

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 • VOLUME 122 • ISSUE 1



Covered With Comfort

After losing her baby to sudden infant death syndrome, Summer Porter blankets others with care

Plus: Processing
the Evolution
of Veggie Meat,
p.12

Contents

AP PHOTOS/ALLISON SHELLEY



4 | Newsline

6 | Noticias

8 | Covered With Comfort

V. Michelle Bernard

After losing her almost four-month-old baby to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), Summer Porter felt powerless. Then she started a ministry designed to bring other hurting families moments of love, comfort and healing.

12 | Processing the Evolution of Veggie Meat

Debra McKinney Banks and Celeste Ryan Blyden

With change and growth in the veggie meat industry, will Adventist favorites get lost in the “process”?

15 | Newsletters

44 | Bulletin Board

About the Cover: Summer Porter was photographed by Allison Shelley at the Beltsville Adventist School in Maryland. **Above:** Beltsville Adventist School student Evelyn Solomon crochets a square that will be added to blankets for children in the hospital.

ON THE WEB

GRIEVING TIPS

Having a hard time getting over a loss? Ann Roda, vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, recently shared tips and resources for grieving. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/griefftips to read her advice.



THE FUTURE OF ADVENTIST BOOK CENTERS

For many years, the conference Adventist Book Center (ABC) was the place to get your “veggie meat.” Traditionally located in the basement or backroom of a conference office building, church or on an academy campus, and mostly geared to Seventh-day Adventist customers, the ABC of 20+ years ago has had to evolve to stay alive. Read more about how the ABCs in the Columbia Union are evolving at columbiaunionvisitor.com/changingabc.

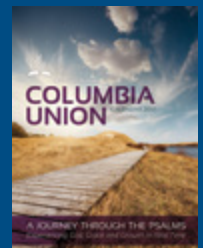


JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS

Each month in 2017, Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union Conference executive secretary and the principal contributor for the 2017 calendar, will blog about a featured Psalm. Read his posts at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms.

NEED A CALENDAR?

Want an extra copy of the 2017 *Columbia Union Conference Calendar* featuring the Psalms? Email srowley@columbiaunion.net for additional free copies.



WRONG ADDRESS?

Need to update your *Visitor* mailing address? Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/addressupdate to see how.

VISITOR

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Editor and Publisher
 V. Michelle Bernard ■ News, Features and Online Editor
 Ricardo Bacchus ■ Newsletter Editor
 Kelly Butler Coe ■ Art Director and Designer
 Sandra Jones ■ Advertising and Circulation Manager

The *Visitor* is a monthly publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 62,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunionvisitor.com
visitor@columbiaunion.net ■ To subscribe, change address or discontinue *Visitor* mailings, call your local conference, as listed below. Ask for the membership clerk. Free to members. All others, \$20 annually. Email sjones@columbiaunion.net.

PUBLISHING BOARD

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

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

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE

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

Dave Weigley ■ President
 Rob Vandeman ■ Executive Secretary
 Seth Bardu ■ Treasurer

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Vice President, Communication and PR
 Frank Bondurant ■ Vice President, Ministries Development
 Walter Carson ■ Vice President/General Counsel and PARL
 Rubén Ramos ■ Vice President, Multilingual Ministries
 Donovan Ross ■ Vice President, Education
 Emmanuel Asiedu ■ Secretary/Treasurer, Revolving Fund
 Curtis Boore ■ Director, Plant Services
 Harold Greene ■ Director, Information Technology
 Carol Wright ■ Undertreasurer

CONFERENCES

ALLEGHENY EAST: Henry J. Fordham, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com
ALLEGHENY WEST: William T. Cox Sr., President; Bryant Smith, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (614) 232-5271 ■ awconf.org
CHESAPEAKE: Rick Remmers, President; Samantha Young, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org
MOUNTAIN VIEW: Larry Boggess, President; Valerie Morikone, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (304) 422-4581 ■ mtviewconf.org
NEW JERSEY: José H. Cortés, President; Paulo Macena, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (609) 392-7131 ■ njcsda.org
OHIO: Ron Halvorsen Jr., President; Heidi Shoemaker, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org
PENNSYLVANIA: (vacant), President; Tamyra Horst, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 374-8331 ■ paconference.org
POTOMAC: Bill Miller, President; Debra Anderson, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

KETTERING COLLEGE: Nate Brandstater, President; Jessica Beans, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu
WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Angie Crews, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, President & CEO; Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com
KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent
 Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ khnetwork.org

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

Volume 122 ■ Issue 1

A Matter of Conscience

This year marks 500 years since Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany (Oct. 31, 1517), challenging the established religious beliefs and practices of his denomination, and launching the Protestant Reformation. Conscientiously, he could not reconcile church practices with biblical teachings as he understood them.



Four years later, when summoned by church authorities to recant his teachings, he uttered: “I cannot and I will not retract, for it is unsafe for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other; may God help me. Amen” (Merle d’Aubigne, *History of the Reformation in the 16th Century*, b. 7, ch. 8, cited in *The Great Controversy*, p. 160.2).



Conscience has always been important to the followers of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, as the disciples were beginning to proclaim the good news about Jesus and salvation through Him—like Luther, they were accosted by the established authorities of their day. After ignoring a directive not to openly preach about Christ, they were arrested and asked why they violated the council’s command. Their response: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29, NKJV).

From our very beginning, Seventh-day Adventists have championed allegiance to the Bible and freedom of conscience. One of the founders of our movement, Ellen G. White, recognized our role in the Reformation, stating: “*The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world’s history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding*” (GC, pp. 148-149).

There will be times when, to follow such insights, it will require courage from believers to stand for matters of conscience. In his study of mission and governance, George Knight, history professor emeritus of Andrews University (Mich.), shares how early Adventists related to this value. Delegates to the 1877 General Conference Session voted that corporate decisions made by church governing bodies “should be submitted to by all without exception, *unless* they can be shown to conflict with the Word of God and the rights of individual conscience” (*Review and Herald*, Oct. 4, 1877, p. 106, cited in *Presentation Papers on Mission and Governance*, p. 42, italics supplied; available at columbiaunion.org/2016leadershipsummit).

As we begin 2017, may we conjure the courage to follow conscience and conviction for the cause of Christ and the advancement of His mission in these last days of Earth’s history.

Dave Weigley is president of the Columbia Union Conference.



600 BAPTIZED IN FALL EVANGELISM EFFORTS

At the Columbia Union Conference Constituency Meeting in May 2016, union leadership and conference presidents made a commitment to continue the strong focus on evangelism in the new quinquennium, starting with an initiative themed “Share the Light, Share the Hope.” Here are some highlights to date:

Fifty Chesapeake Conference churches (including the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., pictured) hosted evangelistic meetings; the Allegheny West Conference’s Glenville church in Cleveland baptized more than 100 people; evangelistic meetings in Hispanic churches in the Ohio Conference resulted in 200 baptisms and six new church plants;

1,000

Number of church elders in Hispanic churches throughout the Columbia Union planning to preach a two-week evangelism series in 2017, reports Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries.

more than 1,300 Pennsylvania Conference members ministered in western Pennsylvania in preparation for 14 evangelistic meetings; and reaping campaigns in the Potomac Conference resulted in more than 300 baptisms.

“I believe we are just seeing the first of many miracles and baptisms in our Columbia Union churches as God honors and blesses our commitment to keep His mission our top priority,” says Frank Bondurant, union vice president for Ministries Development.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JOINS MOUNTAIN VIEW



In December Mike Hewitt joined the Mountain View Conference (MVC) team as the executive secretary and ministerial director.

Conference leaders are looking forward to working with Hewitt, who is filling a vacancy to round out their officer team of three. “Mike loves to do evangelism,” says Larry Boggess, MVC president. “He loves soul winning and people, and he can identify with many of our pastors who have come from a different profession than pastoring.”

Hewitt previously served as pastor of Potomac Conference’s

Lynchburg (Va.) church. He spent the last 11-and-a-half years as a pastor in the Potomac Conference, and previously worked as a police officer.

Read more about Hewitt in the *March Mountain Viewpoint*.

—*V. Michelle Bernard*

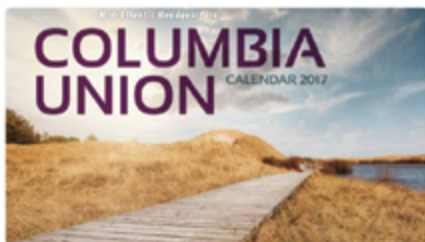
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE

During the fall Columbia Union Administrators Council, Donovan Ross, vice president for education, reported that the 2016-17 enrollment for Pre-K through 12th grade is projected to be at 5,870 students, up from 5,658 the previous academic year. The greatest increase occurs in the Ohio Conference (students from the Ohio Conference’s Northern Ohio Adventist Academy in Sheffield Lake pictured), which has grown from 691 students to 810. Total enrollment, including all academic levels, from Early Childhood Education and Care to higher education, is 8,965. “God is pouring out His blessings in great and mighty ways every day in our educational system,” says Ross.

—*Ricardo Bacchus*



ColumbiaUnionVisitor @VisitorNews · 3d
Did you know that six authors besides David contributed to the Psalms? Read more facts about the Psalms at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms



2

Seven Honored for Service, Evangelism

At the November Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee Meeting at union headquarters in Columbia, Md., leaders recognized a group of seven people who have worked “tirelessly” for the Lord in the Columbia Union Conference territory. Rob Vandeman, executive secretary, introduced the honorees. “These people have been faithful to their calling to help share the message of Jesus,” he said.

Pam Scheib serves as Adventurer and Pathfinder director for the Pennsylvania Conference and also as the union coordinator. She is a member of the Executive Advisory Committee for the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee, and was the camporee director for the recent 2016 Columbia Union Fearless Pathfinder Camporee.

Marilynn Peeke has also dedicated herself to youth through the ministry of education. She has served in the Chesapeake Conference for 21 years—four at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., and the past 17 at Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md. At Atholton, Peeke has been instrumental in launching or reviving several programs.

For the last 25 years, Tim Engelkeimer has served as the camp ranger for the Mountain View Conference’s Valley Vista Adventist Center near Huttonsville, W.Va. While growing up on a small farm, Engelkeimer helped his dad with building and remodeling projects on a small farm. He later earned licenses in real estate; water, pool and sewer operations; and residential contracting, which comes in handy at Valley Vista.

After enjoying a 34-year career in nursing, Minnie McNeil joined the Allegheny East Conference and served as Women’s and Prison Ministries director for 15 years. She is now the director of Adventist Community Services (ACS) for the conference and the union’s ACS



Columbia Union Conference executive officers (back row) Dave Weigley, Rob Vandeman and Seth Bardu recognize five of the 2016 Notable Persons of Honor Marilynn Peeke, Sahily Fuentes, Minnie McNeil, Tim Engelkeimer and Pam Scheib.

and Disaster Response coordinator.

Monte Sahlin (pictured, below) has been a stalwart fixture in ministry in the Columbia Union for many decades. During his 45-year tenure, he served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a minister, research sociologist, journalist, author and community organizer. He pastored in a number of churches—large churches in major cities in the northeast and Midwest and small churches in rural Appalachia.

In 1989 Violeta Anavitarte (pictured, right, with José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president) studied theology at the Adventist University in the Dominican Republic. Upon graduating, she returned to the states where she was ordained as the first female



PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

elder in the New Jersey Conference. She then worked as a Bible worker and colporteur for many years. She remains an active ministry leader at the Iglesia PanAmericana church in Vineland, N.J.

Sahily Fuentes has dedicated her life to public evangelism and church planting. Fuentes has helped to win more than 800 souls for Christ. After preaching at various evangelistic meetings and other events, she began planting churches closer to home in northern Virginia. She currently serves as volunteer pastor for the Potomac Conference’s Lorton Spanish group, her fifth church plant.

Read more about the honorees at columbiaunionvisitor.com.

—Celeste Ryan Blyden



Román López Domínguez, pastor hispano de la iglesia central de Columbus en Ohio (Asociación Allegheny West), se prepara para bautizar a Yanira Mazara Zimnoch, quien conoció la iglesia a través de los medios sociales.

AUMENTA LA MATRICULACIÓN EN LAS ESCUELAS ADVENTISTAS

Durante el Consejo de Administradores de la Unión de Columbia, Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de educación, informó que la matriculación de 2016-17 de jardín de infantes al grado 12 está proyectada a ser 5.870 alumnos, 212 alumnos más que el año académico pasado. El aumento más grande se observa en la Asociación de Ohio, que ha aumentado de 691 alumnos a 810. La matriculación total incluyendo todos los niveles académicos, desde la educación temprana a la educación superior, es 8.965. “Dios está derramando Sus bendiciones en grandes y poderosas maneras cada día en nuestro sistema educativo”, dice Ross.—Ricardo Bacchus

LOS ESFUERZOS OTOÑALES DE EVANGELISMO RESULTAN EN 600 BAUTISMOS

Durante el Congreso de la Unión de Columbia en mayo 2016, los líderes de la unión y los presidentes



de las asociaciones se comprometieron en continuar enfocándose fuertemente en el evangelismo durante el nuevo quinquenio, comenzando con una iniciativa bajo el lema “Comparte la luz, comparte la esperanza”. A continuación, se destacan los resultados de algunos de estos esfuerzos:

Cincuenta iglesias de la Asociación Chesapeake realizaron reuniones evangelísticas; más de 100 personas fueron bautizadas en la iglesia Glenville de la Asociación Allegheny West; los esfuerzos evangelísticos de las iglesias hispanas de la Asociación de Ohio (En la foto: Peter M. Simpson, coordinador de los ministerios hispanos en la Asociación de Ohio,

bautizando a Salvador Hernández, un nuevo miembro de la iglesia hispana de Hamilton) dieron como resultado 200 bautismos y se plantaron seis nuevas iglesias; más de 1.300 miembros de la Asociación de Pennsylvania fueron capacitados en el oeste del estado en preparación para las 14 reuniones evangelísticas que se realizaron; y la Asociación Potomac informó más de 300 bautismos resultantes de las campañas de cosecha.

