see if they could minister there. They were granted a slot for worship on Sunday. In time the inmates understood who and what Seventh-day Adventists were, and they wanted to have Sabbath worship.

The ministry grew through the years. In the 1980s members from the Shiloh church in Cincinnati and Ethan Temple in Dayton, Ohio, joined the ministry team.

Today, members from all three churches still participate. They are led by Robert Rice, an elder at Ethan, Reggie Wells, team leader from Ephesus and Kenny Williams, an elder at Shiloh. Each week 30-40 inmates attend services. Twenty-five of the attendees are baptized Seventh-day Adventists, including 10 that were recently baptized.

"It is marvelous to see how God breaks through the hearts of men," says Melvin Mitchell, director of Allegheny West Conference's Prison Ministries. "It is so comforting to see the Lord break through years and years of abuse, and for those who did not know what righteousness was to [learn about it]. And, it is amazing to see the men mentor and proselytizing each other."



Amazing Facts Student Reads Her Way Into Church

It's not often someone walks into a church and says, "If there is a baptism anytime soon, I want to be in it." But that's exactly what Susanne Riddle did. Riddle had been listening to the *Amazing Facts* radio broadcast for more than a year when, she says, the Holy Spirit convicted her to begin obeying what she had learned. After several attempts, she found a Seventh-day Adventist church.

Riddle decided to go to the closest church in Cumberland, Ohio, 10 miles away, but says that the Spirit told her to go to a church 45 miles away in Zanesville, Ohio. She drove 45 miles and discovered that there were two churches to choose from. But the choice was not difficult to make, as the name Hillside church impressed her. The pastor was away at his other church, but Riddle heard a stirring sermon delivered by Rosalind Beswick, the first elder. The sermon sealed her decision and confirmed that she had chosen the right church.

Following the sermon, the elder asked those who were scheduled for baptism next Sabbath to stay by for some last minute instructions. Riddle stood, introduced herself and wowed the congregation with the declaration, "If there is a baptism next Sabbath, I want to be in it." She then proceeded to inform the church that she



Rosalind Beswick and Carl Rogers help Susan Riddle (center) prepare for her baptism.

had been listening to *Amazing Facts*. Convinced that this was God's true church, she came to join.

The next Sabbath, she, along with four others who had been taking Bible studies were baptized. Riddle still makes the 45-mile drive, and is the first one to arrive at Sabbath School. She also stays after service for Bible class. "I want to learn all I can, as quick as I can, because I want to share what I've discovered with others," she shares.

God Sends New Members to Westside Church

Usually we think of God sending workers into His vineyard to reap a harvest, but God is also sending people into the vineyard to be harvested. All around us God is sending people to the church to learn more about Jesus and His saving grace," says Derrick Thomas, pastor of the Westside church in Cleveland.

One Tuesday morning during a Bible study, Larende Plummer, an online college student, visited the church looking for the pastor. Thomas saw him in the hallway and invited him to join a class already in progress. The young man took a seat then started attending regularly and was baptized this winter.

Church members Olietunga Mann and his wife, Maria, believe that God sent another young man, Mike Gingrice, to them for a reason. After coming to live with them, Gingrice became impressed with the Mann's lifestyle. Thomas visited Gingrice and began giving him Bible studies. Gingrice joined the Sabbath Morning *Amazing Facts* Bible class and was also baptized in January.

"I am truly excited to see how God is working in these last days of Earth's history," says Thomas. "The Westside Seventh-day Adventist church is happy to be a part of reaping souls for Christ and His kingdom."

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

APRIL 2016

New Beginnings

Have you ever been convinced that you missed an opportunity to point an individual to Jesus? Wouldn't it be wonderful to rewind and have a do-over with no guilt? Is it possible to learn from the missed opportunity?

Many years ago, my next-door neighbor was very ill and on renal dialysis three times a week. The thought kept presenting itself: *go and ask if you can help her by cleaning her house*. I never acted and she soon died. That incident took place in 1970, and I learned a lesson that still sticks with me today—be available and willing to be the hands and feet for Jesus. I remember the missed opportunity and have purposed in my heart to listen closely for the Holy Spirit's prompting in other situations.

My mother was a resident in a nursing home. As our visits would come to a close, I normally knelt down at her feet and prayed with her. Other residents and some caregivers noticed and would ask to me to pray for specific people or situations in their lives. As requested, I humbly prayed on their behalf to our wonderful God, as requested.

Each day brings a new possibility and opportunity. In Psalm 32:8 the Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you" (NLT).

Lord, use me today in your service and let there be no missed opportunities!



Ronalyn Hackleman
Trust Services and
Planned Giving Director

Pastors, Staff and Families Recharge at Retreat

Chesapeake Conference pastors and staff recently gathered with their families in Dewey Beach, Del., for a retreat themed "Purpose-Filled Ministry." The weekend gave conference workers an opportunity to relax, pray, fellowship and refocus their ministries as one body, says Eli Rojas, ministerial director and organizer.

Shawn Boonstra, Voice of Prophecy speaker/director and keynote speaker, shared his experiences in evangelism to challenge the pastoral families. "If we focus on picking the fruit that is ripe, we will have a rich harvest. God is real and He wants us to have a harvest," he said.

Late Sunday evening, many pastors came together for a conversation with Boonstra. "It felt like a one-on-one conversation with an old friend. [Boonstra] opened up and shared his passion with them," says Rojas.

Pastors and their families have unique challenges, and the retreat also offered them a chance to share experiences and bond. Spouses and children had a chance to connect and have fun too. "Close to 60 of our pastoral families got together, and we almost took over the hotel," says Rojas. Pastors expressed

appreciation for the weekend as they were leaving.

The group also impressed the hotel staff. The hotel event manager said, "You are the best group we have had in this place!"



Eli Rojas, conference ministerial director, and Serah Zaw, assistant treasurer, lead song service during a worship service.

PHOTO BY ISMAEL MANZANARES

Chesapeake Representatives Share Gospel in India

A few weeks ago, three members from the Chesapeake Conference traveled to southeastern India to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in the Vyasarpadi district of Chennai. With a population of 8.6 million people, Chennai is one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

Prior to the series beginning, lay Bible workers went into the district and surrounding neighborhoods of the Vyasarpadi Seventh-day Adventist Church to conduct Bible studies and invite people to the meetings.

The 10-day reaping effort, led by J. J. S. Moses, pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Calvary Southern Asian church in Burtonsville, Md., and Jerry Lutz,



The Chennai evangelistic team, J. J. S. Moses, Jerry Lutz and Guillermo Bonilla, pose on the Hope Channel India set.

“executive secretary of the Chesapeake Conference, was a three-way partnership of the Chesapeake Conference, the Calvary Southern Asian church, and *Hope Channel India*. Guillermo Bonilla, a member of the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church, daily presented key elements of the health message. Each evening Lutz delivered the message translated into Tamil.

More than 165 people attended the opening night service. The crowd grew to more than 250 by the end of the series. The church often overflowed with people seated outside, listening through open doors and windows.

“Considering that this is an often overlooked part of Chennai in which few such meetings have ever been conducted, this was a great blessing to the people, many of whom had never heard the gospel before,” says Moses, who was born and raised in southeastern India.

On the first Sabbath afternoon, after just three meetings—and the advance preparation of the lay



Members of the evangelistic team and baptismal candidates surround Jerry Lutz (back, center) and J. J. S. Moses (left of Lutz).

