

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JUNE 2016 • VOLUME 121 • ISSUE 5

## Growth, Graduation and Baptisms

27th Columbia Union Constituency  
Delegates Celebrate God's Blessings,  
Recommit to Mission

From Peru to Appalachia:  
A New Kind of Missionary



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PHOTO BY HEARLY MAYR

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Above: Cynthia Poole-Gibson participates in the “Share the Light, Share the Hope” light show during the Sabbath evening program at the 27th Columbia Union Constituency Meeting. About the Cover: Rebecca Robinson and Audreyanna Loguerre are photographed by Hearly Mayr celebrating their graduation from the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism school at the same meeting.

## ON THE WEB

### CONSTITUENCY REPORTS ONLINE

The 27th Columbia Union Conference Constituency Meeting featured a number of video reports about how God is working in our territory through ministries of healing, education and evangelism. Watch video reports, see more photos and meet the 2016-2021 leadership team at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/2016constituency](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/2016constituency).

### CONGREGATIONAL COMPILATION



Did you know the church is updating the 50-year-old *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, becoming the church’s first reference work available for free online.

Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/encyclopedia](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/encyclopedia) for our interview with Benjamin Baker, managing editor, to learn more about the 10,000 articles in the compilation.

### FISHERS OF ... MILLENNIALS?

In a recorded and transcribed interview with MyRon Edmonds, senior pastor at Allegheny West’s Glenville church in Cleveland, one member gets to the crux of this pastor’s unique approach to attracting and retaining the most dwindling age group of the church: millennials. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/fisher](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/fisher).

### SINGER SEEKS DEEPER FAITH

Duawne Starling, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s Miracle City church in Baltimore, recently released *Deeper Faith*. Read our interview with Starling at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/deeperfaith](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/deeperfaith) to see what drives him to produce music that helps guide people toward a deeper relationship with God.



### CAMP MEETING LIVESTREAM

Can’t make it to camp meeting this year? Several of our local events will be livestreamed. Get the details at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/campmeeting](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/campmeeting).

### WATCH IT “GROW”

As many anticipate the development of the new Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital in White Oak, Md., hospital staff invite you to track real-time progress of the facility. Visit [ourcommunitytransformed.org](http://ourcommunitytransformed.org) to access a live construction camera, photos and more.



# VISITOR

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## Where do We go From Here?

Every new morning presents an opportunity to make a difference. Every new year is a chance to start over—to make commitments and resolutions.

This month starts a new five-year term for your Columbia Union Conference leadership team and executive committee. We are humbled by your confidence and support, and thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve. This new 2016-2021 quinquennium provides an opportunity to dream, evaluate, refocus and create shared vision about where we go from here and how we can touch our diverse union with Christ's life-transforming message of hope and wholeness.

## 6 QUESTIONS TO PRAY ABOUT

1. How can we support conferences as they assist our union's 800 churches in becoming refuges of grace where lost people feel welcomed, loved and experience Christ's saving power?
2. How can we collaborate with our conference and ministry leaders to develop the new Columbia Union "Share the Light, Share the Hope" initiative and boldly spread the everlasting gospel with more of the 50 million people in our eight-state territory?
3. What can we do to convince more young adults to remain active in the church and participate at every level? And, how can we include their ideas at our planning and leadership tables?
4. How can we, in the face of changing demographics and financial realities, support our schools, keep them open and provide the best education experience possible?
5. How can we intentionally share the Advent message through our healthcare (Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare), higher education (Kettering College and Washington Adventist University) and media ministries (WGTS 91.9 FM), that have access to thousands who may never step foot in our churches?
6. As more and more diverse people immigrate to this area, how can we provide relevant resources and ministries that reach multilingual populations?

In this new quinquennium, we petition our unionwide leadership team and every member in the great Columbia Union to join us in praying about the opportunities that lie before us and heed the call of Jesus to go, teach, baptize and make disciples (see Matt. 28:19). And, as we work together to prepare the world for Christ's return, let us remain faithful to our calling and focused on "the main thing": mission.

Dave Weigley,  
*president (center)*

Rob Vandeman,  
*executive secretary (left)*

Seth Bardu,  
*treasurer*







**PATHFINDERS WIN AT DIVISION PBE**

One of Potomac Conference's Beltsville Broncos teams from Beltsville, Md., was among the union's 11 Pathfinder teams to place first at the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) competition.

**MEMBERS SPREAD HOPE IN COLUMBIA**

Volunteers from three local conferences and the Columbia Union Conference, and staff from the North American Division (NAD), recently gathered in Columbia, Md., for the Day of Hope and Compassion. They volunteered at local shelters; handed out flowers, hugs (like the pictured group from Chesapeake's re:generation ministry) and balloons; and distributed food, clothing and some hope to unsuspecting families.

José Cortés, Jr., NAD's associate director of evangelism, says they planned the special day to "celebrate what we as a church are meant to be doing every day:



sharing hope for a better future and ... in the here and now by blessing those around us in practical ways."

Frank Bondurant, union vice president for Ministries Development and an event organizer, adds, "After [performing outreach], the community league begins to trust the church, and bridges are built and relationships created."—*V. Michelle Bernard/ Kim Luste Maran*

**COLUMBIA UNION ASI REDEDICATES MINISTRY**

Hundreds recently attended the Columbia Union chapter of ASI's (Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries) "Testify" convention, where they emphasized the impact Adventists can have for the kingdom of God.

In addition to a tour of the updated Ellen White exhibit in Silver Spring, Md.; and benefiting from numerous presentations, Emanuel Pelote (pictured, top), Columbia Union ASI president, also rededicated the group to helping Adventist professionals and businesses grow into outposts for the Lord. Pelote announced that members this year will also develop a



course in biblical entrepreneurship and a new, online business and service directory (cuasi.org).  
—*Beth Michaels*

**WAU ENACTUS TEAM PLACES SECOND**

Last month the Washington Adventist University (WAU) Enactus team placed second in their league in the opening round at the 2016 Enactus National Expo in St. Louis. The Enactus judges ranked the university, located in Takoma Park, Md., based on the success of projects that resolved local problems by creatively applying business strategies. As regional champions and national finalists, the WAU team is now ranked in the top 40 of 443 colleges and universities.

"We are now classified in the top 10 percent of Enactus teams in the United States," reports Kimberly Pichot, WAU faculty advisor. "This is the best our team has ever done."  
—*Donna Bigler*

PHOTOS: TORIL LAVENDER, CHRIS LEBRUN, LAUREN LOMBARD





## MIEMBROS LLEVAN ESPERANZA A COLUMBIA

Voluntarios de tres asociaciones locales, la Unión de Columbia y la División Norteamericana (DNA) se unieron recientemente en Columbia, Md., para celebrar el “Día de Esperanza y Compasión”. Trabajaron como voluntarios en albergues de la ciudad; repartieron flores, abrazos y globos (como Lourdes Acuña [en la foto abajo] iglesia Hispana de Rockville en Rockville, Maryland, de la Asociación de Potomac); y regalaron comida, ropa y un poco de esperanza a las familias necesitadas.

Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente de Ministerios de la unión y uno de los organizadores del evento añade, “Después [de realizar este tipo de



eventos] la asociación comunitaria comienza a confiar en la iglesia, se construyen puentes y se forman vínculos...Sin esta confianza y estos puentes, se nos hace una tarea difícil alcanzar a nuestra la comunidad”.—V. Michelle Bernard/  
Kim Luste Maran



## CONQUISTADORES GANAN PRIMER LUGAR

El Club de Conquistadores New Brunswick de la Asociación de New Jersey fue uno de los 11 equipos de la Unión de Columbia que obtuvo el primer lugar en el concurso bíblico de la División Norteamericana en Prescott, Arizona.

## IGLESIA CENTRAL DE COLUMBUS SE TORNA MULTICULTURAL

El Pastor John T. Boston, II, y la familia de la iglesia Central de Columbus están forjando una nueva vía de ministerio en la Asociación Allegheny West (AAW). Después de un año de oración y planificación, Boston y Sergio Romero, director de Ministerios Multiculturales y Crecimiento de Iglesias de la AAW, viajaron a Campeche, México, para invitar al Pastor Román López y su esposa Karina. López aceptó y actualmente es el pastor de Ministerios Hispánicos de la iglesia Central.

“La iglesia Central profesa que el mundo nos debería conocer por

nuestro amor. La división que existe en nuestra iglesia, por la amplia variedad de etnicidades e idiomas, es un obstáculo para los que buscan a Cristo”, dice Boston.

La iglesia ya está cosechando sus frutos. En abril, 13 personas fueron bautizadas como resultado del primer esfuerzo bilingüe de evangelismo de la iglesia. “Soñamos que una gran cantidad de iglesias en muchas ciudades más sigan la misma idea y concepto”, dice Romero. La iglesia también tiene planes de iniciar cultos de adoración en criollo haitiano, amhárico y en la lengua de señas para sordos.

Lea más en el boletín informativo de julio/agosto de la Asociación Allegheny West.—*Personal AAW*

## ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DEL VISITOR

### Desde Perú a los Apalaches: un nuevo modelo de misionero

La Asociación de Mountain View hace frente al crecimiento inesperado de la población hispana en los pueblos rurales de West Virginia solicitando la ayuda misionera de un grupo sudamericano de cracks del fútbol.

Lea el artículo en español en [columbiaunionvisitor.com/appalachia](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/appalachia).—*Edwin Manuel Garcia*





# Growth, Graduation & Baptisms

At the 27th Columbia Union Constituency Meeting, delegates celebrate God's blessings, recommit to mission

Kim Luste Maran and Visitor Staff

The 27th Columbia Union Conference Constituency Meeting began with vespers May 21 at Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md. Musical praise, prayer, testimonies and baptisms ushered in the meeting themed "Faithful to Our Calling ... In a Changing World."

More than 220 delegates, representing the 146,000 members of the Columbia Union, voted to elect leadership tasked with guiding church organizations and initiatives in the eight-state region of the mid-Atlantic United States. Delegates voted three executive officers and five vice presidents for the 2016-2021 term, a new 46-member executive committee and a number of proposed changes to the union's constitution and bylaws. They also heard reports from the officers and the union's university and healthcare network presidents.

During his welcome, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, told delegates, "Tonight and tomorrow, we'll look at what has been done in our union in the past five years to advance the mission of Christ," he shared, also emphasizing, "We are focused on keeping 'the main thing, the main thing'—winning souls to Jesus Christ."

His 90-minute president's report, presented as a devotional, included

seven videos and a number of interviews and testimonies that illuminated how each happened during the last five years. It also featured an introduction of the first graduating class of the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School; two baptisms stemming

from the 2015 Caravan of Hope union-wide evangelism initiative, which yielded 626 baptisms; and recognition of Sahilys Fuentes (pictured, below).

Fuentes, a local church elder, helped plant five churches in Northern Virginia and guided more than 800 people to baptism. She brought three more (one pictured, right) for baptism that night.

Weigley recognized Hamlet Canosa with an obelisk for 43 years of church service, 20 as union education vice president (VP). He is believed to be the longest serving educational VP in North American Division (NAD) history. Thanking him, Weigley commented, "No doubt when you stand on the sea of glass, you'll see the many lives you impacted." (See a video at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/canosa](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/canosa) and read more in the July/August *Visitor*.)

On the following day, he also paid special recognition to Neville Harcombe, former executive secretary, who died shortly after the May 2011 constituency meeting after being re-elected for a second



*Conference presidents and their wives join administrators on stage to announce a unionwide 2016-2018 evangelism initiative. Each attendee was given a small flashlight which they used to create a spiritual light show. (Watch the video at [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com).)*





PHOTO BY EUGENE SIMONOV



*“Treasury is about more than managing ... [finances]; it’s about doing our part to help people gain a greater understanding of the church mission and preparing them for greater service in God’s church,” says Bardu. Watch his full report at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/treasurersreport](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/treasurersreport).*

term. The attendees acknowledged Harcombe's widow, Cindy.

