

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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## Cut From the Same Cloth

For the Graham Brothers, and Other Dynamic Duos,  
Ministry is a Family Affair

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### Cut From the Same Cloth

*Pat Humphrey*

For many members, ministry is a family affair. Meet nine family duos who share glimpses into their lives and ministries. Why do they serve, and how did they get there?

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#### ABOUT THE COVER:

### Cut From the Same Cloth

I believe we were called from the womb. We were even almost born at Camp Victory Lake (N.Y.) in Northeastern Conference,” says Patrick Graham (right), referring to himself and his identical twin brother, Paul, who have dedicated their lives to ministry.

Today Patrick still spends a fair amount of time at youth camps in his role as Youth and Children’s Ministries director for Allegheny East Conference. Paul is senior pastor of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md.

Though their job responsibilities are very different, the twins have much in common, and enjoy spending time together and comparing notes. “I am a little more administrative, and Paul loves the ground floor,” says Patrick.

What have they learned? “Being a minister isn’t about me helping to save others; it’s about God trying to save me,” says Paul, who has served in ministry for 23 years. And Patrick? “I have learned to brighten the corner where you are,” he says, after 16 years of ministry.—*Pat Humphrey*

*James Ferry photographed the Grahams in his studio in Columbia, Md.*

## ON THE WEB

### MY MINISTRY IS MY FAMILY

“For the first 10 years of my ministry, I was a terrific pastor and a terrible husband. I neglected my wife. I passed on the responsibility of raising my kids to babysitters. I led a church well and it grew at a rate of 100 people per year, yet I was not present as a leader in my own home. This was my story. Too bad it is repeated constantly,” says Roger Hernandez, director of Ministerial and Evangelism at the Southern Union Conference. Read more about Hernandez’s experience and how he now makes his family his main ministry at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/familyismyministry](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/familyismyministry).



### WHICH PATH ARE YOU ON?

Psalm 1 has been described as “The Preface of the Holy Spirit to the Psalter.” Two themes are found in it, which recur

in many other psalms. The first is the clear-cut distinction between the righteous and the wicked. The second concerns the present fortunes and the ultimate destinies of human beings. In handling these two themes, the psalmist is anticipating what Jesus Himself was to teach—that men and women are either on the broad road to destruction or on the narrow way that leads to life. Read more in Rob Vandeman’s latest blog at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms).

### A SECOND CHANCE

Alexis Goring, a member of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md., recently published *A Second Chance*, the fictional story of a young woman who gets a surprising second start, with one big stipulation. Read more about the book at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/secondchance](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/secondchance).



# VISITOR

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## Nurture or Nature?

**M**ortified. That’s how my mom, Vicki (Curtiss) Bernard, recalls feeling as she sat in Chemistry class at Mount Vernon Academy where her dad, Leon Curtiss, was the teacher. “If we got what we deserve, we’d all be grease spots,” he’d say, trying to lighten the mood while navigating tough subjects like science and math. A fixture at Ohio Conference’s longtime school (now closed), my grandfather was known for his corny jokes and one-liners.



My mom (pictured with her father on her wedding day) certainly didn’t think she’d end up like him, but she did. Sort of. She started playing piano for Sabbath School in second grade. By high school, she was teaching piano and organ and decided to become a full-time teacher. For more than 40 years, she worked as an educator for the Seventh-day

Adventist Church—teaching elementary school and music, and later serving as a principal/teacher until her retirement in 2014. Ironically, in the classroom and choir room she also found herself using humor to lighten the mood and make the learning easier.



### JUST LIKE “POP POP”

As I was growing up, I never thought I’d work for the Church. I thought working in the corporate world would be more fun, fulfilling and financially rewarding. But after several years working for a lobbyist, then at a television station, I received a call from my former boss, Celeste Ryan Blyden, from a summer internship at the

Columbia Union *Visitor*. That summer at the *Visitor* was my favorite among the internships I completed while attending Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md.

Now, just like my “Pop Pop,” “Na Na,” Mom, Dad and countless cousins before me, I’m working for the Church. I’ve found my tribe. I find fulfillment in working for an organization I intrinsically understand. Maybe it was all those years listening to my grandparents and parents talk with their friends about church news and politics, or the years I spent studying at Adventist schools. Maybe it is just in my DNA. I’m not sure, but I know it is a gift from God (see Eccl. 2:24-25).

In this month’s cover story, we profile nine family duos involved in full-time ministry in the Columbia Union Conference. I can’t tell you whether it is nurture or nature that brought them to their vocations, but like me, most of them would probably say they wouldn’t have it any other way.

*V. Michelle Bernard is the news, features and online editor for the Columbia Union Visitor.*

1,350

Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union Conference vice president for Multilingual Ministries, reports that in 2017 there have been 1,350 baptisms in Hispanic churches across the union.



**REACH GRADUATES SECOND CLASS**

Seven students recently graduated from REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School in Philadelphia.

“Our students came in with a desire to know Christ and connect with Him in a personal way. They experienced how to develop a personal relationship with God and hear His voice through spiritual retreats, sharing with spiritual companions and many other ways,” says Pastor Tiffany Brown, director. “In addition, they were stretched academically and learned best practices of urban ministry from many of our outstanding thinkers and leaders from across the North American

Division of Seventh-day Adventists.”

The school gave graduate Juan Carcamo (pictured above, back row, third from left, with REACH staff and fellow graduates), a member of Potomac Conference’s Germantown (Md.) Hispanic church, 15 college credits and a solid foundation for entering a traditional four-year college and provided guidance on choosing a major. Before coming to REACH, he said that he was going to fill out the application for a Seventh-day Adventist university, but he had no real reason to attend, other than it was Adventist. Today he sees that he is called to minister and that “his ministry begins now, not when he graduates from university.”

—REACH Staff

**COLUMBIA UNION RECOGNIZES STUDENT LEADERS**

The Columbia Union Conference Office of Education recently recognized juniors and seniors at each of the union’s eight academies. The Caring Heart Award winners were nominated for demonstrating a personal commitment to service and witnessing:

*Pictured from top:* **Ashley Hunte** from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. ■ **Bree Hurst** from Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. ■ **Michael Williams** from Pine Forge Academy in Pine Forge, Pa. ■ **Chrizzette Sullano** from Richmond Academy in Richmond, Va. ■ **Brenda Ngetich** from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. ■ **Cameron Mayer** from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md. ■ **Zachary Macomber** from Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio ■ **Ora Battle** from Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md.  
—V. Michelle Bernard



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“The #ThreeAngels Messages are not about the beast, they are about the Best [Jesus]”—@diegoboquer #Sabbathsermon

27 May 2017

REACH PHOTOS BY KRISTAL IRRGANG. CHRIZZETTE SULLANO BY ANDREW SHURTLEFF/AP IMAGES

## PASTORES DE CHESAPEAKE BAUTIZAN 230 EN COLOMBIA

Un equipo de 12 pastores de la Conferencia de Chesapeake viajó recientemente a Bucaramanga, una región montañosa en Colombia, Sudamérica, para llevar a cabo reuniones evangelísticas.

“La mejor parte fue la reacción que tuvieron las personas en nuestras reuniones”, dice Eli Rojas, director ministerial y de Ministerios de Familia de Chesapeake y coordinador del viaje. “La gente estaba ansiosa por escuchar y responder al llamado de Dios.” Lea más en el boletín de la conferencia de Chesapeake en la página 20.

—Samantha Young

## SEGUNDA GRADUACIÓN DE REACH

Siete estudiantes se graduaron recientemente de REACH, la Escuela de Evangelismo Urbano de la Unión en Filadelfia. “Nuestros estudiantes llegaron con el deseo de conocer a Cristo y conectarse con Él de manera personal. Ellos experimentaron cómo desarrollar una relación personal con Dios y escuchar su voz a través de retiros espirituales, compartiendo con compañeros espirituales y en muchas otras formas,” dice la directora, Pastora Tiffany Brown. “Además, expandieron sus conocimientos académicos



Walter Alonso (en la foto de la derecha con Rubén Ramos, Vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingües de la Unión de Columbia), de Food for Life, cubrió la mayor parte del costo para la distribución de más de 15,000 Biblias y miles de copias de El Camino a Cristo y El Conflicto de los Siglos en las ocho conferencias.

y aprendieron mejores prácticas de ministerio urbano de muchos de nuestros destacados pensadores y líderes de la División Norteamericana.”

Kevin Jiménez (foto de la derecha con los otros graduados), miembro de la compañía hispana de Kennett Square en la Conferencia de Pensilvania, dice: “(Vivir) en este ambiente urbano hizo que todo pueda llevarse a la práctica y que no sea sólo conocimiento teórico. ... REACH me ha proporcionado la oportunidad y la experiencia necesaria para cumplir



con todos los aspectos de ser cristiano.”—Personal de REACH

## CORTADOS CON LA MISMA TIJERA

Desde su primer encuentro en la iglesia de Langley Park en la Conferencia de Potomac, y durante los días de cortejo que siguieron, Josant Barrientos y su esposa, Claudya, han participado activamente en actividades de la iglesia, como Conquistadores y Sociedad de Jóvenes.

Hoy en día ambos son empleados de la Conferencia de Potomac; Él como director de Jóvenes, y ella como secretaria. Como pareja, a menudo colaboran en eventos y seminarios para jóvenes. “La mayor bendición de trabajar juntos en el ministerio es el apoyo que nos damos el uno al otro”, dice Claudya. “Como sucede con la mayoría de las parejas, nuestras personalidades son muy diferentes. Él es extrovertido, y yo introvertida, pero nos complementamos”, añade.

Lea más de su historia y otros perfiles en [columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias).—Pat Humphrey



# Cut From the Same Cloth

By Pat Humphrey

Ministry is often a family affair. These dynamic, dedicated family duos—father-son, father-daughter, husband-wife and siblings—have dedicated their lives to working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. How are they alike? Different? What blessings and challenges have they experienced? And what have they learned along the way?

## Balancing Each Other Out

Since their first encounter at Potomac Conference's Langley Park (Md.) church, and during the days of courtship that followed, Josant Barrientos and his wife, Claudya, have been actively involved in church activities, such as Pathfinders and Youth Ministries.

Today both are employed by the Potomac Conference; he as Young Adult Ministries director, and she as conference clerk. As a couple, they often collaborate on youth events and seminars. "The biggest blessing of working together in ministry is the support we give to each other," Claudya says. "As with the majority of couples, our personalities are very different. He is an extrovert, and I am an introvert, yet we balance each other out," she adds. "In an area where one may be weak, the other has stronger qualities, which definitely strengthens the ministry as a whole."

Language skills are one way the couple complements each other. "We are both bilingual, but Josant is much stronger in speaking Spanish," she says. "When it comes time to speaking or translating, Josant is always there to help me. The same goes with his English; I try to proofread his sermons and seminars, and we encourage each other."

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**Tip:** You need to set time apart to rest and truly enjoy each other's company away from church activities.  
—Claudya Barrientos



## In Their Genes

Toni A. Wlasniewski, language arts, social studies, Bible and art teacher at Pennsylvania Conference's Reading Junior Academy, says teaching is in her genes. Coming from a long line of educators, she says she can't imagine anything more fulfilling in life than sharing knowledge. Considered by many students and parents to be a legend in his time, Toni's father, Jake Randall, is a retired music teacher who spent his career directing junior and senior academy bands.