Bible workers—church leaders baptized 10 individuals, with many more preparing for baptism. By the end of the 10-day series, 24 more people, most with a Hindu background, were awaiting baptism by local pastors.

The gleaning work continues in the Vyasarpadi district as new members bring visitors to worship with them in their new church home, reports Lutz.

“The Lord truly blessed the efforts of our team, but if it were not for the Holy Spirit’s work on the hearts of the people, and their receptiveness to the gospel, little or nothing would have been accomplished,” says Lutz. “The joy expressed on the faces of the newly baptized made the long journey to India worth every mile traveled.”



Swamidas Johnson, director of Hope Channel India, baptizes one of the many candidates that attended the 10-day evangelistic series held in the Vyasarpadi district of Chennai, India.

MOUNTAIN VIEW POINT

APRIL 2016

Let Your Light Shine

What comes to mind when you hear “summer camp?” I think about fun, outdoor activities, nature, friends, a week without my kids.

Maybe another idea popped into your head. Did you think about God, Christianity, outreach, battlefields and hard work?

The summer camp program in the Mountain View Conference receives kids from all walks of life: Seventh-day Adventist Christians, Christians of other faiths and those who have never attended church. Some kids come from broken homes, and one week at our camp becomes the highlight of the year for them. It is something that they look forward to every year. For other kids, it is the only exposure they have to Christianity.

Summer camp is about all of the fun things mentioned, but is also a battleground where campers make decisions to follow Jesus. Through Bible study, singing, nature and fun activities, we introduce these kids to Jesus. We invite them to accept Him as their personal Savior. We try to make it as appealing as He did.

“Christ watched children at their play. ... He sang to children in sweet and blessed words. They knew that He loved them. He never frowned on them. He shared their childish joys and sorrows. Often He would gather flowers. ... He delighted to point out their beauties” (Ellen G. White, *The Upward Look*, p. 57).



Walter Cardenas
*Mountain View Conference
Summer Camp director*

Camp Season Kicks Off

Valley Vista’s camp theme this year is “Let Your Light Shine,” and the staff goal is to encourage each camper to shine for Jesus wherever they are.

The dates for camp are as follows: Adventurer Camp, June 26-July 3; Junior Camp, July 3-July 10; Teen Camp, July 10-16.

For more information, visit mvcyouth.org/summer-camp.

What I Like About Summer Camp

Camper from around West Virginia, and nearby states Maryland and Virginia, visit Mountain View Conference’s Valley Vista camp in Huttonsville each summer. Here are a few reasons why:



- “Summer camp at Valley Vista is an amazing experience. There are a lot of nice people there; the staff is my favorite out of everything [at camp]. My favorite activity is archery.”—*Landon*
- “Summer camp helped me be closer to Jesus because of the counselors—they are really good listeners.”—*Stormy*
- “Summer camp has helped me understand God’s gift for us. I like that we have fun, but also incorporate God.”—*Katelyn*
- “Summer camp really helped my prayer life. It showed me how important prayer is and how important it is to communicate with God.”—*Christa*
- “I look forward to summer camp because I get to see my old friends and meet new ones. Morning worship ... helped me grow spiritually.”—*Carrissa*

Christa (left) and her sister, Carrissa, who prefers to be called Smiley, enjoy a face painting activity at camp.

MOUNTAIN
VIEWPOINT

Faithfulness Reaps Harvest in Valley View Church

In the spring of 2014, Clifford Long received a Voice of Prophecy (VOP) Discover Bible study request card that eventually led to several of his family members learning more about the Bible. Long returned the card, and started receiving Discover Bible studies from Delsie Knicely, a member from the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church.

When Knicely, a store owner who lives in Friars Hill, W.Va., dropped off new lessons and picked up the completed ones, she visited with the Longs, answering their questions. The Longs live in Lindside, W.Va., about an hour and a half away from Knicely's store, and two hours from her house, but Knicely faithfully delivered new lessons. After finishing the series, the Longs were eager for more and eventually completed another four Bible study series.

Knicely contacted Pastor Ron Patterson from the Beckley/Valley View district, asking if she could hold ShareHim evangelism meetings in the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va. She hoped that this location would be close enough for the Longs to attend. Patterson agreed, and the Longs attended. They made a public decision to follow Bible truths, and were baptized into the Valley View church in the fall of 2015.

"I felt fantastic as I witnessed the Longs' baptisms,"



Responding to a Bible study request card took Clifford and Cathy Long on a journey to truth.

says Knicely. "The Lord worked through me; I was His spokesperson and saving souls is what matters. I want as many as possible saved."

Knicely continues to study with the Longs, and is expanding her ministry to the family. She now also is studying with Elizabeth, Long's daughter-in-law in South Carolina and Clifford's sister, Sandra, in Princeton, W.Va.

8TH ANNUAL WELLNESS CAMP
JULY 24 - AUGUST 5, 2016
VALLEY VISTA ADVENTIST CENTER
HUTTONSVILLE, WV

**"I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS THAT THOU MAYEST . . .
BE IN GOOD HEALTH" 3 JOHN 2**

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All Hands on Deck

Two months after God took the people of Israel out of Egypt, Moses climbed Mount Sinai to appear before the Lord. The people of Israel were no longer slaves, and, for the first time, they experienced freedom. It was also the first time that they would hear instructions from God after leaving Egypt.

God told Moses to deliver the following message: “You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6, NIV). A priest is someone who intercedes to God on behalf of others. And God’s first message to His people was an invitation for them to be part of His mission. The Israelites were supposed to intercede on behalf of the pagan nations around them, so they could recognize that Yahweh is the only God, Creator and Savior of all.

Unfortunately, the people of Israel failed to be part of the “kingdom of priests.” But God did not give up in calling people to be involved in His mission. Later, Peter used the same words, saying, “But you are a *chosen race*, a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9).

You and I are part of a royal priesthood. Lay members, pastors, teachers, youth, children, elderly—all of us have been chosen by God to be part of His mission. Regardless of our profession, we are the ones who plead to God on behalf of others. Therefore, we must pray and serve wherever God places us.

God needs all hands on the deck, and I want to motivate you to follow the same principle of training leaders and lay members to serve the church. God is calling you to get involved in the mission of the church. Are you ready to say yes?



José H. Cortés
President

Winter Games Bring New Jersey Youth Together

This winter New Jersey Conference youth competed with other church soccer, basketball and volleyball teams in their various geographical areas. In January the winners of the small competitions gathered for finals at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center gym in Andover.

“Practicing a sport has great benefits for people, and especially for the youth. It helps them develop spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally and socially,” says Efrain Amaya, one of the event organizers. “Even the Bible says that all run to earn an award, but only one will have it. Through the games, our youth learn to compete and attain the goal of winning, and that’s also applicable for their spiritual life.”



Above: The Paterson Temple church soccer team shows their championship trophy. Left: The Lake Nelson church basketball team displays their first place trophy.

PHOTOS BY JORGE PILCO



About 20 church teams participated. The Lake Nelson church team from Piscataway, won the basketball final. The Paterson Temple from Paterson, placed first in soccer, and the Jersey City Heights church team from Jersey City, placed first in volleyball.

Youth “Get Involved!” at Retreat

Teens, youth and youth leaders spent the weekend at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in January to participate in the Youth Convention & Teens Retreat. The three-day event, themed “Get Involved!” offered more than 40 classes where leaders urged participants to get involved in their churches and in the community.