### Delegates Re-Elect Officers

Business commenced after sunset, when delegates accepted the president’s report and returned Weigley and Seth Bardu, treasurer, for a third term; and Rob Vandeman, executive secretary, for a second term. These executive officers (and the VPs) were selected through a thorough process: the nominating

committee reviewed evaluation reports, résumés and job descriptions and voted each incumbent by an overwhelming majority; then the delegates, in session, elected each with at least 90 percent of the votes.

On behalf of his team, Weigley thanked the delegates for their confidence, adding, “We are honored to serve and to be part of this great union. We aren’t perfect, but we are forgiven by God’s grace, committed by God’s grace to go forward and finish the work.”

Business sessions continued Sunday morning after Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president, provided a devotional and reminded attendees,

## Delegates Reduce Executive Committee Size

Following a lively discussion, delegates voted acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee report, which included a proposed reduction in the size of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee from the current 52 to 46 for the 2016-2021 quinquennium.

Rob Vandeman, who chaired the bylaws committee, explained the desire for streamlining while maintaining the balance between church employees and non-employees.

“We’re the third largest union in the NAD, but we by far have the largest executive committee,” he said. “We want to assure that the committee retains the ability for healthy dialogue and the exchange of ideas and not become, in essence, simply a town hall meeting.”

Delegates later voted in the executive committee for the new term, as selected by the nominating committee in caucus April 24. The new committee is comprised of 22 church employees and 24 non-employees, including a pastor from each conference and six young adults.

“They are an excellent group of members and leaders from our eight conferences and three institutions,” said Vandeman. “They are diverse, representative, bring a wealth of experience and share our desire to advance the mission of Christ in this union.”

One delegate proposed that the new committee consider ways to restructure union funding so as to keep more money at the local conference level. The motion passed.



Jean Cusack,  
Pennsylvania  
Conference

 ColumbiaUnionVisitor  
@VisitorNews



Delegates test voting devices by voting, determine there will be #haystacks in Heaven ;)

9:10PM - 21 May 2016



“You, and you and you make up the church. The church isn't mortar and bricks, it's you.”

Delegates then elected Donovan Ross as new VP for Education, replacing Canosa. Ross has served in Columbia Union education for 21 years, most recently as associate director for secondary education (see [columbiaunionvisitor.com/ross](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/ross)).

They also voted to re-elect union VPs (pictured top, from left, with Weigley): Frank Bondurant, Ministries Development; Donovan Ross, Education; Celeste Ryan Blyden, Strategic Communication and Public Relations; Walter Carson, General Counsel and Rubén Ramos, Multilingual Ministries. “They are all highly qualified and extremely effective. I many times marvel at their individual and corporate accomplishments,” said Vandeman.

### Health and University Leaders Report Growth

The presidents of Adventist HealthCare (AHC) based in Maryland, Kettering Adventist HealthCare (KAHC) based in Ohio, and Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., also presented mission-focused reports.

Sabbath evening Terry Forde, AHC president and chief executive officer (CEO), introduced Ann Roda, as the new VP of Mission Integration



PHOTO BY ROSS PATTERSON

and Spiritual Care. She is a former associate pastor at Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Sunday morning he also shared a corporate report highlighting plans for expansion and a commitment to church mission.

“Our [role] is to demonstrate God's care and show His love and compassion to those we meet every day,” he said.

Fred Manchur, CEO of KAHC, introduced Anita Adams, new chief operating officer at Kettering Medical Center, who shared the story of what happened after a patient requested baptism. Sunday Manchur announced that Kettering will host a September event to provide dental and eye care for the community's underserved. “We want to see as many employees as possible involved in mission,” he said.

During Weigley's president's report, Weymouth Spence, WAU president, presented a moving video about a campus revival that led dozens of students to baptism. (Watch the video at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/waurevival](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/waurevival).) They have baptized 170 in the past five years.

He also announced that enrollment reached a record high this past quinquennium, and reflected



**Columbia Union Visitor**

Published by V Michelle Bernard · May 22 at 2:26pm



Watch a time-lapse video of the diploma presentation and read the story of the REACH program at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/reachgrad](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/reachgrad).



22,428 people reached

5.5K Views



on the groundbreaking ceremony for the \$9.7 million Gail S. and Bruce E. Boyer Health Professions and Wellness Center (pictured, left). WAU held the groundbreaking May 20 as part of their constituency meeting, where 120 delegates heard reports on the state of the union's flagship university and voted in a new board of trustees. (See sidebar.)

WAU Enactus members gave a short demonstration and explained how they impacted the community this school year, including that their 38 members volunteered more than 3,800 hours of community service. This helped them place second at a recent national event. (Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/enactus](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/enactus).)

The REACH school graduation brought the 27th constituency meeting to its end. The first 13 graduates of the yearlong program, established by the union and based in Philadelphia, received their diplomas and a special citation from the City Council of Philadelphia for community service.

Graduate Will Remigio reflected on the experience, "I no longer just think about my life and my plans and what's good for me," he said. "I [learned] to serve God in a way that truly meets the felt needs of people. ... It's more about caring for the individual person now."

Weigley ended the short ceremony with a prayer of consecration: "We are here because of You, Lord. We thank You. And, today we honor these graduates, we thank You for them and ... until You come again, may they always be about Your work, Your ministry, Your great mission in this world."

Andre Hastick, a first-time delegate who pastors Chesapeake's Reisterstown (Md.) congregation and South Carroll church in Westminster, Md., said, "To be able to see the big picture of what is going on in the Columbia Union is eye opening and invigorating," he said. "The union has a great direction and mission, and I see how my churches are playing into the bigger picture. The mission of reaching souls for Christ is paramount in these days."

## 2016-2021 Columbia Union Executive Committee

Dave Weigley, *Chair*  
Rob Vandeman, *Vice-Chair*  
Seth Bardu

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Fred Manchur, *KAHC*  
Weymouth Spence, *WAU*

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Gina Brown  
Wyneshia Foxworthy  
Lewis Miles  
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Porche Vanderhorst  
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Mark Callion  
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### Chesapeake Conference

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### Mountain View Conference

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### New Jersey Conference

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Renee Battle-Brooks  
Rodney Cartwright  
David Dildy  
Sonja Vasquez  
Sanjay Thomas

### K-16

Cynthia Poole-Gibson  
Donovan Ross

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*Read more about their constituency session at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/wauconstituency](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/wauconstituency).*



# FROM PERU TO APPALACHIA A NEW KIND OF MISSIONARY

Mountain View Conference takes on an unexpected, growing Hispanic population in rural West Virginia towns, soliciting missionary assistance from a group of South American “fútbol” aficionados

EDWIN MANUEL GARCIA

**A**n answering machine message left at the small church in Moorefield, W.Va., was incomprehensible to anyone there who tried to decipher it. Yet, nobody wanted to erase it in case someone, someday, could understand what the caller said. The message was in Spanish, not a common language in the Appalachian region at the time, some 10 years ago.

A few weeks later, a Seventh-day Adventist, bilingual man visiting Moorefield from another congregation, finally solved the mysterious message. The caller, he said, was new to the area and wanted directions to the church.

## IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK

That simple phone message helped spark a new ministry in the Mountain View Conference—outreach to an unexpected, rapidly growing population of Hispanic residents. It began through traditional means as lay members offered Bible studies to new immigrants. But later, when the lay members and pastors couldn't keep up with the immigrants' increasing demand to hear the gospel message, they knew they needed a novel solution to help with the work.

These U.S. lay members called on missionaries from South America.

Eleven theology students from Peru are now laboring in five



“

*When a church reaches out to other cultures, the English side also grows.*

—Walter Cardenas

West Virginia cities—Moorefield, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Huntington and Charleston—a mission field expected to sprout the conference's first two Spanish companies later this year. Since their arrival in July 2015 for a year-long rotation, they have presented hundreds of Bible studies in the five communities.

They hope to complete 1,000 studies by the end of next month.

“It's just been a wonderful experience,” says Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference president. “Here in the Appalachian Mountains, you don't find too many people moving in this direction, but over the past 10 years or so, we've had many [more] Hispanic folks.” Boggess reports that despite the fact that Mountain

View is the smallest conference in the United States, with 13 pastors, 35 churches and 2,300 members in West Virginia and the western part of Maryland, they were never afraid to tackle the mounting work.

The missionaries, who receive lodging, food and transportation courtesy of local churches, and airfare and insurance from the conference, spend much of their time just getting to know the immigrants. They engage them in soccer twice a week, listen to their harrowing stories



of journeys to the United States or invite them to a monthly party for a meal and socialization.

The missionary-driven, evangelism initiative has been bringing another unanticipated result: the English-language congregations have been positively influenced by the work and, according to conference leaders, have begun to also draw new members.

“Of course this is a win-win situation for everyone,” says Arturo “Art” Jeronimo, pastor of the Lewisburg church district, noting that the missionaries are enjoying a unique cultural experience, while small groups of new congregants are attending Spanish-language church services and small group meetings.

## HISTORY OF HISPANICS IN RURAL AMERICA

While Spanish-speaking Adventists have been a presence on the East and West coasts for decades, and major cities in

between, according to U.S. Census statistics, migration from Latin America to rural areas over the past 20 years is a fairly new pattern. This is impacted by American industries trying to fill labor shortages at blue-collar worksites.

In Moorefield in particular, immigrants mostly from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala are attracted by a poultry processing plant. Oftentimes the male workers migrate intending to stay a few years, save money then go back home to live more comfortably with their families.

The Moorefield church, about 130 miles from Washington, D.C., was the first Mountain View congregation to encounter the area’s growing Hispanic population. Soon afterward, about three hours away in Lewisburg, Adventists also noticed an uptick in Spanish-speaking residents.

## A PAINFUL RESTART

The Columbia Union took notice and in 2007 encouraged college student Walter Cardenas, who at the time was working in Alexandria, Va., to be a Bible worker in Mountain View. Cardenas, a Honduran native, and lay workers had serious momentum during their first few months of ministry, giving more than 50 Bible studies. But, their work came to a screeching halt the moment immigration authorities raided a Moorefield poultry plant and sent workers to deportation hearings.

The sad thing, says Cardenas, is that the people receiving Bible studies did not get detained, but news of the raid scared them out of town,



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HARVEST

“I never thought the United States needed missionaries,” says Anthony Araujo, an aspiring pastor from Peruvian Union University. “That’s where the General Conference is; that’s where the best pastors in the world are. People from North America typically come to Peru to open mission fields.”

He was even more excited when he was selected for the yeartong assignment, getting assigned to Lewisburg, a town of about 4,000. Araujo spends days immersing himself in the community: playing soccer; lending his ear to depressed immigrant workers; enjoying monthly potlucks with more than 50 people and leading small groups on Fridays. He also gives many Bible studies, sometimes late at night to accommodate poultry workers’ schedules, and preaches for Sabbath afternoon services at the Lewisburg church, where up to 30 Hispanics regularly attend.

The missionaries live in church-provided housing and drive borrowed cars. They hold their own weekly cell phone worships and gather monthly to offer each other support and attend seminars by church leaders.

*Read the full story at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/mvharvest](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/mvharvest)*

*On left, counterclockwise: Johnatan Marrufo, Kevin Paredes and Anthony Araujo are among the 11 missionaries from Peru serving in West Virginia.*





## “FUTBOL” PROPELS OUTREACH, OPENS HEARTS

Just a few days after Peruvian missionaries Anthony Araujo (pictured, right), Junior Souza and Richard Prada arrived in Lewisburg last year, they activated an informal soccer league to mingle with the town's Latino immigrants. At first, only a handful of players showed up to kick the ball around, but the program grew—and fast.

On Sunday evenings, at least 20 to 25 players descend onto the field next to a community hospital and, on Wednesday nights, at a local gymnasium for indoor games.