“Creo que estamos viendo los primeros de muchos milagros y bautismos más en nuestras iglesias de la Unión de Columbia”, dice Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente para el desarrollo de ministerios de la unión.—V. Michelle Bernard

SE ANUNCIAN LOS PRESENTADORES PARA LA CUMBRE DE JÓVENES ADULTOS

Los líderes de la Unión de Columbia anunciaron los presentadores para “Levántate”, la 2017 Cumbre de Jóvenes Adultos de la Unión de Columbia. Steve Case (en la foto), presidente de Involve Youth en California, será el orador principal. Tiffany Brown, directora de la Escuela de Evangelismo Urbano REACH de la Unión de Columbia, Kris Eckenorth, pastor de la iglesia Grace Outlet en Reading, Pennsylvania y Marquis Johns, pastor principal de la iglesia de Filadelfia Norte, serán algunos de los presentadores.

Inscríbese y lea más en youngadultsummit.org.



Siete son reconocidos por su servicio y evangelismo

Al cierre de la reunión del Comité Ejecutivo realizada en noviembre en la sede central de la unión en Columbia, Maryland, los líderes reconocieron a un grupo de siete personas que han trabajado ‘diligentemente’ para el Señor en el territorio de la Unión de Columbia. Rob Vandeman, secretario ejecutivo, introdujo a los honrados. “Estas personas han sido fieles a su llamado al compartir el mensaje de Jesús”, dijo.

Pam Scheib es la directora de Aventureros y Conquistadores para la Asociación de Pennsylvania, y también es la coordinadora de Conquistadores de la unión. Es miembro del Comité Ejecutivo del 2019 Camporí Internacional de Conquistadores “Escogidos”, y fue coordinadora general del reciente 2016 Camporí de Conquistadores de la Unión de Columbia titulado “Valientes”.

Marilynn Peeke también se ha dedicado a los jóvenes a través del Ministerio de Educación. Ha servido en la Asociación Chesapeake por 21 años—cuatro en la Academia Highland View en Hagerstown, Maryland, y durante los últimos 17 años en la Academia Adventista de Atholton en Columbia, Maryland. En Atholton, Peeke ha sido fundamental en la implementación y reavivamiento de varios programas.

Por los últimos 25 años, Tim Engelkeimer ha servido como el encargado del Centro Adventista Valley Vista de la Asociación de Mountain View cerca de Huttonsville, West Virginia. Engelkeimer aprendió desde pequeño a hacer trabajos manuales, a manejar un tractor y a ayudar a su padre en proyectos de construcción y remodelación en una pequeña granja donde ahí creció. Al pasar los años, obtuvo licencias en bienes raíces, operaciones de agua, piscinas y alcantarillas, y en contratos residenciales. Todas estas licencias les fueron útiles para su trabajo en Valley Vista.

Después de haber ejercido la carrera de enfermería por 34 años, Minnie McNeil, se unió a la Asociación Allegheny East donde sirvió como directora del Ministerio de la Mujer y del Ministerio de Prisiones por 15 años. Ella continúa sirviendo como directora de los Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas (SCA) para la asociación y como coordinadora de los SCA y de los SCA de Respuesta a Desastres para la unión.

Monte Sahlin ha sido una fuerte figura en la Unión de Columbia por muchas décadas. Durante sus 45 años de antigüedad, sirvió en la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día como pastor, sociólogo, periodista, autor y organizador de la comunidad. Uno de los componentes más significativos del ministerio de Shalin ha sido la investigación, como también el desarrollo y liderazgo de proyectos especiales.

En 1989, Violeta Anavitarte volvió a su casa en la Republica Dominicana para estudiar teología en la Universidad Adventista de ese país. Se retornó a los Estados Unidos donde fue ordenada como la primera mujer anciana en la Asociación de New Jersey. Luego trabajó como instructora bíblica y como colportora por muchos años. Ella sigue siendo una líder

en la Iglesia PanAmericana en Vineland (N.J.).

Sahilys Fuentes ha dedicado su vida al evangelismo público y a plantar iglesias. Fuentes ha ayudado a ganar más de 800 almas para el reino de Dios. “Ella predico en varias campañas evangelísticas y otras reuniones.” Después de esa experiencia, comenzó a plantar Iglesias mas cerca de su casa en el norte de Virginia. Actualmente es la pastora laica del grupo hispano de Lorton, perteneciente a las Asociación.

Luego de esa experiencia, comenzó a plantar iglesias más cerca de su casa en el norte de Virginia. Actualmente es la pastora laica del grupo hispano de Lorton, perteneciente a la Asociación Potomac. Esta es la quinta iglesia que ella ha plantado.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO



2016 Personas Destacadas de Honor, Marilynn Peeke, Sahilys Fuentes, Minnie McNeil, Tim Engelkeimer y Pam Scheib se reúnen.



V. Michelle Bernard

COVERED WITH COMFORT

After losing her baby to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), Summer Porter blankets others with care



When Summer Porter drove to Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) in Takoma Park, Md., last June, she thought that maybe the dog at the daycare had bitten her almost 4-month-old baby Breelyn Elizabeth. “Death had not entered my mind,” she says. A WAH employee told Porter to wait and that somebody would come talk with her. She soon found out that Breelyn hadn’t woken up from a nap at daycare.

Her spouse, David Burke, and what Porter describes as “first responders”—Mike Speegle, senior pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., and Ann Roda, vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare and a former pastor at New Hope, where Porter and her family attend—soon arrived to lend support.

Above: Summer Porter will place this butterfly illustration designed with Breelyn Elizabeth’s footprints on the blankets donated to Washington Adventist Hospital.

Porter and Burke finally saw Breelyn, lying on a full-sized cot, covered in two blankets made by volunteers. “It was really touching [seeing her with the blankets] because it meant that somebody had put the time and energy into it, that somebody was able to take care of my kid when I couldn’t.” Porter adds that families who are dealing with an illness are often able to prepare and bring items for their children who are headed to the hospital. “But when you have an emergency, you just answer the phone and get there. ... It didn’t change the situation. My child had still died. But it mattered.”

PULLING THE PIECES TOGETHER

In the months following the loss of Breelyn, Porter felt blessed by caring family and friends, read a lot about grief, visited with a counselor and wrote thank-you notes to the medical and EMT teams. She and Burke were determined to “get through this together,” she says.

Still, she felt powerless. “Everything else in your life, you can change. ... You can control everything. [But] something like disease, an accident or death is an equalizer. It takes who it takes. That hasn’t happened to me before ... I couldn’t work my way out of it. Hard work wasn’t going to change the outcome,” she adds. “[We now just] live each day and take it for what it is. You’re just grateful. We concentrated on that pretty quickly.”



Breelyn Elizabeth’s sibling, Brooklyn Dawn, who is 3, is also part of Breelyn’s Blanket Brigade. She pretends to crochet and carries around a little hook, says Porter.



These blankets aren’t going to heal the poor children who are still going to die, but it could make a bad moment a little bit better. That is what we’re hoping for, is to help a little bit.

—Summer Porter



Naomi and Rachel Unnikumaran, second- and fourth-grade students at Beltsville Adventist School, talk to Summer Porter about the blankets they and others are creating to comfort families.

The family later found that Breelyn Elizabeth died from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). “The number [of children dying from SIDS] is staggering. Initially I’d wake up and pray for other people who are going to live this today,” says Porter. “It has helped us focus outside ourselves and gives us moments of not being alone.”

BUILDING A BRIGADE

Remembering the comfort she received knowing that someone had wrapped Breelyn in a homemade blanket, and wanting to take more action, Porter learned to crochet so she could start making blankets for other families who had lost children in the hospital. “And that is why we started Breelyn’s Blanket Brigade—to give parents a moment of love,” she says. “I’m concerned for people who don’t have a support network like we did.”

After visiting her sister, Amber Baker, in Boston, and seeing her 7-year-old niece crocheting a square, it occurred to her that more people might be interested in helping to make blankets, birthing the idea for Breelyn’s Blanket Brigade.

Porter created a Facebook page, Breelyn’s Blanket Brigade, and invited 40 friends on the site to start making 5” x 5” squares that she will construct into blankets to be distributed to other families at WAH.



Teacher Suzy LeBrun helps seventh-grader Kalen Johnson with a stitch during the class’s weekly crocheting time. Seventeen students are helping with Breelyn’s Blanket Brigade.

To her surprise, more than 480 people have joined the group. Friends *and strangers* have sent squares, crocheting supplies and support from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Nebraska, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and as far away as Armenia, Canada, Guam and Wales. Friends of friends have also reached out to her, sharing their stories of lost pregnancies and children. "Social media has allowed me to get prayer when I need it," she adds.

Breelyn's Blanket Brigade members are also being inspired by the project. Sasha Ross, a member living in California, posted: "That little girl is making a big impact on the world and on families in need (through you). We need more reasons to love, and to share that love with others, just like Breelyn inspires us to do. Thank you for sharing her with us and letting us be part of her legacy."

Seventeen members of the brigade are seventh-graders in Suzy LeBrun's homeroom class at Potomac Conference's Beltsville Adventist School (BAS) in Maryland. This school year, they're learning to crochet and are constructing squares to add to the blankets.

"We are so glad we can help Summer and her ministry to parents who have lost little ones," says LeBrun. "Summer is very thankful that the students are making squares, and the students, even those who are struggling [to learn to crochet], aren't giving up because they know it is worth it to help others."

GETTING A "LITTLE BETTER"

The students' crochet squares each Friday. This brings more comfort than just the warmth of the blankets. "Breelyn died on a Friday, so Fridays are tough," says Porter. The image of the students crocheting gives her family something positive to focus on and picture each week, she adds.

Rachel and Naomi Unnikumaran, fourth- and second-graders at BAS, are also making squares for the blankets. "I normally try to copy my sister, and I just want to do something for the babies. I want the families to feel special," says Naomi. Their mom, Yekaterina, has been friends with Porter since they attended Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md.

The grief and pain are still immense, says Baker. "Watching my sister, who is a parent similar to any other parent, with all of the normal concerns, slowly figure out how to survive this loss and not just survive, but give her focus toward helping others in this situation, has been incredibly humbling to me," she notes.

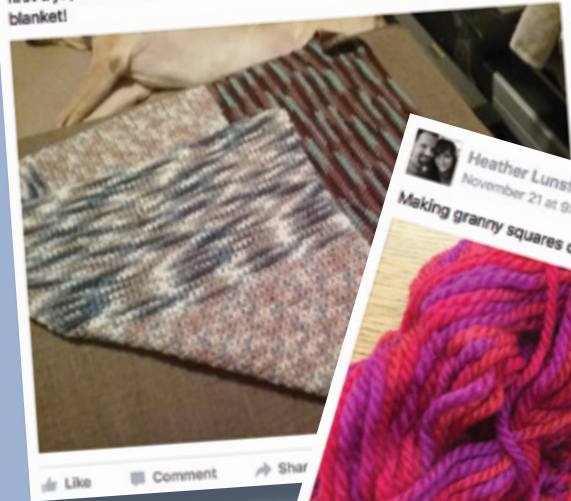
"We still have hard days," adds Porter. "It isn't going to go away. We're trying to move forward. Receiving the [hospital] blanket helped us [the day Breelyn Elizabeth died]. These blankets aren't going to heal the poor children who are still going to die, but it could make a bad moment a little bit better. That is what we're hoping for, is to help a little bit."

STITCH-BY-STITCH



Breelyn
Elizabeth
Burke

David Burke and
Summer Porter with
Brooklyn Dawn



Porter is still accepting
crochet supplies, 5" x 5"
squares and full blankets.
For more information, visit
breelynsblanketbrigade.com,
or search for Breelyn's Blanket
Brigade on Facebook.



Processing the Evolution of **Veggie Meat**

With change and growth in the veggie meat industry, will Adventist favorites get lost in the “process”?

Debra McKinney Banks and Celeste Ryan Blyden

A longtime mainstay in many Seventh-day Adventist homes, meat analogs are steadily gaining popularity outside our community, thanks to the growing trend of plant-based eating; Meatless Monday campaigns to eliminate animal protein one day a week; the rise of flexitarians seeking to adopt a healthier lifestyle; and a segment of the population driven to alleviate chronic health issues.

A 2015 report from research company Markets and Markets states, “The growing demand for meat-free food products and increasing health concerns are expected to drive the market for meat substitutes globally.” Sales from plant-based meat alternatives reached \$553 million in 2012, up eight percent since 2010, and researchers estimate that sales will reach \$5.17 billion by 2020.

Adventists have been in the business of manufacturing and marketing animal-free products since the late 1890s when John Harvey Kellogg created Nuttose and Protose from ground peanuts. Today’s consumers enjoy an ever-expanding variety of choices, including those made from soybeans (tofu and tempeh), TVP (textured vegetable protein), pea protein, wheat gluten (seitan), mycoprotein (derived from a fermented fungus) and jackfruit, which some say replicates the chewy texture of chicken.

What’s Happening?

“Brands like Gardein and Field Roast are really taking off because we now have a younger generation

who is looking for ‘clean’ products and who don’t want to read a ‘book’ when scanning the ingredient list,” says Duane Stafan, regional sales manager for Sunbelt foods, the main distributor to Adventist Book Centers (ABC) in the mid-Atlantic region. He says consumers are looking for products that are made with non-GMO corn and soy, lower sodium, fewer preservatives and artificial flavoring.

Today’s customer is looking for healthier options, says Laura Wolf, general manager at LivingWell, Potomac Conference’s ABC in Silver Spring, Md., where 70 percent of customers are not Adventist.

Janelle Rivera, manager for the New Jersey Conference’s Second ACTS ABC and Adventist Community Services Center in Lawrenceville, is also excited about the new products coming into the market. “I often get asked if the products on the shelf are non-GMO. Some brands are [also] leaning away from cans and repackaging in a more appealing way, such as resealable, upright bags,” says Rivera.

What’s New and Changing?

While Adventist consumers may try some of the new items on the market, they tend to be fiercely loyal to and nostalgic about the familiar red-labeled products by Loma Linda Foods and Worthington Foods. Started by Adventist members in the 1950s in California and Ohio, respectively, Loma Linda and Worthington’s “shelf stable” lines are now owned by South Carolina-based Atlantic Natural Foods, who purchased the rights from Kellogg Foods in 2014. Sometime this year, Atlantic is slated to introduce a “blue label” product line of the Loma Linda brand that will incorporate cleaner, non-GMO versions of their popular sellers.