“Get involved for me is using whatever talent you have and immersing it for the Lord’s work. I’m a music teacher and every lesson that I do, I integrate faith. That’s what being involved means, putting God first and

immersing yourself in everything,” says Johanne Veraque (above), a member of the Filipino church in Jersey City.

Teresa Jorge (right) from the Luso-Brazilian church in Newark, added, “I’ve never thought I had a great voice, but people tell me that



Youth from the Englewood church relax between retreat classes.

I have a beautiful voice. So even if I wake up one day and feel like I don’t, I’ll still continue to go out there and preach the gospel and sing. To someone else, [my voice] may just be that one thing they need to find Christ. I stay involved by singing.”

Children’s Ministries Leaders Gain New Tools

Children’s Ministries leaders from throughout New Jersey came together to attend the annual Children’s Ministries Convention this past January in the New Jersey Conference auditorium in Lawrenceville. During the event, leaders learned how to get children involved and working in their local churches. “We are close to losing a generation if we don’t involve the children and youth in the work of the Lord,” says David Turner, vice principal of Potomac Conference’s Sligo Adventist School in Takoma Park., Md., and the main speaker.

Turner shared new ideas and methods for Sabbath School teachers, Children’s Ministries and Adventurer club staff. He also discussed how leaders can use technology to improve their efficiency and involve children in worship. “We should engage our kids in worship so as to strike a balance between them doing or leading each other, and being taught [about] the various, meaningful components of worship,” he shared.



PHOTOS BY JORGE PILCO

Children’s Ministries staff from Paterson Temple and Burlington churches learn new songs to teach the children.

Mount Vernon Academy Assets Help Ohio Schools

After months of meetings, committee work, research and visioning by Ohio Conference staff, another chapter of Mount Vernon Academy's history is coming to a close.

The Assets

Last October Ohio Conference school leaders visited the Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) property to bid on or request items for their schools. Many schools obtained much-needed equipment at little or no cost. Several smaller churches later received a variety of items for their congregations. Conference leaders then put up the academy assets for auction.

Two hundred and fifteen registered attendees participated in the first auction in December. The proceeds of \$46,306.42 will go toward MVA debt reduction. Participants purchased items primarily from the cafeteria, dormitories and classrooms. The "auctioneers were pleasantly surprised at how many attended and how much money was received," commented Karen Senecal, conference treasurer.

The 70-plus acre property parcel deeds were clarified last fall, and the remaining assets, along with the property as a whole, will be put up for auction after mid-April. During the August constituency meeting, Halvorsen noted that this "unique type of place will take a unique buyer." Local government officials agree, and Knox County officials partnered with the conference, local business leaders and potential investors to hire a consulting firm specializing in advancing communities.



Earlier this year, the group held a public meeting inviting Mount Vernon residents and businesses to share ideas and hear about potential uses for the property, which will be included in the study by the consulting firm.

After the sale of the MVA property and assets, conference committees and leadership will outline a plan for how monies will best be used to continue the vision and mission of the conference—of which education is a cornerstone.

"It is important for us to remember the (total) value of Adventist education, and not only the cost," says Ken Knudsen, education superintendent.

Education in Ohio

Education continues to be a priority for Ohio Conference leadership, who held a joint workshop in February, encouraging collaborative practices in teacher and pastor relations. Education staff continue visioning and exploring new uses for technology. Three Ohio elementary schools have already implemented the APLE (Accredited Programs for Learning Environments) through the North American Division Office of Education and Griggs International Academy, which allows them to offer high school grades in their schools.

Conference education and youth department leaders are actively collaborating to most effectively reach students in areas without a school. As part of this, "Mentoring by Design" youth gatherings will debut this spring. During the events, conference leaders will explore how best to use technology to connect Ohio young people—both "virtually" and in person.



Cleveland Area Church Becomes “Viable Presence”

Twelve years ago, in a conversation with Raj Attiken, former Ohio Conference president, I was challenged by a statement he made,” says Dean Cinquemani, pastor of the Christ Our Righteousness (COR) church in Olmstead Falls, a suburb of Cleveland. “He thought it would be interesting to see a church become a viable presence in their community; a presence that made a measurable mark that would be missed if they closed up and left. ... That inspiration has driven this [program], as I see that model in Christ every time I open the Word.”

For several years, the church has tried different health outreach focuses including the “Full Plate Diet” cooking program. Three years ago, Dr. Polly Dengel, COR member and health outreach leader, urged the church to use the *Forks Over Knives* method that advocates a plant-based, whole-food diet for stopping and reversing heart disease. Their renamed “Eating to Live” series began showing the *Forks Over Knives* movie on Saturday night, followed by four



More than 70 visitors and members listen to a presentation on healthful cooking.

two-hour classes during the next two weeks.

The classes begin with a 20-minute cooking demonstration, followed by a one-hour health lecture. Each class concludes by eating a dinner of the demonstrated dishes. “We never know how long we will be each evening as the participants often stay to talk late into the evening,” notes Cinquemani.

Participation has grown so much that COR had to add another class in the early summer; recent classes have been running at full capacity of 60-80. COR does not charge for classes, but accepts donations.

“I am very clear as we go along that it is our relationship with Christ that drives us to love the community and seek to help others to better life in all facets: spiritual, health, family, financial—and anything else we can find,” stresses Cinquemani. He is currently working on a special study for some who have expressed interest in “knowing the God that has inspired us to care.”



Participants sample healthful food at a cooking class hosted by the Christ Our Righteousness church.

Men Encouraged to Attend Retreat

Men from across Ohio are encouraged to attend the upcoming retreat May 20-22 at Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville. “This invigorating retreat is designed to ignite spiritual discussions and experiences from a totally male perspective through outdoor activities, hearty food, engaging worship and music, and messages of conviction,” says Ken Franklin, coordinator. Ndubuisi Nwade (pictured), pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Bethel church in Akron, will be the featured speaker. Visit ohioadventist.org for details.



Pennsylvania Pen

APRIL 2016

Camp Meeting Promises Packed Weekend

This summer's Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting will be limited to one weekend, June 10-12, but will be packed full of inspiring worship, practical seminars, music, friends, and fun activities for children and youth.

In a renewed effort by the Pennsylvania Conference leadership to emphasize stewardship, executive committee members made the difficult decision to reduce the length of the summer camp meeting held at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa.

Ray Hartwell, president, says, "Camp meeting is a great opportunity for all Seventh-day Adventists in Pennsylvania to renew our commitment to the calling that we each share. While disappointed that we will not have a weeklong event, conference leadership is working hard to pack as much camp meeting into one weekend as possible."

Sunday will feature the annual Pathfinder fair and include numerous activities for young people of all ages throughout the campus, such as horseback riding, go-karting, arts and crafts, paper rocket building, dunk tanks, water slides and spikeball. Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs will sell homemade food from many ethnic backgrounds to raise funds for their groups.

On Sunday the ABC [Adventist Book Center] will



Children of all ages enjoy daily activities, mission outreach events, games, crafts and stories at camp meeting.

also have their traditional book sale, all daylong, right in their store.

Adults may also choose to attend seminars and ministry training sessions, beginning with an old-fashioned hymn sing and ending with a performance by Piercing Word, a local group who presents Scripture in compelling dramatic presentations and challenges the crowd to memorize God's Word.