“Some people might think we’re wasting our time playing soccer, but it’s not like that,” Araujo says, stressing that the most popular sport played in Latin America acts an opportune icebreaker. Case in point: the soccer programs in the five Mountain View towns where the missionaries work are now drawing about 100 players. Of those, nearly 25 are receiving Bible studies.

“Hispanics like ‘fútbol,’ so if you have a choice between inviting them to church or playing soccer, they’ll take soccer; that’s the hook,” Araujo explains.

*Read the full story at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/futbolopenshearts](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/futbolopenshearts)*

*Theology students (back row) Johnatan Marrufo, Cesar Valqui, Richard Prada, Junior Souza, (front row) Anthony Araujo and Joel Atoche bond with community members through “fútbol.”*

forcing church members to seek new prospects for Bible studies.

It wasn't easy.

“It was a very stressful time for everyone,” shares Cardenas, noting that workers who got caught up in the raid were also about to be deported and split from their families. And, the town's economy was uncertain because the poultry plant was now short of workers. Many people suffered, he says.

Cardenas and the lay people responded by refocusing their evangelism efforts. Instead of jumping back into Bible studies, “we visited the families and asked what we can do for them,” he says. The Spanish-speaking Adventists helped secure food. They also drove the families to immigration court and served as interpreters.

Little by little, people they helped got baptized. Eventually, up to 80 immigrants attended Spanish services at the Moorefield church, first in a combined service with interpretation, and later in a Spanish-only, afternoon worship. Attendance though, would later drop to fewer than 40 due to the transient nature of the area's Hispanic population—some moved

back to Latin America, others relocated to nearby towns with an Adventist presence.

## MISSIONARIES ACCEPT THE U.S. CALL

The evangelism work Cardenas started in 2007 laid the foundation for the opportunity to bring missionaries from Peru. Cardenas is now an ordained minister and oversees all of Mountain View's Hispanic outreach.







*Miguel Bemedo, Richard Prada, Ricardo Pimentel and Jose Espinoza also serve in local English-language congregations.*

Peruvian Union University leaders first discussed this unprecedented mission project in 2014 when Pastor Jeronimo's wife, Ester, who is of Peruvian descent, told the university provost about the evangelism opportunities in rural West Virginia. The provost later asked Pastor Jeronimo, "Have you ever thought about taking student missionaries from Peru to the U.S. for a year of service?"

At first, Jeronimo doubted the idea, but the more pastor friends he consulted, the more he realized the project could succeed. "Before I realized it, I was presenting the proposal to the executive meeting of the Mountain View Conference, and they approved a trip to Peru to explore this further," he reports.

During a second trip in 2015, Mountain View leaders interviewed theology students and selected 11 to serve in the Appalachia area. The



“

*We could certainly value this student missionary program as a great opportunity for the future of evangelism in this country.—Art Jeronimo*

missionaries, some fluent in English, are charged with two tasks: support the local English-language congregation—volunteering in the schools, leading worship music and teaching Spanish—and work toward starting Spanish congregations in the five towns where they labor.

But, their main duty really seems to be about making friends through recreational sports and social gatherings. "We are dealing with the Christ method, which has five steps," says 21-year-old Anthony Araujo, one of the Peruvian missionaries:

1. Become their friend.
2. Be someone who wants to help them.
3. Satisfy their physical and spiritual needs.
4. Win their trust, and
5. Give them Bible studies.

A new group of missionaries is scheduled to arrive in July. They'll spend two weeks side-by-side with the existing missionaries and get introduced to hundreds in the five communities and assigned to soccer teams.

### THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

The project's first year has prompted an incredible level of

enthusiasm among the conference leaders, pastors, congregations and missionaries. And, a growing number of Peruvian students are now clamoring to be assigned a spot in the mission fields of West Virginia, reports Pastor Jeronimo.

The future for Hispanic outreach in Mountain View looks very bright, adds Jeronimo (pictured above, on left). The first of several rounds of baptisms recently took place, multi-city evangelistic campaigns are scheduled, the Morgantown church now has its own Spanish service, and the Moorefield and Lewisburg groups are expected to become companies later this year.

"If we think globally, if we reflect on the reality of immigration, we could certainly value this student missionary program as a great opportunity for the future of evangelism in this country," Jeronimo concludes.

*Edwin Manuel Garcia writes from Sacramento, Calif.*



# COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

## MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

After serving the community for almost 30 years, the Summersville (W.Va) Seventh-day Adventist Church's Friends-R-Fun Child Development Center in the Mountain View Conference needed room to grow. With a loan from CURF, they added a two-story addition, entry area, stairs and an outdoor porch to their facility adjacent to the church. Now there's more room in the Baby Bungalow, the toddler's quarters and the kindergarten readiness program.

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## Communicators Gather for Conference

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently hosted the first Connection and Ministry Communication



At the Connection and Ministry Communication Conference, Chip Dizard demonstrates how to capture the best lighting when taking photos.

Conference for communication leaders and pastors. Attendees gathered at the AEC headquarters in Pine Forge, Pa., for training on topics such as branding, copyright laws, teambuilding and effective writing.

Phil Cooke, an internationally known filmmaker, media producer and speaker, kicked the conference off with a keynote address. Other presenters included Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president of strategic communication for the Columbia Union; Carlos Medley, former Web editor for *Adventist Review*; Chip Dizard, social media pastor for the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va; Vincent Dehm, pastor of the Recreation church in Baltimore; and Marquis Johns, pastor of the North Philadelphia church in Philadelphia.

"It is our desire to make this a yearly gathering of our communication leaders and pastors, to equip them with tools to be successful communicators and provide an opportunity for networking," says LaTasha Hewitt, communication director.

## Metropolitan Church Hosts Photo Exhibit

The Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., recently hosted its first photography exhibit. Marva Shand-McIntosh, one of the event organizers, says the purpose of this event was to attract members of the community who would not ordinarily visit the church.

Sharon Farmer, guest speaker and former director of White House photography, shared her experience as a professional photographer and encouraged attendees to pursue excellence in their photographic endeavors. She also gave an artistic and technical summary of the 15 exhibitors' work.

Members of the Exposure Group African American Photographers Association in Washington, D.C., also led a question-and-answer segment.

At the end of this event, J. Alfred Johnson, director of adult ministries for the North American Division, offered a prayer of blessing. He says, "The expo was the height of community services and personal ministries combined!"

Local photographer Myron Ottley, one of the event coordinators, says, "With cameras now being integrated into our smart phones, more of us are capturing precious moments in pictures, or discovering



Presenter Sharon Farmer receives appreciation from exhibit coordinator, Marva Shand-McIntosh.

the photographic avenue to artistic expression. As Christians, we can use this as a path to bond with our community, and the success of the Metro Photo Exhibit helps to validate this approach."

PHOTO BY DONNAMARIA JONES

**Join Us For Camp Meeting:** Plan to attend Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Camp Meeting, June 23-July 3 at the AEC campgrounds in Pine Forge, Pa. The 2016 theme is "Go Tell It." Get more information at [visitaec.org](http://visitaec.org).



## Edmondson Heights Member Gets Service Award

**R**obin Scott-Lyles, a member of the Edmondson Heights church in Baltimore, recently received the Richard A. Lidinsky Sr. Award for excellence in public service. Baltimore city officials give the award to Baltimore city employees who reflect exemplary character, honesty, integrity and loyalty, the characteristics epitomized by the award's namesake.

More than 200 city of Baltimore workers, family and friends gathered for the ceremony held at City Hall. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake presented Scott-Lyles with her trophy and a \$2,500 prize. Following the ceremony, Rawlings-Blake hosted a special luncheon for Scott-Lyles and her family.

Scott-Lyles currently serves as the accounting systems administrator for the Department of Finance and has worked 10 years for the city. She says she was particularly honored to receive the award because, among the 20 nominees, most had more than 20-30 years of experience.

Among her many community service endeavors, Scott-Lyles pioneered her church's street feeding program, and serves as a therapeutic counselor to an at-risk family.



Baltimore mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake presents the Richard A. Lidinsky Sr. Award to Robin Scott-Lyles.

"I was very humbled and thankful to the group of people who nominated me. I was reminded that whatever you do, do the best you can because you always want people to see the character of Jesus Christ in you," says Scott-Lyles.

1946  2016



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## 99-Year-old Hillcrest “Prayer Warrior” Receives Award

**M**amie H. Clemons, the “prayer warrior” of the Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh, recently received the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Legacy Award from the Rankin/Mon Valley, Pittsburgh, area NCNW. The organization held a luncheon this spring at the city’s Hosanna House.

Clemons was one of five women to receive the Legacy Award. Legacy awards are presented to women who show the spirit of civil rights leaders Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy I. Height. Bethune founded the NCNW, and Height was the fourth elected national president of the NCNW. She served until 1998, when she became chair and president emerita.

Clemons says she was grateful to have been chosen for such a prestigious award. Her legacy and leadership spans a 24-year career as an educator in Pittsburgh Public Schools. She was a teacher, director of curriculum and principal. Her students became distinguished among their peers as members of the Junior Courtiers and Junior Misses. Former students say she supported and loved them.

Her great passion, however, has been as an intercessory prayer warrior. Clemons says that her parents taught her to pray. Her prayer ministry includes daily prayer for more than 1,000 friends. Because of her



*The National Council of Negro Women Awards honor women who display traits similar to Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy I. Height.*

leadership in prayer, she is training a cohort of mature students in the power of prayer.

Candace King, the mistress of ceremonies, read the proclamation given to Mamie H. Clemons from Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolfe, and says she was astounded when she found out that Clemons is 99.

Clemons received a standing ovation from the audience when given the award, but, humbly gave God the honor for all her accomplishments. She added, “I am a prayer warrior and I will give you the seven steps to prayer.” Immediately, the banquet room became reverent. Clemons then reiterated the steps for assurance and said, “If you are in need of prayer, call me.”



*Mamie Clemons displays her NCNW Legacy Award.*

### Mamie Clemons’ 7 Points of Prayer

Mamie Clemons shared these seven points of prayer when she received the NCNW award:

- Jesus prayed and taught His disciples to pray.
- Prayer changes things.
- We should have set times and places for prayer.
- The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man “availeth much.”
- We should persevere and continue in prayer.
- Prayer is powerful.
- Prayer is important.





## Southeast Church ROCKS the Community

The Southeast church in Cleveland has embraced the North America Division's challenge to be involved in mission by becoming the eyes, heart, hands and feet of Jesus inside and outside the walls of our homes and churches, says Senior Pastor Jerome Hurst. They are doing this through Southeast ROCKS (Random Opportunities for Compassion and Kindness), an initiative that the church has embraced for 2016. As part of the plan, church leaders set a goal of completing 2,016 acts of compassion and kindness this year.

One of the monthly church-wide activities is hosting a hot meal program at the City Mission in Cleveland. According to its Website, the City Mission helps men, women and children in crisis "build hope, overcome obstacles and achieve self-sufficiency." Residents are aided in finding stability, employment and independent housing.

For the past four years, each month the Southeast church has served City Mission residents a hot meal, fellowship and prayer. Volunteers sit down and talk to the residents, listen to their concerns and needs, and pray with them. Some of the residents have even requested rides to attend church on Sabbaths.

Hurst says, "This is more than just feeding men some



*Youth and young adults serve the residents at the City Mission.*

food. This is a ministry. We take the time to talk with the men, pray with them and offer them the opportunity to visit our church for service. We have been blessed by the men and their testimonies as they have been blessed by our meal."

## Ethan Temple Completes Big Goals

Shortly after his installation, Mackenzie Kambizi, pastor of the Ethan Temple in Dayton, Ohio, introduced two major projects through "The Lion Chasers,"



*William Cox assists Pastor Mackenzie Kambizi as he cuts the ribbon, officially starting the new bus ministry at Ethan Temple.*

a sermon series that ignited the church membership to get busy and make things happen. Kambizi proposed that the church purchase a permanent outdoor sign and a new vehicle to transport those in need to church.