Heritage Health Foods, started in 2009 by president and CEO Don Otis, who joined Worthington in the 1990s and worked with that brand until 2015, is now the only

wholly Adventist-owned and operated manufacturer of frozen and dry meatless products in North America. With facilities in Tennessee and Michigan, he purchased Cedar Lake Food Company and Worthington's frozen product line from Kellogg in June 2016. "It's possible that if we didn't buy it, it would have been shut down," says Eric Otis, sales manager for the Adventist market. "My father wants to keep the strong Adventist brand favorites going, further the health message and help support the mission of the church."



Adventists are largely the ones who eat these brands, and reportedly, since it was a very small part of their business, Kellogg stopped producing them in July 2015 and store inventory ran out in February 2016. When Heritage purchased the rights, they had to re-source, re-make, replicate the taste and quality and re-stock retailer supplies. "We went almost 10 full months without the Worthington frozen line, which accounts for 60 to 70 percent of our food sales," says Sean Bellman, who manages three ABCs and is also an east coast food distributor. Bellman also used to manage the ABC in Hamburg, Pa., which was owned by the Southern New England Conference whose location recently closed.

"We sell a lot of Big Franks, FriChik and Dinner Roast," shares Andrew Choi, manager of the Highland View Academy ABC, in Hagerstown, Md. "Not having Dinner Roast for a while negatively impacted our business."

Despite the growing market outside the church, Heritage says it remains committed to the Adventist consumer base. "We are actively making progress in developing healthier versions of the foods Adventists know and love while maintaining the flavor and texture they are used to," says Jon Fish, vice president/creative director. To that end, Heritage now offers three lines of meatless products: Legacy—for those who just want a non-cholesterol meat replacement; Heritage—the all-natural, vegan and non-GMO option; and Kim's Simple Meals—natural, whole grain, organic, vegan and lower in sodium.

The Sodium Conundrum

While meat substitutes tout low-fat, high protein products with a taste and texture that can fool the most discerning palette, manufacturers say the recipes require a certain amount of salt. One serving of Dinner Roast or two pieces of Fri-Chik, for example, account for almost one quarter of the recommended daily amount of sodium. As a result, some Adventists say they are avoiding or reducing consumption. To address this concern, Fish from Heritage says the company uses sea salt instead of sodium chloride (table salt), and "we have recognized the need to look at other spices and seasonings to pull out the flavor of our foods."

Another impactful reality is that the ABC isn't the only place to find veggie meat anymore. It's now available in grocery stores, big-box stores like Wal-Mart and even Amazon.com. "Almost across the board nationwide, 60 percent of sales is veggie meat, 40 percent is books," says Bellman. To keep their doors open, the four remaining ABC managers in the Columbia Union rely on annual events like camp meetings, special events such as the interest generated from the Desmond Doss film and ingenuity (see columbiaunionvisitor.com/thefutureofABCs).

To keep customers and encourage them to try the plethora of new products, Dorrel McLaren, the food demo "queen" at LivingWell, frequently prepares and provides samples, shares recipes on how to use them and teaches cooking classes. HVA's Choi counts on camp meeting, which he says provides 18 to 20 percent of his sales. He also hopes Adventists will embrace some of the new options. "Customers are somewhat hesitant to try new products," he says. "During camp meeting, we had a Heritage Foods representative and were successful selling Chicken Bites and Sizzle Burger."



Top-Selling Veggie Meats at Camp Meeting

1. **Big Franks** (Loma Linda)
2. **Super-Links** (Loma Linda)
3. **Linketts** (Loma Linda)
4. **Vegetable Skallops** (Loma Linda)
5. **Stakeletts** (Worthington)

Source: Columbia Union
ABC managers polled

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE
YOUNG ADULT SUMMIT 2017

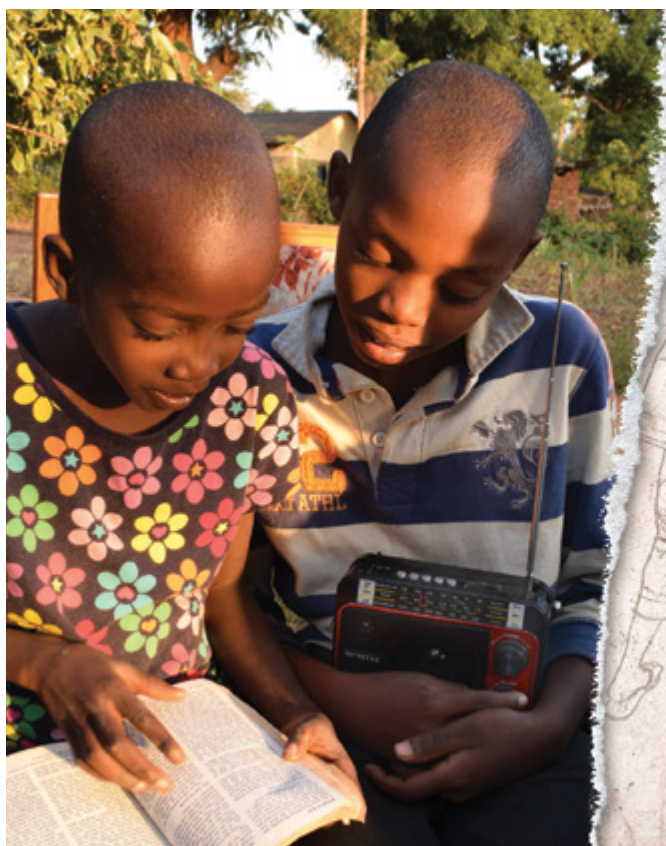
HILTON @ CRYSTAL CITY
ARLINGTON, VA



FAITH / SERVICE / LEADERSHIP

3.31-4.02
YOUNGADULTSUMMIT.ORG

EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULT LEADERS IN LIFE-CHANGING MINISTRY



"Your biblical messages are turning out to be a great blessing for me; my faith is strengthened. I want my children to grow up for Jesus." - AWR LISTENER

ANNUAL OFFERING
March 11, 2017

Your Mission Radio

GLOBAL PODCASTS • REGIONAL SHORTWAVE • LOCAL AM/FM • 100+ LANGUAGES



12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE, SILVER SPRING MD 20904
800-337-4237 | AWR.ORG | @AWRWEB | AWRWEB

ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Former President Luther R. Palmer Jr. Passes Away

Luther R. Palmer Jr., Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) third president, passed away in Madison, Ala., in October. Palmer served as principal of Pine Forge Academy (PFA) from 1963-1966 before pastoring First Church in Washington, D.C., from 1966-1971. He served as executive secretary for AEC from 1971-1975, and as president from 1975-1981. During his presidency, he spearheaded the building of



the pavilion, the log cabins and PFA's boys' dormitory, Handy Hall—all on AEC grounds.

He left AEC in 1981 to serve as executive secretary for the Columbia Union, and in 1987 was voted as president of the Lake Region Conference from 1987-1990. He concluded his pastoral ministry at AEC's Breath of Life Church in Fort Washington, Md.

"He passed away at peace with the Lord in the care of his loving wife, Katherine, devoted daughter, Michelle, and caring family members and friends. He died in the certain blessed hope of Jesus Christ's soon return. Get ready children, Jesus is coming again soon. Watch and be ready!" admonishes Marcellus Robinson, vice president for administration.

Pennsylvania School Holds "Healthy" Week of Prayer

The Jessie R. Wagner School in Pine Forge, Pa., recently held a health-centered week of prayer,



AEC Health Ministries director A. Leah Scott high-fives Alexander Marshall for sharing his healthy choices.

conducted by AEC Health Ministries director A. Leah Scott. Students learned about sunshine, nutrition, creation, water and rest. "I wanted the students to understand that their health is not just physical, but spiritual and mental as well," says Scott.

Each day the interactive worship allowed students to ask questions, as well as share what they already knew about healthy choices. In preparation for the week of prayer, students learned and created songs based on the eight laws of health (NEWSTART). "I was impressed with how much they already knew!" shares Scott. The students were also able to make and sample smoothies made with fresh fruit and vegetables.

Shiloh Church Honors Breast Cancer Survivors

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va., honored six members who are breast cancer survivors, a tribute spearheaded by the Disabilities Ministries team.



Deborah Whitfield (left), Disabilities Ministries coordinator, honors cancer survivors Delores Jones, Judy Cruise, Sharon Judd and Darlene Wilson.

Leaders presented the six ladies with pink roses and gave them the opportunity to share their survival journeys. Judy Crews, one of the honorees, says, "It is truly a blessing to share my experience so that it may help someone that has gone through or is going through this ordeal. Having breast cancer, I have learned to trust God without question." Cancer survivor Delores Jones adds, "Breast cancer has drawn me closer to God, and I realize now that I can trust Him with every aspect of my life."

SHILOH PHOTO BY JOHN SCOTT

Vacation Bible School Attracts Community

Leading up to the Children’s Ministries Day, Berean church in Newark, N.J., conducted the Kidsville Vacation Bible Xperience (VBX). The event was promoted in the community with a banner and door knockers. Nineteen children from the church attended, and 13 from the community.

The VBX children showcased their talents at the Children’s Ministries Day, as they led out in all aspects of the service, from praise and worship to the intercessory prayer. In preparation for the day, music major and church member Ann Marie Noel volunteered to teach nine VBX children how to play the recorder. “The children were excited to make their debut, and the congregation was thrilled,” says Paula Johnson-Case, Children’s Ministries leader.



Kids from the Berean church and community play their recorders during the Children’s Ministries Day, led by Ann Marie Noel (right).

Allegheny East Conference Celebrates 50 Years

The 2017 theme for AEC, as they celebrate their 50th year, is “Standing on the Promises.” Each month they will highlight moments in AEC’s history. “In an age of political intrigue and world upheaval, we do not have to be unsure of the future because of the Word that assures us that if we stand on His promises, we can be secure,” says Henry J. Fordham III, AEC’s president.

AEC was established on September 26, 1945, and



John H. Wagner was elected as the first president. In 1967 the conference was divided into two conferences, Allegheny East and West. On January 1, 1967, AEC commenced operation with 44 churches, 7,144 members and a tithe base of \$776,589.43. Visit their website at visitaec.org for more AEC history.

Willow Grove Church Responds to Violence

In an effort to address the recent shootings of black citizens and police officers, members of the Willow Grove (Pa.) church reached out to their law officers and community leaders. Pastor William Hall and members of Willow Grove church visited the Abington Police Department to pray for the officers and the community. Lieutenant Kelley Warner, community policing director, was grateful for the church’s visit. “We deeply appreciated their efforts to work with us for a better community,” she says.

Two weeks later, Willow Grove church hosted a town hall meeting to discuss further ways to address violence. Local pastors from two churches, a representative from the NAACP, representatives from the Abington Police Department, church members and residents of the community attended. Panelists provided valuable information on how to save lives. A recurring theme was to have respect for one another in every interaction.



Pastor William Hall of the Willow Grove church greets Lieutenant Kelley Warner after praying for the police and the community.

“We are grateful we had an opportunity to invite our community into our church to bring about understanding, reciprocity and respect, and we look forward to continuing our relationship to ensure healing takes place in our neighborhoods,” says Sherry Hall, assistant pastor of Willow Grove church and moderator of the town hall meeting.

Shiloh Celebrates 103rd Anniversary, Homecoming

Shiloh church in Cincinnati, recently celebrated its 103rd anniversary with a special homecoming week. The theme was: “Empowering Disciples—the Call to Serve.” Every aspect of the event glorified God for leading the congregation to disciple and be disciplined in the city of Cincinnati.

During the week, as a demonstration of their call to serve, church members joined Adventist Community Services to distribute more than 400 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in the area. Current members, returning members and visitors came together on Sabbath to praise and thank God with inspirational



Jeff Sloan leads the combined mass choirs as they sing praises during Shiloh church’s evening concert.



Usher Evelyn Matt is honored for her faithfulness in ministry during Shiloh church’s homecoming and anniversary celebration.

music from Shiloh’s mass choir and singer Wanda Lott, from Huntsville, Ala. The congregation was challenged by a powerful message, “Starting for the Savior,” from Shiloh pastor Orville S. Brissett.

The evening concluded with a concert by the combined choirs of Shiloh church and Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist church of Glendale, Ohio, under the direction of Jeff Sloan. Shiloh church is committed to continue to impact the city of Cincinnati and surrounding areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ until He returns.

Ephesus Women Share Gifts

The Women’s Ministries department, under the leadership of Heidi Stone, recently hosted a “Sharing Our Gifts” tea party for ladies, aged 13 and up, and their guests at the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio. The fancy affair featured finger foods such as delicious sandwiches, cookies and cake, but most importantly, a chance to relax, have fun and fellowship with each other. Some of the ladies even wore hats, much like women used to wear at tea parties in the past.

Deloris Wells delivered a beautiful message and Tommye Nious presented an original poem. Other activities included games and prizes and a love offering for students.

“The Women’s Ministries department looks forward to sponsoring events like this, and they are always looking for creative activities where the ladies of Ephesus church can enjoy each other’s company,” says Stone.—*Kirk Thompson*



Smyrna Church Shares Christ Through Action

Members of the Smyrna church in Lynchburg, Va., believe in the conference’s theme, “Ministry Beyond the Walls,” and as a result, they constantly look for opportunities to reach out to their community. With a desire to impact the local community in a positive



way, the church hosted “A Day of Thanksgiving.” Reginald Robinson, pastor of Smyrna church, says, “There is always a reason we can find something to complain about, but we wanted to provide a platform for people to express their thankfulness.” Church members and a variety of local choirs and solo talents participated in this event. Free hot dogs, chips and water were also provided. Member Allen Harris, who owns a barbershop, even gave free haircuts! Former mayor Carl Hutcherson of Lynchburg and various other community leaders attended and were very grateful for the impact this event and other previous events have made on the community. “It is great to see the Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church impact and care for the community in this way,” says Hutcherson.

Smyrna church members William Phelps (left) and Otis Tucker volunteer at “A Day of Thanksgiving.”

31 Baptized at Cleveland’s Southeast #iChoose Series

The Southeast church located in Cleveland, recently held an evangelistic series, #iChoose Revival, as a culmination of a year-long ministry church thrust. Pastor Claval Hunter from St. Louis, Mo., was the guest evangelist.