"As we draw even closer to the coming of Jesus Christ, it is even more valuable to come together to share our commitment to our Lord and to the Adventist message and mission," shares Hartwell. "I want to invite every member to make an earnest effort to come and partake of the spiritual blessings at this year's camp meeting. And, I invite you to especially bring your young people to join in the Sunday activities. Whether or not they are in Adventurers or Pathfinders, there are special, uplifting events planned for all age groups. We are eager to receive the blessings that we believe God will share with us as we come together."

Hispanic camp meeting will be held June 4-5 at BMA. The fall camp meeting will continue as scheduled, September 16-17, at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter.

For more information or to register online, visit paconference.org/camp-meeting.



Friends old and new connect while experiencing spiritual renewal and growth during camp meeting.

Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492
 Phone 610-374-8331 ext 200

June 10-12, 2016 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
Applications only accepted with payment included

Office use only:
 Assignment: _____

Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (Cell Phone if possible) _____

Total # in your party _____. Provide information below for children.

Children	Age	Gender

NOTES:

1. A completed application with **payment in full** is required for all reservations. Partial payments will be returned to sender. Checks should be made payable to **Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.
2. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.
3. All those who plan to stay in the Dorms and have children ages 10 and over, will be asked to stay in the respective dormitories -- i.e., girls in Girls' Dorm and boys in Boys' Dorm.
4. Children under 18 years of age are not permitted to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities **unless accompanied by an adult**.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed anywhere on campus or in camping areas! Names of local kennels will be provided in your confirmation packet.
6. Recreational vehicles in Keystone are not allowed to use microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances because of 20 amp service. All other RV sites are supplied with 30 amp service.

Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room with 2 single beds <input type="checkbox"/> need handicap accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Request for _____ extra single mattress <input type="checkbox"/> Friday night <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday night	\$35.00	
Keystone Cabin - (8 bunk beds) NOTE: a key deposit of \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Friday night <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday night	\$30.00	
Personal tent with 30 amp electricity Located in Grove City <input type="checkbox"/> Friday night <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday night	Tent \$15.00 RV \$20.00	
Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trailer size: _____ ft. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday night <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday night	25.00	
Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trailer size: _____ ft. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday night <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday night	30.00	

Total Charges

\$ _____

Full Payment Enclosed:

- Check # _____
 Money Order
 Cash (do not send cash in mail)
 Credit Card M/C -- or -- Visa

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Exp: _____ Code: _____

Signature: _____

Office use only:

- Paid by check # _____ Paid in full
 Paid by cash Confirmation sent
 On-line payment Checked in by _____
 M/C -- or -- Visa
 Exp: _____ Code: _____ Date: _____

Potomac People

APRIL 2016

Learning to Cultivate

Last year Potomac Conference leadership started Cultivate, a new initiative that challenges members of each church and school to break beyond their walls and create a unique presence in their community. Cultivate



is not an event. It's an ongoing cycle of evangelism. It's about living life with others who don't know about Jesus

and, in our kindness, companionship and acts of love, earning opportunities to share the message. Cultivate has three foundational purposes and goals:

Start New Churches

A church is a group of people who bring healing and the Good News to a community—a safe place for people to find hope in Him. We have designated 35 geographical targets throughout our territory, where we need to plant a redemptional presence and make positive differences that allow for opportunities to share Jesus.

Create a Platform for Young Professionals

Inspire is an experience where Millennials can wrestle with God, find strength and inspiration and be equipped to move into mission using their creativity and insight. Learn more information about Inspire and upcoming events on pcsda.org/inspire.

Produce Evangelistic Experiences and Reaping Events

We want believers of all ages and backgrounds, working together, to make the Potomac Conference a



To the Manassas (Va.) church, Cultivate looks like inviting the community to their Fall Festival and participating in games, crafts and food.

unified family working toward the common goal of winning souls. In 2017 we hope to reap our unified efforts and have a record-breaking year in attendance and baptisms in our churches and schools.

Cultivate is more than holding evangelism series in buildings—it's about *being church*. We "are church" by connecting to God, praying for a specific person each day, reaching out in compassion and love to those we come in contact with and planting seeds by kindly serving our communities. Each day we are a moving center of influence through which God can offer His gift of life. Paul said, "I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. ... that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:7-8).

Cultivate looks different to everyone, and the needs of each community are unique. We need to support one another's vision for evangelism and sharing Jesus through comradery, encouraging one another and giving.

I invite you to join me in donating \$10 a month to Cultivate by visiting pcsda.org/cultivate, or writing Cultivate on the evangelism line on a tithe envelope.

Imagine what we can do together when we participate in Cultivate.



Peter Casillas

Associate for Church-planting and Evangelism



Potomac People

Brain Tumor Brings Member to Jesus

For several years, Paolo Moyani experienced double vision and headaches. Doctors told him he simply needed glasses. Upon moving to the United States, Moyani says an ophthalmologist was alarmed at his description of his vision problems and ordered him to go to the hospital. After an MRI, they made a shocking discovery—a brain tumor the size of a tennis ball.

Shortly after arriving in the U.S., his aunt invited Moyani and his family to the Far West End church in Richmond, Va. “After the first visit, I didn’t want to go back,” he says. “It was so different from what I believed.” But his family continued attending.

As Moyani went through chemotherapy and radiation for the tumor, he says he and his family were embraced by members of the church. “I didn’t have insurance. We didn’t know where to get the money when the bills started coming in, but God was ahead of us. I praise God for a loving and caring church family that supported us even though we were not members. They helped us defray some of our bills and provided food and lots of prayer and love.”

During the course of his treatment, Moyani says his life centered around the church, home and the hospital. “I begin to learn more about God during those very difficult and dark days,” he shares. “I saw the light of Jesus, I learned how to pray. For the first time, I learned to study the Bible and learned how to surrender my life



Paolo Moyani joins Pastor Junnie Pagunsan outside the Far West End church.

to Jesus with the help of my church family. My family began studying with Pastor Junnie [Pagunsan] every week, and I decided to be baptized. It was the greatest day of my life. Now I am a follower of Jesus, a living testament of God’s miracle, one year cancer free and still learning and growing in Jesus.”

Conference Recognizes Staff Members

Each year at pastor/teacher meetings, Potomac Conference administration recognizes outstanding educators and pastors. This year three professionals received special recognition: Crystal Melius, head teacher of Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School (Va.); Wallace Frost, pastor of Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md.; and Junnie Pagunsan, pastor of the Far West End church in Richmond, Va.

To watch the videos highlighting the work of the honorees, visit pcsda.org/appreciation2016.



STEM Club Wins Regional Competition

Seniors Sharyl Cubero, Chelsey Jimenez, Matthew Guy, Joel Whitely and sophomore Iliana Dialectakis recently received first place in the 2016 regional Governor's PA STEM Challenge at Berks County Intermediate Unit in Reading, Pa. The competition required a team of five students to create an innovative prototype of a useful device that would help solve problems within the immediate community of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) and potentially be of help to all Pennsylvanians.

The STEM students, with the help of sponsor Rosemarie Bechtel (below), decided to build a light that would help people dealing with "the winter blues" that often occur during Pennsylvania's gloomy winter days, or from shift work. The project incorporated 2001 research by Richard Hansler involving blocking blue light waves using yellow filters. Hansler, who worked for General Electric for 41 years creating bright light bulbs, and continues at 90 to teach Physics at John Carroll University (Ohio), also advised the group via telephone. Blue light stops the production of melatonin in the pineal gland. Melatonin is not just important for feeling sleepy in the evening, but also as an antioxidant to aid in reducing the risk of many types of diseases, including cancer and possibly Alzheimer's disease, explains Bechtel.