Kambizi organized the church into two groups. One group of individuals under 40 years old was tasked with raising funds for a new sign. Another group, comprised of members older than 40, raised funds to purchase a vehicle.

With strong support and committee leadership, both projects were finished and dedicated recently. William Cox, Allegheny West Conference president, and Kambizi officially cut the ribbons on both the newly erected church sign and the bus.

Kambizi says these projects are only the beginning of what's to come at Ethan Temple. In addition to the new major projects, the church held a monthlong celebration of Black History Month, where guest speakers presented messages throughout February.



# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

JUNE 2016

## Why Choose Adventist Education?

Spring concerts, class trips and graduation programs for 2016 are now a part of our digital archive and Facebook history. Students and teachers are looking forward to an all-too-short summer break. But, before academia gives way to camp meeting and other summer fun, there is a relevant question to be asked: why do we invest in Adventist education?

At every level of the church, there are significant investments of time, talent and treasure to operate our schools. The tuition, subsidies, scholarships and donations are significant. Countless hours from teachers, pastors, parents and volunteers are required.

There are surely many other options to choose from. Yet, the reality is that our schools are the *only* educational system dedicated to drawing our children and youth to Jesus in the context of our unique message. At a time when they are most receptive to a forever friendship with Jesus and the scriptural message we value so much, Adventist education is there to guide, train and instruct.

The data demonstrates that our Adventist schools provide a high quality academic product. But, beyond the scholarly pursuit, there is also a significant contribution to the mission of the church.

Most of our pastors, educators, evangelists, administrators and missionaries received their foundation in an Adventist school. Their life of service and contributions to the enlargement of God's kingdom were launched from one of our schools.

Adventist education finds its purpose in our message and mission. When the summer heat waves have subsided, our schools will be ready to serve another generation of youth. And, that's an investment with an eternal return.



**Rick Remmers**  
*President*

## Friendship School Teachers Commissioned

Michele Gavin and Elmira Singh, teachers at the Friendship Adventist School in Linthicum, Md., recently received the Commissioned Ministry of Teaching credential during a worship and dedication

service at the Linthicum (Md.) church. Rick Remmers, conference president and Jerry Lutz, executive secretary, participated in the commissioning ceremony alongside Jacqueline Messenger, superintendent of schools, and Mark Walker, associate superintendent. During the service, the Linthicum congregation pledged their commitment to encourage and support the teachers and strengthen school families.

"Michele and Elmira are mission-minded teachers who liberally give their time and talents to the school," says Messenger.

The school has 28 elementary students and 30 children enrolled in the early childhood program. Gavin is head teacher and instructs grades 3-8. She says her mission in teaching is to show her students every day that God loves them and each has value.

Singh, a 14-year faculty member, teaches kindergarten through second grade and says she finds joy in the varied aspects of her ministry. When speaking of her students, she says, "I help them to develop a personal relationship with God, to appreciate nature and to talk to God in prayer."



*Friendship teachers Elmira Singh (back) and Michele Gavin listen to the commissioning charge as Jacqueline Messenger looks on.*

PHOTO BY RICK REMMERS



## Cuba Evangelism Outreach Brings Hundreds to Christ

A group of 18 pastors and lay members recently conducted evangelistic meetings in Cuba. They held meetings in 11 churches in Pinar del Rio, an area with extreme poverty, food scarcity and a typical monthly salary equivalent to about \$25.

“Our pastors are enthusiastic about their meetings, and the congregations were very receptive,” says Rick Remmers, conference president.

According to Gary Gibbs, conference evangelism director, church members and about 1,100 adults and 440 children from the local neighborhoods attended the nightly meetings.

The conference sponsored a Bible worker for each church four months prior to the meetings to help them prepare for the initiative. Local church members funded the meetings with donations and gave regular attendees a quality Bible. “A Bible cost about 20 percent of an average income, so you can imagine their joy in getting one,” says Gibbs.

More than 706 people decided to join the church during the 10-day campaign. Seventy-five were baptized during the meetings and the others began Bible studies with pastors, church members and Bible workers.

César González, pastor at the Cambridge and Beacon of Light churches on Maryland’s eastern shore,

says his Cuban friends in West Palm Beach, Fla., asked him to look up Cenaida Fort Defaus, a relative living in Cuba

Upon arrival in his assigned church in a Cuban city with more than 100,000 residents, he inquired if the pastor knew Defaus. To González’s surprise, the pastor said that in the 1980s, Defaus and her relatives started the church where he was preaching, and that she still lived there.

Building churches has not been permitted in Cuba, but meeting in an existing building or a house is allowed. The congregation meets in Defaus’ home, and she continues to add on to the structure to accommodate the growing congregation. Her relatives all moved to Florida years ago, but Defaus, now elderly and widowed, chooses to remain alone in Cuba, fearing if she leaves her home the government will take it and her church family will no longer have a meeting place.

“Our mission trip left a huge impact on the island,” says trip coordinator Ricardo Cala, Jr., pastor of the Federalsburg/Harrington/Sussex Central district in Delaware. “So great was our impact that a report on the government’s television channel thanked the whole team for coming to Cuba, helping the churches and the communities, and giving out Bibles and materials. This kind of report from the communist-run media is unheard of ... The Lord is working and opening doors for our church [there].”

In the July/August *Visitor*, read more about this and other groups making an impact in Cuba.



*A Pinar del Río-based Bible worker receives a Bible for a prisoner who plans to be baptized.*

PHOTO BY GARY GIBBS



*Pastor César González visits with Cenaida Fort Defaus, a Cuban member who opens her home as a meeting place for her church.*



# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

JUNE 2016

## Consider Adventist Education

**A**dventist education is not just *Adventist*, it's *Christian* education. There are countless reasons why Adventist Christian education is so important. Here are just a few:

**God's Word is taught in our schools.** Many children receive no religious training at home, yet parents value the ethical training of their children. Hearing and seeing God's Word modeled through dedicated, Christian teachers is an experience no tuition cost can equal.

**Parents respect what Adventist schools teach.** Parents care deeply about the values their children embrace. Television and other media do not exhibit the moral values we want our kids to have. Adventist education provides this.

**Academic excellence.** The Cognitive Genesis Study that compared Adventist student achievement to national norms demonstrated students in Adventist schools scored higher on nationally recognized achievement tests.

**Students who come out of Adventist schools are the future of our church.** Our church depends on its young people to carry forward the work God has given us. Valuegenesis research shows that children who attended an Adventist elementary school were more likely to stay in the faith.

Consider Adventist, Christian education. There's nothing like it!



Bobbi Blanzzy  
Highland Adventist  
School 1st to  
4th-grade teacher

## Schools Put Learning Into Action

**M**ountain View Conference schools provide an outstanding education for today's world, and they train our youth for eternity with an emphasis on service learning, says Larry Boggess, conference president and education superintendent.

Service learning can look quite different at each school. For example, every Friday at Parkersburg Academy in Parkersburg, W.Va., students participate in Operation Andy, which teaches students many ways to share God's love. Students have taken thank you cards to the local fire department, helped at the Salvation Army, read to residents at a local assisted living center and visited homebound church members.

Donna Nicholas, principal at the Summersville Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va., reports their school collects clothing and food for people in need and performs chores to earn money to purchase more clothing to donate. "One of our major goals in education is to train our students to serve others," she says.

Several times each year, staff from Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., plans a Service Wednesday, where students, staff and parents devote an entire day to service around the school and in the community. One highlight is when the Mountain State Forest Festival invited the students to plan and staff the festival's volunteer-run retail operation.

Monica Zill, principal of Parkersburg Academy and Montessori Adventure, both in Parkersburg, sums up the Mountain View attitude about service: "I think service learning is a vital part of educating our children, not just academically, but teaching them how they can be active members of their community today and prepare for a life in eternity."



Students at Greenbrier Valley Academy in Lewisburg, W.Va., distribute helpful personal items with Bible verses, the book *Steps to Christ* and little treats in the community.



## We Receive a Blessing From Serving in Cuba

**M**y mission group, comprised of staff and students like myself from Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va.; staff and students from Parkersburg Academy in Parkersburg, W.Va. and Summersville Seventh-day Adventist School in Summersville, W.Va.; Larry Boggess, conference president; and Victor Zill, treasurer, recently spent about two weeks ministering in Havana, Cuba.

During the day, our group split into three teams: construction crews, English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and eye clinic volunteers. Missionaries performed construction and ESL classes at the Central church in San Antonio. The construction crew demolished a structure in the tiny back lot of the church to make way for a two-story addition that will house many church activities. A shortage of tools made the job interesting, and finishing it required creativity. Students spent many back-breaking hours loading heavy, wet soil onto squares of canvas and carrying them out to the street for disposal.

The eye clinic volunteers traveled to four of the nearly 300 Seventh-day Adventist churches on the island, where volunteers checked eyes and distributed reading glasses. The clinic was so popular that we distributed every pair of glasses brought—more than 500 in all.

At night we split into four teams consisting of speakers, Vacation Bible School (VBS) workers and a translator. Students filled many key roles on the teams that traveled to the Bejucal, San Antonio, Vereda Nueva and Guira de Melena churches. We were interested to learn that the San Antonio church is a registered, government-sanctioned church. The other three are house churches where the pastoral family lives—and the



*Home school student Elliott Ackman helps a Cuban worker carry dirt from a building site.*

church meets in a garage-sized room attached to the side of the house. The meeting rooms were full nearly every night, and the VBS programs, which met in the backyards of the houses, overflowed.

The time passed quickly and soon it was time to say goodbye. Our minds filled with unforgettable memories, and our hearts with compassion and empathy for the Cubans. We made friends we hope to see again.

Stacy Blanzky, a teacher at Highland Adventist School, summed up the trip when she said, “Cuba is a beautiful country with some of the most generous people you’ll ever meet. This trip gave our students outstanding Christian leadership and service opportunities. The Cuban people were so appreciative for what we came to do.”

I agree. It was such a blessing to experience the generosity of the Cuban people who had so little in the way of material goods. This experience has really increased my appreciation for my many blessings as well as my desire to serve others.—Lena Glitner



*Highland Adventist School senior Lena Glitner checks a patient's eyes at a clinic in Cuba.*



## The Best Medicine for Terror

**W**e are living in difficult times. It seems as if our civilization is falling apart because of terrorism, abuse and hatred. It is shocking to watch the news, as apparently harmless people—sometimes children or elders—detonate themselves with explosives, killing and injuring dozens of people they do not even know! Can it get any crazier?

If we look at the other side, we see that our sophisticated society is plagued with abuses and violations: child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, racial hatred, prejudice and discrimination. Even politicians are lowered to dirty diatribes, verbal and physical attacks. When are we going to stop?

If we, as believers and truly civilized people, want to make a difference—and I think all of us want that—the best way is to dedicate ourselves to doing works of compassion. If we have not already done so, we should begin to help the weakest, to share what we have with those in need. They may be in need of the basics such as food, clothing, water or, in many cases, they are lonely or hungry for love, friendship, a smile or a hug.

Today is the day to begin. The best medicine against terror, fear, hate and abuse is showing compassion toward people. Jesus practiced it amid a barbaric era, and thus, He opened doors for hope, love and unification. “When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36, NIV).



**Jose H. Cortés**  
*President*

## Bound Brook Youth Start OTEG to Increase Outreach

**Y**outh from Mission Caleb Bound Brook in Bound Brook call themselves OTEG (Ordinary Teens, Extraordinary God). These 12 teens say they decided to get involved in God’s work to magnify His power. Four of them are baptized church members. The other eight are friends invited to participate in the group while learning about the amazing love of Jesus. OTEG is dedicated to encouraging youth to focus on God’s work in their lives.