Jerome Hurst, senior pastor of Southeast church, cast a vision at the beginning of the year titled “Southeast ROCKs” (Random Opportunities for Compassion and Kindness). Each month leaders planned opportunities for members to be equipped and to implement ROCK activities. Along with church-wide ministry opportunities, each member was encouraged to practice ROCK in their daily living.

As a result of the members’ willingness to do “Ministry Beyond the Walls,” when the time came for #iChoose Revival, the community was very receptive. Bible workers and members brought guests each night to hear the Word of God. During the appeal, 31 people responded for baptism.

Community member Cory Davis says, “I am grateful for this revival because I was fighting with drugs



James Vanzant, Savon Brown, Cory Davis, Darnell Pink and Gregory Chambers are the first five to say yes to baptism at the #iChoose Revival evangelistic series.

and alcohol, and I got to the place where I was tired of doing it. I asked the Lord to help me get clean, and He answered my prayers. It was a challenge but, with His help, I did it.”—*Jerome Hurst*

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Confident Hope

Hope is an interesting word. We hope for a lot of different things. We hope it won't rain on the day we've planned a picnic. We hope there are no traffic jams on our commute to work. We hope to be able to find our favorite socks. We hope our teacher doesn't give us a pop quiz.

Then there are the more substantive concerns. We hope there is more money in our account than days in the month. We hope our nation enacts laws promoting justice and equality. We hope our employer's business does well so our job is secure. We hope organizations we are part of will promote fairness and opportunity.

But ultimately, our greatest hope is in the promise of God's Word, the assurance of the grace of Jesus Christ and His soon return to rescue us from the curse of sin and a world out of control.

The Scriptures speak of hope in very certain terms. "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying" (Rom. 12:12, NLT). We can be confident because of the reliability of the One making the promises. He has also promised to bring history to a rapid conclusion.

This gives us reason to rejoice. Not because of what we see going on around us. Not because of the latest news story or because of the latest advancement in technology. Not due to the promise of a politician or pundit. In fact, we are reminded to be patient in trouble. The apostle knew his first-century readers would need patience. We do, too. We wait for the fulfillment of our hope. But we wait with confidence. And we keep on praying, confident that our hopes will soon be a reality. Jesus will soon return.



Rick Remmers
President

Conference Mourns Sudden Loss of Pastor Tim Crosby

Tim Crosby, DMin, pastor at the Waldorf, Md., church, died of a heart attack on Sabbath afternoon, November 5. He was 62.

"We're shocked and saddened to lose a longtime pastor who has touched the lives of so many people throughout the Chesapeake Conference," says Rick Remmers, conference president. "Our prayers are with his wife, Carol, and their family during this time of grieving."

Crosby was pastor at the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., for about 10 years before accepting a call to the Waldorf church two years ago. He began his pastoral ministry in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in the 1980s. He was invited to be the writer/producer of the Voice of Prophecy daily broadcast, where for six years he was responsible for 260, 15-minute programs each year. Next he worked at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, first as acquisitions editor and later as editor-at-large.

He was a prolific author, theologian, and a talented composer and keyboardist. For many years, he provided accompaniment at Chesapeake Conference's annual camp meeting. He wrote at least 11 books and contributed to many more. Additionally he wrote sermons for Quiet Hour Ministries and cover copy for some 200 books.

"Elder Tim Crosby will be greatly missed," says Remmers. "We look forward to the reunion on Resurrection Day."



THE CHALLENGE

Evangelism Efforts Impact Communities

The Chesapeake and Iowa-Missouri Conferences have partnered to conduct “Revelation Speaks Peace” evangelistic meetings throughout their respective territories. Some 32 English-speaking churches and 20 Spanish-speaking churches in the Chesapeake Conference and 45 churches in the Iowa-Missouri Conference are participating in this endeavor.

“With all the unsettledness in our world right now, people are looking to the Bible for understanding,” says Gary Gibbs, evangelism director for the Chesapeake Conference. “On opening night there were nearly 2,000 persons in attendance across the conference, with about half being visitors from the community.”



Pastor Volodymyr Grinchenko of the Willow Brook church preaches during the prophecy seminar.

Volodymyr Grinchenko, pastor at the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., shares: “Mike once attended the Lutheran church that rents our facility on Sundays. He saw our decorations and brochures about the prophecy seminar and decided to come. On the very first response card, he marked that he wanted to be baptized!”

Four students from the REACH Columbia Union School of Evangelism conducted meetings in Chesapeake Conference churches, and several conference departmental staff held meetings as well.

Maryland Men Convene for Mission and Challenge

Christian men recently gathered at the Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md., for the 11th annual Maryland Men of Faith (MMOF) conference, themed “Dare to be a Daniel.” Keynote speaker, Philip Samaan, a theology professor at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), challenged the men in his presentations. “During MMOF guys are confronted with the issues



Keynote speaker Philip Samaan discusses mission with Eli Rojas at the Maryland Men of Faith conference.

that men face daily—how to live a godly life in a corrupt world, just like Daniel,” says Eli Rojas, Chesapeake Conference Ministerial and Family Ministries director.

More than \$1,500 was raised to be used for a One-Day Church mission project in Rwanda.

Women Focus on Jesus at Retreat

The annual conference-wide women’s retreat, “Sweet Moments with Jesus,” was recently held in Hershey, Pa., drawing approximately 280 women. General sessions and breakout sessions were offered in English and Spanish, as well as a track for young women ages 15-21. Attendees donated toys and made 78 fleece blankets for young patients at the nearby Penn State Children’s Hospital.

Reflecting on the weekend, one participant says, “It was an opportunity to recharge my spiritual batteries.” For more photos, go to facebook.com/chesapeakeconference.



Attendees listen to keynote speaker Diane Sedgwick during the women’s retreat weekend.

The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference ■ 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org ■ President, Rick Remmers ■ Communication Director, Samantha Young

PHOTOS BY KIM PECKHAM, TONY WILLIAMS AND ELISA CARDONA

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

New Prayer Coordinator Envisions HOPE Churches

Prayer did not play a significant role in Elaine Buchanan's life while growing up. "Other than saying prayers with my mom before bed and praying for our food occasionally, that was more or less the extent of my prayer life," she says. When she became a Seventh-day Adventist 18 years ago, she quickly noticed that "these people" prayed about everything.

Buchanan at first was intrigued with prayer, but she soon started to feel uncomfortable. "I thought to myself, why do they pray about everything?" Buchanan recalls the turning point in her prayer life. It came right after an Adventist evangelistic series she attended. "There was a farewell bowling party for the Bible worker. I remember saying to my husband as we were driving there, 'If they pray before we bowl, I am out of there!' When we walked into the bowling alley, they took our hands, stood in a circle in the middle of the alley and started praying. I never bowled so well in my life! That was it for me. I began a prayer life that has continued to keep my faith alive."

As the new Prayer Ministries coordinator, Buchanan's vision is to see Mountain View Conference become a conference of prayer. Individually, in families and



Elaine Buchanan, new Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Mountain View Conference, is married to Jim Buchanan, who pastors the Cumberland and Frostburg, Md., churches.

corporately, she says she would like to see the Holy Spirit fill each life and turn churches into HOPE (Houses of Prayer Everywhere).

Buchanan plans to speak at every Mountain View church, inviting members to unite with the work of the Holy Spirit. "We are living on the brink of eternity, and we need the latter rain to finish the work and seek and save the lost. We must be an army on our knees," Buchanan stresses. "We do not realize the power that we have that comes from God. He wants to pour out His Spirit and do a mighty work in these last days. We need the desire to spend more time in prayer seeking God, thirsting after His righteousness, asking Him to show us the way and then following Him, even if it is not the plan that we devised."

Buchanan envisions prayer fused strategically into the ministries of the church. One example of this is designating a prayer "war room". Churches that have adopted this idea have seen incredible answers to prayer. "Whatever the Lord impresses you to do to empower your prayer life, follow His leading," says Buchanan.



The "War Room" in the Williamson church serves as a designated prayer room for church members to spend time in worship, read Scripture quotes, listen to sacred music and quietly pray for requests that are posted on the wall.

Join the Mountain View Conference prayer line every Monday at 7 a.m. for an hour of praise and prayer. The number to call is (712) 432-0232. When prompted for the code, enter 891437#. You will be blessed!

How Prayer Sustained My Business

Christians are accustomed to hearing how God has answered the prayers of His children. In fact many can recount how God has personally answered their prayers of faith. It seems to be a part of the Christian walk.

I have witnessed the workings of God in my personal life, in my family, in my Williamson (W.Va.) church and in my place of business. I am the operations manager at Stowers Fire & Safety Equipment, Inc., a small, family-run fire protection and safety supply retailer and service provider in Williamson, W.Va. I married into the family business in 1993, and one of my job assignments was assisting the installation of dry chemical fire suppression systems on mobile mining equipment.

In my 23 years with the company, I have seen God pour out His blessings upon the business and its employees. Because the owners honor His holy Sabbath and return a faithful tithe and offering, God has blessed this company in a mighty way.

God sustained our company through tough times in the coal market from 2002-03. By 2012 the business reached its apex (to date), employing 63 personnel and performing its services in many states, as well as some provinces in Canada. The latest downturn in the coal market, however, has all but devastated the business. Bankruptcies of seven of our largest customers and the closing of more than 75 percent of the mines in our area, along with other factors, have forced the Stowers to downsize. There are currently only 17 employees.

Being a Seventh-day Adventist is not a prerequisite for working at Stowers Fire & Safety, nor is being a Christian. We did, however, encourage our employees to seek and develop a relationship with God, if they chose to do so. We have shared our personal experiences and testimonies with our employees and how God had raised up this business to His glory.

Recently employee Tony Hicks came into the office and asked to speak with me and the company president, Allen Stowers. "I had a dream last night, and all three of us were in it," Hicks shared. He admitted that he wasn't very religious, but in his dream "the three of us knelt down in [my] office to pray for the company. Later that day, business picked up."

Stowers and I shared with him that we pray for the business and our employees daily and that we had long recognized that God raised up the company and had manifested His blessings upon the business many times through the years, although this



Tony Hicks, Allen Stowers and Roger Thaxton (head elder of the Williamson church), acting upon Tony's dream, immediately prayed for the Lord to intervene in the affairs of the Stowers Fire & Safety Equipment Company.

particular time had been the toughest experience we'd faced.

"Could we pray together right now?" Hicks asked. Stowers and I said "Absolutely!" The three of us knelt, praying for God to bless the business, its employees and the leadership. We prayed that our actions and direction would be within God's will, and that we would accept God's answer to our prayer, whatever the outcome.

Not long after we prayed, the phone rang for a system recharge. Later a company we thought had shut down, called and wanted to know if they were due for their semiannual maintenance. This job, alone, will keep a crew busy for about two months. We received another call requesting delivery for items that was a four-hour drive. The value of the order couldn't justify the trip, so they added to their order substantially, nearly tenfold the value of their original order.

I couldn't wait to tell Hicks the next day how much I appreciated that he listened to the Spirit's whispering and that we prayed together for the company. Matthew 18:20 tells us, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."—Roger Thaxton

NEWS NEW JERSEY

Living Compassion

The New Jersey Conference Executive Committee and ministerial body has declared 2017 as a special year of compassion. We have adopted the theme, “Live Compassion.” We are inviting and encouraging every conference entity—every church, school, officer, department leader and church member—to embrace this great movement that Jesus Himself began. “When He saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd” (Matt. 9:36, KJV). Being compassionate is very different than talking about it, and I assure to you that you’ll be the happiest person in church if you live compassion out.

Compassion is the essence of Christianity! It seems that some of us have lost the concept of compassion in our church and have begun to practice the faith of Jesus as a religion of rules and human tradition. This viewpoint creates a judgmental environment that makes it difficult to exemplify God’s love in our lives.

Let’s bring the compassionate spirit to all the activities and transactions of our lives. Let this wonderful disposition permeate the atmosphere of the church, the neighborhood, the community and the city in which we reside. Let us go out as churches every second Sabbath of the month, and do something for somebody in our area of influence. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives into real compassionate lives.

I am calling on all the leaders and members of our churches to return to the roots of Christianity—love and compassion—for this is a lot better than to “speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love” (1 Cor. 13:1, NKJV).



José H. Cortés
President

Personal Ministries Department Visits Peru

The Personal Ministries department of the New Jersey Conference recently partnered with several lay members to participate in a 10-day mission trip to Cusco, Peru, an effort coordinated by Jorge Agüero, conference Personal Ministries director. The team held four evangelistic campaigns, shared 200 food packages and gave 248 gifts to community children.

During their time in Cusco, the group visited an orphanage for mentally and physically challenged children, a shelter for the elderly, Pardo Adventist School and Jardines Seventh-day Adventist Church. They

presented a financial donation at each location. This was especially helpful for the Jardines church as they plan to remodel their current facility.

“We thank God for the amazing opportunity of ministering to so many people,” says Agüero. “We were blessed to see how God has worked in the church in Cusco. We thank the leaders of the North Peruvian Union and South Peruvian Mission for their care for our group. God was so good, and we concluded our mission experience with 23 baptisms, including two who were members of our mission trip.”



Family Ministries Department Celebrates Hispanic Couples

Sixty couples recently gathered for the 13th annual Hispanic Couples Retreat, sponsored by Family Ministries.

“My husband and I had a wonderful time at the couple’s retreat,” says Claudia Garcia Del Puerto of the Union City Spanish church. “The hotel facilities were quite nice and comfortable, and the presenters were very knowledgeable and did a good job at encouraging participation. ... We feel blessed by the opportunity to spend quality time together, and we’re definitely contemplating participating again next year.”



Daniel and Claudia Garcia Del Puerto enjoy lunch at the Hispanic Couples Retreat.

Wayne Church Holds 6th “Let’s Move!” Day

Wayne church recently held its 6th annual “Let’s Move!” day with a 5K walk/run and a 100-meter dash for kids. More than 100 families and individuals participated. Each year the goal is to raise awareness of childhood obesity and to promote healthier lifestyles.

“The Wayne 5K has become a tradition for many families from the church and community. They walk, run or play games as a family,” says Delma Avila, event director. “More than 60 percent of runners participate with one or more family member. We are working to make a greater impact by having more exercise and cooking classes in the upcoming year.”