Blue light also stimulates the pineal gland to produce serotonin, a hormone that creates a sense of well-being and functions in numerous other body systems, says Bechtel.

The STEM students created a light system that not only helps to stimulate the production of serotonin in the morning hours using LED lights, but also helps to stimulate melatonin production at night. These lights are automated by a mini-computer called Raspberry Pi 2. The students also incorporated the sound of crickets into the light to help users fall asleep at night, and the sounds of



Students Sharyl Cubero, Chelsey Jimenez, Joel Whitely, Matthew Guy, Iliana Dialectakis and sponsor Rosemarie Bechtel celebrate their win at a regional STEM competition.

birds to help gently wake them up in the morning.

Several community members helped advise the group, including parent George Dialectakis, an electrical engineer. Dialectakis talked to the group about his profession, and working as a team, answered a few questions. Bryce Enevoldson, ('01), also offered the team advice and approved the electrical set-up. The staff at Creation Cabinetry in Hamburg allowed the team to visit their showroom, and explained how to set up LED lighting.

The state of Pennsylvania will reimburse the group up to \$500 for the first prototype, and gave the students an additional \$750 to improve their product. Ten schools registered to compete regionally, however, only five were qualified to present their prototypes.

The BMA team won first place in the regional competition and will be able to compete in a state competition May 27 at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster. The students will compete against 15 other first-place winners from across Pennsylvania for the chance to win college scholarships.

School Draws Students From Across the World

Highland View Academy (HVA) draws students from around the world to its campus. Currently 10 percent of the student body comes from abroad, from such diverse places as Brazil, China, Africa, Argentina and Canada. “The world comes to HVA because we offer a world-class education,” says principal Malcolm Hutchinson.

One part of that education is the school’s English as a Second Language (ESL) program. ESL teacher, Juliana Savoy, assists students still learning English and holds the equivalent of a master’s degree in English language education from River Plate Adventist University in Argentina. Once the students arrive, they find academic excellence and open and caring people such as Savoy. Daniel Moreira (’16), a student from Brazil, says, “One of the things I like most about being at HVA is the connections [I] have with the people. I can talk to everyone here, and I know they are going to listen to me.”



PHOTO BY JOHN ZERNE

Principal Malcolm Hutchinson congratulates Maria Soria with a certificate of achievement for her ESL studies.

We Benefit From STEM Internships

This year three other seniors and I completed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) internships, one of the requirements for earning STEM certificates with our diplomas.

HVA provides students the opportunity to participate in STEM-related internships in which we gain hands-on experience through 80-100 hours of intensive learning programs, where we work with professionals and academic scholars in their respective fields.



Seniors Matthew Rada, Alissa Tanguay, Kayla Miller and Matias Olivares will complete STEM internships this year.

Students have the opportunity to work in a variety of fields and environments, including biomedicine, physical and occupational therapy, and more. Besides expanding our understanding of various STEM fields, our internships also allow us to witness to individuals in the public sector.

Alissa Tanguay (’16) shares, “My internship gave me the opportunity to introduce and clarify the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventism in a kind way.”

Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for STEM, adds, “STEM internships allow students to rub shoulders and network with STEM professionals, and allow these professionals to mentor our students, which is vitally important as students decide on the career paths that they may take. It also allows our students to do new and novel research in the STEM fields, and gives them an edge in the job market, where a majority of the future jobs will be in STEM or STEM-related.”

Being able to work with educated, experienced scientists and scholars was eye-opening and allowed us to gain knowledge in fields we otherwise might have known little about. We’re grateful to have such an amazing opportunity at HVA.—Kayla Miller

Spotlight

on Spencerville

APRIL 2016
Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Students Participate in Spelling Bee

Parents and students recently filled the Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) auditorium to watch 24 finalists from first through eighth-grades compete in the SAA Scripps National Spelling Bee. In preparation for the SAA championship, students studied from a word list of 450 words, then participated in classroom level bees with 100 words on their lists until three students emerged from each class. These finalists participated in the final spelling bee.

After nearly two hours of competition, the last two finalists, seventh-grader Abby Shim, and eighth-grader Nina Palivela (pictured), went back and forth spelling words. During round 25, the 213th word, “interlocutor” ended the bee for Shim, who was last year’s winner. Palivela continued correctly spelling words in round 26. Palivela finally finished the competition by spelling, in a whispered sound, “susurrat^on.” When asked whether she was nervous, she replied, “My mother told me that hard work and prayer would equal success. That is what got me through!”

Palivela, registered as the SAA school champion, is eligible to continue to the regional bee in Bethesda, Md. SAA, however, does not participate in the regional bee because it takes place on Sabbath.

As the SAA winner, Palivela receives a free subscription to online *Encyclopedia Britannica*. “We are proud of our students and the energy and excitement they put forth for the bee,” says Darlene Thompson, elementary vice principal. “We desire to offer our students opportunities to challenge themselves beyond the classroom and to engage in academic excellence.”



Drama Team Attends Broadway Production

Spencerville Adventist Academy’s drama team recently traveled to New York City to see the award-winning musical “The King and I.” “The students were impressed with the Broadway production, and were inspired for their own performance of the very same show this spring,” says Jane Lanning, drama director.

“I was excited to see how the script for Anna was interpreted by the actress. I think she gave an amazing performance,” says junior Theresa Kruger, who plays Anna in the SAA production. “Going to New York showed me the potential of our play.”

SAA’s performance of “The King and I” is scheduled for April 13-17 in the school’s auditorium. For ticket information and show times, visit the SAA website at spencervilleacademy.org, or call (301) 421-9101.



Spencerville Adventist Academy’s cast of “The King and I” stand outside the Lincoln Center production of the same play.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

APRIL 2016

We're Pro-Kindness

Normally I use this space to highlight good news and share stories about students and staff at Spring Valley Academy (SVA). While I never run out of material for that, this time I want to touch on an area we want to improve. We have become aware that SVA has room to grow in living up to its motto—Know, Follow, Share Jesus—specifically in the way students treat and speak to each other. SVA is full of great kids who come from wonderful families. Even great kids, however, are influenced by a culture that glorifies “smack talk,” put-downs and negative social competition.

We understand that for lasting change to occur, we need a proven, comprehensive, research-based program that will become a permanent feature of the school. We feel we've found that in the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program. This program has been endorsed by the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education and has been implemented in hundreds of schools across the country with excellent results. It calls for all the adults in the school to be trained to intervene decisively when they see bullying behavior. In addition to teacher education, Olweus trainers provide a parent training to better help parents understand the school's new approach and how they can support our efforts from home.

Most importantly, the program provides a curriculum with weekly lessons intended to increase empathy in the hearts of students. Empathy leads to kind and compassionate behavior. In that regard, I prefer to think of this as a pro-kindness program rather than an anti-bullying program.

We invite you to be active partners with us in supporting our kids, the school staff and each other as we all strive to do the best we can for our young people. We want to protect them and provide a great environment for them to thrive. For more information on the program, visit violencepreventionworks.org/public/bullying.page.



