

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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## Will You Trust Us?

Young adults discuss the generation gap, bridge-building ideas and why trusting the next generation is so hard

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#### Will You Trust Us?

*V. Michelle Bernard*

What's keeping the generations of the church apart? When will older generations empower young adults to lead? Are Millennials ready to commit? At the recent Rise Up Columbia Union Young Adult Summit, attendees tackled these and other questions.

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**About the Cover:** Brian Tagalog photographed Pieter Damsteegt, Lauren Lombard and Brian Cooper in Arlington, Va. at the Rise Up Columbia Union Young Adult Summit. **Above:** Kean Baxter, who lives in Washington, D.C., participates in the Young Adult Summit. View more photos at [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).

## ON THE WEB

### LIFE'S GREATEST VALUES

"Life's greatest value is people in relationships," says Rob Vandeman, as he blogs about Psalm 133 in the June installment of "Journey Through the Psalms" at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms). See if you don't agree!

### #YASUMMIT17 VIDEOS

Watch videos from the recent Rise Up Columbia Union Young Adult Summit, including interviews with young adult leaders like Praveen Singalla (pictured), breakout seminars and plenary sessions at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/yasummitvideos](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/yasummitvideos).



### GREENER GARDENING TIPS

Aaron Weber, director of vocational education at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., oversees the school's organic garden. Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/organicgardening](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/organicgardening) to read tips from Weber on how to grow a better garden this summer.



### VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING

Can't make it to a camp meeting this summer? Watch online. Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/2017camp-meeting](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/2017camp-meeting) for a list of all the Columbia Union Conference camp meeting livestreams.

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# VISITOR

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## What Will It Take?

Being a father to two girls is rewarding and challenging. There have been many conversations with my five-year-old (pictured) in which she would answer my questions with quick, short replies versus engaging in conversation. I would ask how her day went, about Spanish or soccer class, and the response would always be similar. At one point, I wondered if our conversations would always be as short as “No,” “Fine” and “Uh-huh.”



I tried negotiating with desserts or toys, but nothing worked. I soon became frustrated that I could not bridge the communication gap with her and feared that we might never enjoy meaningful conversations.

Then one day, remembering a simple suggestion I'd heard, I started putting notes in her lunch box with a joke of the day or message like, “Thinking of you, Love Daddy!”

She loved it and could hardly wait to tell me about the joke and how her day went.



## A SILENT DIVIDER

It has been an incredible experience to be part of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee and its Young Adult Subcommittee for the past six years. One of our biggest desires is to see young adults engaged in the life and mission of the church. In places where that is not happening, we must ask ourselves why.

I have often wondered if fear has been a silent divider among the generations in our church—

fear of stepping outside our comfort zone, of how others will react to our thoughts, of being labeled, considered an outcast or even shut down, etc. If so, what will it take for us to bridge the gap and build meaningful inter-generational relationships? That was a major part of the discussion at our union's young adult summit (see article, pp. 8-13).

As I reflect on my experience at this event—my last as a young adult—in the forefront of my mind is the fact that, one day, my two young daughters will become young adults. I pray they will be part of a church that embraces three simple concepts that unite us in extending the ministry of Christ: communication, community and contribution.

Proactively engaging in meaningful, nonjudgmental, honest conversation breaks down walls and creates a mutual sense of connection. Spending time together creates natural opportunities to build trust and resilience. Empowering and encouraging everyone to use their God-given talents adds value and makes it the kind of place people want to belong.

I realize that's not complicated; it just might require us to step outside our comfort zones and use a little creativity, much like I learned with my daughter.

*Timothy Ko is chief financial officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Kettering Physician Network in Kettering, Ohio.*

## Newsline



### MEMBERS SHARE HOPE AND COMPASSION

Pastor Shawn Paris and his daughter Julianne, members of Chesapeake Conference's Atholton church in Columbia, Md., distribute drinks to runners in the Columbia Half Marathon, as part of the North American Division's Day of Hope and Compassion.

### CHARLESTON GIRL STARTS SWIM CLASS

Kristiana Hoffman (pictured below), a 12-year-old from Charleston, W.Va., wants to be a missionary when she grows up. In January she started practicing.

After reading that 10 people die each day from drowning, Hoffman developed a plan to help teach children to swim while introducing them to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hoffman, a member of the Mountain View Conference's Charleston (W.Va.) church, started taking swimming lessons at age three, and recently hosted swim classes for the community at a local pool.



Hoffman applied for and received funding through the Columbia Union's Homeland Missions and the North American Division's "Give Them the Keys" programs to hold swim lessons. Many of the participating families are from the area impacted by the 2016 flooding, and probably wouldn't have the means to take lessons, says Laura Hoffman, Kristiana's mother.

Kristiana reports that 21 swimmers of varying levels have participated in the class. While she doesn't teach any biblical principles in the class, she hopes to start friendships and connect families to the church.

Read more about her ministry in Mountain View Conference's newsletter on page 22.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

### REACH EVANGELISM SCHOOL MOVES

At its March meeting, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted to move the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School—currently based in Philadelphia—

to Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Committee members believe the move to an academic setting is a natural fit that will provide access to the university's infrastructure and make it more cost-effective.

"The REACH program addresses all our priorities, especially in that it engages young adults in leadership, personal spiritual development, evangelism and the mission of the church," says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. "Our desire is to see that continue and grow in the university setting."—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

### COLUMBIA UNION ASI HOLDS CONFERENCE

The Columbia Union Conference's Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (CUASI) recently held their annual Missional Business Conference in Columbia, Md.

About 150 attendees from across the union gathered to share their ministry passions and gain knowledge to help in their businesses and ministries. Emanuel Pelote, CUASI president, says they chose the theme for the meeting, "Minding the Father's Business," because "the Bible is clear that included in following Christ, is a call to full-time ministry."

During the meetings, Pelote, a member of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Fourth Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., was re-elected as president.



*Emanuel Pelote, CUASI president, interviews Shaundelle and Christian Baker about Shaundelle's business.*

Members elected Mark Brown, a member of AEC's New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md., as general vice president. Brown will head a program teaching biblical entrepreneurship. Ruthven Philip, a member of AEC's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., is the new vice president for finance. Philip's team will offer financial health and management seminars to churches across the Union. The new vice president for evangelism is Subodh Pandit. He is a member of Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., and will focus on communicating the gospel to people who do not understand or accept the Christian worldview. Eduardo Gonzalez and Margaret Anderson, members of the Potomac Conference's Living Hope church in Haymarket, Va., are serving as vice presidents for communication. They will offer workshops on digital evangelism and communication for ministry and business in today's environment.—*Sylvia Garcia Urrutia*

**ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE RE-ELECTS LEADERS**

Delegates of the Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) constituency meeting recently met and re-elected

(pictured right, left to right) Marvin C. Brown as secretary; H. Candace Nurse as treasurer and William T. Cox Sr. as president. Read more in the AWC newsletter on page 17. —*Bryant Smith*

**CHESAPEAKE OFFICERS RE-ELECTED**

During the recent Chesapeake Conference Constituency meeting at Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., constituents voted to re-elect (pictured right, left to right) Jerry Lutz as executive secretary; Rick Remmers as president and Eduardo Muñoz as treasurer. Read more in the July/August Chesapeake Conference newsletter.—*Samantha Young*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES A CALL TO COMPASSION**

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee recently voted to issue "Immigration: A Call to Compassion."

In part it reads, "As members of the community, we must respect the law. As members of the church, we have the moral responsibility to care for the disadvantaged and denounce oppression, abuse and mistreatment in any form."

Leaders shared they are



regularly hearing stories of members being threatened with deportation and wanted to publicly voice their concern and support. An estimated 40,000 of the union's constituency are immigrants, and there are 283 immigrant churches in the union's territory.



Tim Madding (pictured above), a committee member and lead pastor of the Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church, said he saw the statement as a "call to minister. I see this as telling the members of the church to not be silent, to stand up with hearts of compassion and do something about it."

Read the statement at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/calltocompassion](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/calltocompassion).—*VMB*



**Columbia Union Visitor**

May 30 at 7:03 a.m.

Can't make it to Heidi Shoemaker's Clean Eating Lifestyle seminars at the Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting this summer? Visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/healthysummer](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/healthysummer) for some of her healthy, delicious recipes.



[COLUMBIAUNIONVISITOR.COM](http://COLUMBIAUNIONVISITOR.COM)

CHESAPEAKE PHOTO BY ANDRE HASTICK

## Noticias

### LA CONFERENCIA DE ALLEGHENY WEST ELIGE A SUS LÍDERES

Recientemente, los delegados de la junta de nombramiento de la Conferencia de Allegheny West (AWC) se reunieron y reeligieron a H. Candace Nurse como tesorero; William T. Cox Sr. como presidente y Marvin C. Brown como secretario. Lea más en el boletín de AWC en la página 17.—*Bryant Smith*



### REELIGEN A LOS OFICIALES DE LA CONFERENCIA DE CHESAPEAKE

Durante la reciente junta de nombramiento de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en la iglesia de Spencerville en Silver Spring, Md., los delegados votaron reelegir Eduardo Muñoz como tesorero; Rick Remmers como presidente y Jerry Lutz como secretario ejecutivo. Lee más en el boletín de Julio de la Conferencia de Chesapeake.—*Samantha Young*



### LA ESCUELA DE EVANGELISMO REACH SE MUDA

En su reunión de marzo, el Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de

Columbia votó mover la Escuela de Evangelismo de la Unión REACH—actualmente en Filadelfia— a la Universidad Adventista de Washington en Takoma Park, Md.

Los miembros del comité dijeron que creen que el traslado a un ambiente académico es un ajuste que proporcionará acceso a la infraestructura de la universidad y la hará más rentable.

“El programa REACH aborda todas nuestras prioridades, ya que involucra a jóvenes adultos en liderazgo, desarrollo espiritual, evangelismo y la misión de la iglesia”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*

### SE REÚNE ASI DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA

Los Servicios e Industrias de laicos Adventistas de la Unión de Columbia (CUASI) celebraron recientemente su encuentro anual de negocios misioneros.

Alrededor de 150 personas se reunieron para compartir sus pasiones ministeriales y obtener conocimiento que ayude a sus negocios y ministerios. Emanuel Pelote, presidente de CUASI, dice que eligen el lema de la reunión, “En los negocios de mi Padre”, porque “la Biblia es clara que seguir a Cristo incluye un llamado al ministerio de tiempo completo”.

Durante las reuniones, Pelote, miembro de la iglesia Fourth Street Friendship de la Conferencia de Allegheny East en Washington, D.C., fue reelegido como presidente. Los miembros eligieron a Mark Brown, miembro de la iglesia New Life de AEC en Gaithersburg, Md., como vicepresidente general. Ruthven Philip, miembro de la iglesia Emmanuel-Brinklow de AEC en Ashton, Md., es el nuevo vicepresidente de finanzas. El nuevo vicepresidente de evangelismo es Subodh Pandit. Él es miembro de la iglesia Southern Asian de la Conferencia de Potomac en Silver Spring, Md. Eduardo Gonzalez y Margaret Anderson, miembros de la iglesia Living Hope



*Ruthven Phillip, vicepresidente de finanzas de CUASI, habla con Jeff Tatarchuk, fundador de Fruition Lab, en el encuentro CUASI.*

de la Conferencia de Potomac en Haymarket, Virginia, sirven como vicepresidentes de comunicación.—*Sylvia Garcia Urrutia*

### MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ EJECUTIVO DE LA UNIÓN VOTAN DECLARACIÓN ACERCA DE INMIGRANTES

Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia recientemente votaron publicar “Inmigración: Un Llamado a la Compasión” ([columbiaunionvisitor.com/llamadoalacompasión](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/llamadoalacompasión)).

Los líderes compartieron que están escuchando historias de miembros con amenazas de deportación y que querían expresar públicamente su preocupación y apoyo.

“Creo que la declaración es muy equilibrada al evitar el lado político del asunto”, dice David Dildy (foto de abajo), miembro del comité que representa a la Conferencia de Potomac.—*V. Michelle Bernard*



CHESAPEAKE FOTO POR ANDRE HASTICK

## Cumbre de Jóvenes adultos de la Unión

Más allá de las diferencias de comunicación, diferentes generaciones operan de diversas maneras. “De una generación a otra, siempre ha sido difícil”, dice Armando Miranda, Jr. (foto de la derecha), director asociado de Jóvenes para la División Norteamericana de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día y presentador en el encuentro de jóvenes adultos “Rise Up” de la Unión de Columbia. “Debemos tener cuidado de no poner toda esa tradición, lenguaje y cultura delante del mensaje del Evangelio. Tenemos que presentar de una manera en que nuestros jóvenes puedan entender a Dios”, agregó.