The event also fosters community familiarity with the church. “Simple changes in lifestyle can make a big difference,” says Loreli Rankin, one of the event organizers. Warren Garfield, one of the sponsors of the event, adds, “We should have more events like this!”



Mark Summer, one of the 5K participants, runs with his son, Ryan, by his side.

Redemption Chapel Feeds Community

Members of the Redemption Chapel in Vineland, have recently begun providing a free monthly breakfast for their community. Their intention is to reach out to their neighbors and let them know they are important and loved. “Redemption Chapel is a community church with the main purpose to serve the community. Our main goal is to let everybody know that they are important to us.

Church members recently shared bags of food with low-income families and the homeless in their area. During the visits, they learned of two homeless families who had been living in the woods inside tents and weren’t prepared for the cold weather. Several church members went to Walmart and bought the necessities for the families.

“Our biggest satisfaction as a church is that these families could feel and experience the real and truly love that Jesus has for them,” says Pastor Melendez.



Pastor Leonardo Melendez (right) and Redemption Chapel church members pray with a homeless man.

PHOTOS BY JORGE PILLCO

Missional Mentoring Grows in Ohio



In his book *Mentoring by Design*, Edward Marton, Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director, poses the question, “How could a congregation release and empower young people for ministry and disciples for service?” A young adult himself, Marton’s book looks at the model of mentoring from personal, biblical and Seventh-day Adventist historical perspectives. His passion for mentoring is clear, and the

book explores the foundation of these models, adapted and applied within the Ohio Conference by Marton, both as a senior pastor and youth director.

Mentoring by Design focuses on the development of mentoring and discipleship through the small group model. In the model, leaders mentor potential leaders to lead future small groups, while all small group members are discipled to follow Christ and serve Christ in the community. Marton coins this philosophy “missional mentoring,” and has been using this model since his appointment as Youth Ministries director.

Last fall the conference Youth Ministries department produced a series of videos that explained the tenets of missional mentoring and how it was growing across the conference. “Think of the book of Acts—how Barnabas invited Paul into a missional mentoring experience. Then Barnabas invited John Mark, and Paul mentored Timothy. Core tenets of missional



Youth Ministries director Edward Marton says *Mentoring by Design* “was born out of a passion for mentoring disciples for Christ.”

mentoring would be groups coming together for prayer, fellowship, sharing, support and accountability, to share Christ, through different types of activities, with other young adults or others in the community,” explains Marton in one of the videos.

Young adults within the Ohio Conference have embraced this mentoring concept. The first video, *Missional Mentoring: Ohio Young Adult Women in Ministry*, shares stories of mentorship growing in Ohio. After moving for graduate school, Kim DeGracia was church hopping in northeast Ohio, looking for a “good fit.” Saying of her small group at the Westlake church, “You all have really strengthened my faith in God and helped me realize that He shouldn’t be just a part of my life, but He should be everything to me.”

“Missional mentoring is going out of your comfort zone,” says Nicole Conn of the Athens church. “It means that sometimes when we are feeling vulnerable about sharing our faith, this is where God does His greatest work.”

Marton continually affirms young leaders across Ohio. “I’d like to invite our churches, and all our young adults, to continue to pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading as He designs for our communities to experience discipleship in missional mentoring.”

To learn more about missional mentoring, visit vimeo.com/ohiosdayouth. Marton encourages leaders to share their stories via social media with the hashtag #missionalmentoring, or via email information@ohioadventist.org.



Missional Mentoring: Ohio Young Adult Women in Ministry, a video produced by Ohio Conference Youth Ministries, shares how young adults use the mentoring model in their churches and communities.

New Congregations Established Throughout Ohio

Conference and local leaders recently established new congregations around the state. Though quite diverse, each are a direct result of prayer, study and intentional outreach.

Since 2000 a large group of Korean Seventh-day Adventists had been worshiping as a branch of the Kettering church. Last September “the Dayton Korean church was formally organized and joined the sisterhood of churches of the Ohio Conference,” noted K. Chris Chung, MD, former Kettering member and new member of the Dayton Korean church. We “express our gratitude for the long-term support received from the Kettering church, Kettering College and Kettering Medical Center,” he says.

During their bilingual organization service, church leaders accepted 62 members into the new church, including four newly baptized members.

“Members of the Columbus Ghanaian church have been talking, brainstorming and praying about planting a second Ghanaian Adventist church within the city of Columbus,” shares Kofi Adjei, church communication director. Many felt this was long overdue “due to the influx of many ethnic non-Adventist Ghanaians who have moved from Ghana, West Africa, and settled permanently in different neighborhoods of the city,” he says.

After considerable planning, extensive demographic studies and prayer, along with approval from conference administration, leaders planted the Prince of Peace Ghanaian church in northern Columbus. “This area was strategically selected due to its close proximity to so many non-Adventist Ghanaian immigrants. The few Ghanaian Adventists in that vicinity could be trained and used as a conduit to evangelize their own fellow country citizens,” says Adjei. The group is quickly attracting new members and developing new



Members of the newly formed Dayton Korean church join members of the Ohio Conference administration.



Massillon Connections members donate embroidered baby blankets to their area pregnancy resource center.



Prince of Peace Ghanaian church plant members gather during their first service together.

ministries. Their core group of 60 has grown to more than 70, with others preparing for baptism.

“Massillon Connections was birthed with a vision to not duplicate ministries, but to ‘connect’ with area faith-based and civic groups to support existing causes, provide resources, and when possible, meet identified needs,” says Cindy Ferguson, who with retired pastor-husband, Ken, are plant coordinators.

Through multiple church plant studies and community surveys, they identified a target population, and outreach aligned to the data. “The results give indication that there is a harvest to be reaped,” says Ferguson. Presently the group is studying the Bible with seven people and has received commitments for 11 individual Bible studies and 13 community Bible studies, as well as over 100 registrations for a variety of seminars. “Clearly the harvest is ready!” declares Ferguson.

Pennsylvania Pen

Members Join Forces Across State to Share Gospel

Faith for Family (F4F) has been an extraordinary experience in which I have seen God's hand move in a powerful and marked way in my local church and many other churches across the conference," says Jason Dietz, pastor of the Erie, Lowville and Seneca church districts in northwestern Pennsylvania. "I have been astonished at the compassion, sacrifice and commitment of those in other regions of our state who have committed to help reach western Pennsylvania for Jesus."

Eighteen churches and more than 1,300 members from across the state have been involved in sharing the gospel. Eleven people have been baptized so far, with more than 30 people continuing to study and prepare for baptism.

Tim Bailey, director of leadership and spiritual growth; Lillian Torres, conference Bible trainer; and a team of pastors from across the state created Faith for Family as a movement to get every member involved in sharing the gospel in their community. This year the focus was on western Pennsylvania, where most congregations are small and struggle to grow. "I have not felt this encouraged in years," says a church member.

Western Pennsylvania churches weren't the only ones impacted, however. Lehigh Valley (Allentown) Hispanic church members were so touched by their experience partnering with the Warren church in Russell, that they're going back.



Pastor Jason Dietz preaches the gospel at the Seneca church, where three people made decisions for baptism.

"Our next trip will consist of having a Friday afternoon service," says Erwin Carrasquilla, who took all four of his teenage sons to F4F with him in October. "Then we'll spend the entire Sabbath with them—Sabbath School, worship and missionary work, in which we'll invite more people to this church."

Bible workers remain in these communities, following up interests and leads that continue to come in as a result of the door hangers distributed before the evangelistic series. The F4F leadership team have provided each church with a discipleship series for mentoring new members, and will continue to train, encourage and guide members in effective evangelism. Four more meetings are scheduled for this spring.

"Through this experience, many members have expressed their excitement and have gone back to their churches inspired to do more," reports Torres. "Our vision is to reach every city in the state of Pennsylvania with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The F4F team will focus on central Pennsylvania in 2018, inviting members from across the conference to again become missionaries in their communities. Others from outside the state, including the Hope Channel, are also hoping to become a part of this movement. For more information, visit faithforfamily.org.



Pastor Pete Maldonado (left) of the Hampden Heights and Fleetwood churches and Pastor Gerald Small (right) of the Johnstown church baptize Bertha Maines.

STEM Team Awarded Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant

The Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) STEM team has recently been awarded the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant and is receiving \$10,000 in funding for their LighTelligence invention, a system to optimize the circadian rhythms of young people by using light. Anthony Perry, invention education associate from Lemelson-MIT, announced this at a special school assembly.

BMA is one of 15 teams of high school students nationwide who were named the 2016-17 InvenTeams for projects designed to solve real-world problems



BMA STEM team receives the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant for their innovative LighTelligence invention.

through inventions, and only the fourth school in Pennsylvania to ever win the grant.

The invention helps to lower the blue and green light waves given off by LED lights, which inhibit melatonin production. Melatonin not only allows you to fall asleep at night, but is also a powerful antioxidant which supports our immune system. In the coming months, the InvenTeam will create a more aesthetically pleasing appearance, adjust the voice recognition system and add a mechanical element to the lamp that will allow raspberry pi to automatically adjust the light waves being emitted.

Rosemarie Bechtel, science department chairperson and STEM advisor, says, "We are excited to move from a STEM club to a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam. Seeing the enthusiasm build in our club last year as we won the regional STEM competition prompted looking for more competitions that would help foster STEM skills growth in an innovative format. Our InvenTeam chose to help solve a real-world problem and specifically focuses on teenagers who are more vulnerable to circadian rhythm disruptions."

BMA's STEM team will showcase their project at EurekaFest, the Lemelson-MIT Program's multi-day celebration of the inventive spirit at MIT in Cambridge, Mass., in June.

Drums Church Member Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Agnes Eroh grew up on a farm during a time when girls were expected to work, but not get an education. Eroh insisted she needed to go to college. One day her father reluctantly dropped her off at Washington Training College (today's Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. Eroh had taken the first step in achieving her goal of higher education, but she had no idea how her dream would be accomplished. She had no job, no tuition money and only \$17 in her pocket.

God, however, fulfilled Eroh's desire. She obtained a doctorate degree in education at Boston University (Mass.) in 1964 and taught in many Seventh-day Adventist schools and universities. She has impacted the lives of young people across the country. Eroh, a member of the Drums church, has an incredible memory and enjoys recounting stories from her past. She recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, and while

she is retired from teaching, she continues to support Adventist education and her church.—*Floyd Dare*



Agnes Eroh, retired educator and Drums church member, celebrates her 102nd birthday with family and friends.

Potomac People

Three Regional Camp Meetings Scheduled For 2017

The Bible reminds us that “for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matt. 18:20, NIV). No matter the size of the group, when we gather in His name, His presence is there. What a great promise and privilege!

This year we will be opening a new chapter of camp meeting experiences. We look forward to growing together as disciples, enriching our relationship with Jesus and equipping ourselves to be about His mission.

We’ve planned three regional camp meetings for 2017. We hope these opportunities will provide an atmosphere where people feel encouraged to get involved and become more engaged while tailoring events to reach the needs of specific communities. Local pastoral leadership, in concert with the Pastoral Ministries department team, will plan the theme, duration, location and activities for these camp meeting experiences.

Southern Virginia: June 9-11 | Camp Hopetree, Blue Ridge, Va.

Northern Virginia: June 17 | Hylton Memorial Chapel, Woodbridge, Va.

Hispanic Camp Meeting: June 23-25 | Location to be determined

More information will be announced on pcsda.org/campmeeting as it becomes available. A conference-wide camp meeting is scheduled for next year, June 19-23, 2018. Join with us as we pray that these gatherings will be opportunities to inspire us to be about His mission in our communities.



Bill Miller
President

Seabrook Pathfinders Present Wreath at Tomb

Last fall several Pathfinders from the Seabrook Church in Lanham, Md., had the privilege of presenting a handcrafted wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Va. “We spent the afternoon at the Arlington National Cemetery several months before,” says Donna Staten, a Pathfinder counselor, “and observed the wreath laying and changing of the guard ceremonies. I thought this would be a memorable event to



A guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier holds the wreath presented by the Seabrook church Pathfinders.

help our Pathfinders complete their Christian citizenship honor, while showing support and patriotism to those who died for our freedom.”

While selecting the wreath, the group decided that making it themselves would be more meaningful than purchasing it from a florist. The group worked on their creation and watched several wreath ceremonies on YouTube to familiarize themselves with the process.

On the big day, the Pathfinders arrived 45 minutes prior to their appointed time to be inspected and briefed by a guard. “The boys thought it would be easy, but later confessed they were quite nervous,” says Staten. “They made us very proud. They were extremely reverent and respectful.”

Carla Benjamin, Seabrook’s Pathfinder director, says, “In a society where we often expect privileges without responsibility, this event allowed us to pause and recognize others who have sacrificed their lives for our benefits.” The event also introduced spectators from around the world to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as many inquired about the Pathfinders’ uniforms.

Potomac People

Paul Glenn Retires From LivingWell After 45 Years

Rosa Parks, Barry Black, Ben and Candy Carson and Johnny Johnson are just a handful of public figures and authors Paul Glenn has had the opportunity to meet. Glenn says his 45-year ministry at LivingWell (formerly Potomac Adventist Book Center) in Silver Spring, Md., has been a blessing as he's been able to forge friendships through these interactions.

"Johnny Johnson was in the marines for 20 years, served as secretary of the navy and worked for the government in various capacities. I lined him up to do a signing for his autobiography," says Glenn. "He and I kept in touch afterwards." Johnny was a Baptist, but as time passed, he became more convicted to explore Adventism. He called Glenn to help him find an Adventist pastor. "It felt funny to find a pastor for him in Arizona, while I lived in Maryland, but I called around," shares Glenn. "I was pleased to discover that my friend Martin Weber was a pastor in their town and he was able to study with Johnny and his wife. They later came into the church under profession of faith." Eventually the Pacific Press Publishing Association published Johnson's autobiography, and he included a page about the impact the Adventist Book Center had on his life.



Through the years, Paul Glenn has had the opportunity to help organize book signings and meet public figures and authors, including Ben and Candy Carson (pictured).



Paul Glenn (circa 1990) stands by the Bible shelves in the Adventist Book Center's prior location in Takoma Park, Md.