Darren Wilkins
Principal

Students Celebrate African-American Poet



Sonny Moretta, Sifa Ntirampeba, Kristin Babienco, Alivia Cowin, Carly Bekowies, Kyle Raynor, Belissa Etienne and Addison Betances attend a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Nine select high school students from Spring Valley Academy's National Honor Society attended the 16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, Ohio. Herbert Woodward Martin, a retired English professor from the University of Dayton, gave the keynote presentation on Paul Laurence Dunbar, an African-American writer from Dayton, Ohio, who wrote in the late 19th and early 20th century.

“This year the speaker shared some of his story through song, which, though unusual, definitely held our rapt attention,” says senior Alivia Cowin.

The event was hosted by the Centerville-Washington Diversity Council to celebrate and promote an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community for the Centerville and Washington Township community.

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

APRIL 2016

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

ASSIST Students Share Christ's Love

I was recently blessed to witness an awesome moment of the ASSIST program, a program administered by Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) that allows students to earn tuition money by ministering to and helping senior citizens with household tasks. One day I dropped off some of the newest program members to visit and sing with nursing home residents. When I came back to check on them, I was unable to locate them. An aid said she hadn't heard or seen the students.

As I continued my search, I came to another nurse who *had* seen and heard the students, answering, "Oh, yes, and their singing is beautiful." When she told me they were in the next room, I still didn't hear them and went in to investigate. What I saw brought tears to my eyes. All five young people had joined hands around the bed, earnestly praying for the patient.

How blessed we are to have an opportunity for our young people to be able to earn money for school—and to learn the value and rewards of work. How blessed we are to be able to train our students in the



Eighteen SVA students participate in the ASSIST program.

way they should go, and to provide an opportunity for them to be an example of Jesus' love in our community.—Susan Dickson Finlaw, ASSIST Work Coordinator

“Dean Susan’s” Reasons to Attend SVA

Four years ago, Susan Dickson Finlaw ('65) returned to her alma mater as a task-force dean for one year. During that year, she helped launch and became the coordinator of the ASSIST work program, which encourages young people to minister to and help senior citizens. This is her third year as the ASSIST work program coordinator.

Finlaw says, “As a student, parent and now grandparent of an SVA student, I have witnessed the impact of an SVA Adventist boarding school education on

generations of students, and



Sophomore Natalia Nino (center) and freshman Julia Rivera assist a local woman with yard work.

there isn't a better opportunity than this school for young people to grow in their relationship with God, prepare for their academic future and [to serve].”

During the years, Finlaw has gathered a list of reasons to attend SVA. They include:

- Programs and activities that enhance students' love and relationship with Jesus
- Christian friends, teachers and mentors who become lifelong friends
- Opportunities to share the love of Christ and serve others through ministry, service and music
- The security of a faculty family who meet every day to pray
- A curriculum-based character development program
- A healthy, active lifestyle in the country, including a variety of sports opportunities
- Dual-credit college classes that enable students to complete a semester or more of college credit upon graduating
- A work study program which helps pay for school and develops a strong work ethic

www.ta.edu TATO DAY APRIL 2016

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Alumni to Gather for Special Weekend

Excitement is starting to build for Takoma Academy's annual Alumni Weekend April 29-May 1. Takoma Academy (TA) students are looking forward to welcoming back the following honor classes: 1916, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

Lynda Hodges ('83), TA Alumni Association president, her fellow alumni officers and the TA Office of Alumni Affairs staff have worked to prepare an unforgettable event.

"Our theme, 'One School, One Family, God's Vision,' for alumni weekend this year is focused on bringing the current students, faculty, staff and parents/families together with all alumni. [We want] all former students (not just graduates), faculty, staff and families to enjoy looking back at our time spent at TA, marvel at the great things happening now and engage with our current TA Family," says Hodges. "God's purpose is for us to always be a guiding force in bringing people together to serve and fellowship. It is my desire that Takoma Academy and the Takoma Academy Alumni Association become an example of school, family and alumni being *one*."

The second Annual Alumni Tennis Tournament, hosted by Irving Westney ('81), will kick off the festivities April 23, the Saturday before Alumni Weekend, at the Fairland Tennis Bubble in Laurel, Md.

Alumni Weekend starts Friday, April 29, with registration, a welcome reception and meeting. A vespers



service will follow with guest speaker Steve Silver ('71) (left), the creator of the Success Weekend that pairs CEOs and other major thought leaders with TA students for mentoring. Honor class mini-reunions will follow vespers.

Sabbath School, taught by

Rodney Cartwright ('81) (right), will take place in the renovated Mrs. John Jay Hopkins Chapel. Cartwright is chief of procurement and contracts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and also serves on the Takoma Academy Board of Trustees.



Charles Tapp (below), senior pastor of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., and former TA Bible teacher, will



speak at the Divine Sabbath Service. Honor class pictures and a catered luncheon will follow in the cafeteria. The price of the luncheon is \$16.

Alumni Weekend will conclude Sunday with an Alumni Basketball Game and Family Activity Day organized by

Kevin Carreno ('84) and Glen L. Charles ('84).

The second Annual Alumni Tennis Tournament, hosted by Irving Westney ('81), will take place Saturday night at the Fairland Tennis Bubble in Laurel, Md.

Special Note

Members of the following classes: 1947, 1962, 1988, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014 should contact business manager Rashawna Young at ryoung@ta.edu in the next 60 days for information on remaining funds in your class accounts.



Global Thinkers

For the first time on the Washington Adventist University campus, Provost



Weymouth Spence
President

Kisunzu and the Betty Howard Student Success team developed and launched an International Student Program in February. The objectives of this program are to:

build community and cultural competencies, promote appreciation for cultural diversity, engage in cross-cultural conversations, facilitate interaction between faculty and students, and create a friendly environment for learning, socializing, and leadership among students. The director of the program is Dr. Beulah Manuel who also launched at this inaugural event Global Thinkers – International Student Chat, a monthly event where students share knowledge, experiences, opinions and ideas that are relevant to the university’s mission and vision. It was exciting to observe the positive interactions between faculty, staff and our students who have traveled from over 50 different countries to experience learning at WAU. It was also meaningful to hear our international students speak about the joy and value of being at a welcoming institution. This is a wonderful model of how we are engaging minds and transforming lives.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence

WAU Music Student Recognized in Young Artist Competition

Washington Adventist University music student Geoffrey Cua was recently awarded “Alternate” (equivalent to second place) in the String category at the regional Eastern MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) Young Artist Performance Competition. The event was held in late January at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J.

Cua competed on the violin against young artists between the ages of 19 and 26 from the states of Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, West Virginia, Connecticut, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia. He performed the first movement of Beethoven’s Sonata No. 7, Romance from Wieniawski’s Second Concerto, and Lalo’s Symphonie Espagnole, first movement.

“We are very proud of Geoffrey Cua,” said Dr. Preston Hawes, WAU’s Director of Orchestral Studies. “He competed against students from some of the best music conservatories in the world, and his achievement is significant.”

The jurisdictions represented in the regional competition are home to such music conservatories as Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes, Curtis, Peabody, New England Conservatory and Yale School of Music.

“It was an honor to represent the state of Maryland, and it was a great learning experience that has helped me in my live auditions to grad school,” said Cua.



Geoffrey Cua

Women’s Residence Hall Renovations Underway

Renovations to Halcyon Hall have begun, and the Office of Student Life has announced that 50 rooms and 15 restrooms will be renovated by the fall 2016 semester.