"Very sensitive about being a 'teacher's kid,' I tried to keep my distance from him at school and avoided his classes, even opting for bookbinding as an elective instead of music appreciation," says Wlasniewski. But to this day, she regrets that decision. Nevertheless, Randall's values have made a clear mark on his daughter's teaching style. "As a teacher, I find myself echoing his words, especially one of his mottoes: 'You've got to care!' which was often written in large letters on his band room blackboard," says Toni, known as "Mrs. Ski" to her students.

However, the exchange of values was clearly not unidirectional. "I thought it was great because she was always teaching me as she grew up," Randall admits. "We should have recognized from the beginning that she was destined to be a teacher. What else would she do?" he says.

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**Tip:** Let God lead, and don't get carried away by your own sense of importance.—*Jake Randall*



## Service from the “Get-Go”

Serving others is an inherent way of life for brothers Franklin and Lee Stahl (pictured). “Our parents created a Christian home that was active in service from the get-go,” says Franklin. As early as age 6, Lee and Franklin started Ingathering with the family and often spent Sabbath afternoons visiting nursing homes in Pennsylvania, where they were raised and still serve today.

Their family is still immersed in ministry with two church school principals/teachers; a lay pastor; a head deacon; several elders; a church clerk/music coordinator/children’s Sabbath School teacher; choristers; Pathfinder leaders; and more. Franklin serves as principal and head teacher of Pennsylvania Conference’s Mountain View Christian School in Williamsport. Lee is principal of Reading Junior Academy. “Working together in church ministry brings a tighter family bond because we have a common goal and interest,” says Franklin.

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**Tip:** We don’t have to go to some distant mission field to serve; there are opportunities and needs right where we are.—Franklin Stahl





## An Ordained Car Ride

The idea for the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Young Adult Retreat was birthed in the backseat of Jerome and Carolyn Hurst's car. During a two-and-a-half-hour ride home from the conference constituency meeting, Charde (Hurst) Hollins, a recent college graduate, and her parents bounced ideas back and forth, as she wrote them down on a stray piece of paper and pen from the bottom of her mother's purse.

Five years later, those sketchy notes have blossomed into the AWC Young Adult Retreat, an annual meeting where approximately 300 young adults are inspired to know and serve God in a deeper way, Jerome says.

Impacting the lives of young adults and "seeing them on fire for God" is the focus of Hollins' work today as AWC Young Adult Ministries director. Her love for making a difference in others' lives was inspired by her parents and extended family, especially her father, who also works for the conference as a pastor of the Southeast church in Cleveland and director of AWC Adventist Community Services. "Ministry has always been a part of our family," says Jerome.

Hollins says that car ride five years ago triggered memories of traveling to workers' meetings, youth federations and weekly trips to church, centered around her father's ministry in which the family brainstormed what they could do to enhance the church. "But this car ride was different," says Hollins. "This time it was my ministry that was the focus, and the 'car ride meeting' was to enhance my passion."

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**Lesson Learned:** I can be free to minister to others based on how God leads me.—Charde Hollins





## Better Together

In ninth grade, after reading *Mindy*, June Strong's classic story of a young woman who has to choose between her love for God and her husband, Miya Kim, a sixth-grade teacher at Chesapeake Conference's Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, Md., became certain that she only wanted to marry someone who was "spiritually growing and actively committed to furthering his walk with God within [the] marriage," she says.

It took her future husband, David Kim, associate pastor of Chesapeake Conference's Washington-Spencerville Korean church in Silver Spring, Md., a little longer to realize marriage was for him.

During college David contemplated devoting his life to ministry as a single person.

"As a well-intentioned and idealistic young person who wanted sincerely to devote his best to God, I was very drawn to being single, without the 'encumbrances' of dependents who might detract my focus from serving God," he says.

But his perception changed after two difficult mission trips to Dominica and Northeastern China. "I learned that mission tasks—whether hauling tons of gravel by buckets or witnessing to a North Korean refugee—were made much more effective when working with partners. God impressed upon me that my life's service would have a greater effect if I had a ministry partner. That is precisely when my friendship with Miya became more serious," he adds.

The Kims have now been married for 25 years and have two daughters.

"Partnership in ministry means that we understand and work under the same calling from God. This allows us to unconditionally support and sharpen each other to accomplish what God directs in our lives," says David. "Today I cannot imagine life without my ministry partner and companion, through whom my service to God and abundance of life continues to be fulfilled."

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**Tip:** Never underestimate how God can wrestle beauty from what seems like chaos when it comes to people's lives.—David Kim

## Like Father, Like Son

At age 15, Jose Cortes Jr., the North American Division's associate ministerial director for evangelism, wanted to be a doctor—not a pastor. Being a wise father, José H. Cortés, Sr., who serves as president of the New Jersey Conference, encouraged his son to pursue his dream. But early one morning in Madrid, Spain, Cortes Jr. heard his heavenly Father's call to become a pastor. "I believe that [my father's] wonderful and exemplary ministry during his early years influenced and silently encouraged my call," says Cortes Jr.

Cortés, Sr., also felt the call to ministry at the young age of 14. During his career, he's served as a pastor, evangelist, director of several conference departments and more. "I am so happy to believe that the person closest to me, my son, received my influence; but I also believe that he influenced my life and ministry in a very positive way." He adds, "My son and I have the same name. ... and share the same passion for evangelism! But he is the newer 'version' and can help the church reach younger generations."

Cortes Jr. agrees: "Our conversations have helped me to be more grounded, and our discussions have made him more cutting-edge and relevant to lead in the twenty-first century."

How might the duo influence upcoming generations? Jose H. Cortes III and Joel Benjamin Cortes, Jose Jr.'s sons, have already indicated an interest in becoming pastors. "It is my hope and desire that all my descendants—and their generations to come—will serve in ministry in our church until the second coming of Jesus," says José, Sr.

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**Lesson Learned:** The Church is not perfect, but it is the church of God. The Church is not mine; I belong to the Church, and the Church belongs to God.—José H. Cortés, Sr.



## Balancing the Busy

In their respective work as treasurer of the Mountain View Conference and principal/teacher of Parkersburg Academy in W.Va., Victor and Monica Zill have discovered that being in ministry and raising a family can be very demanding! Though their work responsibilities are very different, taking the couple in separate directions for 12-plus hours a day, the Zills still manage to find time on the crossroads of life to collaborate in ministry with the Pathfinder club at their local church. They also help their 12-year-old daughter and 11-year-old twin sons with schoolwork, church projects and other activities.

“The biggest challenge is that we both are extremely busy, and it is difficult to find much time when we are both free,” says Victor. “There is always more work to do than time to do it.” Yet the Zills consider their work rewarding and find that the blessings outweigh the demands. “While there are challenges [involved in] jointly working for the church, especially with kids, I would still encourage others to work for the church, as it is rewarding to see lives changed,” he adds.

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**Takeaway:** It is rewarding to see that my work has an impact on lives around me, and that truly only happens when working in partnership with God.—Victor Zill



## In the Same Boat

While Roy Simpson was growing up, his dad, Peter, always cut his hair, except for a few years when “I wanted to do things my way,” says Roy, who used to think he was very different from his dad. That changed after working with him as a volunteer at the conference office where they shared many conversations. Those talks “made me realize that we have so much in common, especially our passion for ministry,” says Roy, assistant treasurer for Ohio Conference.

Peter, who also works for the Ohio Conference as a pastor of the Cleveland Hispanic district and the Hispanic Ministries director, recognized early on that his son had a heart for ministry. “As a young boy, Roy heard the call to be a missionary and decided that the only thing that could bring him happiness was serving God and His church.”

Roy, whose grandmother, grandfather, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother were pastors in various churches, adds, “I was immersed in a life of ministry at a very young age. My father devoted his life to pastoral ministry, and our family was always involved in church activities.”

For some father-son combos, working day to day in the same office might present a challenge. But not so for the Simpsons. “It’s the most wonderful experience to know that we’re in the same boat, serving the same God and working in the same organization. We’re doubly blessed—as family, and as coworkers in ministry,” says Peter.

Even though the pair now live two hours from each other, Roy still asks his father to cut his hair. “Before it was just something we had to do. Now it’s a time for bonding.”

**Tip:** We have learned how important it is to have someone—a colleague or friend—close to you in ministry to share good and challenging moments.  
—Peter Simpson





# Get Back To Life!



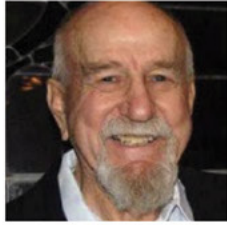
I worked hard during this 18-day bootcamp eating healthy food, enduring fever treatments, increasing my daily walking to seven miles by session end. My oncologist did another PET scan and remarked that he was intrigued that the report showed no cancer activity. - Joi



I have suffered with hypertension for the past thirty-two years. I was very excited to know that I could live a lifestyle that could reverse or improve my condition. and imagined how I would feel not having to take medication just from exercise and eating the right kind of food. - Lily-Mae



My leg has become strong, my hand has been restored, and my motor control has come back. My blood pressure now fluctuates from 125/60 to 138/70, my cholesterol has dropped from 207 to 186, and my blood sugar has returned to normal. - Gnanamuthu



I could not walk more than twenty feet without pain in the chest. After the session I left Weimar with no pain, lost sixteen pounds, LDL down, HDL up, blood pressure down to normal, I.B.S gone, chest pain gone, down to two pills a day and soon to be none. - Jerry

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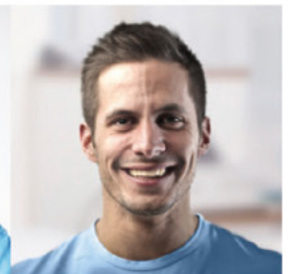
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# ALLEGHENY EAST Exposé

## Education Office Holds Annual Spelling Bee

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Office of Education recently held its annual Regional Spelling Bee at the Wilbert F. Mays Seventh-day Adventist School in Teaneck, N.J. Students first competed at their local schools before advancing to the regional level. Twenty students from 10 Pre-K to eighth-grade schools competed in the championship.

After a close race, Juliana Parham, a seventh-grader from Calvary Adventist School in Newport News, Va., claimed the prize. Parham says, "I studied really hard. Every day my mother and grandmother called the words out to me, and I reviewed them during my free time."

Parham received a gold medal, \$100, a trophy and a championship sign. "I was so surprised when I won. I came just hoping to place; so to win made me very excited," shares Parham.

Second place went to Star Odoemelam from Wilbert F. Mays School, and Brandon Lewis from Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist School in Hillside, N.J., placed third. Since Parham was the winner, her school, Calvary, will host next year's competition.



*AEC's Regional Spelling Bee winners celebrate with their educators: (front row) third place, Brandon Lewis; first place, Juliana Parham; and second place, Star Odoemelam; (back row) Gloria Perry, AEC associate superintendent of schools; Fansico Williams, lead teacher of Wilbert F. Mays School; and Terry Griffin, AEC curriculum coordinator.*

## African Congregation Celebrates New Church Building

The Ebenezer Ghana church in Newark, N.J., recently celebrated the grand opening of their new church building. After 12 years of renovation, they were excited to open their doors to members and special guests as part of their "Thus Far the Lord Has Helped Us" theme.