The group is trying to start a youth revival by using their talents and resources for the Lord. They are currently creating a magazine for youth that deals with teen problems, how to get close to God, and provides information about the group. They also perform plays, which will soon air on the New Jersey Conference’s Web site, [newjerseyconference.org](http://newjerseyconference.org). Members of OTEG also often visit people in need to help and pray for them.

“The youth in each generation have been forgetting about the Creator. Our job is to save as many youth as we can before the coming of our Lord Jesus,” says Gina Gonzalez, group leader. Gonzalez works hard and personally gives eight Bible studies to her friends. One of them was already baptized, and the others are preparing for baptism.



*Pastor Joel Navarro, his wife, Tatiana Munoz, and sons Emmanuel and Daniel Munoz (pictured right) assist the OTEG (Ordinary Teens Extraordinary God) group in their ministry.*



## Waldwick School Celebrates Pi Day

There was a fusion of expectation and energy on Pi Day, March 14, at Waldwick Adventist Junior Academy. Kindergarten to high school students, faculty, staff and some parents dressed in T-shirts emblazoned with the pi symbol. Math teachers Ferdinand Lagos and Guerline Plaisir led the second annual Pi Day at the school.

Waldwick Mayor Thomas Giordano joined the celebration by offering a Waldwick town proclamation declaring the day as Waldwick Adventist School's Official Pi Day. As a special treat, the town's electronic bulletin board declared the same message.

Students devoted the day to various math competitions and LEGO robotic sumo wrestling. The Pi feast at the end of the day, in the Jon Cadavero Memorial Gymnasium, was a popular event among the students. Fifth-grader Luna Rendon kept her title as Pi Queen, after memorizing and reciting 400 digits of pi.

This celebration also boasted a 3.14 mile race in the Borough Park of Waldwick. While students in grades 5 through high school pounded the pavement; the elementary students competed in running events in the school gymnasium. They timed the race in three, one,



Waldwick school students participate in Pi Day.

four and two minute increments.

"Mind and bodies were well engaged. As for the soul, the focus is always on our Loving Father Who is the real Creator of order, neatness and, of course, math," says Maxine Goulding, teacher.

PHOTO BY JORGE PILCO

## Collegiates Host First Faith-Building Convention

This spring, college students from New Jersey Conference had their first collegiate and young adult convention inside a public university. Senior high school students, college students, young adults and young professionals gathered at the Busch Student Center in Rutgers University in Piscataway to worship the Lord

and strengthen their faith. In the afternoon, the group left the building to do outreach on campus.

The New Jersey Conference Youth Ministries Department promoted the event with the support of the Adventist Students for Christ (ASC) group at Rutgers. Robert Cartagena, an ASC member, explains, "ASC seeks to provide an environment for students to experience Christian fellowship, explore faith and, ultimately, to encounter Jesus Christ."

ASC leaders encourage students to mature in their faith, minister to the needs of Rutgers community, and get involved in the mission of the church. The group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for all who want to participate. "Having the collegiate and young adult convention in the university was a way to reach other students and [get to know] them," adds Cartagena.

*Karl Cox, Donovan Remer and Leonel Pottinger Jr., members from the Rockaway church, join in the collegiate convention at Rutgers University.*





## SVA Teacher Uses Art to Introduce Students to Creator

Walk into Shona Macomber's classroom at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) in Kettering and one is transported into an artist's paradise: bright open space, skylights, soft music and students intently working on projects—from pastels to pottery. Inside students are overheard saying, "This is my favorite class of the week!" while others stop to admire displays outside her classroom.

Few Seventh-day Adventist schools offer art programs, but SVA, with the support of Kettering Adventist HealthCare "has chosen to invest in an art program to unleash creativity in kids grades 1-12," says Connie Cole, Macomber's assistant. In a world where academic performance is accentuated, Macomber's class offers a complementary balance using a different side of the brain while incorporating a distinctive spiritual element.

The class is considered so unique because of Macomber's use of a curriculum she developed based upon the seven days of creation from Genesis 1. "It is my hope to introduce upcoming generations to new ways of seeing their Creator God through the joy of artistic expression," she explains.

Macomber begins by teaching students to become aware of their natural world. Noting that children are greatly bombarded today by media and electronics, she says, "We're battling for the souls of our kids, and I'm using art to do my part of the battle." Posted in her classroom is the mantra "Believe Your Eyes." Macomber explains, "Art teaches them how to see truth, not how to draw, though that comes in time."



PHOTOS BY HOLLIE MACOMBER

SVA teacher Shona Macomber instructs fifth-grader Eric Lattimore during an art class.

A professional artist, Macomber established a considerable following in her native California. While there she prayed for God to give her art "lessons" to allow her to see His world differently. She soon began seeing a sequence of order, which she wrote down. It was then she realized she could teach this, and not long after received the call to SVA.

Using creation to teach students, she says, "Day one is the most essential." When God commands for there to be light, she says, from an artistic standpoint, God is asking us to see Him: I am light ... let there be an illumination of Who I am, she says, paraphrasing Gen. 1:3-5. Days two through six have their own correlations. Macomber associates the seventh-day with the Artist. "The artist is not complete as an artist until they've shared what they've made with someone else," she says. "On Sabbath we experience and share God's creation, and live and enjoy the beauty of all He's created."

A recent post by her daughter, Hollie, on Facebook garnered hundreds of likes from parents and friends: "For the past few years, she has poured out her insight and immense knowledge on art, creativity and Christ to the students at SVA." She adds, "Dear parents, school board members and school administrators, a school art program is invaluable to a school. It is essential it is to teach kids how to see and think creatively. Please, please, please see the value in programs like this."



Students choose paintbrushes before beginning a project about creation.



## Young Adults “Immerse” in God’s Word at Retreat

Earlier this year, more than 60 young adults from across Ohio gathered at the Camp Mohaven Conference and Retreat Center in Dansville for the first Immersion Conference, where they spent the weekend actively learning to study the Bible, not passively listening to a speaker. Designed by Edward Marton, conference youth director, the event instructed attendees in the methodology of proper biblical study. Organized into groups of eight, the study session was left to the young adults to practice what they learned.

Attendees studied the book of Joel, and leaders report that all came away with a better understanding of how to study the Bible, as well as a deeper appreciation for the book of Joel and its prophetic message.



During the Immersion Conference, young adults learn to study the Bible.



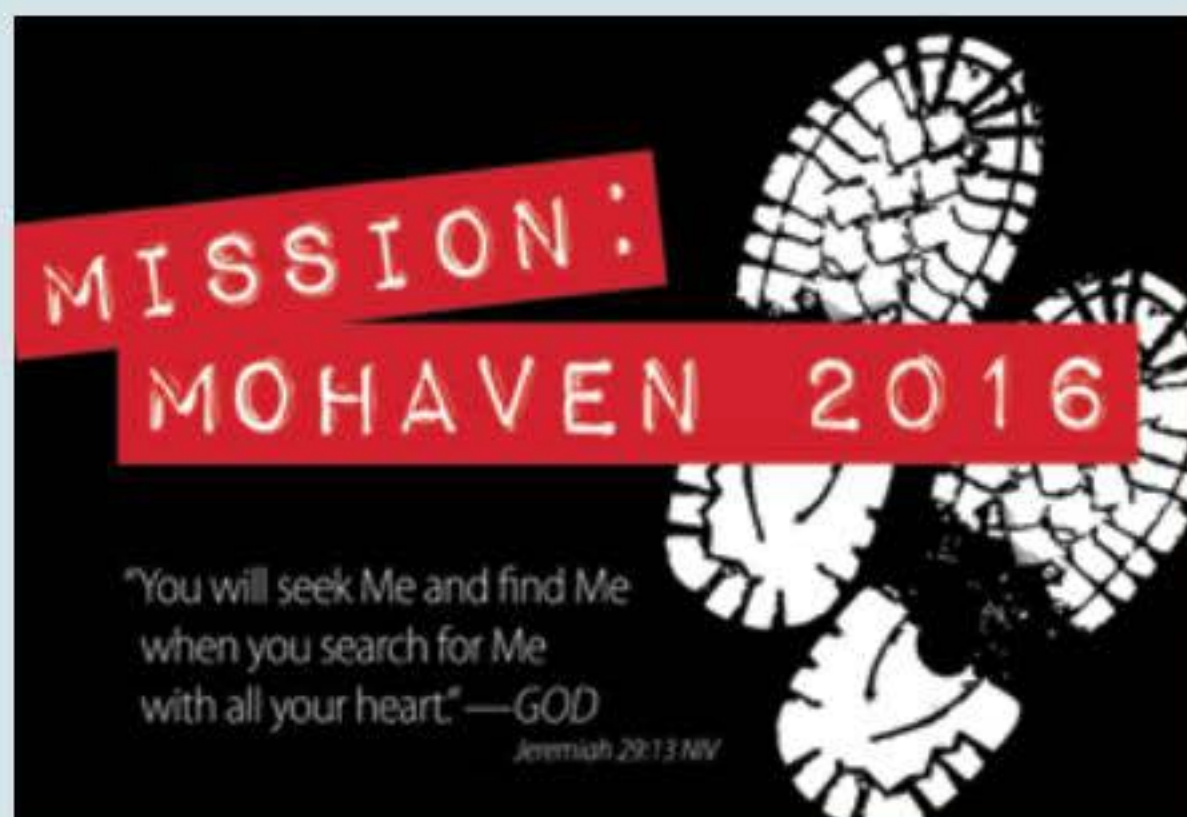
Young adults from across Ohio get immersed in the book of Joel, learning about its prophetic message.

Young adults came from many parts of Ohio, including major cities like Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton, and from smaller, rural churches as well. The Bible study fostered a positive atmosphere, and at Sabbath outings after studying, the young shared testimonies about how God is working in their lives. Many shared their personal journeys and victories through the power of God. At the end of the testimony session, after sharing the story of their romance, one of the young men proposed to his girlfriend.

Leaders say the result of immersion is a universal sense of community and spiritual growth, with attendees looking forward to continuing regional young adult events, along with next year’s gathering. For information on upcoming events, visit [ohiosdayouth.org](http://ohiosdayouth.org) and [ohioadventist.org](http://ohioadventist.org).—*Tam Albrecht*

PHOTOS BY SAM SALINAS

## Camp Mohaven Prepares for “Mission: Mohaven 2016”



The Ohio Conference Youth Department’s goal for summer camp is to introduce children to Jesus through nature, relationships and memories that last a lifetime. This year’s theme is “Mission: Mohaven 2016,” and Camp Mohaven staff promises it will be the best place for young people to spend their summer.

Activities include “tribal games,” ski day, canoe trips, classes in outdoor photography, as well as the annual Mangy Mud Run. Staff invites children across the state (and beyond) to “come make new friends, enjoy the outdoors and fall in love with Jesus!” Begin the summer with family camp, June 8-12. Cub, junior, tween, teen and specialty camps run June 12-July 10. To register online, visit [ohiosdayouth.org/camp-mohaven](http://ohiosdayouth.org/camp-mohaven).



# Pennsylvania Pen

JUNE 2016

## Our Mission School Impacts Students

During the past school year, God guided me to leave a comfortable, secure teaching position to teach at the first urban mission school in Pennsylvania. We asked God to send us the children who needed to be at Simplicity Christian Academy in Allentown. They came in with a variety of self-defense mechanisms: “too cool to be bothered with learning,” “make them laugh and they won’t know that I don’t know,” “pretend long enough and they’ll believe I know it all” and “I’ll hurt you before you can hurt me.” Every child entered school below grade level in at least one, if not all, academic areas. For most of them, God was just a word that was sprinkled into everyday conversation to add emphasis.

This precious little crew has grown into a family where the older kids help the younger ones to grow academically. It’s not uncommon to hear a student say, “I think I can do better. May I work on this during recess?” These same students can’t get enough stories from the Bible, can’t wait for their turn to have prayer and campaign for time to take another prayer walk around the neighborhood. One child was excited to find that the stranger to whom she had given an invitation came to the revival meeting where he could learn more about God.