New tile flooring, window dressing and wall paint, along with improved heating and air-conditioning, are included in the renovation work. Ten rooms are expected to be completed by the end of the spring semester, 20 by the end of the fiscal year in July, and the remaining 20 rooms will be completed by the start of the fall semester. Restrooms will be updated with tile floors, and lighting and shower improvements.

In recent years, a number of improvements have been made, including a new music building, renovations in the dining hall and library, a new Student Activities Center, and a new ball field.

Alumni Weekend 2016 April 7-10

Featured Speaker: Pastor Eugene Kitney ‘06

Honoring the Classes of:
2006, 1996, 1991, 1986,
1976, 1966, 1961, 1956,
1951, and 1946.

Events throughout the weekend include a cherry blossom tour on Friday, recognition of our 2016 alumni awardees and the Young Alumni Reunion on Saturday evening, and the Mission-Airs 5K run/walk and the Family Fun Festival on Sunday. For more information about these events and to register, find more at www.wau.edu/alumni/alumni-weekend.

KETTERING COLLEGE



This student-led event has raised over \$50,000 for a local Adventist community center.



Kettering College Gears Up for Annual 5K

By Jessica Beans

Kettering College is gearing up for the eighth annual Spring into Health 5k, a community event that not only promotes healthy living but is a fundraiser for a local Adventist community center. After the 5k in 2015, Kettering College donated \$10,340 to the Good Neighbor House, a nonprofit organization that provides food pantry services, clothing, household items, along with medical and dental services, to under-served individuals and families in the Greater Dayton Region. Over the seven-year history of this event the College has donated a total of \$53,305.33 to the Good Neighbor House.

Students in the Physician Assistant (PA) Department have been the primary organizers of the event since its start in 2009.

"It was an incredibly rewarding experience for our class to organize an event that donates funds to the community center," said Anisha Mathi, 2015 PA graduate. She says

planning this event was close to her class' heart because of the Good Neighbor House's commitment to offer medical care to those who cannot otherwise afford it.

Missy Gottschlich, current PA student said "donating to the Good Neighbor House was a natural choice because their mission of supporting and caring for people in the community nicely parallels with the mission of service that is prevalent in the Kettering College PA program."

"I have been involved in planning the 5k since its humble beginnings when we only had about 50 participants," Victor Brown, Dean for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs said. "Over the years the event has grown to having over 600 participants in 2015, but we hope that the number of participants will continue to grow this year so that we will be able to donate even more in the future!"

More Information can be found at kc.edu/5k



KC.EDU

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

The Powerful Impact of Others

While attending a public junior high in Central California, a local Seventh-day Adventist physician offered to sponsor me to the Adventist academy. His kindness changed my course in life dramatically. In an effort to “repay” Dr. Darel Courser for his incredible generosity, I helped him move equipment and supplies into mini-storage units all over town. I wondered why he collected such an assortment of miscellaneous items.

After finishing academy, I chose to continue Adventist education at Pacific Union College. My career path was uncertain. I was looking for a career that would capture my personal mission of service. For me, a job was more than a paycheck, but truly a sacred calling.

As a result of Dr. Courser supporting me in Christian education, I was introduced to Fred Manchur, president of the local Adventist hospital in California. Fred invited me to do an internship. When I finished the internship, there was no doubt God was calling me to a career in healthcare. I became the first person in my family to graduate from college and was grateful to enter gainful employment doing worthwhile work.

Soon after, I was invited to participate in a mission trip to Nigeria, Africa. While touring the hospital lab, I asked the local physician, “Where did you get the beautiful tile on these counter tops?” He said, “A physician in California who used to be a missionary in Africa sent us a container full of equipment and these were in the shipment.” That physician was Dr. Courser and I had helped move that tile years prior as a kid!

That very moment truly changed my life. I immediately realized that one person can make a difference in this world and one person can truly make a difference in another’s life. This is why our Adventist heritage to help those in need is so well respected and honored all over the globe. From the mission doctor in Malawi to the world-class surgeons at Kettering, our mission of caring for our communities is more palpable now than ever!

The next time you feel that tug at your spirit to make a difference in another person’s life, answer the call. You may never know the true impact of your generosity until we meet in heaven!

Along with service as President of Kettering Medical Center, Jarrod McNaughton is a member of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Jarrod McNaughton
President
Kettering Medical Center

“I immediately realized that one person can make a difference in this world and one person can truly make a difference in another’s life.”



YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER



Continuing Preparation for the Future

By Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has come a long way since we received our first patient in 1964. Building on the trust that the community placed in us, Kettering Adventist HealthCare has continued to grow and expand each passing year. What began as a single hospital in Kettering, Ohio, has grown into a nationally recognized health care system known for exceptional quality built on a true faith-based mission.

The health care industry is not without its challenges. But it is during those challenging times that we have focused on the commitments we have made.

- We are committed to our community who looks to us at their most trying moments in life. When our community needs us, we are ready.
- As one of Greater Dayton's largest employers, we are committed to connecting our employees to the sacred work of health care in a faith-based, mission-centered environment. We know that each day thousands of employees come to work knowing that our mission comes to life through their hands.



The **Hamilton Health Center** celebrated its opening with a dedication as well as an open house and health fair on January 29. The facility houses Joslin Diabetes Center and Kettering Physician Network endocrinology and primary care services.

2016 Executive



Roy Chew

President of Kettering Adventist HealthCare



Jarrod McNaughton

President of Kettering Medical Center and Executive Vice President of Kettering Adventist HealthCare



Terry Burns

Executive Vice President of Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Chief Financial Officer of Kettering Medical Center



Sycamore Medical Center expanded its third floor, adding 27,000 square feet to create 32 new private rooms. These rooms were designed with patient input based on the needs of the community.



Kettering Cancer Center



- We are also committed to our physicians and health care professionals who want to practice care for an organization that is known for providing outstanding and safe quality care.

- Most importantly, we recommit ourselves every day to God so that we can continue to be the means through which we convey his love and serve as an extension of Christ's healing ministry.

Our constant endeavor is to provide for our community. The leadership team that Kettering Adventist Healthcare has in place is committed to continuing our rich legacy.

Leadership Changes



Todd Anderson
Executive Vice President
of Kettering Adventist
HealthCare



Anita Adams
Chief Operating Officer of
Kettering Medical Center



Rick Dodds
President of Soin Medical Center
and Greene Memorial Hospital



The community came out to see a new facility in **Tipp City** that houses new locations for the Orthopaedic Institute of Dayton as well as Kettering Sports Medicine and Kettering Physician Network Primary Care.

THE NEWS

Kettering:60 Adds New Co-host

Over the past year, the Kettering:60 team searched for someone with passion and energy to join Steve Carlson as co-host. They found those qualities in Keren Tanguay, who hosted her first episode on January 4.

"I first heard about Kettering:60 from my mother-in-law, and from then on I was hooked! What struck me the most was how intentional Kettering:60 is, how every word must count for something," she said.

Keren will alternate hosting videos and team up with Steve Carlson for special co-hosted features, bringing a new perspective to the weekly videos.

"I hope to make God's word relatable in every aspect of life," Keren said. "Kettering:60 gives me an outlet to do God's work."