Durante el encuentro, el primer de su tipo en la unión, del 31 de marzo al 2 de abril en el Crystal City Hilton de Arlington, Virginia, más de 300 participantes de la Unión de Columbia, incluyendo Miranda, discutieron maneras de salvar las brechas de comunicación y generación entre Jóvenes adultos y líderes mayores de la iglesia que pueden resultar en que los jóvenes adultos no participen en la iglesia.



iglesia Milton de la Conferencia de Pensilvania. La presentadora enfatizó mirar las fortalezas de las diferentes generaciones, luego usar esas fortalezas para construir una iglesia más fuerte, agregó.

En ese seminario, Marquis Johns, pastor de la iglesia North Philadelphia de la conferencia de Allegheny East, compartió, “hemos aislado a los Millennials como si fueran el problema y alcanzarlos es un problema que necesita ser solucionado. ... Debemos enfocarnos en enseñar los puntos comunes y el lenguaje para ayudarles a comunicarse unos con otros para que nuestra organización e iglesias sean saludables”.

Los organizadores, los presentadores y Steve Case, orador principal, hicieron preguntas conmovedoras, como “¿Necesitas a la iglesia o la iglesia te necesita a ti?”, hablaron abiertamente sobre las diferencias y barreras generacionales, compartieron estrategias para incentivar a los jóvenes adultos para que se involucren en el ministerio y los animarlos a encontrar una manera de participar ahora en el ministerio de la iglesia.

“Necesitamos jóvenes adultos ahora”, dice Frank Bondurant,

vicepresidente de Desarrollo de Ministerios en la Unión de Columbia y organizador del evento. “A veces los jóvenes adultos tienen esta sensación de que la iglesia quiere que esperen, que no están listos. El mensaje que estamos enviando fuerte y claro a los jóvenes adultos en esta cumbre es ‘Necesitamos que seas la iglesia, que seas el liderazgo hoy y ahora.’”.

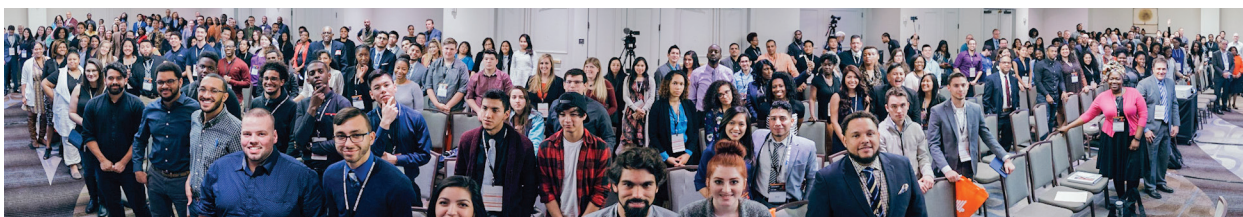
Las reuniones “nos enseñaron a salir de nuestras zonas de confort”, dijo Rob Collado, miembro de la iglesia Paterson Temple de la conferencia de New Jersey, quien asistió a un taller sobre el ministerio dentro de la estructura organizacional. “Necesitamos ser los catalizadores del cambio que queremos en nuestras comunidades”, agregó.—VMB



Rob Collado, miembro de la iglesia Paterson Temple de la conferencia de New Jersey; Juliana Baioni, miembro de la iglesia de Spencerville de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Silver Spring, Maryland, y Maxwell Browne, miembro de la iglesia de West Philadelphia de la conferencia de Allegheny East, presentan su plan de ministerio durante una de las reuniones.



“Realmente disfruté del seminario de sinergias generacionales”, dijo Brittany Crawford (photo de arriba), miembro de la



*Will You*  
**Trust Us?**





## At the Rise Up Summit, young adults discussed the generation gap, bridge-building ideas and why trusting the next generation is so hard

V. Michelle Bernard



Sabrina Segovia, Katherine Britton and Henry Guerra, members of Potomac Conference's Arise church in Silver Spring, Md., participate in a breakout session.

For many years Vanesha Tuyu (pictured right, on right) couldn't totally understand the sermons and service at her church. Tuyu and many of the other young adults, youth and children don't speak Indonesian like their parents. For some youth born in the United States, the language barrier has had an effect, "and we weren't paying attention," she says.



Stenly Gonie, an elder at New Jersey Conference's Indonesian Pioneer church in Plainfield, took notice and worked with the church board and youth to start an afternoon service in English. The new service, Cornerstone Ministry, follows a similar format to the morning service, but is conducted in English and caters to young adults, says Tuyu.

The added service helped younger, English-speaking members of the church, like Evangeline Gonie (pictured above, on left), 9, connect with God in their native language and in a manner in which they can relate. "[The English service] helped me get to know Jesus better and let me understand more," says Evangeline.

Beyond the communication differences, each generation operates differently. "From one generation to another, it has always been difficult," says Armando Miranda, Jr., associate director of Youth Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and a presenter at the Rise Up Columbia Union Young Adult Summit, held March 31–April 2 in Arlington, Va. "We need to be careful not to put all that tradition, language and culture before the message of the gospel. We need to present in a way in which our young people can understand God," he adds.

A. Allan Martin, the teaching pastor at the Younger Generation church in Arlington, Texas, who researches young adults and generational issues in the church, adds that there are many societal and cultural differences that come with being a Millennial—the largest generation in the history of the world—and emerging into prominence in the 21st Century.

"In contrast to the hierarchical organizational structures of previous generations, today's young adults live in a world of flattened organizational structures where leaders are as accessible as a tweet or a text. Millennials [born between 1980 and 2000] interact with world leaders, CEOs and cultural icons instantaneously and interactively. With a new valuing and importance to the voice/opinion of every person, young adults expect the same of the church."



Above: Steve Case, director of Involve Youth and the keynote speaker for the Rise Up Columbia Union Young Adult Summit, encourages young adults to become engaged in their local churches now.

Below: Yuly Barrios, a member of Potomac Conference's Centerville (Va.) Spanish church and Larry Boggess, Mountain View Conference president, participate in a young adult summit activity.

Bottom: Ro Sang Puia, Chesapeake Conference's youth pastor for the Eastern Shore, and Kevin Jimenez, a member of Pennsylvania Conference's Kennett Square (Pa.) Hispanic Company, enjoy a summit activity.



He continues, "This difference in today's culture shapes their expectations of the Adventist Church organization. More than 'wanting' to be part of the conversations important to the church, these next generations 'expect' to be part of the conversations if indeed young adults are as important to the church as is so often heralded."

### CONFLICT OF THE AGES

Generational differences, not surprisingly, can be a point of contention between various age groups in the church. Studies commissioned in 2011 by the General Conference found that 62.55 percent of people who leave the church exit during their young adult years.

Pete Maldonado, pastor of Pennsylvania Conference's Hamden Heights church in Temple, says that young adults are busy beginning careers, getting jobs, "looking at life not as something they need to do, but if they want to do it, they'll do it. ... There are too many things out there that have their undivided attention. If they want to know something, they'll Google it. If they feel this is what they want to believe in now, they do. If they don't develop relationships within the church, they aren't coming back."

Kris Eckenroth, lead pastor of Pennsylvania Conference's Grace Outlet in Reading, recalls talking with a fellow Seventh-day Adventist friend, and in a short time, they named 300 friends who grew up in the church and were no longer attending. "I think there is a lack of relevance [for young adults]," he says, adding that at many churches there is no relationship between what we're putting forward and what younger members are going through. ... The other part is that they are finding more meaningful relationships outside than in the church [where many feel there] is no real community."



## 5 Steps for Bridging Generational Gaps

*Marquis Johns (above), senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's North Philadelphia church, shares these steps for bridging the gaps between the various age cohorts.*

Praveen Singalla, one of the Rise Up planners, a workshop presenter and a young adult member of Chesapeake Conference's Atholton (Md.) church, agrees that relevance is an issue to young adults. "The [church's] focus has always been around Revelation and Daniel, but never could connect to real world problems of how to stay abreast of evolving issues and maintain one's character amid the crazy world out there."

Jessica Manantan, a member of Mountain View Conference's Grafton (W.Va.) church, says her congregation is very loving and accepting, and has observed older adults try to be supportive of young adults, but then don't trust the young adults when they want to do something or lead out. She hopes that leaders will grow in trust and "know that young adults aren't going to do crazy stuff and to know that we're grounded and our relationships with God are there. Even if we change things up, it isn't going to be something that's not spiritual."

Similarly frustrated, older members are sometimes confused as to how to reach young adults.

Steve Case, Rise Up keynote speaker, has been involved in youth ministry for more than 20 years. He's observed that church leaders want stability and have a hard time investing in and involving young adults because they are more transient than previous generations and want to keep their options open, as opposed to committing to a church or ministry for years, like previous generations. "It is really difficult for a church to plan with young adults who don't know what they're going to be doing [this weekend] or if they will even show up," he adds.

"But just because young adults might not be into [a certain church] doesn't mean they aren't into God," says Case. "Leaders need to think broader than just isolating young adults, [and need to extend] a purposeful, ongoing invitation for them to participate."

He adds, older members need to accept that young adults will be unpredictable. "It is like two sides of the coin: Adults are boring, but you can count on them. You can have security in knowing that. ...

### **Acknowledge**

Talk about generational differences.

### **Appreciate**

Focus on the "why," not on the "what," and the common needs.

### **Adjust**

Agree on how to communicate different approaches.

### **Advantage**

Maximize the strengths of each generation.

### **Assert**

Determine which option will yield the best results when "flexing" isn't enough.



Left: Frank Bondurant, one of the summit organizers, talks with a young adult.

Stacey Crawford and Blissa Letang, members of Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Ethnan Temple in Pittsburgh, and Areesha Hunter, a member of AWC's Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, strike a pose at the summit photo booth.



But with young adults, you get unpredictability. The other side to that is their liveliness. ... You have to appreciate the differences. The body of Christ is more than just one age group." Similarly, while young adults like to be together, he says they also need to realize there is a bigger body.

### WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

During the Rise Up Summit—the first of its kind in the union—more than 300 participants from the Columbia Union, including Tuyu, Gonie, Singalla, Manantan, Miranda, Case, Maldonado and other attendees, discussed ways to bridge communication and generation gaps between young adults and older church leadership and empower young adults to get involved.

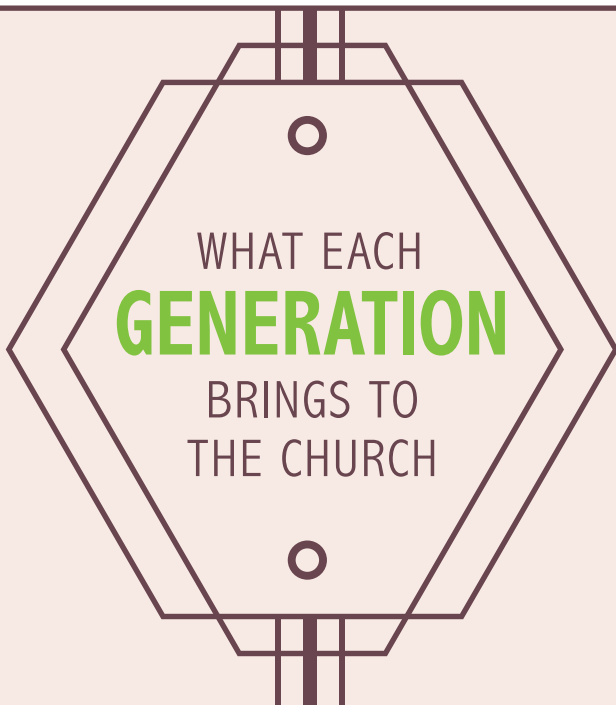
In his seminar, Marquis Johns, senior pastor at Allegheny East Conference's North Philadelphia church, shared, "We have isolated Millennials as though they are the problem, and reaching them is a problem that needs to be solved. ... We must focus on teaching commonalities and language to help them communicate with one another so that our organization and churches are healthy."

He recalls attending a church board meeting several years ago when he was 40 and the youngest person in the room. "If we want to reach, reclaim and retain anybody, that demographic has to be part of the conversation. I believe it is important for more young people who aren't my age to be part of the conversation."

Johns believes acknowledging, appreciating and taking advantage of the differences between youth and older generations will lead to a healthier, growing and attractive church.

One of the ways that young adults can really strengthen the church is with their social media and technology skills, says David Nazaire, a young adult member of the New Jersey Conference's Hackettstown church.