The adventures God carries us through when we step out in faith to do His bidding are hard to describe!



**Karin Lebo**  
*Principal of Simplicity  
Christian Academy*

## BMA-Hosted Robotics, LEGO Events Add to Learning

For more than five years, the Pennsylvania Conference has hosted regional robotics events at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. The FIRST LEGO League and Adventist Robotics League provide opportunities for all young people to experience exciting “real-world” applications while upholding the values and integrity of a well-rounded Adventist education. Schools from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and Massachusetts have participated. The teams come together to show off their God-given talents, as well as interact with other like-minded young people in a fun, energetic and encouraging environment. Teams work together to build a robot, have fun and help others when needed, to find answers and embrace the spirit of learning, rather than the spirit of winning.

Ten teams participated in this year’s robotics league. Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School was one of two teams that qualified for the Adventist Robotics League Nationals in Sacramento, Calif.

“It was tremendous watching teams from different states and schools having a wonderful time interacting with the judges, referees, their teammates, members from other teams and the audience,” says Rick Bianco,

associate education superintendent for mission and growth. “I was proud of all of the teams for the way they conducted themselves, and I look forward to their joining us again in 2017.”



*Blue Mountain Academy students (right) referee the Reading Junior Academy team.*



## Schools Are Intentional About Sharing Jesus

Pennsylvania Conference education leaders believe that Adventist schools are a place where students do more than learn academics and leadership skills, that Adventist education plays a role in helping them grow in a relationship with God. Many students who attend conference schools are from the community and may not learn about Jesus anywhere else in their lives. Thus, conference leadership encourage principals and teachers to be intentional about the spiritual growth of their students throughout the school year. “We believe that if the schools are intentional and have a plan in place, our schools can be a powerful evangelistic tool in the communities where they are located,” says Jeff Bovee, vice president of education.

Last year Mark Witas, lead pastor at the Pacific Union College church (Calif.), shared his experience and expertise in developing and implementing a spiritual master plan for a pre-K through grade 12 day school where he was a principal for five years at the year-end teacher in-service meetings. Witas urged principals to have a spiritual master plan for their school. He asserted that a spiritual focus and plan is as important, if not more important, than a school strategic plan since “our purpose is to prepare students for the kingdom.” As a result, schools across Pennsylvania intentionally



*Harrisburg Adventist School's grade 7-9 students decorate a sidewalk near their school.*

planned ways to help students grow in their relationships with God.

Administrators from the Huntington Valley Christian Academy in Huntington Valley planned three different weeks of prayer as part of their soul-winning strategy. The first week featured each of the pastors from the constituent churches and focused on the Gospel, resulting in 43 students requesting Bible studies. After the second week of prayer led by the students, 33 students enrolled in the Christwise Baptismal curriculum led by constituent pastors Keith Ingram, Buddy Goodwin and Dave Woodruff.

Students at Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist School in Whitehall focus on a positive character trait each week beginning at Monday morning's worship. Teachers then expound on this trait throughout the week. At Friday's worship, each classroom shares the memory verse and demonstrates the character trait somehow in an interesting way.

Praying together is just one way the Reading Junior Academy in Reading has intentionally impacted the lives of students. Every Friday morning, students line the hallways, side-by-side, and begin the day with prayer.

Bovee says, “It is of the utmost importance that each student in our schools grow in their relationship with Jesus, and that all have an opportunity to come to the foot of the cross each and every day as their teachers intentionally teach, mentor and model the joy of a saving relationship in Christ.”



*Harrisburg Adventist School students decorate a sidewalk square with Scripture.*



# Potomac People

JUNE 2016

## Global Youth Day Spurs Future Church Plans

As Christians we hear many sermons,” says Veronica Chicas, a member of the Falls Church Spanish church in Falls Church, Va., “But, it’s when we practice what we preach that we become true disciples of God. It reminds us to not just think of ourselves.”

More than 20 Potomac churches, including Falls Church Spanish, participated in Global Youth Day, a day designed to inspire young Adventists to join a global movement of service. Some church members also used this day as a launch pad for continued acts of service throughout the year.

“Our youth have woken up through this experience!” says Katie Cardenas, a member of the Alexandria Spanish church in Alexandria, Va. “We visited a nearby nursing home. While there, we were not only able to reach out to those we visited, but we were also touched and humbled by them. We plan on carrying out visitations on a monthly basis.”

Members in churches say that these acts of kindness—like offering free hugs to people on the streets, praying for and with strangers, feeding the homeless, cleaning parks, painting houses and distributing



Members of the Metro NOVA Spanish church in Arlington, Va.—Edwin Minero, Carlos Jandres and Doris Minero—remind pedestrians God is always there.

literature—instilled a new heart in them and increased their awareness of the needs around them.

Many members are creating a plan to continue ministering within their community and spreading God’s love.

## JNA, Sligo School Approve Merger Proposal

The board of education and constituents of John Nevins Andrews (JNA) and Sligo Adventist School, both located in Takoma Park, Md., have approved a proposal to merge and create a new K through eighth-grade school.

Slated to open July 1, 2017, the vision is “to create an innovative model of Adventist education that provides a holistic learning experience, nurtures faith, develops character and promotes academic excellence.”



The decision to consolidate academic operations, finances and resources came after a year of discussions involving educators, leaders, parents, pastors and others who support the schools. In February 2015,

the group formed committees to assess facilities and academic operations at each school; demographics and educational needs in the area; and financial feasibility. Their reports and proposals garnered support to move forward with creating a new school using what is now the Sligo school property.

“We are excited to see these communities come together and establish a vision for excellence in education for our children,” says Keith Hallam, Potomac Conference’s vice president for education. “Our goal is to pursue development of a viable and sustainable model of Adventist education in Takoma Park now and in the years to come.”

The steering committee will continue creating a governance structure and secure educational accreditation from Adventist Accrediting Association and Middle States Accreditation, process recommendations for how to use the JNA property and prepare the Sligo school property to meet the needs of the new school.

To become part of a subcommittee, give feedback or receive updates, visit [pcsda.org/tpae/](http://pcsda.org/tpae/)



# Potomac People

## Beltsville Church Spurs Small Group Growth

Small groups make you feel like you're coming home to family," says Renea Smallwood, a member of Beltsville (Md.) church and recent small groups leader. "I don't consider myself a natural born leader, so I was very hesitant when our associate pastor, Will Johns, asked me to lead out and teach quilting, but in the end, my love for it won and I agreed."

Smallwood gathered her extra sewing machines and materials, and began a five-week class in which more than a dozen people faithfully attended. "It definitely stretched me as a person, but it was truly a blessing to meet new people and share something I am passionate about. I already have people asking me when the next class will begin."

This winter 10 groups, including a women's Bible study that met at the LivingWell store in Silver Spring, Md., ran classes in knitting, health, finance, and even a jiu-jitsu class for parents and their children to learn self-defense—many of which had community members in attendance. These small groups operate on a six- to eight-week cycle during the summer, fall and winter, with breaks in between.

Johns says that all churches have built-in small groups, like choir members, Sabbath School teachers and Pathfinders. "We conducted a study and discovered 44 groups like this within our church," he says. "We learned that people in these groups often feel more connected to the church, like they're engaging in a meaningful way and are building friendships with people interested in the same things as them." As a result, Beltsville leaders became more intentional in offering a variety of small groups and focused more on getting



*Anitha Thavamani adds color to her art quilt.*



*Daryl Illangovan shows off his finished quilt.*



*Renea Smallwood demonstrates a quarter-inch seam in a sewing class.*

new members and visitors connected.

Leaders usually hold classes on weekdays and meet at the church, members' homes or a facility that better meets needs. Members often approach church leaders with a small group idea and sometimes the pastors ask people they think may be interested in leading or have a unique talent. Groups are advertised in the bulletin and on Beltsville's website, but Johns say the most effective advertisement has been word of mouth since people talk about things they're excited about.

"Our mission is to equip fully engaged, missional disciples of Jesus," says Johns. "We believe our mission will be realized through each goal in a four-step process: connecting people with God, with each other, with the community and a life of spiritual growth. We believe small groups will help us fulfill our mission."



## Teachers Seek Excellence

In an effort to continue providing academic excellence, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) teachers seek opportunities to improve their craft and enhance their ability to be the best educators possible.

The announcement from science teacher Solomon Lazar (below) is one such example. Lazar recently registered to attend Loma Linda University's Exseed Conference in California this summer. The Exseed Conference will provide opportunities for Lazar to interact with peers while being involved in hands-on workshops that will strengthen BMA's STEM (science,



technology, engineering and math) activities.

He is excited to attend the conference. "I hope to explore new strategies to implement STEM in my classroom."

Lazar started working at BMA in August 2005. He currently teaches chem-

istry, physics, geometry, business math and robotics. Lazar also advises international students and serves as information technology support. He recently started running several STEM-focused short-term programs for international students.

Rosemarie Bechtel (top, right), chair of the Science Department, teacher and STEM club sponsor, has also been working toward excellence in her department. Bechtel was recently selected to be an Excite Award winner and finalist for an InvenTeam grant from the

Lemelson-MIT (L-MIT) program. The selection criteria was based on BMA's ability to facilitate a yearlong, open-ended invention project at the school.

Thirty-five schools/teachers from across the nation were selected as EXCITE Award winners. L-MIT judges will choose 15 of those schools/teachers to receive up to a \$10,000 grant to invent a product and display it on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Boston next summer.

Bechtel will enjoy a week on MIT's campus in Cambridge, Mass., studying STEM invention education by visiting departments, seeing this year's InvenTeam winners and continuing the grant proposal.

Bechtel says, "I'm very excited to spend a week on MIT's campus and professionally grow in STEM invention education. It is my hope that we will be able to receive a \$10,000 grant from L-MIT to create a prototype of an affordable robotic prosthetic hand that has similar neural sensations of a real hand, using microprocessors and wireless sensors. It is our hope to build one that is affordable for all who need a prosthetic hand!"

Bechtel originally wrote the grant on robotic prosthetics with one of BMA's students in mind.

BMA is honored to have staff members like Bechtel and Lazar who personally seek opportunities to work toward excellence in their field, says Dave Morgan, principal.





## Largest Class in 15 Years Graduates

This May, 37 seniors, the largest class since 2001, graduated from Highland View Academy (HVA). This robust class has been a vital part of the school since their freshman year. Half of the class are four-year seniors. They represent the diversity of the school, with 16 community students and 21 boarding students, and they also represent four countries outside the United States. And they embody the heritage of the school as more than 25 percent of them are the children or siblings of alumni.

HVA has provided the students with a firm educational foundation that they will build upon in college. Four seniors—Kayla Miller, Matias Olivares, Matthew Rada and Alissa Tanguay—were the first students to earn certificates through the school’s new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program, which will aid them as they pursue majors and careers in medical and science fields. New graduate Courtney Tooley notes that the many dual-credit classes she was able to take at HVA reduced the number of general education classes she will need to take in college.

Tanguay says that she developed many valuable skills at HVA. “I learned to be a better writer, and I was also able to get a good foundation in Spanish. I was



given an opportunity to accompany the choir, which increased my musical abilities,” she adds.

Likewise, Miller found that she grew in all areas in her life during her four years at the school. “I’ve also learned valuable leadership qualities that will be important in my interactions with future individuals and situations. In addition, my relationship with God has also grown at HVA,” she says.

Not only did the students develop their skills, but they also gained lifelong memories from their learning experiences. Dongdong Yin says that she will remember running a booth at the international fair because it was the first time she had ever cooked. And Rada remembers fondly the senior survival experience last September because “biking and canoeing together strengthened our class’s relationship with each other.”