The mayor of Newark, N.J., Ras J. Baraka, gave



*Columbia Union Conference officials, Seth Bardu, treasurer; Emmanuel Asiedu, secretary/treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund; and Dave Weigley, president, join Amofah Asamoah, pastor of Ebenezer Ghana; Ras J. Baraka, mayor of Newark, N.J.; and other dignitaries and guests, to celebrate the grand opening of the new church building.*

congratulatory remarks, along with a few other dignitaries. The service also included speaker Henry J. Fordham III, AEC president, musical selections from various choirs and an offering of thanksgiving. The Ebenezer Ghana church collected a grand total of \$70,000 to assist in its mission, including donations from AEC and the Columbia Union Conference.

In 2002 Amofah Asamoah, pastor of the New Jersey Ghana church in Newark, and his 40-member congregation, worshiped in the gymnasium of the Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist School in Hillside, N.J. Three years later, New Jersey Ghana purchased a small building in Newark, began the renovation process and later changed its name to the Ebenezer Ghana church. Renovation was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, and, as a result, church members began a fundraising campaign that raised \$800,000.

"What I have learned during our building project affirms that God can use ordinary people to do great things for Him. We solicit His continuous blessings and guidance as we dedicate ourselves for the next phase of our ministry in the city of Newark," says Asamoah.

**NEWS**

**Pastor Retires After 30 Years of Service**

Ronald Cho recently celebrated his retirement from Allegheny East Conference (AEC) after 30 years of service. During his tenure, he served as pastor of the Philadelphia Korean and Rockville (Md.) Central Korean churches. Prior to that, he served as the AEC Korean cultural leader and as a special assistant to the president.

As an entrepreneur, Cho has used his resources to promote missions internationally. He is also an author who has written and designed many witnessing and outreach materials. "We are grateful for Dr. Cho's contribution to our conference and his dedication to spreading the gospel globally," says Henry J. Fordham III, president.



*Ronald Cho and his family, along with Henry J. Fordham III, AEC president, celebrate 30 years of service.*

**Haitian Youth Federation Celebrates 25th Retreat**

The Haitian Youth Federation recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its annual youth retreat. A record-breaking 700 campers, comprised of Haitian young adults in the Allegheny East Conference, registered for the full weekend on the campgrounds of Pine Forge, Pa.

This year's theme, "Pass The Torch, Fuel the Flame," included an action-packed weekend, including the election of officers for the next five years. Presenters conducted seminars geared toward preparing youth for ministry and trained Adventurer, Pathfinder, ambassador and youth leaders.

Ruben Joseph, pastor of Florida Conference's



*Many Pathfinders from Allegheny East Conference attend the Haitian Youth Federation's 25th retreat.*

North Miami church, preached to 2,000 young adults on Sabbath. Haitian Youth Federation pastors also honored leaders who have contributed to the success of the retreats through the years.

"I have never seen so many young adults worshipping Christ in a single place. I love the excitement of the youth actively planning how to minister to their communities," says Patrick Graham, AEC youth director.

**Notable Achievements in Allegheny East History**

Allegheny East Conference's administrative office has had two homes in the past 50 years. The first one was located in a renovated house on the conference's 525-acre campus in Pine Forge, Pa. In 2010 the AEC office moved into its current location, a custom-built 44,000 square-foot office building.





## Conference Stalwart Retires After 50 Years

**A**s Allegheny West Conference (AWC) celebrates its 50th anniversary, Pastor Carl Rogers, who has dedicated 50 years of service to the church, also has cause for celebration—he recently retired.

In 1967 Rogers graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Oakwood College (Ala.), and in 1969 received his Master of Divinity in Theology from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). Rogers and his wife of 53 years, Tecora, have since served in every corner of AWC.

Rogers began his work as a pastor and evangelist, and for 14 years ministered in multiple churches throughout Delaware, Ohio and Pennsylvania. He went on to serve at the departmental level for 20 years. Rogers shouldered a variety of responsibilities as either director or assistant director for ministries including Adventurers, Pathfinders, Summer Camp, Sabbath School, Health Ministries, Family Ministries, Sensational Seniors and others.

During the final 18 years of his career, Rogers served in multiple administrative roles, including executive secretary, assistant to the president and ministerial secretary. In 2014 the Columbia Union Conference paid tribute to his remarkable lifetime of service to AWC by recognizing him as a Notable Person of Honor.

William T. Cox Sr., president of AWC, remarks, “[Carl Rogers] has helped the conference grow in immeasurable ways and continues to inspire and be an influence for the kingdom of God. His service will never be forgotten, as the conference moves toward Christ’s soon return.”



## Temple Emmanuel Celebrates International Weekend

**T**he world has become such a divided place, and we are keener to see each other’s differences than similarities. So instead of building walls, the Temple Emmanuel church is spreading tables; 11 to be exact,”



*Shelly Gilmore and Pam Jusino, members of Temple Emmanuel, staff the Asian booth as part of the international weekend events.*

says Bryant Smith, pastor of Temple Emmanuel in Youngstown, Ohio.

Temple Emmanuel is comprised of 13 nationalities, and Smith and his wife, Amanda, have sought to highlight that diversity in a way that brings people together, both inside and outside the church. One such method is the annual international weekend. The church recently hosted its third event, culminating with an international food fair.

On Sabbath, church members, dressed in their traditional attire, led praise and worship in different languages for attendees, including approximately 60 community members. The following day, the YWCA (Young Women Christian Association), along with church members, provided food samples at the international food fair. Local vendors from the Women in Entrepreneurs (WE) program sold cookies and clothing. And the local news station, WKBN, interviewed Smith about the diversity of the church and community.

Nina Simms, a local guest, comments, “Thank you for having this event, I really enjoyed myself!”

## Alpha & Omega Member Helps Nurses Pass Exams

Failure in any area of life can be devastating. I pray with students and let them know that there's hope after failure because this is the gospel message," says Regina Callion, a member of the Alpha & Omega church in Warren, Ohio. Callion, who has a Master of Science in Nursing and is a registered nurse, is the owner and instructor of ReMar Review for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®).

Nursing is the nation's largest and fastest growing healthcare profession. It's a popular choice for many but requires intensive education and training to ensure public safety. Each year as graduation season approaches, nearly 100,000 nursing students begin studying for NCLEX.

NCLEX is the single test that separates the student from the professional nurse. Each year approximately 85 percent of students pass the test. This means nearly 15 percent of nursing students fall short of meeting the requirements to obtain their state license. Of those who fail, the success rate falls to less than 40 percent the next time they take the test. Foreign nurses pass NCLEX at a low rate of 38 percent.

Registered nurse Sandy Montana is one such student who knows what it's like to experience success after failure. "I'm an international student; I've tested so many times. ... Regina is a teacher who was called by God; seriously, she changed my life," says Montana.

"ReMar is more than a business. It's the platform that God has provided for me to do 'ministry beyond the walls,'" says Callion, who launched the program in 2011. "You have to let students know that you believe in their ability to succeed," she continues. "Nursing is caring for people during their most difficult challenges in life. [It] is not just a career; it's a calling."



*Registered nurse Regina Callion, a member of the Alpha & Omega church in Warren, Ohio, is the owner and instructor of ReMar Review for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®).*

### Calendar of Events

- July 8* Women's Ministries Annual Offering Day
- July 9-16* Youth Camp at Camp Adena
- July 27-August 10* Vietnam Mission Trip
- July 29-30* Men's Retreat at Kenyon College
- August 11-13* Young Adult Ministries Fifth Annual Retreat
- August 20* 50th Anniversary Celebration in Cleveland
- August 27* 50th Anniversary Celebration in Cincinnati

For more information, visit [awconf.org/calendar](http://awconf.org/calendar).

# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

## God in Your Pocket

A friend recently told me that God doesn't get involved in our lives. He said, "Imagine you have God on a shelf at home. Things are fine, but suddenly there's a problem. You run home, grab Jesus and put Him in your pocket, close to your heart. Then you confront the problem you're having." I asked, "Then what?" With a smile, he clarified, "Then you put God back on the shelf!"

God desires a different relationship. In Exodus 25:8, He communicates that He wants to dwell among His people. In Psalm 23, we learn that God is all around us. In Matthew 28:20, He promises to be with us "to the very end of the age" (NIV). The most loving reflection of God's desire is found in John 14:1-3: "... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (NIV). He wants to be with us for eternity!

How would your life change if you believed that God is always with you? Live each day acknowledging God's presence; it will transform the way you live.



**Eli Rojas**

*Ministerial and Family  
Ministries Director*

## Officers Re-elected at Conference Constituency Session

At the fourth quinquennial constituency session of the Chesapeake Conference, recently held at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., a quorum of 327 regular delegates and 227 delegates-at-large met to elect officers for the 2017-2022 quinquennial term and conduct church business. Delegates voted to re-elect leaders Rick Remmers, president; Eduardo Muñoz, treasurer; and Jerry Lutz, executive secretary.

"It is a privilege to be able to serve the Lord and His people," says Remmers. "I'm grateful for God's guidance and blessings in the outreach and ministry that has taken place over the past five years. There is a great work yet to be done."

The finances of the Chesapeake Conference have remained healthy over the past quinquennium, says Muñoz. "The faithfulness of our members is key to our strength and success. Faithfulness to God leads to great blessings."

The past five years reflect expanded emphasis on mission and evangelism to engage members in outreach at home and in other countries. "Sharing the Hope" is the focus and theme for the next five years.

"It was inspiring to see how God's people worked together today for the advancement of His kingdom in our conference," says Lutz. "I can't wait to see what blessings He has in store for us!"

Delegates also accepted three new Maryland churches—Dundalk Spanish, Hagerstown Spanish and Columbia Spanish. Church growth has been steady, averaging 377 new members each year, and topping 15,000 members in 2016.



*The newly re-elected officers and their spouses stand outside the Spencerville church following the session (Left to right: Executive Secretary Jerry Lutz, Janet Lutz, President Rick Remmers, Shayne Remmers, Elsy Muñoz and Treasurer Eduardo Muñoz).*

## Conference Welcomes New Education Team

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently named Janesta Walker (below) as superintendent of schools, and Michael Jakobsons (right) as associate superintendent. Walker fills the vacancy left by Jacqueline Messenger, who is now associate director for secondary education for the Columbia Union Conference. Mark Walker, the current interim superintendent, is set to retire August 1.

“We welcome both of these educators to the Chesapeake Conference. Their combined training and experience, in a variety of school settings, will prove to be a genuine benefit to our schools,” says Rick Remmers, conference president.



Walker was principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy near Chicago. Previously she was vice principal at the now-closed Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio. She has taught English and art, and is experienced in marketing and development. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and art from

Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, Tenn., and a Master in Educational Administration. Her husband, Luther Walker, is a building contractor. The couple has a daughter, Meagan, who will be a freshman at SAU, and a son, Levi, who begins high school in the fall.



Jakobsons has been teaching education courses at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., since 2016. He was principal at Niles Adventist School (Mich.) for nine years before coming to Maryland. He holds an elementary certification and a secondary certification in religion and social studies. Jakobsons has a bachelor's degree in history, with a religion minor from Andrews University (Mich.), and a Master of Arts in Elementary Education. His wife, Andrea Jakobsons, is the youth pastor at Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

Walker and Jakobsons assume their new roles July 1. Chesapeake Conference operates 12 schools, including two high schools.

## Chesapeake Pastors Baptize 230 in Colombia

A team of 12 Chesapeake Conference pastors recently traveled to Bucaramanga, a mountainous region in Colombia, South America, to conduct evangelistic meetings.