"The church has a tendency to be late on trends. We have youth who have access to hundreds and thousands of people in their pockets, and social media platforms that can be used correctly to grow the church's reach," he says. "I really want leaders to think and consider the importance of social media and the power youth have. There is so much more than live-streaming the Sabbath service or



## BUILDERS

*Born 1929 – 1945*

Builders are willing to adapt ideas and new work methods for a sound reason. They bring years of wisdom that can contribute to church growth and energy and enthusiasm about their churches. They want to leave a legacy and be part of a church that will respect their experience and include them in planning for the future.

## BABY BOOMERS

*Born 1946 – 1964*

Baby Boomers organized and led a civil rights movement, protected the country in times of war and built on the infrastructure their parents started. Boomers didn't like their predecessors "bossiness" either, and rebelled socially and politically in their youth. Therefore, their "word to the wise" is advice, not an order. They bring skills and experience to their churches and can fill emeritus positions to mentor and teach others.

special events on the church website or relying on TV and radio to push the Three Angels' Messages. ... If we do not pay attention and change with it, we will also fall behind. The youth, and adults too, hold the keys in their pockets."

Young adults also need to learn how things work in the church. Rianna Herbolingo, a young adult member at New Jersey Conference's Jersey City Filipino church, recalls when she, as a new member, independently planned a mission trip to the Philippines. She was excited to minister, but was surprised when the local church didn't welcome her group's help. "We were discouraged. We were so driven to work for God," she says. She later realized that by working within the church structure and logistics, the local church wouldn't have had to guess about their intentions, and together, they could accomplish more.

In his summit breakout session, Miranda shared that the church structure is there to protect the body of Christ from ministries that are untested. "At the same time, I see that the mission doesn't stop because the church says no. The church still has to learn a few things about flexibility. We must understand that culture is not more important than the gospel."

### EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULTS NOW

Columbia Union Conference leaders organized the Rise Up Summit to inspire and empower young adults to serve. Young adult members of the union's executive committee birthed the idea and planned the event, hoping it would be a springboard to furthering young adult involvement.

The meetings "taught us to get out of our comfort zones," says Rob Collado, a member of New Jersey Conference's Paterson Temple, who attended a workshop on ministry within the organizational structure. "We need to be the catalysts of change we want to see in our communities," he adds.

Frank Bondurant, the union's vice president for Ministries Development, and one of the event organizers, says, "Sometimes young adults get this feeling that the church expects them to wait, that they aren't ready. The message we're sending loud and clear to young adults at this summit is, this is your church. We want you to live missionary lives and be leaders in your church today and now."



Above: Victor Dourado Cabido, who attends Potomac Conference's Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md., leads the Sabbath morning worship service during the young adult summit.

Steve Case encouraged summit attendees like Washington Adventist University student Margaret Galvez (pictured) to taste and see that the Lord is good. Download Case's activities at [involveyouth.org](http://involveyouth.org).



PHOTOS BY GRANT BONDURANT, JOKSAN CEDILLO AND BRIAN TAGALOG

## GENERATION X

*Born 1965 – 1979*

Loyalty is a two-way street for Generation X. If the church is loyal to them, they will be loyal in return, but cautiously. They will follow-through, but on their own terms; they don't need or want to be micro-managed.

They want to see that their church is ethical, that it cares about members, to understand how the church meets its mission and vision, to be involved and to have direct communication.

## MILLENNIALS

*Born 1980 – 2000*


Millennials aren't the first generation to be impatient, but are the first cohort bold enough to show it. They have unique experiences and ways of looking at things to share in the church. They're also yearning to learn as much as they can and apply it immediately. They want the opportunity to contribute to church activities right away as well as clearly defined tasks and freedom to complete those tasks in a manner they deem best.

## GENERATION Z

*Born 2001 – Today*

Four million of the 24.5 million members of Generation Z already have their own cell phones. Many experience KGOY, the kids growing older younger phenomenon. These are the Adventurers and Pathfinders of today. Time will tell how their generation further strengthens our church with their unique talents.

*Source: Pastor Marquis Johns and [marketingteacher.com](http://marketingteacher.com).*



and the **power**  
of the Lord was with him  
**TO HEAL.**  
Luke 5:17

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## Shiloh Hosts First Disabilities Ministries Day

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently held its first Disabilities Ministries Day at the Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va. Deborah Whitfield, the North American Division’s Disabilities Ministries coordinator and Shiloh member, designed the event to recognize and honor people with disabilities, and their caregivers.

The church celebrated many individuals, including Celia Yette, who has no arms, but types on a computer, drives a car with her feet and works for the Virginia Employment Commission. Yette says, “God is to be honored, because it is through Him, and Him alone, that I am able to do what I do.”

Event organizers also honored Wilma Turner, a caregiver to a Shiloh member who has Alzheimer’s disease. Turner not only brings her client to prayer meetings, but also participates in the service. Other honorees included Darlene Wilson, John Scott, John Brown and Shiloh’s parking lot security team.

Speaker Gene Donaldson, pastor of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., delivered the message. Using the story of blind Bartimaeus, he shared the vision of what God has for not only disabled individuals, but for all individuals.

During the evening program, Naveda Evans, from the Westminster Presbyterian church, gave her testimony about how her legs gave out one day. It was



Colin Brathwaite, AEC Disabilities Ministries director, and Deborah Whitfield, NAD Disabilities Ministries coordinator, recognize honorees.

later determined that she had several tumors in her spine. Recent technology has allowed her to be one of the first patients statewide to use robotic assistance to walk.

“They know what it means to walk by faith and not by sight. These individuals are truly overcoming by the blood of the Lamb,” says Whitfield.

## Oranges Youth Produce Second Play



PHOTO BY WAYNE GREAVES

Church of the Oranges’ praise team, conducted by Rachael Groce, leads out in worship.

The Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., recently hosted their second annual play, “Journey to Freedom,” in an effort to teach their congregation and community about black history.

The production covered a slave’s journey through the eyes of a single mother of four who traveled through a tumultuous river from Mid-America to Canada in search of freedom. A trio sang the Negro spiritual “Hold On,” and a praise team led the worship session.

Many church youth and young adults volunteered in the extensive production as actors, singers, builders and stagehands. “Doing these productions really builds a sense of community within the church because so many different parties are involved,” says Director Charnelle Bain. “Creating and being creative is our way of sharing the blessings that the Lord has given us.”

To view “Journey to Freedom,” go to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges YouTube channel.

**NEWS**

**Bethany Member Elected President of N.J. League of Municipalities**

Albert Kelly, a member of Bethany church in Bridgeton, N.J., and the mayor of Bridgeton, was recently elected president of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, which includes 565 statewide.

“My goal as president is to represent collective constituents of the league and to be the public voice for the concerns of the membership,” says Kelly. He plans to prioritize youth employment, reducing hunger, affordable housing reform and improving health.



His love for community involvement began in 1986 after he was

baptized into the Mount Sinai church in Trenton, NJ. “It was then that I understood that my purpose in life was to do as much as I can, while I can,” states Kelly.

Kelly was elected mayor of Bridgeton in 2010 and re-elected in 2014.

**Dupont Park School Starts Mime Ministry**

One recent Wednesday, the seventh-grade class members of the Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C., decided that they wanted another way to express themselves spiritually. By that Friday, they debuted their nine-member mime group, Unspoken Praise.

Dorian Donovan, mime group member, explains, “When you say ‘spreading the gospel,’ you think of speaking. However, we have chosen to spread the Word of God without words, but with Christ-inspired actions.”

Unspoken Praise, sponsored by Francis Foote, the fifth- to eighth-grade English teacher, guides the students to meld drama, body movement, sign language and gestures. The group prays before choosing each song they want to mime, each rehearsal and each performance. “I ask the Lord each time we mime to fill us with the Holy Spirit. This ministry has also allowed me to become closer to God,” shares Robert Holloway, group member.

Since their inception in March, the demand for the group has been great. They have performed at numerous churches and programs, including the recent Columbia Union Adventist-laymen’s Services and



*Unspoken Praise, the mime group from Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C., ministers at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va.*

Industries conference in Columbia, Md. “People get to see the love we have for each other and for Christ in our expressions,” says group member Oshea Bego.

**Notable Achievements in Allegheny East History**

The Allegheny East Conference has had numerous camp meetings since its inception. Below is a list of some of the past camp meeting themes:



- 1985:** “By His Spirit”
- 1988:** “Christ and His Righteousness—Our Only Hope”
- 1990:** “Celebrating Harvest 90 with a Christ-Centered Life”
- 1995:** “Christ and the Ministry of Health, Healing and Happiness”
- 1998:** “Conforming to His Image”
- 2000:** “Divine Healing: What Will It Take for You to Believe?”
- 2004:** “The Joy of Worship and Praise”
- 2009:** “The Totally-Focused Church”
- 2012:** “Let It Rain”
- 2017:** “Standing on the Promises”

*Check out our camp meeting flashback sermon series at the bottom of our homepage at [visitaec.org](http://visitaec.org).*



## Constituency Delegates Re-elect Conference Leadership

During Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) recent 17th constituency session held in Columbus, Ohio, more than 300 delegates from Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Virginia re-elected President William T. Cox Sr., Secretary Marvin C. Brown and Treasurer H. Candace Nurse to lead the conference during the 2017-2021 term.

The session, themed "Plus Ultra," emphasized the need to look forward to what they, as a conference, can do for God. Cox stated, "We cannot be satisfied with what we have already accomplished; we need to also look toward what we can accomplish in the future."

Cox thanked each delegate for their time and leadership, and mentioned how blessed he was to have formed a bond with his team. "We have a high level of 'Ministry Beyond the Walls' taking place throughout the conference," says Cox, mentioning the conference's theme and guiding principle over the last four years. Delegates also watched video presentations that displayed ministry initiatives reaching the community in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Virginia churches.

During the event, delegates elected Jason Ridley, pastor of the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, as youth director of the conference. "I am thankful and appreciative to be able to serve the great constituents of the Allegheny West Conference in this position. I look forward to helping a generation of our youth to be ready for the soon coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," says Ridley.



Delegates elected Jason Ridley, pastor of the Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, as the new youth director of the conference.



Treasurer H. Candace Nurse, LaTanya Cox, President William T. Cox Sr., Grace Brown, Secretary Marvin C. Brown and Columbia Union Conference President Dave Weigley celebrate the AWC leadership re-election.

Other departmental directors elected or re-elected include: Children's Ministries, Laura Romero; Church Planting and Multicultural Ministries, Sergio Romero; Communication, Bryant Smith; Community Services, Jerome Hurst; Family Ministries, Lloydston Burton; Health Ministries, Isaiah Rolle; Ministerial Secretary, William Joseph; Stewardship, Jack McCrary; Women's Ministries, Shirley Benton; Young Adult Ministries, Chardé Hollins; Social Media, Carla Boston; Publishing Work, Eugene Anthony; Religious Liberty, Danny Milton. Education was referred to the Executive Committee.

The delegates also confirmed five new congregations: Central Hispanic Columbus church; Columbus Brazilian church; Latina church in Columbus; Monatio Devida of Columbus; and Aburan church in Cincinnati.

Among the delegates, three regional conference presidents attended: Bill Winston, South Atlantic Conference; Calvin Watkins, Southwest Region Conference; and Roger Bernard, Central States Conference. James Lewis, former Allegheny West Conference president also came to show support.

AWC continues to expand numerically each year in membership and tithe, with a 2.5 percent increase in tithe and a 26 percent membership increase over the last four years. The conference includes members from 74 countries.



## Ephesus Church Reaches Out to Area Code 614

The Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, recently celebrated Outreach 614, a community service day intended to meet the needs of people living in the Columbus 614 area code.

According to Noah Washington, lead pastor, Columbus is ranked fifth in the nation in total reported human trafficking cases. The Ephesus church has partnered with a drop-in center to get women off the streets. During Outreach 614, church members collected and sorted toiletry items for distribution and prayed with women at the center.

Washington also says the 614 area code has one of the highest rates of African-American infant mortality in Ohio from mothers who are aged 16-25. Church members handmade more than 60 blankets and plan to hold baby blessings for the community in the future.

Another group of members helped more than 100 customers wash, dry and pay for services at two area laundry mats. A different team led a prayer walk and distributed literature in a 614 neighborhood. Yet another group held a “drive-by” prayer request ministry, using encouraging posters that read “Honk if you love Jesus” and “We can take your prayer requests.”



Ephesus church members Mater Alexander and Marcia Sackie make baby blessing blankets for the Columbus community.

Washington says, “We do this because there is no way you can be a Christian and not bless people. We go out and try and serve at least once a quarter because church is not a building, it’s people.”

## Young Adult Ministries to Host Fifth Annual Retreat

Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) Young Adult Ministries (YAM) is hosting their fifth annual retreat, August 11-13, at the AWC campground in Thornville, Ohio. This retreat is designed to target AWC constituents. However, in previous retreats, young adults outside the conference, including Maryland, Atlanta and Canada, have attended. The same result is expected this year.