The graduates have big plans for their futures. More than 90 percent will start college in the fall, and more than half will attend Seventh-day Adventist colleges. They will use their education to develop lives of service. Miller, for example, aims to become a missionary obstetrician. Tanguay says that she would like to “teach music at an Adventist school, work as a speech therapist and possibly be a missionary.”

The graduates take with them the many lessons they have learned at HVA as they head out to do, in the words of the school’s mission statement, “all Christ calls them to do.”





# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

JUNE 2016

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### School Offers Senior a Second Chance

When Jacob Harris was 8 years old, his family moved from Liberia to Maryland so his father could serve as a Lutheran minister. Harris was bullied in school because he was not from the United States. He decided that he didn't want to be different and started hanging out with gang members. That decision led him to an unhealthy lifestyle including drugs, fighting and crime.

Harris began burglarizing homes and stealing cars. One day while he was out, a SWAT team came into his house. His cousins, at home at the time, were terrified. This shocked Harris and he realized that they were being caught up in the consequences of his actions. He wanted to change. Arrested and charged with grand-theft auto and burglary, among other things, Harris prayed and promised God that he would change his life.

After his trial, all charges were dismissed except for disruption of the peace. He went to a special private school to help him overcome his drug addiction. But after that year away, Harris relapsed and began hanging out with old friends. A military school stint didn't help either. Back in Maryland, he drove by Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA). He applied and told the admissions team his story.

Registrar Dawn Thompson felt especially convicted to vote for Jacob's acceptance. "He was so transparent



PHOTO BY JULIANA BACONI

*Justin Montero and Stephen Finney, Spencerville youth pastor, pray with Jacob Harris at Harris' baptism.*

and honest in his answers. He seemed to feel certain that our school could make the difference in his life that he so desired," says Thompson. "He had maintained good grades throughout, and I felt that he just needed to have a chance to change his life."

Harris began a new life as a senior at SAA this year. In November Chad Stuart, Spencerville church senior pastor, held an evangelistic series at the church and the academy simultaneously. Harris attended the school meetings and wanted to learn more about the Sabbath, the state of the dead and the doctrine of hell. "It all made sense to me, but I wanted to know more," he says.

Harris began taking Bible studies with Justin Montero, a Bible worker with a similar past. They connected, studied together and Harris was baptized in March at the Spencerville church.

Harris is active in the spiritual life on campus and has preached and rapped his testimony at various churches and chapel services. The SAA Broadcast Journalism class made a video of his story. When asked what the future holds for him, Harris says, "I would like to study theology. I just like learning about God for myself."



*Fifth-grader Kenny Braun joins senior Jacob Harris and seventh-grader Nevaeh Kearney as Harris shares his testimony during a middle school chapel.*



# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY

# CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

JUNE 2016

### Getting Muddy for a Cause

Primitive accommodations, torrential rainstorms, oversized insects, endless mud, a steamy climate and hard work don't sound like a great way to spend spring break. But, to many Spring Valley Academy (SVA) students, these things added up to the best vacation of their lives. I was there as 60 SVA students and parents mucked it up for a cause in the Amazon rainforest of Peru this spring.

After a long journey, this group of short-term missionaries arrived at the beautiful, primitive Camp Smile in Indiana, a small town on the Amazon River. Camp Smile is regularly used to host groups of semi-indigenous children in weeklong educational and spiritual experiences.

Each morning we worshipped together with a focus on the theme, "Christ in Us, the Hope of Glory." After praying for just that, the construction crew made needed improvements to the camp. Medical, vision and VBS teams lugged their equipment to rickety boats that pattered up Amazon tributaries to isolated villages full of people in need of relief from physical suffering and the hope that only Jesus can give. After week of long days of work, the missionaries spent the evenings running VBS programs for the children. Sound tiring? Something about working for the Lord energizes rather than drains us. It's true. "Christ in Us" does give a taste of glory.

The VBS team shared Jesus with more than 360 children. The construction team left a new gazebo and extensive new, covered boardwalks as a testament to their hard work. Our SVA medical teams treated more than 400 medical patients and 120 vision patients. Part of the medical ministry gave a women's health presentation in each village and distributed 250 reusable menstrual kits to girls and woman. Women and girls in Kettering, Ohio, handmade the kits in partnership with an organization called Days for Girls.

God put so much love in our hearts for the people who live along that mighty river. Some of us even miss the mud.



**Darren Wilkins**  
*Principal*

### Students Make a Comeback at Robotics Tournament



Spring Valley Academy fifth- and sixth-graders recently competed in the LEGO Robotics tournament at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), which featured innovative projects on the management of trash. During the tournament, the Spring Valley team worked hard to more than double last year's score. Team members called it "the comeback."

"Each year in LEGO Robotics, I am personally inspired to witness the excitement and perseverance of students as they wrestle with obstacles and triumph over them. What a memorable event this has been for us! We are excited to see what awaits us next year," says Sam Joseph, fifth- and sixth-grade teacher.

*Teacher Sam Joseph and fifth- and sixth-grade students celebrate their comeback at the LEGO Robotics tournament.*

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# SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

JUNE 2016

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

## Donald Short to Serve as Principal

Last spring Donald Short and his family decided to let God lead as he considered becoming a principal at an Adventist academy. As vice principal of Georgia Cumberland Academy for 13 years, he received numerous principal “calls,” but remained in Georgia.

At the same time, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) searched for a principal-in-transition to be mentored by principal Dale Twomley, to assume the role of principal when Twomley’s term ended after the 2015-16 school year. The Shorts entered into conversations with SVA leadership, with both parties sensing God working in the situation. In May 2015, Short began his career as SVA principal-in-transition. This February the board unanimously voted to name Short principal, effective June 1.

Twomley, faculty and students offered prayers of dedication for Short when the staff shared the news in a special chapel. Afterward, students and staff congratulated Short and his wife, Laura, as everyone celebrated.

“As principal-in-transition, Mr. Short’s leadership has demonstrated his commitment to Jesus and to the SVA family. He has developed strong relationships with students and solidified the faculty and staff team,” says Twomley. “We are blessed by the Shorts’ decision to



*Junior Christian Sanchez, Student Association Pastor, offers a prayer for the Short family during a special chapel.*

serve the people and educational ministry of SVA.”

Donald holds a Bachelor of Arts in history and religion from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), and a Master of Arts for teachers in American history from Indiana University. The Shorts have three school-age daughters.

## Academy Eliminates Debt



*David VandeVere receives the final debt payment from Dale Twomley.*

When the board of trustees asked Dale Twomley to return as SVA principal in December 2014, the school owed \$1.4 million: \$1.2 million to the Potomac Conference and \$200,000 to the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). Twomley agreed to return as principal and CEO, and the conference agreed to write off \$600,000 of the \$1.2 million debt when SVA paid the remaining \$600,000.

With the use of \$100,000 from reserves, in April Twomley presented a check for \$303,000 as final payment on SVA’s debt to David VandeVere, conference treasurer. The CURF debt was paid last spring.

Twomley gives all the glory and honor to God, “Praise the Lord for His leading and sustaining, and for alumni and friends who gave because they understood the importance of eliminating the heavy burden of debt to the survival of Shenandoah Valley Academy—now a debt-free school!”



## Engineering Club Shines at National Convention

This spring Takoma Academy's NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) Jr. Chapter, under the leadership of Sheri Thorn ('09), co-sponsor and aerospace engineer, recently attended the 42nd annual NSBE convention in Boston.

The impact of the convention is evident in the following quote from Geoffrey Ramsay ('16). "This week has been great. I met and networked with many experienced [engineers] who have shown me the road to becoming a software engineer. I enjoyed speaking with the people I met because they spoke to us like we were no less than them," he says.

After arriving, the students took a tour of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the world's premier engineering school. The next day, senior Erin Stewartson, club president, and Ronnie Mills, administration co-sponsor, attended the NSBE press conference. Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker, who was the featured speaker, greeted the Takoma Academy (TA) representatives. The TA group also met DiOnetta Jones Crayton, associate dean of the M.I.T. Office of Minority Education, and Karl Reid, executive director of NSBE.

Microsoft representative and TA alum Jeremy Limerick ('09) treated students to dinner. Limerick has committed himself to helping the TA STEM department obtain many of its goals for the academy.

Tiffany Thorn ('17), Erin Stewartson ('16), Angelou



Takoma Academy NSBE Jr. Chapter members enjoy a tour of MIT.

Davis ('19), Nicholas Ashman ('18) and Ramsay also participated in the TEN80 Student Racing Challenge. Organizers planned the event to inspire students to engage in STEM learning and to provide content and support that channels that inspiration into real academic and emotional success in their chosen fields.

In the events, students are tasked with redesigning an electric radio-controlled (RC) car for optimum performance in a race. The TA team finished sixth overall out of 29 schools, and finished third out of 29 schools in the design challenge aspect competition. These stats are impressive considering that this was the TA Engineering Club's first attendance and entry at the NSBE TEN80 competition, says principal Carla Thrower.

Some of the non-engineering events included a concert by gospel artist Jonathan McReynolds. The students spent Sabbath at the Cambridge church in Medford, Mass., where church members served them lunch.

More than 11,000 delegates attended the convention, and some of the world's greatest corporations, such as Microsoft, Google, Shell Oil, Toyota and United Technologies, attended to recruit and interview some of the nation's top engineering students. The TA NSBE Jr. Chapter is already preparing to make sure the club is prepared to attend the next convention and gain valuable knowledge in obtaining the NSBE goal of "Engineering a Cultural Change."



DiOnetta Jones Crayton, associate dean at MIT, and Karl Reid, executive director of NSBE, flank Erin Stewartson.



# STATE of the UNIVERSITY

INCREASED *financial strength,*  
*academic excellence,*  
AND *transforming lives*

Since its founding in 1904, Washington Adventist University has strategically transformed education and learning. Today, in our 112th year, we continue on the pathway of growing with excellence on the solid foundation that was established by our founders, who acted on their vision to establish an institution of higher education in the nation's capital. We are still committed to the original mission of challenging students to seize the opportunities for learning in the nation's capital in order to become moral leaders in communities throughout the world.

The Board of Trustees was diligent in setting the measurable goals and standards for a thriving institution of higher education. I am proud to report that with divine support and a hard-working faculty and staff we were able to exceed many of these standards during the past five years and move the institution forward from surviving to thriving.

We have used the six pillars of excellence—Quality, People, Finance, Growth, Service and Community—to create a strategic plan. During this five-year period, we received the maximum accreditation possible from our regional accrediting agency, Middle States Commission on Higher Education. We experienced the highest enrollment ever. One hundred and seventy students were involved with 15 national and international mission trips, resulting in 1,469 baptisms. One-hundred and seven students accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and were baptized. We supported the project to translate the Bible from its original language into modern Russian and helped Bugema University in Uganda develop a program in metro ministry.

During this period, 1589 students graduated from WAU. We also introduced an academic realignment that leverages the strength of our undergraduate, graduate and professional programs to attract and retain the best and brightest students and made way for the creation of new academic programs. I am happy to report that many of our academic programs have received external recognitions of excellence. We are actively building partnerships with Adventist academies, local K-12 institutions and with potential employers of our graduates.

We were just listed in *The Council of Independent Colleges Strategic Change and Innovation in Independent Colleges* report as one of the Nine Mission-Driven Campuses ([cic.edu/researchfuture.com](http://cic.edu/researchfuture.com)). We have always

been acknowledged as a teaching, service, and learning institution that is now reclassified as a private not-for-profit Master's University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. We are moving forward with a single shared vision—Vision 2020—that will bring recognition to the institution by accrediting agencies, the academic community and the general public as a premier university of quality and distinction.

This past period also marked a watershed moment in WAU philanthropy history, with several key gifts that are helping the university toward fulfilling Vision 2020, providing much-needed scholarships and infrastructure support. I am proud to report that we were beneficiaries of gifts that were each \$1 million. The strength of our financial status allowed us to offer over \$6 million in scholarships annually to need- and/or merit-based students.