“The best part was the reaction people had at our meetings,” says Eli Rojas, Ministerial and Family Ministries director, and coordinator of the trip. “People were eager to hear, and quick to respond to God's calling.”

The two most common challenges people face in Bucaramanga concerning church membership is Sabbath-keeping and cohabitation, says Rojas. Churches are proactive in addressing these challenges; they try to find employment that allow their congregants to keep the Sabbath, and they offer to pay for marriage licenses.

“The pastors baptized 230 individuals, and more than 100 people made decisions for baptism following additional Bible studies. The team returned from the

trip energized and excited about sharing God at home and abroad,” exclaims Rojas.



*A team of Chesapeake Conference's Spanish-speaking pastors visit the East Colombia Conference in Bucaramanga, Colombia, South America.*

# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Cumberland Supper Club Feeds Friendships

Charlotte (Candy) Allen wanted to rally her church to work for their community. “I also wanted the community to know who Adventists were—that we are truly concerned about them,” shares Allen, Outreach Leadership team leader for the Cumberland (Md.) church. “When my daughter’s church in the Chesapeake Conference held a supper club, I thought this would be great to try here,” she explains.

Allen approached the church board in the summer of 2015 to discuss the possibility of a monthly community outreach project, and the supper club became a reality in August of that year.

Outreach Leadership members sent personal invitations to the community, in addition to radio and newspaper advertisements. They also posted a large vinyl banner on the church property, making it easy for passersby to notice the announcement.

The Cumberland Supper Club is an outreach program that runs September through April, in which church members prepare food for the once-a-month supper using all plant-based ingredients. They type recipes and put them in a binder so the attendees can each have their own cookbook to add more recipes to each month. Brenda Owens, Health Ministries director for the church and a nursing instructor at Allegheny College in Cumberland, Md., coordinates the speakers. A committee meets monthly to plan the next meal and presentation.



*Mother-daughter duo Brenda Owens and Christiana Holler (left), Cumberland church members, serve attendees during the monthly supper club.*

Besides a delicious meal, members give a recipe demonstration, followed by a health lecture and door prizes, such as kitchen gadgets, vegetarian cookbooks, hand soaps and even homemade dishcloths and scrubbies.

Some of the supper club themes have been Italian, Mexican, soups and sandwiches, breakfast for supper and many more. Special presentations have covered such topics as diabetes, a DVD documentary about Desmond Doss, organic farming and a woman’s incredible personal testimony of losing 160 pounds.

Guests frequently comment, “I look forward to this event every month,” and “This is a very nice event for our community.” With an average attendance of 40, the supper club is a social gathering where church members mingle with community guests.

The Cumberland Supper Club is also part of the community pre-work in preparation for this year’s fall evangelistic meetings. “The new church building project is in a prime location for additional community events and outreach programs,” says Jim Buchanan, pastor of the Cumberland and Frostburg (Md.) churches.—*Elaine Buchanan*



*A banner close to a highway advertises the Cumberland Supper Club.*

MOUNTAIN  
**VIEWPOINT**

## Parkersburg Pathfinders Reach Peers With Health Expo

The Parkersburg (W.Va.) Pathfinder Club recently conducted a children's health expo for 250 students, grades K-5 at the Franklin Elementary Center in Parkersburg. Using colorful banners, the Pathfinders manned eight stations across the school's gymnasium, offering games, quizzes and activities.

"Having the Pathfinders take lead roles in sharing these health concepts was an encouragement to the elementary students," says Beth Ackman, Parkersburg Pathfinder Club director.

Pathfinder Nathan Zill, age 11, who attends Parkersburg Academy in W.Va., volunteered at a booth where children placed their hands in bright blue boxes to feel items associated with sunshine and being outdoors. "I enjoyed getting the kids to laugh, helping them learn things about sunshine and working with my dad," shares Nathan.

"I felt that the health expo was a wonderful opportunity for our students. They learned valuable information about the importance of good health," shares Franklin Elementary Center Principal Lee Ann Cumpston.



*Pathfinder Nathan Zill teams up with his father, Victor, conference treasurer, to talk about the benefits and hazards of sunshine during the children's health expo.*

"The expo was a win-win for the students who presented and the students who participated."

**AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." Psalm 100:4

**FAMILY**

**LIFE**

**the BIBLE**

**HEALTH**

**My Church**

**Food**

**Freedom**

**GUEST SPEAKER,**  
**TAMYRA HORST**  
**(PENNSYLVANIA CONF)**

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**OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2017**  
**VALLEY VISTA ADVENTIST CENTER**  
**HUTTONSVILLE, WV**

visit [www.mtviewconf.org](http://www.mtviewconf.org) in August for more details

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# NEWS NEW JERSEY

## The Legacy of a Great Leader

Prior to his death, 120-year-old Moses, a great leader, knew the task for which he had been called was coming to an end (see Deut. 34:7). But God, who guides and determines the lives of His chosen leaders, decided and indicated the right time for Moses to find a replacement for the next generation. Moses not only accepted the Lord's will, but prepared and trained Joshua, his successor (see Deut. 34:9).

God's strategy for succession in leadership is not to wait until the point of exhaustion to give the new generation an opportunity to exercise their gifts of leadership. Moses mentored Joshua, Elijah guided Elisha and Jesus trained His disciples. For any organization, a true leader must simultaneously manage the present and blueprint the future. It is necessary to train the new generation. However, we must be careful not to do the choosing, but to let God decide which individuals He'd like to use for the mission of leadership and servanthood.

I firmly believe that an organization grows and thrives or falls and fails based on the quality of leadership. When a great leader responsibly does what he or she must do, and runs the relay race on the administrative track, the leader must pass the baton with joy and love to the trainees to continue the "great race," so that the organization can victoriously reach the finish line.

I remember the time when I joined the New Jersey Conference 30 years ago and found that God was already there long before I arrived. And I know that God will stay here even after I leave, and after you leave, as well, because my beloved conference belongs only to God—our greatest Leader!



**José H. Cortés**  
*President*

## Youth Rallies Take Towns by Storm

The Youth Ministries department, which organizes the New Jersey Conference into seven "zones," recently held two compassion youth rallies. Zones 1-3 (churches in the northern N.J. region) gathered at the Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School on a recent Sabbath, and Zones 4-7 (churches in central and south N.J.) met at the Robbinsville church two Sabbaths later. Gabriel Morales, a student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University (Mich.), spoke for the respective worship services, encouraging the youth to step out of their comfort zones to help their communities. In the afternoon, they divided into groups and left their sites to serve the community. They offered water, balloons for kids, flyers, free hugs and prayer to the citizens of Waldwick and Robbinsville.



*Young adults participate in the compassion youth rally in Waldwick, N.J.*

PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

## News

### Elizabeth Spanish Church Hosts Health Fair

The Elizabeth Spanish church recently joined forces with the compassion initiative of New Jersey Conference to host a community health fair. Church member Carmen Castro coordinated the program to feature acts of compassion.

Using a rather unusual method of advertisement, members paraded down city streets, escorted by police, inviting neighbors to join them along the way. Many church department leaders attended with only one mission in mind: to promote a healthy lifestyle to the community. The community health fair offered several stations featuring fitness classes, prayer, clothes distribution, a blood drive, health and spiritual literature, massage, a facial spa, distribution of food baskets, free haircuts and a health-age test, administered by health professionals.

Approximately 50 people visited the fair and 28 donated blood. “We are convinced that we have been called to be a church of compassion. We have a very relevant health message, and we have to share it with the community,” says Carlos Torres, pastor of Elizabeth Spanish.



Elizabeth Spanish church members invite people to attend the community health fair.

### Fifth Leadership Summit Emphasizes Compassion Theme

The New Jersey Conference recently hosted its fifth annual Adventist Leadership Summit for some 400 Spanish-speaking members. Every year local department leaders come together to be trained and inspired to work in their local churches. This year the emphasis was training leaders to use compassion



Alberto Lache, pastor of the West New York Spanish church, interviews Jose Cortes Jr., the architect behind the Compassion Movement, at the fifth annual Adventist Leadership Summit.

as a form of evangelism—attracting people to Jesus through acts of kindness. Speakers included José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president; Peter Casillas, Potomac Conference Church Planting and Evangelism coordinator; Paulo Macena, New Jersey Conference youth director and coordinator of the event; Michael Guerrero, Greater New York Hispanic Ministries director; and Jose Cortes Jr., NAD Ministerial associate director for evangelism. The annual Adventist Leadership Summit for English-speaking members is held every September.

### General Conference to Release Macena’s Book

The General Conference Ministerial Association is currently publishing *The Missing Power*, written by Paulo Macena, Youth Ministries director of New Jersey Conference. The book demonstrates that the church in the book of Acts was serving the community in love and unity, and it grew from a handful of disciples to thousands of followers. The remarkable advance of the church at that time was achieved because the disciples searched, claimed, pursued and allowed the power of the Holy Spirit to work and guide their ministry. Macena also invites readers to find that missing power in their own lives. The 184-page book will soon be available in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. New Jersey Conference leaders will each receive a copy.



PHOTOS BY JORGE PILLCO



## Centerville Adopts African Refugee Church Plant

Most [Visitor] readers are probably familiar with the war between the Tutsis and Hutus in the early '90s, in which more than 800,000 people were slaughtered. It is one of the greatest genocides in modern history anywhere in the world," shares Winston Baldwin, senior pastor of the Centerville church.

Baldwin shares this background information in reference to members who attend the African Refugee church plant in Dayton. "Many in the group have never lived in a setting like the one they are experiencing [in Ohio], because many of them have spent 20 years in refugee camps, living only in tents," he explains. "They had many challenges in their native countries and are just beginning to adjust to many of the different challenges living in a first-world country." Most of the refugees come from Rwanda, with some from Burundi and Congo. The majority do not yet know English, but are making efforts to learn.



*Winston Baldwin, senior pastor of the Centerville church, baptizes Fidelia Tuyisange, an African Refugee church plant member.*

In October 2016, Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders consulted with Ohio Conference leadership to organize the African Refugee church plant. "Late last year, the Centerville church voted to officially become the 'mother church' to the African group. After a series of Bible studies, 17 people were baptized ... most of them being under the age of 25," shares Baldwin. The church began with 40 members and has now doubled in size.

Lay leaders Fidele Nsengimana and Jan Jewett shepherd the growing congregation. The group meets at a church building on the Grandview Medical Center campus in Dayton, which is part of the Kettering Adventist HealthCare Network. "It is a beautiful church facility which they can use each Sabbath for the foreseeable future," says Baldwin.

"God has truly prepared Nsengimana to minister to this group because one of his parents is a Hutu and the other a Tutsi," shares Baldwin. Nsengimana arrived several years ago without his family because he was the only one who could get out of Rwanda at the time. His wife and two children have since joined him here in the U.S.

"As you can imagine, the physical needs of these refugees are great. They need everything from clothing and household goods to washers and dryers," Baldwin comments. Many Centerville members have donated clothing, appliances and even provided plumbing repairs.

"It is our hope here at Centerville that one day, in the not too distant future, the Dayton African group will become a full-fledged church," says Baldwin, "and we expect that this will happen because of God's continued blessings."