A combined praise team from around the conference leads song service at a previous AWC YAM retreat.

Each year YAM selects a theme for the retreat. They have been “Driven” (2013) to move “Forward” (2014) as “Heart Feeders” (2015) for Christ and “Determined” (2016) to be prepared and to prepare others for “The Comeback” (2017).

YAM is taking the initiative this year to intentionally invite young adults who have left the church to “come back” to God and the church. YAM will also pay for the targeted audience’s expenses.

Last year six young adults were baptized at the YAM retreat. Prayer warriors have already begun praying over this year’s event.

“The retreat will be about internal evangelism,” says Chardé Hollins, AWC YAM director. “In the parable of the lost sheep, the Shepherd didn’t go out and buy a new one. ... He simply stopped what he was doing and intentionally sought after his own that was lost. This season [we] are making an intentional effort to stop, seek, engage and retain those whom we have lost.”

To register, visit AWC’s Young Adult Ministries Facebook page, email [awcyam@gmail.com](mailto:awcyam@gmail.com) or visit [awcyam.eventbrite.com](http://awcyam.eventbrite.com).

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

## Why Go to Church?

We live in a fast-paced digital age. News is distilled into soundbites. Thirty-second commercials leave us feeling that a two-minute video is long. We expect our internet service to be max speed. We grow impatient even as our microwave ovens quickly warm up our food. Electronic devices are all around us—we use them for work, play, learning, relaxation, communication, relationships and even worship.

What is the impact of all of this on our church-going experience? The Gallup organization recently released the results of a poll citing the reasons people say they attend church or other places of worship. The number one reason—a major factor for 76 percent of respondents—was “sermons or talks that teach you more about Scripture.”

The second reason was similar. “Sermons or lectures that help you connect religion to your own life.” Programming for children, volunteering, social activities and music were also listed, but they all placed behind preaching.

Preaching from the Word of God still feeds our souls. It has not lost its power. It still comforts the grieving, convicts the sinner, strengthens the weary and gives hope to the discouraged. Scripture was written long ago. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14, NKJV).

Why do you go to church? There may be many good reasons, but it is my hope that you are fed by the preaching of Scripture so you can better know and follow Jesus.



**Rick Remmers**  
President

## 160 Leaders Focus on Strategies for Church Growth

More than 160 church elders and area pastors recently gathered at the Ellicott City (Md.) church (formerly Baltimore First) for “Partners in Leadership,” the first segment of “Restore,” a church-growth

initiative. Eli Rojas, Chesapeake Conference Ministerial director, shared a presentation on “How to Lead a Spirit-Filled, Growing Church.”

The workshop emphasized the key role elders hold in the church to support the pastor and shepherd the church members; reviewed the responsibilities of elders; and offered tips and resources for making the most of an elder’s ministry.

The conference continued the next day with a full Sabbath of worship, fellowship and learning. Attendees heard the story of the Ellicott City church and its two-year journey from a dwindling attendance of 75 to a thriving, active congregation of 290. Bill McClendon, senior pastor, presented a seminar that underscored the need for being intentional about making evangelism the core of every church program and activity. Breakout seminars focused on hospitality, children’s programming and worship.

“The weekend was full of practical advice we can use, not just theoretical information,” says Oleta Emerson, a member of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church.—Sharon Dalton Williams

PHOTO BY DAVID CARR



*Bill McClendon, senior pastor of the Ellicott City church, presents a seminar titled “The Not-So-Secret Sauce of a Thriving Church,” that gave insight for growing a vibrant congregation.*

## THE CHALLENGE

### Living Word's EMBRACE Ministry Aids Homeless

Susan Newman, a member of the Living Word church in Glen Burnie, Md., sought a new way for her congregation to help the homeless population in the community, and, as a result, founded EMBRACE Street Smart Ministry. She spent a year volunteering with a group that takes hot soup to homeless populated areas in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Then, during the summer of 2016, she took her newfound knowledge and experience and applied it in Brooklyn, an area south of Baltimore, and Glen Burnie.

Fellow church members Denzel Warren (a Baltimore City police officer), Kimberly Pierson, Mariana White, Melanie Herrera (a social worker) and Odwayne Dillon

have joined as key leaders in this ministry effort. There are some 100 homeless persons living in tents in a wooded area of Brooklyn. The group assesses the needs of the homeless individuals and provides items donated by the Living Word congregation such as new underwear, deodorant and ramen noodle cups.

Newman and Herrera recently helped Danielle, a homeless woman who was living in the woods by a Wal-Mart, find permanent housing. It seemed like Danielle had a lot of things in place but just couldn't seem to make them all come together. Newman enlisted the help of Herrera, who used her network as a social worker to find Danielle a place to live.

On a recent Sabbath, 12 volunteers met to organize teams and coordinate outings and drivers for the ongoing ministry projects. A young Brooklyn man who had been taking Bible studies with a Living Word church member offered the use of his truck to transport supplies in the future. The ministry has engaged new church members—one who was baptized as a result of evangelistic meetings held last fall—and has given longtime members an exciting new purpose.

"I feel like this ministry is so much bigger than helping the homeless," says Newman, a high school special education teacher. She says the family of one of her public-school students have become involved in helping, too. "[The ministry] is a witness to other people, and we can see the ripple [effect]."



Odwyane Dillon, Susan Newman, Kimberly Pierson and Mariana White organize donated items for the EMBRACE Street Smart Ministry.

### Church Plant Aims to Reach Delaware Millennials

The Life in Christ church plant in Bear, Del., recently formalized their 50-member group with an inaugural Sabbath celebration that drew supporters from the nearby West Wilmington church (their sponsoring congregation), and the Elkton, Md.-based Providence church. More than 150 people witnessed this special event.

West Wilmington members began talking about a church plant in 2014. With support from Providence congregants, they began a small group the following year targeting the unchurched Millennial population in Bear, Del.

*Alan Morris, lay leader of the Bear, Del., church plant, and his wife, Valerie, welcome attendees to the inaugural worship service.*

"I am grateful for how God is blessing with the church plant," says Elvis Mogoi, West Wilmington senior pastor.



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# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Mission Offering a Valuable Tool to Enhance Ministries

I would like to take a moment to share with the Mountain View Conference members and friends the ongoing need for contributions to the Mountain View Mission offering. Many conference-wide ministries rely heavily upon this offering: Evangelism; Hispanic Ministries; Pathfinders; Youth Ministries; Summer Camp; Valley Vista; Camp Meetings; Adventist Education; and so on. Below is an example of a ministry Mountain View Mission, in part, funded. I would like to encourage our members to set aside one dollar per day as they plan their giving, so that adequate funds are available to continue conference-wide ministries. Thank you so much for your faithfulness to God, both in the past and as we head into the future.



**Victor Zill**  
*Treasurer*

## Highland School Students Career-Shadow Future

The students at Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently participated in a unique two-week, career-shadowing and orientation program. Students learned about résumé writing, job interviewing and other important employment skills. After identifying a career that interested them, the students were assigned to a variety of area host businesses and services, including health care facilities, pet care, retail stores, local non-profit organizations, auto dealerships



and government services. The students worked for one to two weeks in their host business and experienced many aspects of the careers.

Junior Lori Pendergast (pictured) washed pets at K-9 Cuts in Montrose, W.Va. “The job shadowing helped me discover what I want to do when I graduate. I loved it, and I am seriously considering doing dog grooming when I finish school. I had a great mentor, and I enjoyed all the animals that came in.”

Senior Joseph Harris worked in the lab of a sewage treatment facility in Elkins. “Going into this program, I was unsure of what I wanted to do after graduation. After working two weeks at the Elkins Waste Water Treatment, I learned how important wastewater treatment operators are to our community. I got to experience working with a great team of people who took the time to teach me things that cannot be learned in a classroom. After this opportunity, I have decided to pursue a career in wastewater treatment.”

Principal Cheryl Jacko states, “An important goal of our school program is to help our students discover their interests and skills that will lead them into meaningful life work. We also want to prepare our students to be part of a skilled, professional, local workforce. This shadowing experience was a great help in meeting those goals.”

Highland Adventist School provides innovative, Christian education for students in grades Pre-K through 12. For more information, visit the school website at [highlandadventistschool.org](http://highlandadventistschool.org).

## Charleston Girl Shares Jesus Through Swimming

**M**y name is Kristiana Hoffman, I am 12 years old, and I am a member of the Charleston (W.Va.) church. I am a former member of the Huntington Youth Charleston Aquatic Team (HYCAT). One day as I flipped through a swim magazine, I read that in the U.S., 10 people die from drowning each day, and swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by nearly 90 percent.

A couple weeks later, Joel Stecker, Pathfinder director for the Mountain View Conference, informed me of a ministry opportunity. For youth who had a unique ministry idea, the Columbia Union Conference's Homeland Missions and the North American Division's "Give Them the Keys" programs were offering a grant to fund their projects. I took the challenge, applied and got accepted!

I started my swim classes in January at the South Charleston Community Center and have already conducted five sessions for children and adults. My class consists of church families and their friends and relatives. Peruvian missionaries who are planting a church in Charleston have invited others too.

After each child has a swimming lesson with me, I engage them in activities such as finding pennies at the bottom of the pool and playing catch with the splash ball. When the children get cold or tired, I give



them a healthy snack.

I enjoy teaching the swim class. I don't think that the children will necessarily get to know Jesus by swimming, but I am inviting them to Pathfinders and/or Adventurers. One mother has already asked me how her 5-year-old can join Pathfinders! I want to be a missionary when I grow up, so this experience is helping me start early. I know that this is a unique opportunity that God has given me to use my talents. I hope that my story inspires other kids to use the talents that God has given them to serve Him.—*Kristiana Hoffman*

## Conference Holds Prayer Convocation



*Ruthie Jacobsen and her retired pastor-husband, Don (not pictured), prayer coordinators for the North American Division, lead a recent convocation, held in Bridgeport, Va., with scripture, song and prayer.*



*Clockwise: Ron Patterson, pastor of the Lewisburg (English) church, Marlinton church and Rainelle church district in West Virginia, and his wife, Sue, along with Jim Buchanan, pastor of the Cumberland and Frostburg churches in Maryland, pray with Tony Frazier, who is taking Bible studies with Buchanan.*

### There is Hope for All

Everyone, at some point in life, has been guilty. Whether you're guilty or innocent, in prison or occupying a high government seat, it makes no difference to God. You are a human being, and that is what is most valuable to Him. Your intrinsic value does not depend on where you are; it does not depend on the circumstances surrounding you; and it certainly does not depend on the people in power who may have control over certain aspects of your life. They might govern you temporarily, but they do not have the power to define you. Above every other consideration, you are a son or daughter of God. Your Creator has assigned you a value that corresponds only to the work of His hands. As the prophet Isaiah said: "But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You are our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand" (Isa. 64:8, NKJV).

If you feel diminished by the weight of your mistakes; if a sense of guilt drags you into the abyss, please understand that there is an outside force ready to come to your rescue. A heavenly power is waiting for you to stretch out your hand to take His already reaching hand. He can lift you out of the hole and make you great.

God loves people who are honest and good, but He also cares very much for those who have done wrong. The devil destroys the image of God in His creatures, but Jesus restores the lost image of God in every human being willing to accept Him.



**José H. Cortés**  
President

### 11 Baptized at Toms River Church

Eleven individuals were recently baptized at the Toms River (N.J.) church. Baptismal candidate Debbie Burke shared that after retiring from teaching, she longed to find a church that held biblical truth. She had been disappointed with many churches in the past, but she was convinced that God would lead her. She and her husband, Barry, found what they were looking for in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Karen Davenport and her brother Gene Jackson also got baptized. "They, with their families, were thirsty for the truth. They learned that the true Sabbath is the seventh day of the week ... and they were resolved to find the church that keeps the true Sabbath," recalls Eduardo Monteiro, pastor of Toms River church. "They visited many denominations and searched the internet. Jackson's wife, Roxana, found the Toms River church,

came to visit one Sabbath, and, after much prayer, the whole family visited."

Robert Green, first elder of Toms River Church, led them in Bible studies, and soon after, Davenport asked the pastor when both families could get baptized.



*Eduardo Monteiro (middle), pastor of Toms River church, baptizes Debbie Burke and her husband Barry.*

PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

## News

### El Faro Church Embraces “Compassion” Theme

The El Faro church lives and breathes compassion. For the past two years, members have been working hard on projects that serve their local community.