Our location, diversity, dedicated faculty and staff continue to be our strength. With these advancements currently underway and our commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service, WAU is poised to play a pivotal role in educating professionals equipped to be transformative moral leaders in the 21st century.

Members of the Board of Trustees, alumni, faculty, staff and students thank you for making these past five years a transformative period for Washington Adventist University. WAU is on track to become a learning community of the highest caliber and to be recognized nationally and internationally for its academic excellence in many fields and in preparing students for service to humanity. To God be the glory!

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence, President



**Weymouth Spence**  
President



# KETTERING COLLEGE



*Kettering College celebrates the class of 2016.*

## Kettering College Graduates its 48th Class

By Breana Soliday Haughton

On Saturday, April 30, Kettering College conferred degrees and certificates on 244 students that graduated with 249 majors at the school's 48th annual commencement ceremonies. The event held at the Dayton Convention Center featured keynote speaker Frank Perez, CEO Emeritus at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

"It was a tremendous ceremony—there is nothing quite like celebrating the achievements of our Kettering College graduates and wishing them continued success as they begin their careers as healthcare professionals," said Kettering College President Nate Brandstater.

President Brandstater granted 39 Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees in the following areas: radiologic technology (19) and respiratory care (20). Three certificates of completion in computed tomography, one in cardiovascular interventional technology, two in vascular interventional technology, and three in magnetic resonance imaging also were granted.

A total of 160 bachelor's degrees were awarded, including 101 graduates of the Bachelor of Science in nursing. Eighteen Bachelor of Science in diagnostic medical sonography degrees and 19 Bachelor of Science in human biology degrees were presented. Twenty-two Bachelor of Science in health sciences degrees were granted in the following specialties: health care management (8), respiratory care (4), advanced imaging (7) and health care education (5). Also notable were the 39 graduate degrees from the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

Three of the graduated students received special recognition as members of the Vaughan-Beaven Service Learning Honors Program. These honors graduates were Ricardo Chujutalli (Human Biology), Christina Cribari (Human Biology), and Rachel Mack (Human Biology).





# YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

## God Has a Plan

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, my parents instilled in me the concept of God's limitless love and His plan for our lives as a key principle of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian message. That uplifting philosophy has carried me through my journey of raising my three children and my path into healthcare. I've been blessed to live, work, and share in ministry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Huntsville, Alabama; Danville, Virginia; and Dayton, Ohio. Every turn in my path was God's plan.

No matter the call—family, education, career, service, missions, or relocation—God has consistently guided the outcomes of my life. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) reminds us "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

My journey has not always been sunny, but working in healthcare has given me a perspective of gratitude and continued reliance on God's will. I have assisted the traumatically injured, held the hand of a dying patient, and been blessed to see life begin. I am confident there is a purpose for everything that happens.

It was with that same trust I joined Kettering Adventist HealthCare. My collective experiences as a clinician, vice president, and a believer seemed to perfectly prepare me for joining a healthcare organization that puts the soul first as they care for the body.

Our leaders open our meetings with worship and prayer which brings a peace and power to our work—God's plan. Years ago Charles F. Kettering knew health plus faith was God's plan for success. Patients, staff, and families say, "The faith-based culture of Kettering is really special." So when I was asked to be a part of a world-class healthcare network whose foundation is a belief in the Lord, I knew it was God's plan.



**Anita Adams**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Kettering Medical Center

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Member of the  
Dale Wright Memorial  
Seventh-day Adventist Church

*"No matter the call—  
family, education, career,  
service, missions, or  
relocation—God has  
consistently guided the  
outcomes of my life."*





# YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

## God's Calling

By Christina Keresoma

There's something unique that happens when you experience life while walking through the hallways at any of the eight Kettering Health Network hospitals. Many believe that it is sacred space that allows for sacred work to be shared every moment of every day. We bring the presence of God into our workplace. Meetings and events begin with prayer, creation wall sculptures tell a story of hope around the network, and our employees are encouraged to pray with patients.

Terri Holman, a speech pathologist of over 30 years and a believer, says, "All meetings start with prayer, and I am also able to pray with patients. As a clinician, I could work anywhere, but at Kettering Medical Center we are meeting needs beyond medicine—we go the next step."

Recently Terri worked with a patient who allowed Terri to pray with her and talk about God. Terri felt that God was working with her. During the patient's treatment sessions she confided to Terri of a promise to her now-deceased mother that she would get baptized. Terri shared this with the nursing staff, which notified Spiritual Services. Nestor Bruno, staff chaplain, went to visit her room on Thursday afternoon and spent a couple hours talking, praying, and reading scripture.

During their conversation she requested to be baptized before being discharged. Since Nestor was fairly new to Kettering Medical Center, he quickly searched out advice from his colleagues. The phones started buzzing as people started



A patient gets baptized at Kettering Medical Center

calling around to see how they could make this possible. Plant Engineering created a baptismal pool by 9 a.m. on Friday morning. "I felt God working through everything," says Bruno. The patient was asked before the ceremony if she wished it to be kept private with only family present, but she wanted all the staff that had cared for her to witness her baptism.

The unit holds a special place in her heart as does Kettering Medical Center. It is a place where she felt safe and in good hands. She felt that the staff was really listening to her and that she was an individual—not just a patient in the bed. She was grateful for the many times the staff would take time and pray with her throughout her stay.





# Kettering Adventist HealthCare Hospitals

*Kettering Medical Center*



*Sycamore Medical Center*



*Grandview Medical Center*



*Soin Medical Center*



*Southview Medical Center*



*Fort Hamilton Hospital*



*Greene Memorial Hospital*



*Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center*



"All our buildings are made with brick and mortar, but what makes us so special are the employees and physicians who fill these buildings with the presence of Jesus Christ," says Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

Many great buildings are built with brick and mortar, but if it isn't filled with great people, it is nothing but a beautiful building.



# THE NEWS

## Empowering Women for Brighter Futures

We can make a larger impact when we unite for a common cause—which is what our churches, schools, and hospitals did this spring. Annie Collins started a Dayton chapter of Days for Girls, which builds sanitary kits for third world countries, along with co-founders Yvette Wilkins, RN and Shelley Perez, MD. Ladies met together at the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church to assemble kits for Spring Valley Academy's mission trip to Peru this past March. These feminine hygiene products were given to girls and women who would normally miss school or work once a month during their menstruation period.



By the time the mission trip team left, they were able to bring 200 regular kits and 30 postpartum kits with them.

"It was amazing to see how God used our group to create such a beautiful gift for complete strangers halfway around the world. Those kits opened the door for us to talk to girls and moms about health, life choices, and God's love. We hope to encourage them to stay in school as a way to get out of poverty," said Dr. Perez.

## Kettering and Sycamore Named Truven 100 Top Hospitals

Congratulations to Kettering and Sycamore medical centers, who were recently named 100 Top Hospitals in the nation by Truven Health Analytics. With nearly 3,000 hospitals evaluated for the honor, these network facilities are the only hospitals in the Dayton area to be in the top 100.



Kettering has received the distinction a total of 12 times and Sycamore has been included seven times.

"This is a great honor," says Jarrod McNaughton, president of Kettering Medical Center. "For Kettering to receive it 12 times is unequivocally amazing! Our designation as one of the best hospitals in the country is the result of collaborative teamwork and focused strategies to deliver quality care."

"Once again, we are proud to be recognized as a 100 Top Hospital," says Walter Sackett, president of Sycamore Medical Center. "At Sycamore, providing safe, compassionate, exceptional care is our top priority."

The study shows that if all hospitals in the U.S. performed at the level of Kettering, Sycamore, and the other winning hospitals:

- nearly 104,000 additional lives could be saved
- nearly 48,400 additional patients could be complication free
- nearly \$2 billion in inpatient costs could be saved
- nearly 245,000 fewer discharged patients could be readmitted within 30 days





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### ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

seeks maintenance director for Guam station. Key roles include upkeep of buildings, vehicles and grounds. HVAC certification preferred. It is the policy of the GC to hire only Seventh-day Adventist church members. Send résumé to Kent Sharpe, [sharpek@gc.adventist.org](mailto:sharpek@gc.adventist.org).

### SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Math and Physical Sciences Department, is seeking a highly motivated individual to teach a combination of statistics,

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**UNION COLLEGE** seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an occupational therapy assistant program effective July. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in occupational therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. Email letter of interest and CV to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, [r2young@ucollege.edu](mailto:r2young@ucollege.edu).

### LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

Department of Curriculum and Instruction invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants must hold a PhD degree with curriculum and instruction as the preferred specialization, must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting, be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at [goo.gl/sHijbX](http://goo.gl/sHijbX).

### ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (ADU) seeks

a full-time religion faculty to teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The optimal candidate will be an Adventist with a Christian worldview who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an earned PhD degree in religion, theology or ethics, preferably with an emphasis in bioethics; a strong history of teaching and scholarship; and be available to teach beginning this fall. Send CV to Ernest Bursey, at [emie.bursey@adu.edu](mailto:emie.bursey@adu.edu).

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## OBITUARIES

**TUMBLER, Ellen Bernice,** born February 6, 1919, to the late Theodosia and Sam Ewan in Springside, Burlington Twp., N.J.; died April 18, 2015, at the Virtua Hospital in Mt. Holly, N.J. She was the first born of three: one sister, Dorothy (Harry) Ciemer (deceased) and one brother, William (Marian) Ewan of Hainesport, N.J. She graduated from high school and had one year of art classes at the Charles Price School of Art in Philadelphia. She loved drawing portraits of family. She was a faithful member of the Mt. Holy church and, over the years, served as treasurer, clerk, taught primary and senior Sabbath School classes and loved ingathering and camp meeting with her husband, John Tumbler (deceased), and the family. She worked at Fort Dix, N.J., in clothing issue until she retired. She leaves her daughter, Theodosia (Jesse) Carroll; one son, William Tumbler of Hainesport; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by one son, John Tumbler.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WARREN CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY:** The Warren Adventist church will host a 50th anniversary service August 27. After a fellowship luncheon, join us for "Thru the Decades." If you have information or pictures, please send them to Warren Adventist Church, PO Box 100, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

# Sunset Calendar

	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
Baltimore	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37
Cincinnati	8:59	9:03	9:06	9:08
Cleveland	8:55	9:00	9:03	9:04
Columbus	8:56	9:00	9:03	9:05
Jersey City	8:22	8:27	8:30	8:31
Norfolk	8:20	8:24	8:27	8:28
Parkersburg	8:48	8:52	8:55	8:57
Philadelphia	8:24	8:29	8:32	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:45	8:49	8:52	8:54
Reading	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38
Richmond	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:35
Roanoke	8:36	8:40	8:42	8:44
Toledo	9:03	9:08	9:11	9:13
Trenton	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:33
Wash., D.C.	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37

## Sligo by the Sea 2016

Coming to Delaware or the Maryland beaches this summer? Join us in Ocean City for a relaxed, inspiring Sabbath Service

### Speakers\*

June 18	Vladimir Corea
June 25	Rick Remmers
July 2	Charles Tapp
July 9	Steve Chavez
July 16	Charles Byrd
July 23	Celeste Ryan Blyden
July 30	Mark Sigue
Aug 6	Charles Sandefur
Aug 13	Chad Stuart
Aug 20	Joseph Khabbaz
Aug 27	Larry Evans
Sept 3	Dunbar Henri
Sept 10	Ron Halvorsen Jr
Sept 17	Kermit Netteburg
Sept 24	Nathan Krause

### Sabbath School at 10 a.m. Worship Service at 11 a.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10300 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md.—Casual Attire Appropriate

\*For further information on speakers and contact information, please see our Web page at [sligochurch.org/sligo-by-the-sea](http://sligochurch.org/sligo-by-the-sea), or call (301) 980-2000





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