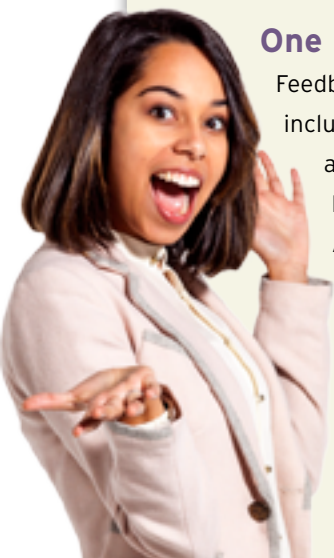
One man's life changed

Feedback from Kettering:60 videos—including emails, online comments, and personal stories—has shown how they are inspiring Kettering Adventist HealthCare employees, the local community, and the Adventist community. Here is one personal testimony that stands out.

After repeatedly seeing communications about Kettering:60, a Kettering Adventist HealthCare employee decided to see what the hype was about and began watching a video. As he continued to watch them, he was filled with hope. One evening, he shared with Steve how much he loved seeing and hearing Jesus' message through the videos.

The messages inspired positive change in his life—he started going back to church, and was even able to end a self-destructive cycle, which included attempts to end his own life.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare feels blessed to spread the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, whether that is through hospitals, outpatient services, freestanding emergency departments—or even a weekly devotional video.



Watch Kettering:60 at [Youtube.com/Kettering60](https://www.youtube.com/Kettering60)
or by texting "Kettering60" to 95577

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EMPLOYMENT

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.

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Wildwood Lifestyle Center has openings for missionary-minded medical practitioners with a passion for lifestyle medicine. Valid U.S. license required. Stipend provided. If you sense the Lord calling you to come and help, full time or part time, please contact the administrator, (423) 315-3737 or administrator@wildwoodhealth.org.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Math and Physical Sciences Department, is seeking a highly motivated individual to teach a combination of statistics, upper-level mathematics and/or general physics. Doctoral degree preferred; master's degree considered. Send CV and copy of transcripts to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified professional to serve the Department of Music as director of orchestral studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Preferred candidate will hold a doctoral degree, be an accomplished string

performer and have professional experience as a conductor. Send CV and cover letter to Jonathan Wall, jwall@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Seventh-day Adventist librarian for a faculty position. The ideal candidate will have experience with college library/archives instruction and technology. ALA approved MLS or equivalent required; additional subject master's degree preferred. Position begins July 1. Send CV and cover letter to thomsenc@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks development officer/grant writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and data entry. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree with strong consideration given to those with experience in grant writing and donor relations. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to sgrady@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified and visionary professional to serve the Department of Music as director of keyboard and theory studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Ideal candidate will possess a doctoral degree, be an accomplished performer and have professional experience as a church musician. Send CV and cover letter to Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in counseling education for

graduate/undergraduate programs and to provide clinical supervision. Doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from CACREP-accredited program, or doctorate in clinical/counseling psychology from APA-accredited program required, and experience in counselor education prior to July 1, 2013. Candidate must be licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee and have two years of clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling. Submit cover letter and CV (include teaching philosophy, research interest, unofficial university transcripts and three reference letters) to Dr. Ileana Freeman, ileanaf@southern.edu, (423) 236-2960, southern.edu/hr.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks vegetarian culinary arts professor to teach vegetarian culinary arts classes, advise students and participate in service to the community. Master's degree in culinary arts/nutrition or related field required. Experience in culinary arts (restaurant, education, culinary business owner) and chef training/certification(s) desired. Submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and three references to Dr. Robert Bengé, Dean for School of Physical Education, Health and Wellness, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, rbenge@southern.edu, (423) 236-2855.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks director for physical therapy assistant program. Will teach courses, set up new program and seek program accreditation under Commissions on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Graduate in physical therapy with Tennessee license/eligibility as a PT or PTA. Five years of clinical and teaching experience in CAPTE program. Send cover letter including teaching philosophy and research interest, along with curriculum vita and unofficial transcripts, to Dr. Volker Henning, Associate VP Academic Administration, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, henning@southern.edu, (423) 236-2912, southern.edu/hr.

MISCELLANEOUS

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DESIRE MORE IMPACT FROM YOUR SHORT-TERM MISSION EFFORTS? Southern Adventist University's Global Community Development program is hosting a Transforming & Educating Ambassadors for Mission and Service Forum, July 14-16. Congregations across North America will discuss improvements on short-term mission impacts for a sustainable difference. For registration and information, contact mgcd@southern.edu or (423) 236-2070.

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	Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 29
Baltimore	7:30	7:37	7:44	7:50	7:57
Cincinnati	8:01	8:08	8:15	8:22	8:29
Cleveland	7:51	7:59	8:07	8:14	8:22
Columbus	7:56	8:03	8:10	8:17	8:24
Jersey City	7:21	7:28	7:35	7:43	7:50
Norfolk	7:27	7:33	7:39	7:45	7:52
Parkersburg	7:50	7:56	8:03	8:10	8:17
Philadelphia	7:24	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:53
Pittsburgh	7:44	7:51	7:58	8:06	8:13
Reading	7:28	7:35	7:42	7:49	7:57
Richmond	7:32	7:39	7:45	7:51	7:58
Roanoke	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:01	8:07
Toledo	7:59	8:07	8:14	8:22	8:30
Trenton	7:23	7:30	7:37	7:45	7:52
Wash., D.C.	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:58

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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 session will convene at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, May 21. The second session will begin Sunday, May 22, at 9 a.m.

This 27th meeting of the constituency will be held to receive reports for the five-year period, ending December 31, 2015; to elect officers and an executive committee for the ensuing quinquennium; to consider proposed bylaw amendments; and to transact 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 quinquennium; to consider proposed bylaw amendments; 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*
Walter E. Carson, *Secretary*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANASSAS, (VA.) CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS,

"Learning to Lean on Jesus." You are invited to the church's 50th anniversary celebration—April 16. The celebration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by a concert at 3 p.m., with our beloved friends, the Breath of Life Quartet. For more information, call (703) 335-1710 or email 50thAnniversary@MSDACHurch.org. Visit msdachurch.org for map/directions.

THE BREATH OF LIFE

QUARTET IN CONCERT at the Manassas (Va.) church as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. Come and join us for a delightful

concert during the festivities April 16 at 3 p.m. The church is located at 9858 Fairmont Ave., Manassas, VA 20109.

"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.

OBITUARIES

PIERCE, Beatrice A. (Ralls), born January 25, 1924, in Lenoir, N.C.; died August 30, 2015, in Apopka, Fla. She was a member of the Plymouth-Sorrento (Fla.) church. She was a dedicated denominational worker, employed first at the Southern Union Conference from 1945-47; Mt. Vernon Academy from 1956-59; at the Adventist World Headquarters for Adventist Risk Management, from 1959-1975, and then at Canadian Union College from 1975-1989. Survivors: her husband, Charles Pierce of Sorrento, Fla.; her daughter, Cheri Pierce of Sorrento; and her son, Chuck Pierce of Hackettstown, N.J.

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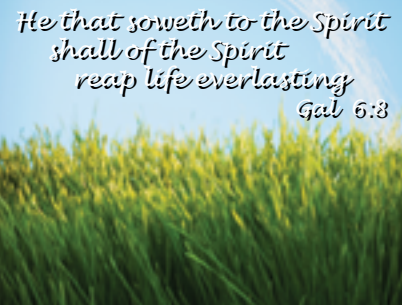


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