This year the Women’s Ministries department, under the leadership of Noemi Sarmiento, has chosen to embrace the New Jersey Conference theme “Live Compassion” as they reach their community. Each Sunday they provide free courses in English; computers; immigration and citizenship assistance; aerobics and fitness; and children’s Bible classes. They also distribute fresh vegetables on the second Sunday of each month.



*Miguel Linares, one of the El Faro church volunteers, distributes groceries to a community resident.*

“Our motto is ‘Our tithes and time belong to the Lord.’ The entire church is involved now, not only Women’s Ministries,” says Sarmiento. “The community knows about us. They know our church and what we have been doing, and they want to be part of it. A lady came to us and said, ‘I’m not here for the classes or the food; I’m here because I need some love, and I want to be with you.’ That makes me happy.”

### Rockaway Church Promotes Children’s Health

The Children’s Ministries department of Rockaway church recently held their first Children’s Health Expo. The expo was designed for children and their parents, since parents are responsible for their children’s well-being. There were video presentations on health



*Guest presenter Anna Markouris, owner/instructor of Baby Bootcamp, and community member Daisy Sergeant demonstrate to parents and children the importance of exercising.*

issues, several exhibit booths with health facts and fun activities, giveaways donated from a local dentist, and a live demo of “pasta-making” from vegetables like zucchini. The children also had fun exercising and taking part in an action story, led by guest presenter Anna Markouris, owner/instructor of Baby Bootcamp in Parsippany, N.J. More than 25 people, including several visitors, participated in the Health Expo.

Duane Morris, father of two, said that he was alarmed by the American Heart Association’s childhood obesity statistic and how important it is for parents to teach kids about healthy living from a very young age. “The purpose was to give families ideas on how to incorporate health into their whole lives,” says Joan Smith, Children’s Ministries director. “Topics ranged from statistics on childhood obesity to proper meal planning ... and tips on how to make eating healthy appealing to young kids.”

### 40th New Jersey Conference Constituency Announcement

All local churches, conference-operated institutions, departmental directors, committees and conference boards are invited to submit items for the 40th New Jersey Conference Constituency agenda. All proposals should be submitted to Executive Secretary Mike Gill, in writing, no later than July 30 and should include an explanation of the proposal.



## Hispanic Marriage Retreat Changes Lives

Recently more than 70 Hispanic couples converged in Findlay, Ohio, for a one-day “Retiro Matrimonial: Casados pero Felices” (Marriage Encounter: Married but Happy) retreat. Couples of all ages filled the venue to capacity. Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, invited presenters Sergio and Yoska Monterroso, a pastoral couple from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, to speak on marriage.

“Couples from all over the state gathered to strengthen their relationships and learn about quality Christian marriage,” comments Simpson. As part of their workshop, couples completed a marriage inventory covering 10 areas designed to improve communication, understanding, conflict resolution, fiscal responsibility and forgiveness.

Sergio stated, “Our marriages matter to God. He cares about our children.” He went on to share biblical counsel on healthy marriages. Other topics touched on the importance of healthy intimacy and how marriage is an ongoing process. “Sola camino más rápido, acompañada puedo llegar más lejos (Alone may be faster, but accompanied I will go further),” shared Sergio.

“We received a huge blessing,” said one husband. “We want to have more of these types of programs!”

For some, one of the most memorable moment occurred at the close of the assembly. “As is the



*First Cleveland Spanish members Mariano and Carmen Collazo show their love during a photoshoot at the Hispanic Marriage Encounter retreat.*

custom, every Hispanic church event is an evangelistic tool,” explains Simpson. Among the attendees were several unmarried, not Adventist couples. When Simpson made an unscheduled altar call, “seven of these unmarried couples decided to get married in order to join our church and be baptized.”

PHOTO BY CAROLINA SIMPSON

## 25 Educators Learn About Strategic Planning



*Education superintendent Richard Bianco (second from the left) participates in a strategic-planning exercise with principals from Ohio Adventist schools.*

In today’s world ... we need to have a cohesive plan for our conference, schools and early childhood centers, so that we can meet the needs of those we serve,” shared Richard Bianco, Ohio Conference Education superintendent, as he invited conference principals and department directors to a recent strategic planning workshop. John Atonishak, from the Washington D.C.-based JDA & Associates, presented a multi-phase, strategic planning in-service for those interested in developing plans for their school or department.

Atonishak explained that strategic planning is “the process of looking at all aspects of an organization and planning how you wish to move forward. This is a living document ... always evolving and changing.”

Bianco says, “These tools can and will be used not only in your schools or centers, but also in your local churches and other organizations.”

## 180 Students Participate in Annual Music Festival

More than 15 years ago, Cindy French-Putterbaugh, former associate Education superintendent, began a music and worship festival designed to highlight the musical talents of upper-grade elementary students from Ohio Conference Adventist schools. This program has continued to grow, and now takes place at the Kettering church near Dayton, and is live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

This year the Ohio Conference Education department brought Stephen Zork, who has a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Andrews University (Mich.), to conduct workshops and a clinic for more



*During the Ohio Conference 2017 Music Festival, guest conductor Stephen Zork leads the 180-member elementary school choir at the Kettering church.*



*Richard Bianco (right) acknowledges Mark Mirek, retiring Piqua School principal-teacher, for his 37 years of service.*



*Christy Doria, Spring Valley Academy choral director, thanks the many individuals involved in putting together the 2017 music festival.*

than 180 elementary students from 11 schools. Zork, director of Choral Studies at Andrews, is an award-winning musician who has a considerable breadth of creative work, including significant performances and recordings as a conductor, singer and pianist.

During the two-day event, Zork helped students prepare five choral pieces, which students performed on Sabbath afternoon. Ten of the schools prepared individual performances for the festival, ranging from a bluegrass version of “Hangman” by the Piqua School to a unique performance of “Hallelujah, Amen,” with percussive instruments by Worthington Academy. The festival concluded with a powerful performance of “Of Grateful Praise.”

Superintendent of Education Richard Bianco was visibly proud of the students during his first music festival in Ohio. “Having had the opportunity to listen to them practice, you will be able to watch our amazing young people contribute in a mighty way to the Sabbath day today,” Bianco told the audience. After Piqua’s performance, Bianco recognized retiring principal-teacher Mark Mirek for 37 years of service. Nearly 300 people attended the festival, while countless others viewed the livestream.

If you missed the music festival, view the archived performance on the Kettering church Vimeo channel, <https://vimeo.com/212411788>.

# Pennsylvania Pen

## Simplicity Connects With Community Through Health

When Sue Shobe, the Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) associate director of Faith Community Nursing, started partnering with the Simplicity Urban Outreach ministry in Allentown, Pa., she looked for simple ways to connect with the community and impact their lives.

One woman started attending Simplicity each week for a blood pressure check. As the weeks passed, her blood pressure began to elevate. She was taking medication faithfully and following doctor's orders, yet her blood pressure remained high. Her doctor changed her medication, and the next week it was back to normal. "I am thankful for how God allowed me to meet a physical need through simple blood pressure screenings," shares Shobe.

After Shobe and the team conducted a health survey near the center, one lady indicated an interest in spiritual growth. A few weeks later, she and her husband began taking Bible studies. The couple is excited about what they've been learning and recently indicated a desire to learn more about baptism. "This is a result of God working through a few volunteers who offered a simple survey and who followed up on



*Sue Shobe (right) takes the blood pressure of a community member at Simplicity Urban Outreach.*

the work God was already doing in the lives of a couple living near Simplicity," says Shobe.

AWHN serves as the conference's Health Ministries department. They provide resources, leadership training and mentoring and consultation services.

## Lehigh Valley Teacher Retires After 52 Years

Born in Calcutta, India, Kalyani Prakasam received bachelor degrees in Education and Teaching from the University of Calcutta (India). She taught school for 10 years in India before moving to the U.S., and has been teaching children at the Lehigh Valley Seventh-day

Adventist Elementary School in Whitehall for the past 42 years. She earned a Master of Education in 1983 and received her reading specialist certification in 1985.

"I have enjoyed teaching all of my students and getting to know them and their families. It brings me joy to watch them grow and succeed in life," shares Prakasam. During retirement she plans to possibly teach TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) or adult literacy classes, read, spend time in the arts and travel. "I am very interested in watching how education changes and would love to especially teach women how to read. When mothers can't read, it impacts their children."

Jeff Bovee, vice president for education, states, "Kalyani has served Lehigh Valley and the Pennsylvania Conference for many years with great passion and commitment. She reflects Jesus in all that she does and has been an outstanding role model for her students, their parents and her community."



*Kalyani Prakasam gathers with her elementary students prior to her retirement.*

## Pastor Says Goodbye After 40 Years in Ministry

**B**ob Williams pastored more than a dozen churches, helped start a school and served on numerous conference committees and boards in his 40-year career with the Pennsylvania Conference. He and his wife, Amy, raised three daughters, all Blue Mountain Academy graduates, during their ministry in the conference.

“Amy and I have both felt privileged to be a part of the work here in Pennsylvania, and it is our hope that our presence has been of some benefit to the conference and its work,” states Williams. “We have appreciated the quality leadership and support we have experienced from the conference office. ... As we move forward into retirement in Tennessee, where we will be near our family, it is our hope that God will still show us places to go and things to do for His kingdom.”

Williams began his denominational career as a teacher in the Northern California Conference in 1973. After he and Amy married in 1974, they moved to Andrews University (Mich.), where he earned a Master of Divinity, and later a Doctor of Divinity. He was then called to pastor the Warren and Corry churches in



northwestern Pennsylvania.

“Bob’s desire to do God’s will has always been evident. He has given the best years of his life to God and His church. Bob will be greatly missed by church members and our pastoral team,” shares Tim Bailey, director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth.

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# Potomac People

## Tappahannock Students Volunteer in Alaska

Students from the Tappahannock (Va.) Junior Academy recently bundled up for mission service at Camp Tukuskoya, an Adventist youth camp near Anchorage, Alaska. “Every other year, since 2011, we have organized a mission trip for students over spring break. This way students have the option of going twice [on mission trips] before they graduate,” explains trip organizer Karen Wolcott, who also teaches Pre-K, Kindergarten and music. This is the school’s second mission trip to Alaska and their fourth mission trip overall.

To reach the camp, students had to travel down an eight-mile ice “road,” spanning three frozen lakes. “Once we got to the camp, we immediately set out to shovel pathways between buildings and snow off roofs,” says Wolcott. Volunteers cut down trees, hauled lumber to build a new cabin and prepared window treatments.

The students also toured and explored a privately-owned glacier and a nearby zoo. Wolcott shares, “God blessed us in many small ways: through the generosity of the glacier owner; by allowing us to see a lot of wildlife; by keeping us safe; and by giving us the



Student Jordyn Stevens cuts and hauls wood to build a new cabin at Camp Tukuskoya in Alaska.

opportunity to be a blessing to others. We look forward to the next trip!”

## 25 Home Churches Evangelize Richmond

Twenty-five home churches have recently emerged in the Richmond, Va., area. “Home churches are missionary groups made up of families from local churches who aim to reach their friends with the gospel through friendship, sharing time together, studying



Rafael Soto, pastor of four district churches, baptizes Héctor Albino Hernandez Dubon, who attended a home church sponsored by the Richmond Evangelistic Center.

the Bible and assisting their friends with their needs,” explains Rafael Soto, pastor of the area-churches—Hopewell Spanish, Richmond Evangelistic Center, Blackstone Spanish and West End Spanish—that sponsor these small groups.

Each home church, organized by the elders, includes a core group of families from the church, strengthening members’ abilities to work together to benefit the community and reach people.

“Home churches are a lifestyle in the district churches. The church stays active and focused on serving others while giving birth to new members through baptisms, which we celebrate every two months,” says Soto. “In addition, before each evangelistic campaign, leaders in home churches prepare people to attend. Home churches bring visitors to our church each Sabbath.”

Soto says the main objective of a home church is to introduce people to Jesus by fulfilling the mission they have been commissioned to do. “My hope is that more people will be encouraged to become active in home churches in their area, so the message can be preached to more people.”

# Potomac People

## Nearly 1,000 Celebrate Global Youth Day

Early this spring, hundreds of young adults swarmed Rabaut Park in Washington, D.C., offering passersby hugs, prayer, free literature, roses, food, water and even dog treats. Global Youth Day, an initiative of the General Conference Youth Ministries department, dynamically involves youth in a global movement to proclaim the everlasting gospel to “Be the Sermon.”

Josant Barrientos, conference youth director, explains, “This day is exciting as it unites young people around the globe and offers opportunities to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. This isn’t supposed to be a one-time event, but a lifetime of service and activity.”

Volunteers from around the conference came to support the mega-event at the park, and nearly 1,000 participants reached out to their local communities, some at shelters and nursing homes. “The reactions you get from people who are so grateful for that one, small act of kindness really blesses you,” says one youth from the Aspen Hill Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md.