"Rosa Parks was possibly the most notable person who came into the store," recalls Glenn. "We had several thousand attend—the line extended out the door and down the street. Knowing that due to her age, she wouldn't be able to sign everyone's books, we made arrangements to have commemorative bookmarks with her signature printed on them for our customers. She personally autographed several books for our staff. It's something I've cherished through the years."

Now after 45 years, Glenn is retiring. He says, "I've worked for the same organization my entire career. Through the years, some people told me I should move around. I remember one publisher saying I could be the top manager in another store, so why don't I leave? When I told him I liked where I was at, he said, 'One day you'll come to retirement and wished you'd moved around.' All I thought was, 'Well, when the time comes, I would wish I was still in Potomac.' I have never regretted staying. I don't think I would have been as happy anywhere else." Glenn has worked for LivingWell in a number of management capacities and will retire as book department manager in March.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

International Students Participate in STEM

The science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) team of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has recently grown from five to 20 students, including several international students, who will be working on improving the device they call “LighTelligence.” Freshman Wenfei Yu, from Shijiazhuang, China, says, “I think STEM is a good chance to participate in school activities and open up your mind.” Ma Shida, also from Shijiazhuang, says, “I’m so glad that we won the Lemelson-MIT Grant. I really liked the idea of the project (a tri-lighting system that exposes the user to the most appropriate light wavelengths in order to synchronize with circadian rhythms and support the appropriate number of hours of serotonin and melatonin production). I helped design the light cover.” BMA and the Columbia Union Conference leaders aren’t the only ones excited about this accomplishment. Parents from the other side of the globe are also ecstatic.

Principal Dave Morgan recently returned from sister school signings in China, and reports, “Talking to parents of our students is always a highlight of my visits to China, but this year it was even more special as parents beamed with pride over the accomplishments of their children.”



The 2016-17 Blue Mountain Academy STEM club is comprised of a number of international students.

Rosemarie Bechtel, science department chairperson and STEM advisor, shares one simple way an international student has had an impact on this project. “Our club members were challenged to create a more aesthetically pleasing lamp shade. Yu suggested using the lotus flower, which is very common in China. This intercultural exchange has added the element of beauty to our project.”

Academy Signs Agreement With Schools in China

Blue Mountain Academy has successfully continued to build on its efforts to strengthen a global program that allows American students to sit side by side with students from around the world, as they and staff members learn from educators in other countries.

Principal Dave Morgan recently returned from signing two sister school agreements that ensure the sharing of culture, techniques and ideas that will flow between BMA’s teachers and students and their counterparts in China. Morgan says, “This signing is just another way BMA is pursuing the gospel commission to ‘go into all the world,’ while equipping our students to take their place in a global world. This is a very exciting opportunity for our students!”

The agreements were signed in late October 2016, and give BMA distinct partner schools in the Lin’an High School in China, the Sunshine School system

in Shijiazhuang, China, as well as the Washington American School in Manila, Philippines.



Principal Dave Morgan signs agreement with Principal Li Shengyong of the Sunshine Future International School.

Festival Showcases STEM Careers

Highland View Academy (HVA) recently held its third annual STEMfest. Several schools from the Chesapeake Conference brought students to the event, and the festival also drew students and parents from public and private schools in the community.

The event featured a wide variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities for all ages. There were several booths from federal STEM organizations such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and many others. Private STEM organizations and universities also participated.

HVA's STEM department had several interactive elements for children and youth. Hands-on activities included bridge building; robotics with Ozobots,



Freshman Eric Hesler assists attendees with Ozobots at the STEMfest robotics booth.



A STEMfest attendee watches a 3D printer at work.



A young STEMfest attendee observes Craig Trader's Chaos Machine.

Spheros and Dash and Dot robots; 3D printing; 3D doodler; making slime, silly putty and polymer snow; several STEM toys for a Kids Korner facility; and many others. Craig Trader's Chaos Machine, a massive collection of tubes, tracks, lifts and motors that move marbles around attracted a lot of attention.

The festival also featured break-out sessions on exciting, cutting-edge, multidisciplinary STEM research. One of the speakers included Walt Sturgeon, nationally known mycologist and photographer, who has written several mycology books and is chief mycologist of the North American Mycological Association. Sturgeon spoke on "Wild Mushrooms, a World of Wonder at Our Feet." Another speaker, Natalie Harr, talked about traveling to Antarctica to study the *Belgica antarctica*—the "largest and southernmost land animal in the world." Harr is an award-winning educator and former Einstein Fellow and Presidential Awardee in Math and Science Teaching. Maria and Chris Esquela of E-Nable spoke on using 3D printing to create fingers and hands for children and adults in the underserved areas of the world.

Organizations gave away resources, posters and other materials for teachers, students and homeschoolers. "This was a chance to showcase STEM careers and the many exciting things about STEM," says Ophelia Barizo, director of STEM for HVA and the Chesapeake Conference. She, with the help of HVA STEM teachers Colleen Lay and Lisa Norton, coordinated the event.

IGNITE

A PINE FORGE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



Students Complete Both High School and College Classes

The administrators of the 2016-17 Pine Forge Academy (PFA) school year initiated a yearlong partnership with Montgomery County Community College (MontCo) in Pottstown, Pa., approximately five miles away from their campus. The institutions collaborated to create a dual credit program, whereby PFA students earn high school and college credits simultaneously. The MontCo classes follow the PFA classes,

which gave students the opportunity to adjust to their academy classes and teachers before tackling their college courses. “The dual-learning environments and schedules were an adjustment for academy administrators, parents and students,” says Kris Fielder, interim principal.

Senior Michael Gilmore says, “The Montgomery County program gave me an opportunity to take a peek at the rigor needed to be successful in a college setting.” The fall semester featured science courses for PFA juniors and seniors. The students took college level classes including Concepts of Biology, Intro to Human Anatomy and Physiology and Environmental Biology. Classes included accompanying labs, which provided students with access to equipment and experiments that they typically would not utilize until college. Junior Aya Waite, a supporter of this learning technique, says, “Although the Montgomery County classes were very challenging, I see where it was beneficial to my education, and I was up for the challenge.”



Junior and senior academy students engage in their Environmental Biology class.

Seniors Embark on Mission Trip to Jamaica

The Class of 2017 is embarking on a mission trip to Jamaica, May 19-21. Spanish teacher, Maria Romero; physical education teacher, Eric Cantrell; and former math teacher, Norman Niles planned the mission trip.

This endeavor will incorporate participation in various community service projects and ministries. These projects include outreach activities, such as distributing clothes and supplies to the needy and painting a church. The class will also engage in spiritual ministries, such as leading Sabbath School and church services.

The seniors are excited about this chance to help others, Jonas Clarke says. “This trip will be an extraordinarily humbling experience and a chance to help the people of Jamaica.” Cordrea Simms adds, “This trip will give me a chance to reflect on the opportunities given to me by God, and I’ll be proud to give back.” Alexis Reed continues, “I’m excited to help



the Jamaican people in need.”

The Class of 2017 have begun a campaign to raise \$25,000 to support their mission work. The money will only be used to purchase materials and supplies needed for the mission outreach that the students will perform in Jamaica. For more information, please visit pfadonate.org.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Be Careful What You Ask For

I have an agreement with God that if I am asked to speak, my answer will always be yes. For the past three years, however, because I was essentially filling two jobs at Spencerville Adventist Academy, I retracted my agreement with God. Sure enough, no one asked me to speak, and the few that did, I turned down. We recently hired another administrator on our campus which put me back to a more normal work load, and so I renewed my agreement with God.

Within a few weeks, I was asked to speak for two occasions. Pure panic set in when one of the requests came from Nelu Burcea, associate director for the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department of the General Conference. I was asked to speak during a week-long event in Romania on the topic of religious freedom, in the context of international terrorism in the Parliament of Romania. Like Moses, I felt incapable of speaking, but I was reminded that God told Moses that He would give him the words to speak. With that promise in mind, the Lord used me to deliver the much-needed words to this country. Most memorable to me was seeing the Adventist church in Romania leading the charge for religious freedom.

There were representatives from most of the religions of the country, and yet it was Adventists who had organized and executed this most important event. The Adventist presence in the country of



The Avramescu family welcomes Principal Brian Kittleson (right) into their home during his stay in Romania.



Student ambassadors from the Adventist high school in Bucharest serve as guides at the Parliament of Romania.

Romania is very strong. While I was there, I visited schools, churches, the Hope Channel, the publishing house, an Adventist restaurant and the theological university. What a testament of God's power in a country that has only had a democracy since the Revolution in 1989. By the power of God, the work of spreading the gospel is strong and growing.

My time in Romania culminated over a weekend of speaking to the approximately 400 high school students at Liceul Teologic Adventist, a small campus in Bucharest. Their new chaplain, Madaline Avramescu, has a contagious passion for Christ on the campus. The Lord impressed me weeks before my trip to prepare a short series of sermons on the simple, yet powerful message of grace. On Saturday night, through God's grace, my message inspired the entire student body, as they stood together and dedicated their lives to Christ.

I was so humbled and changed from my time spent in Romania that upon returning to the U.S. and to my own students, I now have an even deeper conviction that the Lord is coming soon. Each day with my students and teachers is an opportunity to strengthen each other in Christ's love.



Brian Kittleson
Principal

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Students Present Early Civilization Wax Museum

Spring Valley Academy's fifth- and sixth-graders recently presented their annual Wax Museum on Early Civilizations, featuring the Aztec, Inca and Mayan communities. Parents and friends gathered to watch the student presentations on the various civilizations, led by teachers Monica Sauser, Cali Campillo and Sam Joseph. The students' research was evident through the preparations of costumes, set designs, props and even foods used for their skits. Sixth-grader Vivian Reeves says, "My favorite part of our research was on the foods that the people ate. We actually ate some of the very



Fifth- and sixth-graders dress up in costumes for the annual Wax Museum on Early Civilizations event.

same food as part of our skit to make it more authentic." In addition to the set and costume designers, other students worked as scriptwriters, directors, narrators, performers and multimedia technicians. Following the performances, a reception was provided for everyone by the students' mothers, including a special table for the students, in celebration of a job well done.

High School Band Performs "Medieval Times" Tour

SVA's high school band recently performed a "Medieval Times" dinner concert at the Kettering (Ohio) church. Patrons enjoyed a bread bowl soup and salad feast set against a medieval theme as they were entertained by the band, under the direction of Donald Huff. The concert featured musical selections from the middle-ages, based on chants, to themes from the early Christian Church.

"Our tour was an extension of our first concert when we traveled to Atlanta to perform and attend



Spring Valley Academy's high school band performs a "Medieval Times" concert at the Kettering church.

the Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament show. It was an exciting evening of jousting, horses, knights, chivalry and great food," says Huff. Tour performances included Clifton Christian Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio; Collegedale Academy in Tennessee; and Marietta church and Atlanta Adventist Academy in Georgia. Some excursions included the Ark Encounter in Kentucky and the World of Coca-Cola, the Varsity, Stone Mountain and the CNN Center tour in Georgia. Huff recalls, "One memorable highlight included the night we spent at the Georgia Aquarium in front of one of the largest aquarium windows in the world, with 2,000 pound whale sharks swimming in front of us!"

Fundraisers Rewarded with Lunch Limo Ride

Spring Valley Academy's grades K-6 participate annually in the Magazine Campaign Fundraiser, through American Publishers. SVA retains 40 percent of every magazine subscription received through this program and, more importantly, funds are used for enrichment programs and/or activities that benefit the students. Safety is priority, so door-to-door selling is discouraged. In spite of that, this year's sales totaled more than \$2,500. Over 200 students participated from 10 different classrooms. The students who obtained the highest sales were rewarded with a limo ride to Chipotle for a complimentary vegetarian lunch for their successful campaign.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY : HAPPENINGS

www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org

Inspirational Thoughts from Hadley Hall

The young women of Hadley Hall are serious about knowing God. I love to hear what they have to say when they are contemplating Him. It's one of the reasons I am a dean and I love teenagers. The girls wrote responses to Bible texts on posters hung around the chapel during worship one night. In sharing their candid thoughts, I hope you will be inspired and refreshed, and that this will put a smile on your face!

Psalm 23:1—

■ Sometimes I think I lack something, either smart stuff like math or beauty. But you know what? We don't need to worry about what we're lacking. Why? Because God doesn't see that in us. He sees something better than what we see in the mirror every morning.

2 Corinthians 5:7—

■ Human sight can only see so far. My eyes cannot see what truly lies ahead of me. But He who sees all will be my sight, as long as I choose to believe. We will be living life if we decide to follow Jesus, have faith in Him, not by what we see, and have Him in our hearts.

Psalm 138:7—

■ You (God) will protect me no matter what. Even if I am not 100 percent or even 1 percent, You will always be 1 million percent with me and never give up on me because You love and care for me. Thank you for that.

John 16:33—

■ Christ is my peace. There is no trouble greater than God!
■ God will give you the strength to overcome things in life you never thought you could because God overcame everything. He is the almighty, powerful God.

Galatians 2:20—

■ When we accept God, we die with Him on the cross. We died with Him and now we have been resurrected with Him with new, clean slates.
■ We must give ourselves up, leaving the door open for Christ to enter and live inside of us. We must completely trust Him. He already gave Himself up for us.



Hadley Hall deans and resident assistants show enthusiasm: Assistant Dean Rita Miller, Maddy Ndahayo '17, Allie May Magtanong '18, Hannah Sloan '18, Bethany Edwards '18, Jessica Pepper '17, Dean Stephanie Powell, Elizabeth Schuen '17, Noe Grady '17, Janice Pakkianathan '17, Brenda Ngetich '17, Becky Renderos '17, Taskforce Dean Jessica Mattox

Romans 8:26—

■ The spirit does help us in time of weakness. Why? Because we don't know what to pray for. We pray for our "hair to get longer," or "a boy to like us." However God answers prayers, we will glorify Him!

Isaiah 26:3—

■ He will be my big brother that will make sure I feel safe.
■ Trust in God doesn't stop bad things from happening, but allows us to deal with it peacefully.

Psalm 37:23, 24—

■ God is with me always. Even when I fail to delight in Him, He will grab hold of me and be my Savior.
■ Even when we fall, God is still there. We will fall even when we are committed to God, but He will lift us up and lead us even though we've been down. Don't give up on God just because you've stumbled. Get back up and keep on walking!—*Stephanie Powell*

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Fashion Comes to Takoma Academy

Takoma Academy (TA), known for its stellar performances in both music and sports, is now creating a reputation in fashion.