PHOTOS BY JAMES GARBIER



*Families of baptismal candidates from the African Refugee church plant sing in their native language.*

## Refugee Ministry Helps Hundreds

Vestine is a refugee of the civil war in the Central African Republic who had the opportunity to move to the U.S. with her family this past October. She is a single parent of seven children, aged 13 months to 20 years. When they first arrived, the U.S. government resettlement program gave Vestine and her family lodging and a food stamp card for groceries. When the program ended, they were left on their own. Unfamiliar with the local food and language, the family nearly starved.

After months of seeking for someone of a similar background, they met a man who spoke their language. He took them to a local African grocery store, owned by Esther Somayire, one of the leaders of Dominion Intercessors Ministry (DIM).

Many refugee families in the Dayton, Ohio, area experience similar situations and struggle adapting to American culture. DIM volunteers have devoted their time and mission to help families—500 since its inception—in need. DIM also partnered with the Miamisburg church to provide Christmas gifts—toys, winter jackets and winter shoes—for refugee families.

DIM is a non-profit organization that “help[s] refugees transition from hopelessness into fruitful, responsible, independent American citizens through



Miamisburg pastor and Dominion Intercessors Ministry board member Lori Farr distributes gifts as part of the many outreach services they provide.



Dominion Intercessors Ministry members give a community baby shower for refugees in the Dayton area.

the development of crucial linkages between immigrant community, low-income families and mainstream social service providers in Dayton, Ohio,” states their newsletter. The Chief Operating Officer, Tabitha Uwimpuhwe, is a member of the Miamisburg church. Her pastor, Lori Farr, is a member of DIM’s board of directors.

Uwimpuhwe arrived in the U.S. in 1991 to complete her education, hoping to return to Rwanda to help provide clean water to her village. Life changed in 1994 when her parents were killed in the Rwanda massacre. She was granted asylum in 1995, and years later, her family found refuge in the U.S., Canada and Europe. She knows first-hand the difficulties refugees face starting over in a new country.

While DIM reaches out to the community in many ways, social activities such as baby showers are most effective. In addition to providing basic supplies for new babies, these shower events “bring communities together where new refugees are exposed to others who look like them and speak like them,” Uwimpuhwe shares.

“We intend to reach more families as the needs of refugees and immigrants have increased greatly, due to the immigration policy [proposed] by the [U.S.] administration,” adds Uwimpuhwe. She says the number of people seeking assistance from DIM has increased, particularly from the African region. “Although many are legal, they are afraid to seek help from authorities due to the lack of understanding and fear.”

Learn more at [diministry.org](http://diministry.org).

# Pennsylvania Pen

## 16 Baptized at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy

During two separate Week of Prayer meetings held at Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy (HVCA), dozens of students responded to the call to give their lives to Christ. Lucas Smith, HVCA Bible teacher, sponsored the first week of prayer, led by students in grades 7-11. Many students came forward for baptism during that week. Jessica Bardu, Pre-K and kindergarten teacher, and Winona Knight-Hudson, second grade teacher, organized and sponsored the second week of spiritual emphasis. Led by younger students, they emphasized HVCA's core values, to be Honorable, Virtuous, Christ-like and Authentic. "Be the Change" was the week's theme, and each day students from different classes led worship with praise songs, prayers in different languages, special music and Scripture lessons.

Keith Ingram, pastor of the Bucks County church in Warminster, baptized five students, grades 3-7, in a temporary baptismal "tank" in HVCA's parking lot.

Lenin Rincon, pastor of a Brazilian church in Philadelphia, baptized his son, Daniel. And on the last day of school, Pete Palmer, pastor of the Germantown church in Philadelphia, baptized two students. Eight other students were previously baptized this school year, bringing the total to 16.—*Michael Gayle*



*Keith Ingram, pastor of the Bucks County church in Warminster, baptizes seventh-grader Aliyah in a temporary baptismal "tank" in HVCA's parking lot.*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GAYLE

## Reading Youth Participate in Global Youth Day

The Hampden Heights church in Temple recently joined the international Adventist community to celebrate Global Youth Day, a day set aside by the General Conference for youth to partake in compassion ministries and share the gospel around the world.



*Reading-area church members feed the homeless during Global Youth Day.*

Hampden Heights partnered with the Reading Hispanic church, Hope Rescue Mission, Reading Junior Academy, both the Rehoboth Spanish and English churches in Reading, members of the Allegheny East Conference and nearly 200 volunteers to share Jesus with the poor and homeless of Reading. "Even the homeless were volunteering to help!" exclaims Pete Maldonado, pastor of the Hampden Heights church.

Three years ago, the Rehoboth Spanish church initiated the program in Reading for Global Youth Day. This is the second year the movement has collaborated with Reading-area Adventist churches, including Hampden Heights.

Church members distributed clothes, toys, homemade soup and ziti, bread and pastries, donated by Panera Bread, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, prayers, hugs and haircuts. "We interacted with close to 500 people," Maldonado estimates. "As a result, more than 40 people from the event have asked for Bible studies, prayer and pastoral visits."—*Ashley Richards*

## ***It is Written* to Partner with Faith for Family Initiative**

*It is Written* and Pennsylvania Conference will host a prayer rally August 26 at the Harrisburg First church in preparation for this fall's Faith for Family evangelistic outreach initiative. Pastor Eric Flicklinger, associate speaker for *It is Written* and co-host of *Line Upon Line* and *SALT 365*, will lead attendees on a journey, learning to pray the prayers that connect believers to the heart of God and unleash His power. Attendees will not only learn from Flicklinger's inspiring messages, but they will also put their learning into practice during afternoon prayer workshops at the church and in the community.

Gather your church members and attend this powerful one-day rally, or live stream the event from your church or home at [paconference.churchonline.org](http://paconference.churchonline.org). Churches that choose to livestream may order seminar and workshop materials through the Pennsylvania Conference prior to the event. For more information, go to [paconference.org](http://paconference.org) and click on the Faith for Family link.

Faith for Family is a coordinated outreach initiative slated to launch approximately 20 simultaneous evangelistic programs in central Pennsylvania during October and November. Since Faith for Family's inception in 2015, more than 190 people have joined churches across the state.—*John Kent*



**Peace & Purpose**

**During Intense Times**

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**Laurel Lake Camp**  
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For more information or to register, go to [www.paconference.org](http://www.paconference.org) or call 610.374.8331.

The advertisement features a background image of a lighthouse on a rocky island, with waves crashing against its base. The text is overlaid on this image. The top left has the title 'Peace & Purpose' in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, 'During Intense Times' is written in a similar font. To the right, there is a short paragraph of text, followed by a smaller portrait of Gary Gibbs. At the bottom right, the dates, location, and contact information are listed in white text on a dark blue background.

# Potomac People

## Living a Life of Social Justice

For many, social justice is a volatile subject. Some feel the time for open and honest, even painful, discussion has not yet arrived. As followers of Christ, our privilege is to *create* an environment where we can discuss and live out a biblical perspective of justice. As theologian Russell D. Moore says, “The gospel drives us to an understanding that the ultimate accounting of justice doesn’t rest with the state, or with ourselves, but with the Judgment Seat of the kingdom of God.”

For the past year, our pastors, teachers and staff have been discussing and learning what justice means from the perspective of the gospel. God expects our engagement with the community, and, as His people, we have the responsibility to be compassionate, filled with integrity and a strong voice for those who cannot speak. We are reminded, “*God’s Spirit is on me; He’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to announce, ‘This is God’s year to act!’*” (Luke 4:18, MSG).

Jesus did not simply talk about service; He was actively engaged in it. Our “Cultivate” initiative is based on this principle, challenging our members to listen to the needs of their communities and reach beyond the church walls. Many have responded with evangelism series, food banks, health fairs and clothes drives.

Recently, some of our churches, such as the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md.; Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md.; and the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., have held classes, panels and discussions that answer questions regarding the rights and privileges of those affected by ever-changing immigration practices. A conference-sponsored event will be taking place in English and Spanish that includes roundtable discussions with lawyers, case workers, counselors and representatives from local, state and federal government agencies to answer in-depth questions. This is one example of what social



*For the past year, pastors, such as Daniel Royo of the Piney Forest church in Danville, Va., along with teachers and staff, have been discussing what social justice means from a biblical perspective.*

justice looks like—extending mercy and a voice to those who may not feel safe to speak, and reaching out in kindness to those who are hurting and scared.

In Micah 6:8, God plainly states what He is looking for in believers. “It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously—take God seriously” (MSG). It’s our prayer that our members and students will be the bold ambassadors the Bible calls us to be.



**Bill Miller**  
*President*

# Potomac People

## TA Preparatory School to Open

This year two beloved schools in Takoma Park, Md.—John Nevins Andrews (JNA) and Sligo Adventist School—will unite as Takoma Academy Preparatory School (TA Prep). TA Prep will offer kindergarten to eighth grade, as well as high school credits, to make for an easy high school transition into Takoma Academy (TA), located across the parking lot.

“Bringing these rich academic and historical backgrounds together makes TA Prep strong from the start,” says Carla Thrower, principal of TA, who will also oversee TA Prep. “Each school brings a unique vibe and specialty which we want to honor. Our mission is to provide high-quality Christian education for every student who enters our doors. This is inclusive of preparing our students to be thinkers and doers, on and off campus.”



*Dozens of potential students attend TA Prep’s kindergarten roundup.*



The anticipated student enrollment for TA Prep is 300 students—about the combined total of JNA’s and Sligo’s ending enrollment. “We are focused on keeping classroom sizes to about 20 students,” states Thrower. “There will be two teachers per grade, and [we] are excited to have almost all of our JNA and Sligo teachers on board with us at TA Prep this year.” Grace Ameyaw, principal of JNA for the past two years, will oversee the TA Prep campus as vice principal; Keith Beckett, TA’s Student Services and Athletic director, will be vice principal for TA, a returning position for the school. Thrower will oversee both campuses.

Like TA, TA Prep will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) academics, and will also emphasize the arts and community services—inspired programs and initiatives from both JNA and Sligo. “It’s no easy task to start a new chapter under a new name,” says Thrower. “We are very sensitive to how revered and loved both JNA and Sligo schools have been throughout the decades. TA Prep will include a heritage room with photos, mascot outfits, trophies and other memorabilia to honor the history of both of these namesakes and provide a place for alumni to reflect.”

Keith Hallam, who until recently served as vice president for education, says, “For the past two-and-a-half-years, countless board members, parents, teachers and church members have been in ongoing conversation of how to create a sustainable school, an innovative model of Adventist education, unify a community of churches, provide affordable education and create a new school in which everyone can have ownership. We are excited to open this new chapter in Takoma Park. TA Prep will be a school that honors God, pursues academic excellence and nurtures and prepares students for a life of service.”

A video that highlights TA Prep can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/taprep](http://tinyurl.com/taprep).



# Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

## Campus Offers Aviation Program, Pilot License

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) has offered its students flight training since the early 1970s. In the aviation program's nearly 50 years, 80 students have earned private pilot's licenses, and many more have completed training from discovery flights, soloing and cross-country trips.

The aviation program's main purpose is to increase student opportunity and to advance the Lord's work. Junior Iliana Dialectakis says, "I joined the aviation program here at BMA because my desire is to be a missionary. Being founded on the grounds of mission aviation, I find [BMA's] setting for learning is fantastic."

BMA owns a 2,800-foot runway, and through a new relationship with Training Mission Aviation, a non-profit organization, students now have easy access to flight train in a Cessna Skyhawk.