After the event, Hope Channel interviewed several youth, joined by Ted Wilson, General Conference president.



*Hundreds of young adults descend on Rabaut Park in Washington D.C., to participate in Global Youth Day, sharing God’s love through random acts of kindness.*

Barrientos believes the day was successful, and he is proud of everyone who was involved. “Young people, you are the hands and feet of Jesus,” he says.

## Washington-Ghanaian Member Makes History



Nancy Abu-Bonsrah, member of the Washington-Ghanaian church in Spencerville, Md., made history this spring when she became the first black female neurosurgery resident to be accepted at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. Abu-Bonsrah plans to complete her seven years of medical specializa-

tion in the same department where Ben Carson, M.D., now the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, made medical history.

Johns Hopkins’ prestigious program, ranked in the top three in the country, accepts only two to five residents each year. “I’m humbled,” says Abu-Bonsrah.

“I have dreamed of becoming a physician since I was a kid. After I witnessed a surgical procedure on the brain, I knew I wanted to do neurosurgery. I was fascinated by surgeons’ skills, and seeing patients get back on their feet sealed my decision. For me this is the beginning of a journey. To go through the process of applying, being chosen as a resident and being a trailblazer for women is a huge privilege and honor.”

Abu-Bonsrah has won a number of awards for academic achievements while remaining active outside of class by participating in extracurricular activities such as a mentor for the Student National Medical Organization, a tutor for Healthy Minds and a health-care advocate for Health Leads. She recently married Kwabena Yamoah, who is a third-year medical student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore campus. The couple shares the vision of becoming medical missionaries. Abu-Bonsrah one day hopes to help advance global surgical care.

—Margaret A. and Alfred M.O. Attey



# Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

## Bell Choir Evangelizes Through Music Education

**B**lue Mountain Academy's (BMA) LaSonnette Bell Ensemble recently traveled to China to perform for students in Shijiazhuang and Lin'an. The trip was organized by Ma Shida (Owen), special Chinese ambassador to BMA, to help introduce his academy friends to his country.

While many BMA students were excited about standing on the Great Wall, this experience was quickly eclipsed by the relationships and connections they made with the Chinese students in the two cities.

Esther Reese, a BMA staff member and host for an international student, was overcome with emotion when the parents of current Chinese BMA students stood in front of a room of more than 200 people and sang "Amazing Grace." These parents later shared they are currently taking Bible studies from an Adventist in China so that they can understand what their children are learning in BMA's Introduction to Christianity class.

Eric Engen, hand bell director, shares, "The trip to China showed me that God can use the influence of a small group of teenage musicians to reach out and build relationships with families around the world. It made it especially personal when our students were able to stay with different host families for a couple of nights. Some of them had the experience of being able to talk about their belief in Christ with these families. The effect of this opportunity will only be known in eternity."



*Members of the LaSonnette Bell Ensemble, along with Ma Shida (far right), special Chinese ambassador to BMA, explore the gates of the Zhending High School in Shijiazhuang.*

The group played their largest event before an audience of some 500 students and school officials, and it was broadcasted to 8,500 other students over closed-circuit TV. They performed their regular repertoire, based on sacred music, hymns and classical pieces.

Freshman Brandon Reese states, "For a communist country, they opened their hearts to us in so many ways. When we left China, there were tears in the students' eyes. A part of me will always remain in China. I hope I will be able to go back and continue the Lord's work that has been started there."

Senior Justine Kline prayed that God would bring her a student to share His love with. The next day, two students approached her and timidly asked if she was a Christian. She answered, "Yes," and the two students began to share their love for God as well. Kline shares that although standing on the Great Wall was incredible, this specific answer to prayer was even more powerful!

Our mission to provide a Christ-centered Adventist education that leads students into a life of service is alive and well! At BMA we are not called to sit; we are called to "Go!"



*Staff member Esther Reese, alumnus Levi Collins and Freshman Brandon Reese show public school students in China how to play the bells.*

## Seniors Serve Panama on Mission Trip

For the past four years, the Highland View Academy class of 2017 has been fundraising and hosting events in an effort to raise money for their senior class mission trip to Panama, which they took this spring.

Upon arriving in Panama City, they made a seven-hour journey northwest to Las Lajas in the province of Chiriquí. Their project, high in the mountains of the Ngäbe-Buglé people, just outside of Las Lajas, was at the Ismael Ellis Adventist Elementary School—a school that was started by an Adventist missionary several decades ago.

The goal is to expand into a secondary education school so that students can complete their Christian education past sixth grade on the same campus

instead of making a daily journey down the mountain to attend other public secondary schools in the area. Currently there are a number of



*Senior Alejo Olivares plays with his new friend from the Ismael Ellis Adventist Elementary School in Panama.*



*Mothers and church members from the Ismael Ellis Adventist Elementary School community, along with HVA's senior girls, dress in Panama's traditional attire.*

students who live far from the school. Thus one of the first steps in realizing this dream is to build two dormitories on the property to make the school more accessible to students.

HVA's senior class assisted local workers who broke ground, set the foundation and laid the bottom layers of blocks for the two dormitory walls. Although they didn't see the "finished product" in their short time in Panama, they were successful in gathering enough funds to sponsor the construction of both dormitories in their entirety. The class is anxious to see the progress other mission groups will make in the near future.

The seniors also built new friendships with the elementary school students, local church congregation and community kids, as they sang, played and ate together.

Senior Jacqui Recuenco says, "The kids at the school had huge smiles that were so contagious. They made all the early mornings and hard work worthwhile." Student Elijah Nacchio adds, "It was a great experience to see the people there be touched by our presence. We attended church with them, and we could see how they functioned as a community."

Amanda Corea, Campus Ministries director, sums up the trip: "[This mission trip] was an experience that allowed our senior class to act on the justice, love and service of Jesus Christ we strive to teach them every day on our campus. [It was] an unforgettable opportunity to learn about the blessing we often receive when we allow God to use us in service to others."



*Ismael Ellis Adventist Elementary School teachers and workers, alongside HVA's senior boys, take a break from building two dormitories.*

PHOTOS BY AMANDA COREA



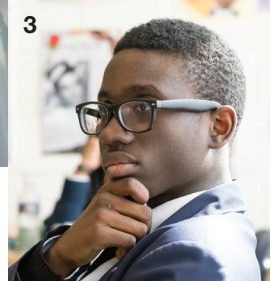
# PFA POST



Visit us online at [PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG](http://PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG). Excellence is no accident.

## Highlights From a Fruitful Year

Pine Forge Academy's (PFA) academic year proved to be successful, due to God's many blessings. Featured below are highlights from 2016-17:



1. Junior Johnathan Williamson prepares to make a winning goal in the last home game of the soccer season. 2. During the spring semester, Melvyn Hayden, III,

pastor of the Pine Forge church, and academy chaplains baptize seven students, including senior Carrie Ann Smith. 3. Senior Clifford Fields, Jr., president of the United Student Movement, intensely listens to a class discussion about Black History Month. 4. President Leon Thomas and Vice President Sokoni Scott of the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association present a \$313,000 check to Principal Nicole Hughes and Vice Principal Kris Fielder for dorm renovations. 5. The National Honor Society inducts more than a dozen students, including junior Lincoln Fields.

## Academy Introduces Mobile App

Pine Forge Academy recently launched a new app, providing full access to academy resources, news, projects and memorabilia. PFA is among the first Adventist academies in the Columbia Union to release a mobile app.

The free app, available on Android and Apple devices, includes video devotionals, historic photos and film footage, electronic student dorm checks, the alumni

directory, special project updates (e.g., the NPFAAAA #Reignite renovation status) and more.

The app will be updated each week to reflect current news and alumni spotlights. Each semester the academy will introduce a new element to the app, such as a K-12 college readiness milestone feature, including resources for leaders.

Download the free app today in the App Store!

# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### 34 Students Impact Belize on Mission Trip

Thirty-four Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) students recently spent their spring break serving the community in Cayo, Belize. The students, along with chaperones from the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., spent 10 days in Cayo renovating, evangelizing and developing friendships with locals near the Bullet Tree Falls Adventist School. By the third day, many were sore from lifting heavy cement, shoveling gravel and laying brick, among other assignments. Many of the seasoned mission trip chaperones were impressed at the remarkable level of diligence, work ethic and positive attitude the students displayed, in spite of the tough work.

“My favorite part was the last day because we were



with the kids a lot since the cement machine had broken,” says Junior Lauren Butler. “We just hung out with the kids the entire afternoon. They were comfortable with us, and they were singing. It was

*Junior Tanner Forde plays with a student during a break.*



*SAA students and chaperones visit the Xunantunich, the second tallest Mayan ruins in Belize.*

fun getting to know them and forming relationships that will hopefully last forever.”

Junior Milton Brown remarks, “When I was painting on the last day of work, I learned some of the kids don’t have running water or plumbing at home, so they didn’t know how to use the bathroom when they got to school. A kid came up to me and was so ecstatic that his bathroom was being cleaned. All I remember thinking was ‘I’m just painting a bathroom.’ But these kids were happy to not have to use the outhouse anymore. My work was impactful.”

Freshman Matthew Nashed adds, “It was outside my comfort zone going [to Cayo], but meeting the kids made it a lot easier; it motivated me more to give it my all while I was there. I’m not just leaving the floor of a cafeteria; I’m leaving a part of myself through the relationships I made.”

On the team’s day off, they went to explore the Mayan ruins of Xunantunich, near the Guatemalan border. They also swam and canoed in a preserved Mayan cave.

The mission team did much more than begin the foundation of a cafeteria and paint bathrooms; they renovated and painted the schoolhouse doors, windows, bathhouse and playset; held VBS in the evenings; and eight students held evangelism series at two churches. By the end of the week, four Bullet Tree Falls church members decided to get baptized.—*Kaitlyn Calhoun*



*Students hold an impromptu VBS in Buena Vista with a skit, songs and a craft.*

PHOTOS BY HOLLIE FAHRNER

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# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY<sup>.ORG</sup> CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

### The World is Our Classroom

Mark Twain famously wrote: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

At Spring Valley Academy (SVA), we take the truth in this quote seriously. We believe education must be global, not provincial. The only way to acquire those "charitable views of men (and women) and things" is to go and meet them on their home turf.

SVA weaves these opportunities into its program every year through mission trips and education study tours. Over the recent spring break, 41 SVA students and parents literally walked in the footsteps of the apostle Paul on the Ancient/Biblical History Tour in Greece. What an awesome experience for our students to read Paul's sermon to the Athenian philosophers on location at Mars Hill. How exhilarating to run a footrace in the 2,500-year-old ancient Olympic stadium. What an adventure to swim in the caldera on the ancient volcanic island of Thira. How rewarding to learn some Greek phrases and talk to the locals in their own language. And how about traveling through one of the world's largest olive tree forests during the day and tasting some of that rich olive oil on your salad that night?

These are just a few snapshots of the big, life-changing experience our students absorbed a hemisphere away from home. They acquired some new perspectives and breathed some life into their own faith in a beautiful country of mountains, sea and stones that tell an ancient story. We will not "vegetate in our own little corner" when we can learn the lessons that only travel can teach.



**Darren Wilkins**  
Principal

### Middle-Schoolers Relish Art Educational Field Trip

The SVA seventh- and eighth-graders recently went on an art educational field trip, organized by the middle school association student officers Christian Chung, president; Kobe Wilkins, social vice; Brandon McDowell, religious vice; Toby Cambigue, treasurer; and Ginan Linares, secretary.

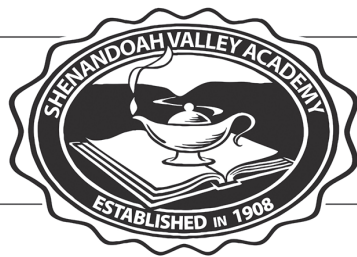
The students visited the University of Cincinnati DAAP (Design/Architect/Art/Planning). Eight-grader Eric Grant says that he liked how the tour displayed 3-D art. James Martinez, seventh-grader, commented how the workers of the wood shop department taught them patience. Kate D. Baldwin, middle school math teacher, says, "It was interesting to see how many careers there are for students with an artistic aptitude."

The students also visited the American Sign Museum and the Contemporary Art Museum, where they discussed and critiqued art. Shona Macomber, K-12 art teacher, shares, "I was pleased that our students could see how artists communicate ideas and express their feelings about social issues."

### A Ground-breaking Event



Spring Valley Academy Principal Darren Wilkins (left), Ohio Conference President Ron Halvorsen Jr. (center), constituent church pastors, faculty, board members and major donors celebrate the ground-breaking of the Fritzsche Worship and Performing Arts Center, with construction to begin this summer.