While most of their schools' home economics programs include instruction in cooking, finances and sewing, very few, if any, teach true fashion (style, technique and usage of dress). Faced with the fashion challenges of today, our young people need a solution. For TA, the solution would be spearheaded by one of their own—Toni Horne.

Horne, an alumna of TA with degrees in fashion merchandising and fine arts, knew at the young age of eight, that she wanted to pursue a career in fashion. That desire was heightened while attending TA, where she was inspired by her art teacher, Marquita Halstead, who was recognizably passionate about her job, so much that Horne secretly longed to secure that job for herself one day. Thanks to Principal Carla Thrower, who saw her vision and acted on it, Horne has come full circle in fulfilling her dream and currently teaches drama, mixed media and fashion illustration at TA.

When asked what can students expect in her fashion class, Horne replies, "Students can expect to freely explore, develop and unleash the creativity God has given them in the area of fashion, whether pursuing a fashion career or developing a hobby." She goes on to say that she hopes to help cultivate a



Fashion students Leigh Nebblett (middle) and Xavier Burely (right) design artwork for a class project. Right: Alum teacher Toni Horne instructs the Takoma Academy drama, mixed media and fashion illustration classes.



group of uncompromising fashion professionals that will infiltrate the fashion industry as some of the best in their field.

When talking with some of the TA students enrolled in Horne's classes, it's obvious that they are very excited and thankful for the opportunity to explore and develop their interest in fashion. Student Leanna Meneles ('17) says, "What I like about the fashion illustration class is that it allows me to explore my passion for fashion. When I was a kid, I watched my mom make clothes for me. That sparked my interest in fashion design." Jasmine Graham ('17) adds, "I find this class fun and a way for me to use my creative side." In the spirit of entrepreneurship, students Leigh Nebblett ('17, BRND T-shirt designer) and Xavier Burely ('17, hopeful future fashion designer) hope to provide clothing that gives people an option to look tastefully stylish. And from the looks of it, they're off to a great start!



Takoma Academy student designs showcase creativity.

KETTERING COLLEGE



Kettering College continues to thrive and expand with the same passion for education and the future of healthcare as its namesake, Charles F. Kettering.

Kettering College Celebrates 50 Years



By Lauren Brooks

This year, Kettering College will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. A look back at the college's history shows its commitment to excellence in education and the future of healthcare.

Charles F. Kettering, the college's namesake, spent most of his life pursuing innovation. He held more than 300 patents for inventions, including the first reliable battery ignition system.

In this spirit of innovation, construction began on a new hospital in Dayton, Ohio in 1961. The founders also developed an educational division of the medical center. Work began on building a second facility adjacent to the hospital as well as creating an administrative team to

develop a curriculum for a hospital-based school of nursing. However, research at the time revealed a trend toward college degree programs for healthcare education. As construction neared completion, the board determined the new school should be an accredited college, offering two-year associate degrees.

In 1964, Kettering Medical Center opened. The clinical division was named Charles F. Kettering Memorial Hospital, while the educational division was named Kettering College of Medical Arts. The college became a new model for educational programs affiliated with a hospital.

In 1967, the college welcomed its first class of students majoring in nursing, as well as radiology and respiratory

therapy. Eventually, additional health professional degree programs were added to the college's offerings.

Today, Kettering College continues to thrive and expand with the same passion for education and the future of healthcare. With around 800 students, Kettering College's programs include associate of science degrees, bachelor degrees, a Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies, and an Occupational Therapy Doctorate.

For a list of events celebrating our 50 years, visit kc.edu/alumni

#1 Value-Added College Brookings Institution





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: *Educating for Eternity*

In October 2016 I received a gift from the Andrews University Press, George R. Knight's recent publication, *Educating for Eternity: A Seventh-day Adventist*



Weymouth Spence
President

Philosophy of Education. This book clearly delineates the transforming influence of a Christian education that I decided to share this gift by purchasing a copy for every WAU faculty, staff and trustee. It provides a renewed focus on

Christian education and further adds new life to our Vision: To produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. The centrality of Christian education is to grow each student in wisdom, physical development and in favor with God and man. George Knight outlined this winning formula in an engaging manner that makes Christian education exciting and rewarding. Christian education is for all God's children; an education that equips all individuals for a life of service to humanity and the joy of spending eternity with the Master Teacher. Professor John Matthews, a professor of Educational Foundations and Religious Education describes this recent publication by saying that "This book will help students to think. It will infuse life into those classrooms where Adventist philosophy of education is too often taught in a rather uninspiring manner." Christianity begins at home and every home should have a copy.

This is Washington Adventist University!

—Weymouth Spence

FIRST HONORS COLLEGE TO LAUNCH WITHIN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HIGHER EDUCATION

An Honors College will be launched next year at Washington Adventist University (WAU) to further enhance its academic offerings and move the university another step closer to achieving the Vision 2020 – Growing with Excellence plan that seeks to attain excellence at all levels of the institution. This will be the first Honors College in the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education.

"It will provide a supportive and challenging academic program for intellectually motivated undergraduate students. Offering an enriching interdisciplinary curriculum through its varied programs, the Honors College admits and supports students in a full range of distinctive academic pursuits. This will require designated classes, a collegial environment, and close academic advising for advanced study, internships, and research. The desired outcome is to inspire students to a lifetime of broad intellectual inquisitiveness and continuing self-sustained learning that leads to personal growth," said WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. "Our goal is to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities, and the Honors College will boost their success."

Although Washington Adventist University has long had an active Honors Program on campus that provides learning opportunities outside of the classroom, the new Honors College will significantly

continued on next page →



Honors Students with members of WAU leadership and Board of Trustees

continued from previous page

expand that effort to serve gifted and talented students who want to be at a Christian school in the nation's capital.

"In the Adventist tradition, WAU nurtures the growth of its students in mind, body and spirit by providing a strong academic, healthful and spiritual environment," said WAU Board of Trustees Chair Dave Weigley, Ph.D., who is also President of the Columbia Union Conference, Seventh-day Adventist Church. "This new Honors College further strengthens the university's academic opportunities so that students can better sharpen their knowledge and skills in preparation for success in today's competitive workforce."

The new Honors College is expected to be in place for the 2017 Fall Semester. Work is commencing to develop interdisciplinary Honors degrees, enhanced scholarships, accelerated curricular pathways, service learning courses, competitive internships, as well as partnerships with other institutions – such as Newbold College near London, England – for on-location learning opportunities abroad.

Current Honors Program Director Bradford Haas, Chair of the WAU English Department, has been leading the Honors College transformation process.

"We want to situate the Honors College so that it can serve the entire WAU community. The goal is to help other academic departments expand what they can offer to gifted and talented students, and hopefully to draw those students to WAU. While some people think that Honors espouses an ivory tower mentality, the tenet of the WAU Honors College is active engagement across the university," said Haas.

An Advisory Board has been set up to bring people with diverse experiences together to guide the development of the Honors College. Confirmed members include WAU Board of Trustees member E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Vice President of Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland, the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine; David Trim, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Ruth Prakasam, Professor, Department of English, Suffolk University; and WAU Board of Trustees member Sandra Loughlin, Ph.D., who is Director of Learning and Innovative Instruction at the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland.

WAU STUDENT PLAYS FOR GRAMMY AWARDS WINNING VOCAL GROUP PENTATONIX

Emilie Flores was recently asked to play for Kevin Olusola, member of the Grammy Award winning vocal group Pentatonix. Flores is a freshman music education major who plays piano, organ, violin and sings. She played the piano for three of Olusola's pieces at the Lexington, Kentucky Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Left: Emilie Flores, Jason Garcia, Kevin Olusola, and Richy Flores.



WAU Board of Trustee Members pray with several nursing students after receiving the good news about the new nursing accreditation.

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

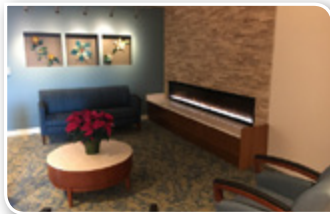
KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

New Cancer Center Designed by Patients for Patients

Last year, while in the midst of planning her wedding, Carrie Baker, DO, an emergency room medicine physician at Kettering Adventist HealthCare, was diagnosed with breast cancer.



"As a doctor, telling someone they have cancer is one of the most difficult conversations to have with a patient and their family. I still remember the first time I had to tell someone this horrific news," recalled Baker. "As a patient, getting that news was a surreal experience. The reality that it could happen to me was terrifying."



Every cloud has a silver lining

Becoming a patient herself gave Baker a new perspective and a different, far deeper level of connection, compassion, and empathy for those facing cancer that she may not have experienced were it not for her own diagnosis.

"So many wonderful people came into my life due to cancer," said Baker. "That was the silver lining."

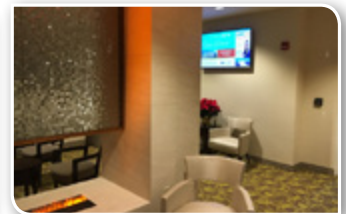
One special group of people that Baker became involved with is the patient advisory council for the new Kettering Cancer Center, which opened last month on the campus of Kettering Medical Center.

The 30-member council, made up of cancer patients, their families, and physicians, met on a monthly basis for



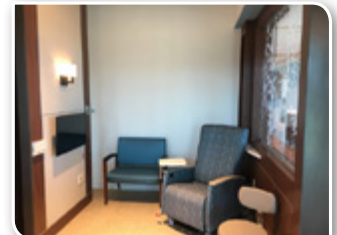
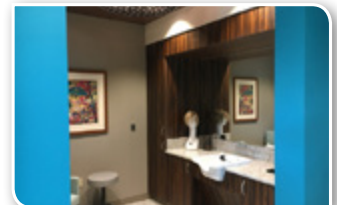
over a year to give input from the perspective of people who have lived through a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"As cancer patients, we were given the opportunity to change the way cancer care is delivered in our community. As an osteopathic physician, the mind-body-spirit connection is the foundation of my practice. The patient advisory council encompasses this," explained Baker.



Designed by patients for patients

During their monthly meetings, Baker and her fellow patient advisory council members reviewed the building architecture and made recommendations for layout and design, based on patient needs. They gave input on everything from providing resources for emotional and financial support, pain management, and education, to including nutrition, spiritual care, complementary medicine, transportation, and the retail store. They even tasted food that will be served in the café and gave advice on services that they would like to have provided, including massage and wigs.



"They really listened to us and created a center designed in collaboration with patients," said Baker. "We have talked about all aspects of planning, including whole-person treatment, which is important to me as a physician as well as a patient."





Kettering Adventist HealthCare Adds Medical Fleet

Kettering Adventist HealthCare added a fleet of medical transportation vehicles to meet increased patient volumes, especially in its freestanding emergency centers and rural facilities.

The network partnered with Buckeye Ambulance to establish Kettering Mobile Care, a medical transportation service whose vehicles are dedicated solely to transporting patients into and out of the health system's hospitals, emergency departments, and outpatient facilities.

Buckeye Ambulance is a locally owned, private ambulance service company specializing in inner-hospital transports and getting patients to and from doctor office visits and specialty appointments.

Kettering Adventist HealthCare's fleet of 26 patient transportation vehicles is one of the largest hospital-branded fleets in Ohio.

The fleet includes:

- 2 mobile intensive care units
- 2 response vehicles
- 17 ambulances
- 5 ambulettes

"This partnership between Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Buckeye Ambulance will greatly improve the continuity of care for our patients," says Fred Manchur, CEO Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "Everything we do as a faith-based health system



Each vehicle is painted red with Kettering Health Network and Buckeye Ambulance logos for easy identification.

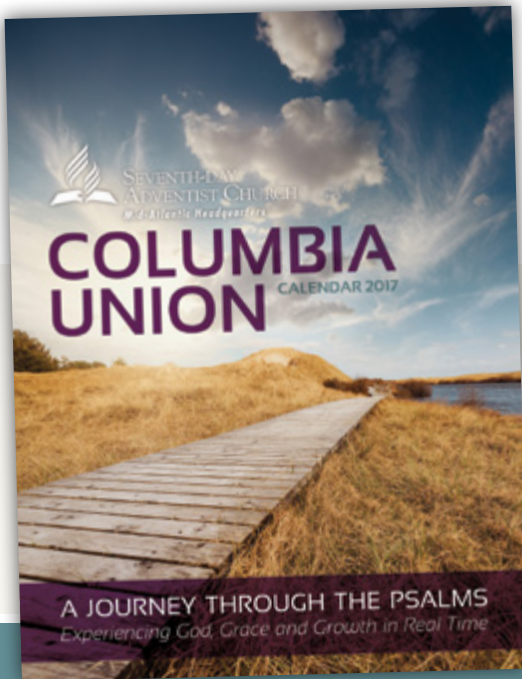
centers around how to best care for the patient. Buckeye Ambulance shares our passion for exceptional patient care and we are glad to work side-by-side with them in serving the residents of southwest Ohio."



Providing Transportation

Students from Dayton area Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches are excited for the opportunity to attend Spring Valley Academy. 43 students are being transported to Spring Valley Academy in vans that have been generously donated by Kettering Adventist HealthCare. What was once a dream is now a reality for these students. Visit www.youtube.com/user/KetteringHealth/playlists and click on "Mission Outreach" to hear from one of the students.





THIS YEAR JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS

"More than any other book in the Bible, Psalms reveals what a heartfelt, soul-starved, single-minded relationship with God looks like."

— Rob Vandeman,
Columbia Union Executive Secretary



To find, read and share Rob's monthly blog posts on the Psalms featured in the 2017

Columbia Union Calendar,* visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/JourneyThroughPsalms

*For additional free copies, call (443) 259-9578 or email srowley@columbiaunion.net.

WHAT DREAM WOULD YOU PURSUE
IF YOU KNEW GOD WANTED YOU TO DO IT?