BMA has also offered ground school since the late 1960s. In preparation for the Federal Aviation Administration private pilot written exam, this classroom portion of aviation training teaches the principles of aerodynamics, aircraft systems, weather, rules and regulations, navigation and human factors involved in flying.

Eric Engen, BMA's IT director and music teacher, also teaches the ground school. Engen grew up listening to stories of Adventist missionary pilots. When he joined BMA in 2002, he watched the school's airplane



*Junior David Masaka completes ground school at Blue Mountain Academy and is now beginning flight training with Training Mission Aviation.*

take off and land every Sunday and realized this was the perfect opportunity for him to fulfill his childhood dream of flying. He received his private pilot's license at BMA in 2006, and continued his training at local airports, earning his instrument rating and commercial pilot certificates. In 2015 he went to Andrews University (Mich.) to earn his certified flight instructor certificate. Now he teaches BMA students how to fly.

"Mr. Eric Engen is very knowledgeable, patient and professional. I have been inspired to strive for high standards in this profession," shares Dialectakis. "The program here is designed to teach you skills and encourages you to gain experiences that will prepare you for more awesome experiences after school. It requires strict discipline both in detail and in accuracy, as well as a love for aviation!"

Various BMA aviation alumni have been mission pilots in Guyana, are airline or corporate pilots and are flight instructors or aviation mechanics for universities or private flight schools. Many others do not work in the aviation industry but still independently fly.

Engen says, "Having a pilot's license opens many doors and broadens students' horizons in private life and future business."



*In preflight preparation, Iliana Dialectakis takes flight training on campus with Training Mission Aviation after taking ground school last year.*

## HVA Hosts Music Festival

Students from Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia recently gathered on the campus of Highland View Academy (HVA) to gain musical skills and experience, and perform a concert for family and friends.

Sponsored by Chesapeake Conference, the music festival resumed this year after a two-year hiatus. During the three-day festival, clinician Philip Byrd, music director at Indiana Academy, conducted choir pieces for fifth- to tenth-graders. Dover First Christian School in Delaware; Mt. Aetna Adventist School (MAAS) in Hagerstown, Md.; Rocky Knoll School in Martinsburg, W.Va.; and HVA participated in the event.



*Mt. Aetna Adventist School (MAAS) participants (back row) Emma Rouse, Camilla Ryan, MAAS Music Teacher Angela Choi and Max Byrkit; (front row) Liliana Borges and Lily Brooks have fun during a rehearsal break.*

The festival included a bell choir workshop, a gymnastics clinic and a recital showcasing HVA students who demonstrated how students can best utilize their God-given talents. During the recital, students highlighted various styles of music and instruments, from gospel to ukuleles.

After two days of intense rehearsals, festival participants performed for the Sabbath morning service at Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., followed by an afternoon concert.



*Festival clinician Philip Byrd prepares to conduct the music festival choir at the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md.*

PHOTOS BY JASON BROOKS AND JOEY ROUSE

Participant Emma Rouse, a fifth-grader at MAAS, says, Byrd was “good at teaching us. He was funny and calm. My favorite song was ‘Lord of the Dance.’”

HVA freshman Hannah Scalzo also enjoyed working with Byrd. She says the vocal warm-ups were very helpful and made the performance sound amazing.

The next Chesapeake Conference Music Festival is scheduled for March 8-10, 2018, on HVA’s campus. Andrew Lay, HVA’s music director and event organizer, says, “We plan for this festival to continue to enhance music and arts education for elementary, secondary and home school students in the future.”

## HVA Graduates Class of 2017





# PFA POST



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

## New Faculty, Staff Join Pine Forge Academy

Pine Forge Academy is happy to welcome several new team members for the 2017-18 school year. Each new faculty and staff member is uniquely gifted to help PFA achieve its mission, vision and strategic initiatives.

A native of Atlanta, Jarrett Roseborough will serve as choir and music director. Roseborough has a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, with a concentration in vocal/choral music, from Oakwood University (Ala.), a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Georgia State University and eight years of experience teaching music from K-undergraduate levels. Roseborough's goal is for students to witness



the God-filled, awe-inspiring moments that occur when they give their best effort in time and talent for the glory of Christ. The fine arts program will create an avenue for students who wish to pursue a career in the arts, stand toe to toe with artists worldwide and not just do well, but excel!

Originally from Charlottesville, Va., Addriene M. Warfield-Rhodes will serve as English teacher and dean of instruction. Warfield-Rhodes is a graduate of PFA and Andrews University (Mich.), where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English, with a specialization in American



Literature. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Education, with an emphasis in instructional leadership at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.).

Khandi Cooper, from Brooklyn, N.Y., will serve as biology educator. She joins PFA with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Adventist University of Health Sciences (formerly Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences), and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, with a concentration in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) from Concordia University-Portland (Ore.). This school year, Cooper hopes to start a robotics team to compete at the Adventist Robotics League in Sacramento, Calif.



PFA alumnus Eldridge Edgecombe, a native of Bronx, N.Y., will serve as business manager. Edgecombe is a certified public accountant and has a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Toledo (Ohio). He has more than 40 years of practical hands-on accounting, finance and business experience. Prior to joining PFA, Edgecombe served for 11 years as a senior vice president for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

For more information about our new team members, including extensive bios and photos, visit [pineforgeacademy.org](http://pineforgeacademy.org).

# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### Students Experience “Soup Miracle”

Students from the Campus Ministries department lead a monthly outreach program to help homeless neighbors in Washington, D.C. During each outing, students serve warm vegetable soup and hot drinks, prepare food and donate and collect clothing and other supplies to 75-150 homeless people. To make this ministry possible, academy students participate in donation drives throughout the year to collect needed items.

During a recent trip to feed the homeless, the group had prepared nearly one-third less soup than normal. It was a cold day, and the serving line kept growing. “We reached the point where our soup typically begins to run low,” says Tim Soper, campus chaplain, “but the line of people still stretched on and on. I checked the soup pots, and there was still soup.”

The team continued to serve; the soup continued to flow. “I started checking more often, but the soup didn’t seem to go down fast at all,” Soper recalls. “The very last ladle full of soup fed the last person in line. We are absolutely certain that we fed about 50 more people than normal, and we were so excited to be able to witness a miracle firsthand.”



*Sophomores Karissa Smith, Nick Toscano and Eloise Tran experience a “soup miracle” at a homeless shelter in Washington, D.C.*

### New Tradition Honors Senior Class



*As part of a new tradition, senior Sylvia Juarez and the Class of 2017 students walk through the school’s hallways.*

As a yearly tradition, the graduating senior class takes a group picture in their caps and gowns the day before they leave on their class trip. This year the Class of 2017 was surprised by the beginning of a new tradition—the “senior walk” through the halls of the academy. With signs and streamers, students and staff from Pre-K through high school lined the hallways to congratulate and cheer on the seniors.

“I enjoyed it, and I thought it was cool,” says senior Blake Sheahin. “I think this is a great new tradition!” The walk ended at the high school commons, where Home and School officers clapped and cheered for the seniors. The officers presented each senior with a soft, fuzzy blanket with the SAA logo and the words “Congratulations Seniors, Spencerville Adventist Academy has you covered! With love, from Home and School” embroidered on it.

# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

# CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

### News

#### Academy Offers Dual Credit Class on Civil War

This past school year, Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) offered Spring Valley Academy (SVA) students a dual credit class focusing on the Civil War. SVA's history teacher, Erin Galloway (pictured, far left), says she was excited because it is her favorite history subject. "In the class we are able to dig down deep into the war and not just skim the surface of basic facts," shares Galloway. "Plus we are able to address one of the most important issues of how this war helped to shape the America of today, and how it still affects us!"



Senior Jessica Robinson shares, "Two books, *The Civil War* and *This Hallowed Ground*, written by Bruce Catton, were especially helpful in giving our class a deeper perspective of the Civil War, and allowed us to grasp just how far we have come as a country."

#### Senior Receives Kettering Medical Center Teen Scholarship

SVA senior Caleb Chavez was recently named the 2017 Teen Scholarship recipient of \$2,500 by the Kettering Medical Center Advisory Board. The board reviewed Chavez's volunteer service hours, his volunteer work area evaluation, noted the school counselor's letter and reviewed the input from interviews with his supervisors



before making the decision. This scholarship was formally presented to Chavez at the Volunteer Recognition program, where Chrissie Richards, director, shared, "It is our pleasure to name you, [Caleb Chavez], as the Kettering Medical Center Teen Scholarship recipient. You have proven yourself as a conscientious, capable and willing volunteer."

#### Shakespeare Class "Rewrites" Play

Spring Valley Academy students recently set out to take one of the oldest plays in the English language, and make something new.

English teacher Lisa Moller started a new elective Shakespeare class this past school year, and engaging in PROJECT38, a Cincinnati Shakespeare Company educational program, was one of her main objectives. PROJECT38 assigned minor comedy *Love's Labour's Lost* to the class. Its ambiguous ending led the students to create a board game in which players work their way through major incidents of the play. Moller says, "For each problem that arose, the students met it, and poured extensive hours and hard work into its creation."

The Shakespeare class displayed their board game for other schools and visitors to play during a four-day PROJECT38 festival in Cincinnati. Kristen Race, the PROJECT38 coordinator, expressed that her program "loves having departures from straightforward performances, especially when they show as much understanding as [Spring Valley Academy] did."



Shakespeare class members Mitchell Jackson, Quincy Collins, Emily Bennett, Sidney Collins, Zoe Jacobs and Cierra Stewart play the board game they created for PROJECT38, the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's educational program.



# IMPACT Shenandoah

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

## Founding Gift Inspires Alumni Giving Legacy

As Charles Zirkle, a young church worker and Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) founder, lay on his deathbed, he was inspired to make a selfless request: to be granted his inheritance to establish a school that would prepare young people for God's service—the enduring mission of SVA. The dying Zirkle watched from his window as 42-acres of land was staked off. He succumbed on Sabbath after the gift was finalized on Friday. His vision for Adventist education in the Shenandoah Valley was fulfilled when the first 15 students enrolled in 1908.

Zirkle's act of generosity for the expansion of God's kingdom has grown into something far beyond what he or anyone could have asked or imagined, establishing an unparalleled legacy of giving among SVA Alumni and Friends for the Adventist education of young people at Shenandoah. To generations, thousands of alumni, attendees, faculty and staff, this inspired gift has demonstrated the power of a heart transformed by the grace of Christ, inspired to selfless action for the sake of young people to know and serve Jesus as Friend and Savior. For 110 years, and still today, it is an echoing call for SVA Alumni and Friends to give time, talent and treasure—to which they generously respond.

SVA is the only boarding school in the entire Adventist education system which promises "no qualified student will be turned away because of finances." This promise is kept only because over the past two-and-a-half years, Alumni and Friends have determined to make a new commitment to support their school and the SVA students who need financial help to attend. During this time, loyal alumni and friends have stayed the course of SVA by eliminating school debt, making generous, regular financial gifts—some even monthly—to support a quality school program and facilities, and most importantly, much-needed scholarships and tuition assistance for students. Alumni and Friends have stepped forward as stakeholder-owners of SVA, and have become its financial salvation.

God continues to work mightily through Charles Zirkle's founding bequest to call and inspire



*Shenandoah Valley Academy's Class of 2017*

generations of alumni "to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago" (Eph. 2:10, VOICE). Most of all, through SVA's new graduates, they will carry forward the great commission and lead us into the kingdom of heaven.