# IMPACT Shenandoah

*Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service*

## Senior Tree Planting Celebrates Commitment to SVA



Each year Alumni Weekend begins with senior class members planting a tree on campus, representing the deep roots they've established at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA). Below is an excerpt from this year's Senior Tree Planting Worship speaker Paul Ware, M.D. ('83), parent of graduating senior Madeleine:

**B**ecause of your education [at SVA], you have a real—a Christian—context for your lives, a deeper understanding of the world around you. Build upon what you've learned here as you interface with society, and you will be more successful, enlightened and fulfilled citizens.

In the book, *The Sabbath*, by Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel, he speaks of our lives as two realities: space and time. For six days we deal with things of space—the material world. Acquiring, maintaining, improving, working in space, making and moving money, interfacing with media and electronics.

The Sabbath is about time. Heschel describes it as a palace in time. We leave a world of things and enter a world of the spiritual and eternal. We set aside the material world that crowds out communion with God to experience time in fellowship with Him and others—real togetherness.

If you contemplate your years at SVA ... I suspect you will think about things that were special to you in the reality of time and not material things. ... Looking back you will see your time at SVA as a Sabbath in your lives. A palace of time, created for you by God in which to live and worship, to better understand Christian spirituality, celebrate the Sabbath and build relationships with God and man. Your time here wasn't always filled with the things of space, the mundane or the profane.

This is the reason for SVA; to give you a Sabbath in your life to contemplate the material in a spiritual context, a space where you have had time to connect with the eternal. It will be more difficult after you leave SVA to find the time to connect with God. Remember your time here, and your Sabbaths, take a break from the things of space and celebrate your time with God.

This tree represents your Sabbath here at SVA—it is a legacy that, if nurtured, will grow and not go away. In my dreams I am often moving into the dorm, wandering the hallways, the space between buildings, interacting with classmates. So SVA won't go away—it might even fill your dreams. Dwell on the beautiful and lasting lessons from your time here. ... Notice the unique and good in each other, and share how you feel, make peace and enjoy your final days here at good ol' SVA.

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News you can use from Takoma Academy

## High School Freshman Amazes College Professors

When he was 7 years old, he was able to master certain computer applications, and his gift started to develop from there,” states Yanic Hardie, regarding her son Darius. And thus began the amazing odyssey of Takoma Academy (TA) Freshmen Darius Hardie and the amazing gift of mastering information technology that God has bestowed upon Him.

Recognizing that their child had a unique gift, but not sure of what to do, Darius’ parents enrolled him in the Python computer course at the University of Maryland. He received an A+. Neither the students nor the professor realized that Darius was only 12 years old.

His college professor says that Darius, “... was a real standout ... consistently understood the material and was often the person others in the class came to for help.” Since that time, Darius had mastered several coding and programming languages, including Java, HTML and LISP.

As a member of NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), he, along with fellow TA members, attended the private viewing of the true story *Hidden Figures*, where he met the cast members and then-First Lady Michelle Obama.

He also attended the national NSBE Career Fair convention in Kansas City, Mo., that featured some of the nation’s leading corporations, such as Google, YouTube and Goldman Sachs. Darius was part of the Ten80 Racing Team, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative.

Northrup Grumman is currently sponsoring Darius in constructing an Aquaponic system. The system will enable vegetables to grow in urban areas. Darius is learning how to write code so that the system can interactively water and feed the vegetables nutrients and to make soil pumps and racks move automatically, based on pH levels in water and other environmental conditions.

Darius’ ultimate career goal is to be a white hat hacker—an ethical, computer security specialist. Companies such as Google and Facebook hire white



*Freshman Darius Hardie was accepted into the Cyber Security Defense summer program at the University of Maryland Cyber Security Center.*

hat hackers to protect themselves against black hat hackers, those who try to breach internet security.

Despite his love for computers, Darius’ favorite subject at TA is Bible class, taught by Dunbar Henri, department chair. “I always learn something new that enables me to connect with God and gain a better relationship with Him,” says Darius.

Darius was recently one of 30 students nationwide to be accepted into the Cyber Security Defense summer program at the University of Maryland Cyber Security Center. This year he is the youngest student to be admitted into the program.

# wgts 91.9 news

## WGTS Fest Marks 60<sup>th</sup> Year of Service

Over 3,000 WGTS 91.9 listeners joined the station in celebrating the ministry's 60th anniversary. Citizen Way, Jonny Diaz and Mercy Me provided the musical backdrop for the afternoon, and chaplain Kumar Dixit delivered a powerful message on finding hope in hard times through Jesus. A highlight of the day – praying for hundreds of listeners at the WGTS prayer booth.

Before the concert part of the festival kicked off, more than 70 listener volunteers packed over 10,000 meals which will help hungry families in Haiti as part of the WGTS Hands and Heart Initiative, which engages our team and our listeners in serving others.

"Bringing together our listening family for a 60th anniversary event started as a small idea that grew into something fantastic! Seeing smiles on the faces of our listeners and hearing about the way God changed lives through the event – it warmed my heart big time. It was a special and unique moment in history – it was amazing to celebrate it with over 3,000 good friends!" says general manager Kevin Krueger.



## Elevate Reaches Out to New Listeners

WGTS 91.9 has introduced a monthly evening service with a goal of sharing Christ with listeners through music, testimony, and an inspirational message from our chaplain, Kumar Dixit.

The first service introduced our new afternoon hosts Johnny and Stacey Stone and featured a testimony from Miss D.C. World Michelle Pierrot. And, in April, Doug Hill, meteorologist at WGTS and long-time weatherman for ABC7, shared about his lifelong journey to "live faith out loud" despite bumps, detours and unexpected tragedies. "I know no matter what, God has his best in store for me...and my job is real simple; it's to trust, to follow and to obey Jesus," Hill said.

During each service, chaplain Kumar gives a call to those attending to come forward to commit to following Jesus. Team members pray and talk with each person, and as people offer, we stay in touch and provide guidance in their journey with Christ, connecting them with a local church. "There are many ways WGTS fulfills its mission. Of course on-air, but there are so many other ways – such as Elevate. It is our goal to reach listeners where they are, and that means providing compelling options," says general manager Kevin Krueger.

*Right Photo: General manager Kevin Krueger*



## WGTS Holds Reunion

WGTS 91.9 celebrated 60 years of service in April with past and present staff, managers, family and friends, including tours of the station and a program recalling the station's history and its growth. The station began officially broadcasting on May 8, 1957, on a small 10-watt transmitter and has now grown into a station that reaches over 550,000 listeners weekly with music and messages that are always encouraging.



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## *Students of Distinction*

Praise to the Betty Howard Center for Student Success at Washington Adventist University for identifying a day in the academic calendar for the annual University Awards. This is a day full of ceremonies that recognize and award students for their academic



**Weymouth  
Spence  
President**

accomplishments. The University attracts and benefits from exceptionally talented and high performing students. They are drawn by the rigor and relevance of the WAU Curriculum and by a diverse campus

culture that encourages and rewards excellence. It was a joy to observe that regardless of culture and economic background, all students can achieve and celebrate academic excellence. We are deeply committed to student access and to the completion of an educational experience of excellence that will prepare our graduates for a satisfied life of service to humanity. We will continue to develop a learning community that incentivizes and supports student scholarship. Student success is derived from our valued, gifted, and dedicated faculty and staff. Every day they are here making sure that we meet the complex needs of a diverse student body. Congratulations to the great number of students who were recognized and rewarded on April 19 for setting academic excellence as their top priority.

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence

## **WAU WELCOMES NEW GATEWAY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR MARK SIGUE TO THE TEAM**

We are happy to announce that Mark Binondo Sigue, M.A., has joined Washington Adventist University as the new Director for Gateway Ministries in the Office of Campus Ministries. He comes to us from the University of Maryland, Medical Systems in Baltimore, MD where he served



as an Instructor for Clinical Informatics in OpTime, Surgeon Provider, and Anesthesia. He holds a Master of Arts in Religion with an emphasis in Leadership and Administration from Washington Adventist University and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Andrews University Born and raised in the Philippines, Mark grew up at the Adventist University of the Philippines. He and his family migrated to the US in 1995 where he began his college education at Southern Adventist University before transferring to Andrews University. On his way to serve as a full-time missionary to Kellyville Church in Sydney Australia in 2000, he went to the Philippines, and it was there he met and fell in love with the former Marifel Resuena Kemink. They were married in March of the following year. Marifel works as a Laboratory Clinician for Kaiser Permanente's Regional Lab in Rockville, MD. Their union produced a son named Marco, who is now seven years old and a first grader at Frederick Adventist Academy. They are members of the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mark started ministry work at the General Conference (GC) Adventist Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD in the Adventist Risk Management department. He worked there for five years before continuing in the Secretariat Office for Overseas Volunteer Department and Ministerial Association. Following his time at the GC he was called to ministry as the Associate Pastor of Sligo SDA Church in Takoma Park as Children's Pastor for five years. He has also served as the district pastor in the Virginia Beach/Tidewater area and as a Youth Pastor at Frederick SDA until 2016.

"To me, there is nothing more honorable and fulfilling than being allowed to come alongside a young person and see the Lord work

*continued on next page →*

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in their lives over time,” said Mark Sigue. “WAU was founded on its mission to be the institution of service and as the new Director for Campus Ministries, the mission

of service begins with me. It is then my prayer that as a result of my commitment, you too will have the passion to serve others as representatives of Jesus.”

## REACH EVANGELISM SCHOOL MOVES TO WAU

The Columbia Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has voted to transfer the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School – currently located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – to Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Maryland. The REACH school was initially opened in 2014 in partnership with WAU as a year-long, satellite immersion program that combines classroom instruction with hands-on ministry experience.

In the transfer, the REACH Evangelism School – which includes the 12-month training and experiential program that prepares students for ministry in cities and urban areas throughout North America – will move to the Washington Adventist University Department of Religion. The 15-credit hands-on curriculum that prepares students for urban ministry will be integrated into the Department of Religion course offerings at WAU following the May graduation of the current REACH program participants.

“The REACH program addresses all our priorities, especially in that it engages young adults in leadership, personal spiritual development, evangelism and the mission of the church,” said Columbia Union President Dave Weigley, Ph.D. “Our desire is to see that it continue and grow in the university setting.”

In the initial agreement, the WAU Department of Religion provided leadership training in discipleship, community development, urban agriculture and various aspects of evangelism, while REACH provided the hands-on urban ministry training. Following the transfer, WAU will continue to offer such topics as Jesus and the Gospels; Ellen G. White and the Gift of Prophecy; Knowing and Sharing Christ; Ministry in the City; The Theory and Practice of Urban Ministry; and Church Growth in the Urban Setting.

“The Mission and foundational concepts of the REACH Evangelism School are in alignment with the Mission of WAU and our legacy of Gateway to Service,” said WAU President Weymouth Spence, Ed.D., R.T. “In 1907, the General Conference voted for the establishment of a school for the training of foreign missionaries. The finger of circumstance pointed to Washington Training College (now Washington Adventist University), then only three years old. Our current strategic initiative, Vision 2020 – Growing with Excellence, calls for the revitalization of this initial charge of engaging minds and transforming lives for local and global ministry -- further developing and implementing the model of practical Christian service to all humanity.”

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE OMICRON DELTA KAPPA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HONOR SOCIETY

Omicron Delta Kappa was founded December 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. In the tradition of the idealism and leadership of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, the founders stated that leadership of exceptional quality and versatility in college should be recognized, that representatives of all phases of college life should cooperate in worthwhile endeavor, and that outstanding students and faculty members should meet on a basis of common interest, understanding, and helpfulness.



Omicron Delta Kappa members wearing the tapping keys they received during the induction ceremony.



# YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER



A Health Block Party provided families with care, screenings, food, and fun.

## Extending Care Beyond Hospital Walls

By Christina Keresoma

Kettering Adventist HealthCare's mission is **to improve the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve** through health care and education. An opportunity arose for Kettering Adventist HealthCare to join forces with Kettering Adventist Church, Kettering College, and Potter's House in Dayton, Ohio, to host a block party that focused on health.

Healthcare professionals, volunteers, and college students were beaming with excitement as 800 local residents gathered for basic dental care, health screenings, face paintings, shoes for

the homeless, a bounce house and inflatable slide, and food. Families with babies also received essential baby hygiene items such as diapers and wipes.

"Two things come to mind from the Block Party," says Keren Tanguay, Kettering:60 co-host. "First, we are called to see those who have been left unseen; those who are passed by time and time again. Peter says, 'Look at us,' making eye contact with a man who has been neglected for so long. There was something so powerful about serving food to so many and seeing them eye to eye, asking their names, and making a connection with them face to face. Second, it's easy to prefer to help from a distance. Yet Peter and John's story challenges us in such a way that we realize we're not called to do healing from a distance. We're called to get up close, in their context, their environment, their home. And it is in that close proximity where helping provides healing."