- START A BUSINESS
- TAKE YOUR FIRM TO THE NEXT LEVEL
- OPEN A RESTAURANT
- LAUNCH A MINISTRY

COME LAUNCH
THE DREAM AT
ASI COLUMBIA UNION
APRIL 6-8 2017
COLUMBIA, MD

dream.cuasi.org



Bulletin Board

VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES

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

Ad Submissions: sjones@columbiaunion.net

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

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

Contact Us

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

EMPLOYMENT

COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER

Adventist church of Alexandria, Va., is seeking a full-time executive administrative assistant. Skill sets for this position include a love for God and people; excellent speaking, writing and technology skills; team-building and multitasking skills. Interested candidates please contact the administrative pastor, L. Roo McKenzie, at (301) 310-7133, or email roomckenzie@cpsda.org.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S

English Department is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in British literature of the 18th or 19th century. Preferred candidates will have a PhD; a creative writing background is a plus. Send CV with cover letter to Judy Myers Laue, lauej@swau.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

is looking to fill several full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of educational psychology, English education/children's literature, industrial design, nineteenth century British literature, research services librarian, music, psychology, and social work. For a detailed description of each position and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Chemistry. For details and to apply, please visit jobs.wallawalla.edu. We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla, please visit wallawalla.edu.

UNION COLLEGE

seeks an art and graphic design professor, beginning in June. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses, academic advising, recruiting and program development. Further information, ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Submit CV to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division Chair, b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

seeks a communication faculty. The Department of Visual Art, Communication and Design is hiring a professor to teach public relations and general communication classes at Andrews University. The ideal individual will be qualified to teach graduate- and undergraduate-level courses and mentor students in the area of public relations. PhD/doctorate in communication-related fields preferred; preference is given to those with terminal degrees and emphasis/experience in public relations. For more information or to apply, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1217.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks professor for Clinical Mental Health Counseling/School Counseling program, teaching graduate/undergraduate courses. Qualifications: Doctoral in counselor education with supervision experience from CACREP program, or doctoral in clinical/counseling psychology from APA program and experience teaching in counselor education program for full academic year before July 1, 2013. Licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee as LPC or LSC; two years in clinical mental health or school counseling settings. Cover letter, CV, unofficial

transcripts and reference letters to Ileana Freeman, ileanaf@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

School of Business seeks dean. Requirements: Doctoral degree in a field of business, commitment to holistic student development, relating successfully with School of Business colleagues, and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology. Submit curriculum vitae along with cover letter, and statement of administrative teaching philosophy to Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu, or visit southern.edu/hr, for more information.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks midlevel practitioner to assess patients, diagnose, and prescribe treatment and/or medication to Southern Adventist University's students and employees/families as per midlevel/physician protocol. Medical oversight provided by supervising physician, both remotely and on-site. Requirements: Five years of experience in ED/urgent care and/or general family practice, successful completion of an accredited mid-level practitioner program with certification, and BLS and ACLS certification. Competencies in laceration repair, burn care and wound management. Submit résumés to Sarah Shelburne, sarahshelburne@southern.edu. For more information, visit southern.edu/hr.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

School of Business, beginning June 1, seeks professor for teaching undergraduate-level management courses; directing student projects, involvement with research; advising management majors and teaching in business administration, healthcare administration and human resources management. Qualifications: Doctorate degree in management, human resources management, healthcare administration or related field, with related business experience. Teaching experience and extensive scholar activity is preferred. A master's degree and 18 graduate hours in management may be considered. Send curriculum vita to markhyder@southern.edu. For more information, visit southern.edu/hr.

NOW HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package is based on competence and experience. Native English speaker, holds a bachelor's degree, preferably with early childhood teaching experiences. Adventist

professionals run the education center. Visit sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm, or email gateway@sgg.com.sg for more details.

MISCELLANEOUS

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING

is looking for volunteers. Do you have a musical family or group that would like to minister to our residents and staff? We are scheduling our calendar for 2017 for Friday vespers and Sabbath afternoons. We would love to host your family, choir, budding musicians or professional group. We love to sing and worship through music and a spiritual thought or story. Contact Tim Mayer at (240) 286-3635 or email tim@elternhausalf.com.

REMNANT PUBLICATIONS

has the perfect study Bible, which will enhance personal devotions for both adults and children. We can also provide you with sharing books, pocketbooks and DVD's to help you reach your community with the gospel. Visit your ABC, or remnantpublications.com, or call (800) 423-1319 for a free catalog.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER

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

CITRUS FUNDRAISING

for your church or school. Hand selected, citrus direct from the grove. *Indian River Fundraisers*. Please call: (800) 558-1998.

REAL ESTATE

BUYING? SELLING?
RESIDENTIAL HOMES
IN MARYLAND

Call:
The MdSmartBuy Team

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

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

mdsmartbuy.com

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

SERVICES

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, has practices located in Silver Spring and Columbia, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sleep apnea treatment, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001 or (410) 461-6655. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

ADVENTIST BOOKS AND AUTHORS: Looking for new Adventist titles to encourage and grow your daily walk? Visit us at TEACHServices.com. For used Adventist books visit LNFBooks.com. *Authors*, if you're interested in having your book published, call (800) 367-1844 for a free evaluation.

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call toll-free, (800) 274-0016, and ask for HOPE Customer Service, or visit hopesource.com.

You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at HOPESOURCE deliver on time.

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

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING, Adventist Care for Adventist Seniors. Located on 10 acres in the rolling farm hills of western Howard County, Maryland, close to Columbia and Silver Spring. We have specialized in all levels of assisted living for more than 25 years. We provide a home-style environment with comfortable surroundings. Sit out on our covered south deck or the front porch, and enjoy the fresh air and country views. All meals are vegetarian and delicious. Join in for hymn singing at Friday night vespers, ride our bus to church Sabbath morning or enjoy 3ABN and Hope channel programming. Contact Tim Mayer for more information and a tour at (240) 286-3635, or email tim@elternhausalf.com.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"GREAT GRACE, GREAT MARRIAGE" MARRIAGE RETREAT, February 17-19, 2017, to be held at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Mike and Lynn Ortel will be the presenters of the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net, or call (301) 801-2344 or (443) 864-6328.

95TH YEAR ALUMNI REUNION, LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA), April 28-29, at 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside, Calif. Honor classes: 2s and 7s. Welcome reception, 7 p.m., Friday, April 28, in the LSA Library. Honor class services registration, April 29 at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m. Potluck luncheon. Alumni/varsity basketball,

8:30 p.m., Saturday evening. Please update your contact information. JNelson@lsak12.com; (951) 351-1445, ext. 244; lsak12.com.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING 125th CELEBRATION, April 6-9, 2017. Honor classes are 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007. For more information, contact the alumni office at (401) 486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

OBITUARIES

CULBERT, Elizabeth L., born August 28, 1924, in Wadesville, Pa.; died November 13, 2015, in Pottsville, Pa. She was a member of the Pottsville (Pa.) church. Baptized as a young girl at the Wadesville church, which later was forced to close, she transferred to the Pottsville church. Survivors: daughters, Judith Price of Pottsville and Sherry Heller of Schuylkill Haven, Pa.; son, Raymond Culbert of Mill Creek, Pa.; and a sister, Viola Delker of Pottsville.

FARVER, William Francis, born December 26, 1921, in West Bridgewater, Pa.; died November 6, 2015, in Cottonwood, Ariz.

Sunset Calendar

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 24
Baltimore	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:20	5:29	5:37	5:45	5:53
Cincinnati	5:30	5:37	5:44	5:52	6:01	6:09	6:17	6:24
Cleveland	5:12	5:19	5:27	5:36	5:44	5:53	6:02	6:11
Columbus	5:21	5:28	5:36	5:44	5:53	6:01	6:09	6:17
Jersey City	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:07	5:16	5:24	5:33	5:41
Norfolk	5:03	5:09	5:17	5:24	5:32	5:39	5:47	5:54
Parkersburg	5:18	5:25	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:57	6:05	6:12
Philadelphia	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13	5:22	5:30	5:38	5:46
Pittsburgh	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31	5:40	5:48	5:57	6:05
Reading	4:52	4:59	5:07	5:15	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:49
Richmond	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:58
Roanoke	5:17	5:23	5:31	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:01	6:08
Toledo	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:43	5:52	6:01	6:09	6:18
Trenton	4:48	4:55	5:03	5:11	5:19	5:28	5:36	5:44
Wash., D.C.	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:55

Bulletin Board

He was a member of the Cottonwood church. He taught at the Wilson Adventist Elementary School (Mich.) and Cedar Lake Academy (now Great Lakes Academy (Mich.)), and Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. He also worked for Adventist HealthCare at their Watkins Memorial Hospital (Ga.) and the Walker Memorial Hospital (Fla.). Survivors: his wife, Irene, of Cottonwood; his daughters, Janis of Cottonwood and Lahna of Takoma Park, Md.; his brother, Duane Farver of Innverness, Fla., and sister-in-laws, Marilyn Farver of Innverness and Rosemary Farver of Auburn, Wash.

JONES, Eric A., 88, died August 22, 2015. G. Eric and Myrtle Jones, plus brothers Lorne, Gerald and Orville welcomed Eric on February 24, 1927. He was born in Mussoorie, India, where his parents were missionaries. Three months later the family came to the United States. Eric served in the U.S. Army during World War II and served in Italy. He received an honorable discharge November 10, 1946. In 1950 Eric began employment at the Review & Herald Publishing Assn., in Hagerstown, Md., as a linotype operator, and then moved to the production office, then list room supervisor, and then to the computer center in 1968. Eric and the Sines family were also instrumental in starting the Mountaintop Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oakland, Md., which was dedicated in 1970. Eric served as the lay pastor of the church until a full-time pastor was hired. He retired from the Review and Herald in 1993 and moved to Collegedale, Tenn., in 2011. Eric is survived by his fiancée, Juanita Stinchfield of Collegedale; sister-in-law, Joyce Jones of California; nieces and nephews: Patricia Jones, Peter Jones, Dwight Jones, DeAnn Dunn, Diane Stewart, Donald Jones, and Marble Jones.

LOUDERMILK, Allen, born January 25, 1941; died December 11, 2015, in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, W. Va. He was a member of the Lewisburg church. He served as an elder and was a strong worker for the Lord. He loved his Lord, his family and his church family. He was married to his wife, Emma, for 58 years, and supported his family as a plumber. Survivors: his wife of Lewisburg; his four sons, Charles, Robert, David and Mark of Lewisburg; and his daughters, Debra King and Hilda Sheppard of Lewisburg; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

MELITI, Elizabeth C., born October 22, 1927, in Trenton, N.J.; died November 27, 2015, in

Sebring, Fla. She was a member of the Avon Park (Fla.) church. Elizabeth Piromalli and Salvatore Meliti were married November 15, 1947, in the Lyndhurst (N.J.) Catholic Church. About a year later, through the influence of Sal's oldest sister, Laura, and her husband, Pastor Sal LaRosa, they were baptized as Seventh-day Adventists. While her three sons: Glenn, Wayne and Dennis attended Waldwick (N.J.) Adventist School, Elizabeth helped with fundraising events. At the Hackensack (N.J.) church, she was active in community services, participated in the church choir and was head of the Ladies Club. When the Meliti family moved to Tranquility, N.J., Elizabeth became the extension secretary for the Tranquility church and continued volunteering in community services and participated in functions at the church school and Garden State Academy. She became well known for her hospitality, delicious Italian food and chocolate chip cookies. In 2004 Elizabeth and Sal moved to Florida. Survivors: her husband of 68 years; three sons, Glenn (Eva) of Stroudsburg, Pa., Wayne (Gail) of Vero Beach, Fla., and Dennis (Debbie) of Sebring, Fla.; one brother, Joseph Piromalli of Lyndhurst, N.J.; one sister, Lillian Miner of Cape Coral, Fla.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Her sister, Josephine Martel, predeceased her.

STOWERS, Margaret, born February 23, 1925, in Woodbury, N.J.; died October 2, 2015, in South Williamson, Ky. She was a charter member of the Williamson (W.Va.) church. Margie and her family moved to the Williamson area in the 1950s and though lonely for other Adventists, she envisioned that one day there would be an Adventist presence in Mingo County and Williamson. Margie and her husband, Dulaney, founded Stowers Fire and Safety Equipment, Inc., which now employs close to 50 employees. They also helped to bring a branch Sabbath School into the area and later the Williamson church, which was dedicated in 1984. Margie's life and heart were totally wrapped up in her church, and her prayers were for her community and family. Survivors: her husband; daughters, Connie Mevee of Takoma Park, Md., JoAnn Starr of Williamson, Lanette Piekarek of Williamson, and Amy Stowers of San Diego, Calif.; son, Allen Stowers of Pigeon Roost, W.Va.; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Helen Sokol of Englishtown, N.J.; and a sister-in-law, Loretta Kijak of Englishtown.

TO SET AT LIBERTY

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING JANUARY 28 2017

LIBERTY IMAGINE YOUR WORLD WITHOUT IT
WWW.LIBERTYMAGAZINE.ORG

25 Adventist Channels
 Plus more than 70 other FREE Christian Channels and News Channels on Adventist Satellite Dish

High Definition and DVR

Connect to any TV • Record your favorite shows • IPTV Ready*
 *You must have internet at home to watch non-satellite channels

Please ask us about **INTERNET Channels**

Watch Available IPTV Channels via Internet

Complete satellite system only \$199
 Plus shipping

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

Two Room System \$349
 Plus shipping

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

Let's Pray!



Let's Pray!

LETSPRAY.HOPETV.ORG

WATCH FOR ONE HOUR ONCE A WEEK

- Rx FOR
- WAVERING FAITH
 - STRESSFUL TIMES
 - BROKEN HEARTS
 - FAILING HEALTH
 - _____

CALL INTO THE SHOW WITH YOUR
PRAYERS | STORIES | PRAISE
(877)7-LETSPRAY

WATCH
FRIDAYS
8:00 PM, EST



HopeChannel



Streaming at hopetv.org

Free-to-air television in some areas
(for list, see hopetv.org/local)

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

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

Learn more: (866) 721-CURF | columbiaunion.org/CURF



A few years ago CURF helped Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy realize its dream of building a new, state of the art 21st century educational facility.



With a CURF loan, Ohio Conference's Good Neighbor House purchased and renovated an 11,105-sq.-ft. facility in Dayton to provide health and human services to the community.

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

CURF

Helping Finance the Gospel Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church



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