"It is not our plan or effort. It is God's gift, pure and simple" (Eph. 2:8-9, VOICE).



**Janel Haas Ware**  
*Director of Development  
and Alumni Relations*

### 2017 Important Upcoming Dates

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| August 14     | First Day of School  |
| October 6-8   | Parents Weekend      |
| October 22-23 | Academy Days         |
| November 10   | Senior Recognition   |
| December 8-9  | Candlelight Concerts |

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Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ [shenandoahvalleyacademy.org](http://shenandoahvalleyacademy.org) ■ Principal, Donald Short ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

## Perseverance Proves Golden for Senior

The Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) recently selected Takoma Academy senior Courtney Davidson for an international program which chooses 250 high school students from Germany and the U.S. to switch places for one year.

Students are fully integrated into the country through living with a host family and attending high school in the host nation. They learn the language and serve as junior diplomats for their country. Students selected for the German portion also visit the German legislative branch, Bundestag, in Berlin during their stay.

Davidson first applied to participate in this program her sophomore year, but was not accepted. She was disappointed, but chose to apply again her junior year. Once again, she was turned down. Needless to say, many students and some adults would have called it quits after two unsuccessful attempts, but Davidson would not accept giving up as an option. She applied again this past December and was contacted for an interview in early January.

The same group who had previously interviewed her questioned her again, so it was awkwardly comforting to see them again, Davidson says. "They expected more of me and wanted to see how I had improved



since our last encounter. ... So I prepared for the interview by practicing with Principal Carla Thrower, Academic Specialist Khristahl Beckett and Business Manager Rashawna Young."

Davidson felt confident after a successful interview with the officials from CBYX. She then received news of her acceptance during spring break. "My interviewer called me to tell me that I had been accepted and that he considered me a top candidate and had been sure I would get into the program," she recalls. "I was overjoyed since [the time] I had first heard about studying abroad my freshman year. I knew that it was something I could be passionate about."

Shaun Robinson, TA Anatomy and Physiology professor, shares, "Courtney is the kind of student that any teacher would dream of having. She decided what field she wanted to pursue, [Biomedical Engineering], and has done as much as she can to bring those plans to fruition. Courtney not only works hard in class, but pursues her career outside of school by completing internships and summer programs. Most importantly, she is a Christian. If I could have 20 students in every one of my classes that were just like Courtney, I'd be a very happy teacher!"



*The Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) recently selected senior Courtney Davidson for an intense international program.*



*Kettering College students participate in a mass casualty exercise with local law enforcement and EMS.*

## Kettering College Collaborates with Kettering Medical Center, Local EMS, and Law Enforcement for Mass Casualty Emergency Exercise

By Lauren Brooks

On May 21, Kettering College and Kettering Medical Center participated in a full-scale mass casualty emergency preparedness exercise.

The exercise used intentional simulations to assess emergency procedures and medical responses to a mass casualty incident involving elements of terrorism and an active shooter incident. This simulation included mock wounds and sound effects to create a more realistic setting, and it was one of the largest exercises of this kind in the Dayton area.

"This was an outstanding collaborative effort, with Kettering College students, faculty, and staff working alongside hospital personnel, as well as police, fire, and rescue professionals," said Nate Brandstater, president of Kettering College. "We, at the

college, gained valuable insights into our systems and capabilities, which we will use to ensure the safety of our community and our readiness to respond in a crisis."

Each year, hospitals are required to go through this type of training. This comprehensive training was unique because of the inclusion of agencies like Kettering Police, Fire and Dispatch, other area EMS and law enforcement, as well as the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, the Southwest Ohio Regional Trauma System, and the Dayton Metropolitan Medical Response System.

"More than 40 participating Kettering College students gained valuable insight into how healthcare professionals work with other professionals to respond to a mass casualty event," said Brandstater.

Kettering College, the educational institution of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, wants to be prepared for these events in how it responds and communicates to students, faculty, staff, parents, and residents of Kettering and the wider Dayton area. This exercise was a proactive step to ensure that students and staff are prepared for any emergency situation.

"As a victim, we were being trained on what to do in such a terrible situation, when resources are scarce and help would not be immediate," said Morena Madden, a junior nursing major who was a wounded student participating in the exercise. "I learned that we needed to start caring for each other right away."



## *The Social Function of Christian Education*

Our institutional reading assignment for this calendar year is George R. Knight's book, *Educating for Eternity: A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Education*. In the final chapter he summarized the social function of Adventist education.



**Weymouth Spence**  
President

He states that: "The social function of the Adventist school has both a conservative and a revolutionary aspect. The comingling of those two roles empowers the developing student to be in the world but not of the world." Earlier

in the same chapter he pointed out that, "Our Adventist schools can be seen as a staging ground for Christian activism and missionary work. It provides, ideally, not only the knowledge underlying the evangelistic imperative of the church, but also practical, guided activities in the larger community that ensures that students develop the skills necessary to meet people with the message of Jesus and to perform their individual roles in the context of God's church on earth." At Washington Adventist University we are making sure that both the academic curricula and the extra-curricular activities are synchronized to prepare our students for eternity and to be change agents in harmony with the life and teachings of Jesus the reformer of reformers.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence

## **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE** *Coming Full Circle to Fulfill a Dream*

He speaks in a soft and gentle tone, almost hushed at times. But make no mistake about it. He is determined. He is passionate. And he is full of pride.

Soon, Bruce Boyer and his wife, Gail, will step onto the WAU campus, and into a brand new Health Professions and Wellness Center, one which will bear their names.

When completed, the Gail S. and Bruce E. Boyer Health Professions and Wellness Center will accommodate WAU's health professions and sciences programs.

Specifically, the facility will house eight classrooms, two fitness centers, a multipurpose room, five laboratories, 11 group and individual study areas, and 23 offices. Just shy of 21,000 square feet, it will also include a student lounge, faculty lounge, two conference rooms, two work rooms and two reception areas.

*continued on next page →*



Laura, Dean, David, Gail and Bruce Boyer at the groundbreaking ceremony.

*continued from previous page*

In January of 2014, the Boyers presented a \$1 million check to the Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees to jumpstart fundraising efforts for the new facility.

A Board Member for more than 40 years, Boyer has close ties to WAU. But the story of his personal connection to the University started much earlier, when he was a young child.

“My first memory of the University is walking by it as a child,” he recalls. “I think I was about nine years old. My father was in the Adventist Seminary in Takoma Park, and we lived about four or five blocks from campus.”

From a very early age, Boyer knew he was interested in health.

Though he enrolled and took classes at WAU, he did not complete his degree at the University. “I was asked not to come back,” he said and added, with a bit of mischief in his voice, “I guess they figured I was expendable.” Though asked to switch gears and pursue his degree elsewhere, he did not abandon his fondness for the University and his passion – one that would take him to a successful 45-year career in healthcare. Today, he is the President and Chairman of Sloan Management, Inc. and Premier HealthCare, Inc., and has developed nursing and assisted living facilities across the Mid-Atlantic.

And so, it was a special day on May 10, 2016, when the Boyers gathered on the campus of WAU with students, alumni, faculty, and community members, to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the \$9.7 million Gail S. and Bruce E. Boyer Health Professions and Wellness Center. In addition to the Boyers’ gift, the Center is being funded in

part through the WAU Annual Visionaries Gala, along with a \$4 million matching grant from the State of Maryland Governor’s Office.

For the Boyers, it was important that the Center inspire interest in both the sciences and wellness. “I hope this facility brings educational opportunities for students to learn skills and commitment to improving not only their own health, but also the health of those they come across in their personal and professional lives,” Bruce Boyer commented. “There is only so much that medicine can do. Healthy living can do wonders for people.”



Architectural rendering of the new Gail S. and Bruce E. Boyer Health Professions and Wellness Center.

*“There is only so much that medicine can do. Healthy living can do wonders for people.”*

The long-awaited Center will be built as a renovation and addition to the existing Health Professions building. “We are incredibly grateful to the Boyers for their dedication and support,” said WAU President Weymouth Spence. “The Center will offer exciting and endless possibilities for this University as we find new ways to enhance the education of our students in the health and sciences professions, promote healthy living, and improve community wellness.”

The fact that the Center is coming to fruition is truly the culmination of a dream for the Boyers.

“To bring this here, for WAU and the surrounding community – that excites me,” Bruce Boyer said. “And on a global scale, this is the future of health for our world.”

The ribbon cutting is open to the public and will be held on **September 16, 2017 at 6:30pm**. For questions, contact the Office of Advancement at **301-576-0105**.



Bruce Boyers giving remarks during the groundbreaking ceremony.



## The Beauty Factor

It is always a blessing to encounter someone who has found a unique way to bring unexpected joy to our everyday lives: a smile when you aren't expecting one, the door being held for you or a note you weren't expecting from a friend. Maybe it is someone much younger than you explaining how to use an electronic device!

Look at all the ways we have to describe and appreciate those people who find beauty in everyday living: going the extra mile, doing more than your share, random acts of kindness.

I found an interesting perspective on finding beauty in the story of a wife and mother in the 1870s. She was living an extraordinarily difficult life in a small sod house on the Canadian prairies. There were long periods alone with her children while her husband hunted and many months of sub-zero weather with the whole family confined in a very small space.

With her circumstances and her family ever in mind, she wrote in a journal about the quilts she sewed: "I make them warm to keep my family from freezing; I make them beautiful to keep my heart from breaking."

This woman realized that there was a potential beauty in what she was doing – a beauty that transcended the situation. The care she brought to her handiwork was essential for her family's health and well-being. And the beauty also enabled her to live her complex life.

Our organization is filled with people who, like the pioneer woman, take on the hardest tasks and the toughest situations each day. They are the ones who fulfill our mission to serve with excellence and distinction, as their positive attitude supercharges the experience for those we serve. May we also seek the intrinsic goodness within tasks to find the beauty that is so good for all of us in body, mind and spirit.



**Terry Forde**  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare

## Explosion Survivor Gives Thanks for Compassionate Care

Adventist HealthCare is committed to the health of our community members. Our compassionate response to people in need is one of the reasons why we have a longstanding tradition of being the largest provider of charity care and community benefit in Montgomery County.

A recent example of this support is our continuing care for Memar Ayalew, a doctoral student from Ethiopia who was visiting his family on Aug. 10, 2016, when a devastating explosion ripped through the Flower Branch Apartment complex in Silver Spring.

The fire killed seven people and displaced at least 80 families from their homes. Two of the people killed were Memar's aunt and uncle.

Adventist HealthCare, along with several other community organizations, came together to support some of the fire victims in need of medical care and other assistance.

Memar suffered extensive injuries and was knocked unconscious for 15 hours. He also incurred a deep cut on his back and serious injuries to his left leg that left him unable to walk.

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation provided extensive, free physical therapy. Many of Memar's injuries healed and he regained the ability to walk. However, orthopedic surgeon, Christopher Magee, MD determined that an arthroscopy – a laparoscopic joint surgery – would be necessary to fully repair the damage to Memar's left knee. Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital, his surgeon and the anesthesiologist provided the surgery at no cost.

"I have seen an amazing recovery after surgery," Memar said. "No doubt about it, it has helped me a lot. Now I have a brand new leg."

Memar is very grateful to Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist Rehabilitation for providing him with care free of charge and says that the outpouring of financial and emotional support he's receiving completely changed his view of the United States.