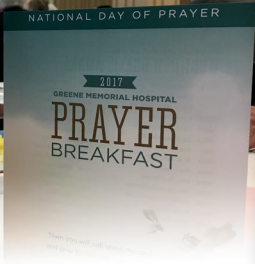


# THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

## Gathering for the National Day of Prayer

Hospitals around the network took time on May 4 to celebrate National Day of Prayer. Executives, physicians, employees, community officials, and leaders gathered at their area hospital to pray for our schools, government, and hospitals.

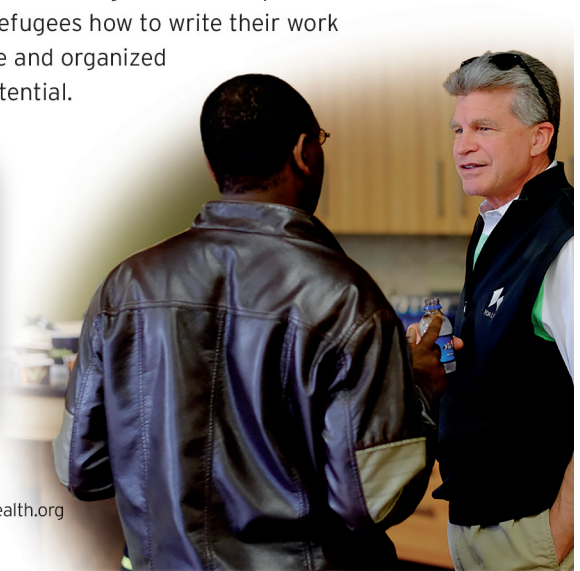


*Kettering Adventist HealthCare hospitals took time to pray on May 4*



## Kettering Adventist HealthCare Hosts Refugee Resume Workshop

Kettering Adventist HealthCare's Human Resources Department held a resume workshop for local refugees in the Dayton area. The workshops taught the refugees how to write their work experience in an informative and organized way to increase their job potential.



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## Top 3 Excuses Jonah Might've Used to Flee Nineveh

1. If idolatry is their thing, that's their business. I don't want to be pushy.
2. Suppose I preach fire and brimstone, and then God goes and forgives everybody? How will that look!
3. I could go someplace less wicked--maybe Tarshish, and do great things for God!

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# Bulletin Board

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### LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Religion seeks a New Testament professor, assistant/associate/full, who will excel in teaching graduate and undergraduate students, services, research and denominational leadership. PhD or equivalent. Please email a cover letter, CV and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Larson, [dlarson@llu.edu](mailto:dlarson@llu.edu).

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

seeks a faculty instructor for aircraft maintenance. The aviation maintenance instructor is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing and operating within an FAA-approved, part 147 maintenance school, designed to prepare students for the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) career and related aerospace and technical fields. With commitment to Christian higher education, faith and learning must be integrated into the aviation maintenance program. For more information or to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1348](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1348).

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### NEW DIMENSIONS FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

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### ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS A UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST.

This administrative staff position is responsible for the operation of the Andrews University archives program including planning, education, promotion, acquisition, processing, organization and disposition of university records. For more information or to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1311](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1311).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**AMEN FREE CLINIC**, Ukiah, Calif., October 17-20. Need dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, physicians, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registration, hospitality, communication and general help. Find out more at [ukiahfsda.com](http://ukiahfsda.com) and click on AMEN medical clinic, or call (707) 695-0432.

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### MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GREATER BALTIMORE ACADEMY FULL-SCHOOL REUNION**, September 16. All students, faculty, staff and friends of the school, the reunion includes students and faculty of Edgecombe Jr. Academy (EJA), Greater Baltimore Academy (GBA) and Greater Baltimore Jr. Academy (GBJA). This is one school body with three names. For more information, please contact Marian (Schubert) Phillips, coordinator, by email, [ilovelight-houses@hotmail.com](mailto:ilovelight-houses@hotmail.com), or phone, (301) 797-5291.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 40th regular constituency meeting of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, September 24, 2017, in the Robbinsville Community Seventh-day Adventist Church on 2314 Route 33, Robbinsville, NJ 08691. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for amendments and revisions of the constitution and bylaws, receive reports of the organization and transact such other business that may properly come before the constituency at that time.

Local churches, church boards, conference-operated institutions, departmental directors and permanent commissions, committees and boards of the conference may propose items for the agenda. The deadline is July 30, 2017.

José H. Cortés, *President*  
Mike Gill, *Secretary*

## OBITUARIES

**PIERCE, Charles L.**, born January 11, 1924, in Candler, N.C.; died September 10, 2015, in Tavares, Fla. He was a member of the Plymouth-Sorrento church in Apopka, Fla. He worked for the denomination at Highland Academy (Tenn.); Forest Lake Academy (Fla.); Southern Adventist University (Tenn.); Adventist College of Brazil; Mt. Pisgah Academy (N.C.); Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio, now closed; Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., and Canadian Union College. Survivors: his son,

Chuck Pierce of Hackettstown, N.J.; and his daughter, Cheri Pierce of Sorrento, Fla.

**PRICE, James W.**, born March 13, 1960, in Youngstown, Ohio, son of George V. and Mary E. (Narducci) Price; died June 25, 2016, in Austintown, Ohio, with his family by his bedside. He graduated from Austintown Fitch High School in 1978 and attended Youngstown State University. He enjoyed a 30-year career with the state as an activity therapy specialist 1 for Youngstown Developmental Center, from where he was to retire in October. Jim was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan and was a member of the Vikings Club. He liked to attend flea markets and was a Harley Davidson enthusiast. James was baptized as a member of the Evergreen church in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1995. He loved the Lord and proclaimed his love for Jesus through his service as a deacon and regular speaker of the Word. Survivors: his daughter, Durrie Davis of Michigan; siblings, Donna (Myron) Reese of Austintown and Denny (Margie) Price of West Middlesex, Pa.; one grandchild; and 11 nieces and nephews.

**ROSS, Joseph E.**, born February 7, 1927, in Riverdale, Md.; died February 17, 2016, in Crowley, Texas. He was a member of the Arlington (Texas) church. He worked for years at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., in Hagerstown, Md., first in the bookbinding department, and then in the computer department. In 1981 he accepted a call to the Texas Conference office in Burleson, Texas, where he worked in the computer department until his retirement after 40 years in denominational work. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Kenyon Ross, in January 2015. He is survived by their children, Cyndee Ross of Burleson, and Lynda Ross Hyndman and son-in-law Gregory of Tulsa, Okla.; his two grandsons, Kyle Price of Georgia and Alan Price of Burleson; and his brother, Dr. Donald M. Ross of Keene, Texas.

**SMAIL, Ada L.**, born February 2, 1927, in Millersburg, Ohio, to the late William B. and Anna E. (Gallion) McCormick; died December 8, 2015, in Coshocton, Ohio. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Ada graduated from Millersburg High School and then started working for a local telephone company as a switchboard operator. She was an active volunteer with many community service organizations throughout her life and was also an accomplished fabric and paint artist with a focus on traditional folk art technique.

## Sunset Calendar

June	2	9	16	23	30
Baltimore	8:27	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:37
Cincinnati	8:58	9:03	9:06	9:08	9:08
Cleveland	8:54	8:59	9:02	9:04	9:05
Columbus	8:55	8:59	9:03	9:04	9:05
Jersey City	8:21	8:26	8:29	8:31	8:31
Norfolk	8:19	8:23	8:26	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:47	8:51	8:54	8:56	8:57
Philadelphia	8:23	8:28	8:31	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:44	8:49	8:52	8:54	8:54
Reading	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38
Richmond	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:35	8:35
Roanoke	8:35	8:39	8:42	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:03	9:07	9:11	9:12	9:13
Trenton	8:59	9:04	9:07	9:09	9:09
Wash., D.C.	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38

### SLIGO BY THE SEA 2017

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July	1	<b>Dave Weigley</b>
	8	<b>Steve Chavez</b>
	15	<b>Celeste Ryan Blyden</b>
	22	<b>Nathan Krause</b>
	29	<b>Kermit Netteburg</b>
August	5	<b>Don McFarlane</b>
	12	<b>Morgan Kochenower</b>
	19	<b>Larry Evans</b>
	26	<b>Joseph Khabbaz</b>
September	2	<b>Mark Sigue</b>
	9	<b>Ron Halverson Jr.</b>
	16	<b>Gerald Klingbeil</b>
	23	<b>Mike Speegle</b>

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

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10300 Coastal Highway  
Ocean City, MD 21824 – Casual Attire Appropriate

*\*For further information, please visit  
[sligochurch.org/sligoobythesea](http://sligochurch.org/sligoobythesea), or call (301) 980-2000.*

## Bulletin Board

She helped the local schools in Millersburg, doing art projects for school plays. In 1947 Ada married James Smail, and they spent 64 wonderful years together before his death in 2011. Survivors: her children: Cole (Susan) Smail of Chillicothe, Ohio; Mark Smail of Hemet, Calif.; Kurt (Janet) Smail of Westerville, Ohio; Abby (Rob) Rice of Newark, Ohio; and Andi (Ray) Evans of Jacksonville, Fla.; son-in-law Wesley Tubbs of Coshocton; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Donald D. McCormick.

**SMITH, Robert Allen, Sr.**, born January 18, 1931, in Hagerstown, Md.; died June 12, 2016, in Hagerstown. He was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Bob was employed by the Western Maryland Railroad for 43 years and 15 years for Shockey's and C. H. Williams Pianos and Organs in Hagerstown. He was a faithful member of the Hagerstown church. Survivors: his wife, Mary Catherine "Kate"; his son, Robert A. Jr.; and his sisters, M. Jean Dailey and Jeanne Barjos.

**SWART, Shirley L.**, born August 16, 1956, in Wheeling, W.Va.; died November 13, 2015, in Fairmont,

W.Va. She was a member of the Wheeling church. Survivors: her sister, Betty Edgel, of Wheeling.

**WATTS, Carl B.**, born July 12, 1919, in Topeka, Kansas; died April 17, 2016, in Redlands, Calif. He was a member of the La Sierra University Church in Riverside, Calif. He graduated from Enterprise Academy (Kansas) in 1939 and Union College (Nebraska) in 1949. During his life, Carl worked for the denomination as a teacher at Union College, publishing secretary for the Kansas and Missouri conferences and an ordained minister for the Missouri Conference. He was in missionary service from 1955-1973, serving as publishing director for the Japan Union and president of the Okinawa Mission in the Japan Union. He returned to the states and pastored in the Southeastern California Conference at the Anaheim and Escondido churches, and then retired in 1984. In retirement, he was a member of the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church, and served as an elder, church and school board member. Survivors: his daughter, "Kit" Catherine Watts of Milton-Freewater, Ore.; his son, Howard Thomas (Sandra) Watts of Grand Terrace, Calif.; his granddaughter, Kandice M. Watts; his grandson, Travis D. Watts;

six nieces and five nephews. His wife of 69 years, Lois May Shepherdson, died in 2011.

**WRINKLE, Ruth A.**, born March 2, 1960 in Marion, Ohio; died March 11, 2016, in Millersburg, Ohio. She was a member of the Millersburg (Ohio) church. Survivors: her son, Kyle W. Witzel of Columbus, Ohio; her daughter, Kaylee C. Witzel of Columbus; her brothers, Steven Bayles of Caledonia, Ohio, and John Bayles of Edison, Ohio; and her sister, Barb Ranier, of Caledonia.

**ZEMAN, Gisele M.**, born August 15, 1922, in Paris, France; died November 21, 2015, in Bangor, Pa. She was a member of the Phillipsburg (N.J.) church. She grew up in Paris, joining the Adventist Church with her mother when she was 5 years old. She met Rudy, a U.S. soldier, at her church in Paris during WWII, and they married as soon as the war ended, and then moved to the United States. In 1960 she began teaching French at the Plainfield (N.J.) Academy. She then moved with the academy to Tranquility, N.J., when it became Garden State Academy, serving as the French teacher and librarian until she retired in 1987. She loved her students dearly and even offered them a place to stay

in her home. She was a dedicated member of the Phillipsburg church, serving as head deaconess and treasurer for many years. Her hobbies included singing, painting, knitting and teaching French. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Sylvie, of Denton, Md., and her husband, Rudy.

### Correction:

**Vera Norman**, age 101, died January 4, 2016, at the Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark, Ohio. She was a devout member of the Newark (Ohio) church for more than 65 years.

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