*Lynda Hiponia, a physical therapist with Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation, helps fire survivor Memar Ayalew regain strength and mobility in his leg.*

## Top Doctor Brings Patients Healing and Relief from Pain

Many patients, employees and physicians describe the people who serve at Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital as family. Bobby David, MD, a general surgeon who has worked at Washington Adventist Hospital for 21 years, agrees.

### Serving His Community

After graduating from medical school at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences and completing his surgical residency at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., Dr. David returned to his hometown of Takoma Park to practice medicine at Washington Adventist Hospital.

"Washington Adventist really does feel like a family. Everyone kind of knows one another," said Dr. David, who grew up nearby and attended Sligo Adventist School and Takoma Academy.

As Chairman of General Surgery at Washington Adventist Hospital, Dr. David enjoys reconnecting with people he knows from the community and helping to improve their health and well-being. He is widely recognized for his skilled care, including being named a "Top Doctor" by *Washingtonian* magazine and *The Washington Post Magazine*.

### Bringing Healing

Dr. David performs surgeries to treat colon cancer, repair hernias and remove tumors from other parts of the body.

"The best part of my job is that I can see that I've really done something to help the patient," said Dr. David. "For most of the patients I treat, I can see immediate relief of pain."

For example, with laparoscopic cholecystectomy, Dr. David helps patients with gallstones find relief from abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting brought on by tiny stones that have formed in the gallbladder, which sometimes block the bile duct.

With just a few small incisions, and using a camera to guide him, Dr. David can remove the troublesome gallbladder, which he says patients won't miss at all. Most patients can go home the same day and are back to normal activities within seven to 10 days. The ability to heal a problem so quickly is what inspired Dr. David to go into the practice of surgery in the first place.

**To learn more about your colon health, take our free risk assessment at [AdventistHealthCare.com/ColonCancer](http://AdventistHealthCare.com/ColonCancer)**



*Dr. Bobby David (right), chairman of General Surgery at Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital, says the hospital feels like a family community to him.*

### Preventing Gallstones

Although Dr. David is committed to helping patients with gallstones and other health problems, he would much rather see his "family" be in good health.

But with the rise of obesity and the popularity of processed foods, gallstones have become more common in the U.S., affecting about 25 million Americans, warns Dr. David.

To prevent gallstones, Dr. David encourages healthy lifestyle choices to avoid key risk factors, including:

- Diet high in fat and cholesterol
- Obesity
- Rapid weight loss

Accordingly, he recommends a healthy diet that is low in fat and cholesterol and packed with nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains. In fact, he notes, vegetarians are usually less likely to develop gallstones because they generally eat less fat.

Dr. David also suggests being aware of these additional risk factors that we're less able to control, including:

- Family history
- Female gender
- Blood disorders, such as sickle cell disease
- Medications for cholesterol

To learn more about gallstones and surgery options, visit the Hope Channel website for an interview with Dr. David at <http://GoHealthy.HopeTV.org/video?id=5392961942001>.

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1. I need a break from Peninnah.
2. I'm so emotional right now. What would people say if I couldn't hold it in?
3. That city is so wicked that even the priests are corrupt. What good would it do to pray there?

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# Bulletin Board

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### LOOKING FOR A NEW

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### WEIMAR INSTITUTE IS SEEKING MASTER-PREPARED NURSES

for the 2017-2018 school year to teach psychiatric/mental health nursing, mother and infant nursing, pediatric nursing, community nursing and medical-surgical nursing. Also need BS-prepared nurses in adjunct positions to teach clinicals in all of these areas. Send résumés to [winnursing@weimar.edu](mailto:winnursing@weimar.edu).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

**UNIVERSITY** seeks PT professor for History and Political Studies to teach American History, courses in Atlantic History, African History, and African-American or Latin American pop culture. Also expertise in cultural area required. Ph.D. in History preferred. Submit letter, curriculum vitae, teaching philosophy and references to Dr. Mark

Peach, [peach@southern.edu](mailto:peach@southern.edu), and Dr. Robert Young, [ryoung@southern.edu](mailto:ryoung@southern.edu).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

**UNIVERSITY** seeks professor for School of Education and Psychology to teach undergraduate psychology courses, advise students and other scholarly activities. Requirements: Doctorate in Psychology, ability to teach lower- to upper-division in psychological testing, group processes, marriage and family, and aging and society. Send letter with statement of teaching philosophy, research interest, CV, unofficial transcripts, student evaluation summaries for recently taught course, and three reference letters to Dr. John McCoy, Dean, Southern Adventist University, POB 370 37315, or email [jmccoy@southern.edu](mailto:jmccoy@southern.edu).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

**UNIVERSITY** seeks chemistry professor to teach courses for non-majors, Chemistry for Nursing and Allied Health students, and lower-division general and/or organic chemistry labs. Must develop and teach undergraduate courses and provide effective academic advising. Master in Chemistry required (Ph.D. preferred) with knowledge and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry and a commitment to teaching from a biblical foundation. Send cover letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy and three references to Dr. Brent Hamstra, [bhamstra@southern.edu](mailto:bhamstra@southern.edu).

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**UNIVERSITY** seeks systems analyst. Responsibilities include managing escalated support tickets, tracking backlog items related to software defects

and enhancements, capturing new IT business requirements, documenting and implementing IT projects, providing end-user training and quality assurance testing. Qualifications: bachelor degree in IT/related field with relevant work experience, or equivalent in education and work experience; knowledge of JitBit, agile software development concepts, T-SQL, MS SQL reporting services; and familiarity with Ellucian products preferred. Send résumés to [sarahshelburne@southern.edu](mailto:sarahshelburne@southern.edu).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks an assistant, associate professor, or producer-in-residence expert in new media journalism, broadcast journalism or television production, to teach undergraduate-level courses in one or more of those areas. With a brand new broadcast television studio in place at the university, we are also seeking someone who can utilize the facilities to advance the program. Candidate will manage broadcast studio facilities and work closely with our studio manager handling outside projects; advise students and oversee some student projects; and continue developing professional projects. For more information or to apply, visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_13](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_13).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**10 DAYS OF PRAYER** returns January 10-20, 2018, with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more information and to sign up your church, visit [tendaysofprayer.org](http://tendaysofprayer.org).

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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! AMEN

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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, [ilovelighthouses@hotmail.com](mailto:ilovelighthouses@hotmail.com), or phone, (301) 797-5291.

**SOUTH BEND JUNIOR ACADEMY** in Indiana is celebrating its 100th year—September 23-24! Register online at [oursbj.com](http://oursbj.com), or call (574) 287-3713, and like us on Facebook-South Bend Junior Academy. Save the date. Don't miss it!

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*Eli Rojas*  
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*Randy Skeete*

**Sabbath, October 7**  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, INC.**  
Notice is hereby given that the 40th regular constituency meeting of the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., 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.  
Member 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*

## QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the second quinquennial session of the Allegheny East Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene Sunday, October 15, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., at Reaching Hearts International Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6100 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, MD 20707. This meeting is called for the election of officers, departmental directors and committees, and to transact any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Henry J. Fordham III, *President*  
Marcellus T. Robinson, *Vice President for Administration*

## MEETING OF THE PINE FORGE ACADEMY CONSTITUENCY

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Pine Forge Academy Constituency will be held in connection with the second quinquennial session of the Allegheny East Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists at Reaching Hearts International Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6100 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel, MD 20707, Sunday, October 15, 2017, at a time that will be called by the chair. This meeting is called to elect a Board of Trustees of the academy and to transact any other business that may properly come before the constituency at that time. The delegates of the second quinquennial session of the Allegheny East Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists are delegates of this session.

Henry J. Fordham III, *President*  
Marcellus T. Robinson, *Vice President for Administration*

## OBITUARIES

**ARNOLD, Allan D.,** born April 29, 1930, in Montrose, Pa.; died November 9, 2016, in Montrose.

He was a longtime member of the Montrose church, baptized October 14, 1950. He served there as an elder. He was a 34-year lifetime resident of Susquehanna County and assisted the Susquehanna County Literacy Council in teaching adults how to read. Survivors: his daughters, Bonnie (Ron) Blankenship of Woodbridge, Va., and Lisa (Larry) Tyhulski of Murrieta, Calif.; his son, Andrew (Lorena) Arnold of San Luis Potosi, Mexico; his brother, Paul (Doris) Arnold of Niles, Mich.; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and cousins. His wife of 58 years, Donna (Ross) Arnold, predeceased him in July of 2015.

**GRIDER, Charles W.,** born October 16, 1923, in Allentown, Pa.; died October 24, 2016, in Silver Spring, Md. He was a member of the Spencerville (Md.) church. Charles taught social studies and history for 33 years in the Southern Lehigh School District in Pennsylvania, both at the middle school and high school levels. He moved from Allentown to Maryland 18 years ago with his wife, Betty. He was an elder and religious liberty secretary for more than 40 years in the Allentown church. Charles was also a WWII veteran, serving from 1943-45 in the "Seabees," the construction battalion for the U.S. Navy. He was based in Okinawa during the Pacific battle. Survivors: his wife, Betty Grider of Silver Spring; his daughter, Peggy Salazar of Silver Spring; his son, Glenn Grider of Orlando, Fla.; grandson, Justin Grider of Springboro, Ohio; granddaughters, Megan Sobota of Xenia, Ohio, and Stephanie Carnes of Monroe, Ohio; great-granddaughters, Lily and Cora Sobota of Xenia; and great-grandson, Mason Carnes of Monroe.

**HILLEBERT, Adelina,** born July 15, 1922, in Serra Pelada, Brazil; died November 25, 2016, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Adelina worked for many years at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., in Takoma Park, Md. After she retired, Adelina moved to Hagerstown. Survivors: her husband, Paul Hillebert; her son, Paul Frederick Hillebert; her step-son, John David Hillebert; her sisters, Izolina Rohring and Jacyra Tschickardt; and many grandchildren.

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# Bulletin Board

## Sunset Calendar

|              | July 7 | July 14 | July 21 | July 28 | Aug 4 | Aug 11 | Aug 18 | Aug 25 |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Baltimore    | 8:36   | 8:33    | 8:29    | 8:23    | 8:16  | 8:08   | 7:59   | 7:49   |
| Cincinnati   | 9:07   | 9:04    | 9:00    | 8:54    | 8:47  | 8:39   | 8:30   | 8:20   |
| Cleveland    | 9:03   | 9:00    | 8:55    | 8:49    | 8:41  | 8:33   | 8:23   | 8:12   |
| Columbus     | 9:04   | 9:01    | 8:56    | 8:50    | 8:43  | 8:35   | 8:25   | 8:15   |
| Jersey City  | 8:30   | 8:27    | 8:23    | 8:17    | 8:09  | 8:01   | 7:51   | 7:41   |
| Norfolk      | 8:27   | 8:25    | 8:21    | 8:16    | 8:10  | 8:02   | 7:54   | 7:44   |
| Parkersburg  | 8:56   | 8:53    | 8:49    | 8:43    | 8:36  | 8:28   | 8:19   | 8:09   |
| Philadelphia | 8:32   | 8:29    | 8:25    | 8:19    | 8:12  | 8:03   | 7:54   | 7:44   |
| Pittsburgh   | 8:53   | 8:50    | 8:45    | 8:39    | 8:32  | 8:24   | 8:14   | 8:04   |
| Reading      | 8:36   | 8:33    | 8:29    | 8:23    | 8:16  | 8:07   | 7:58   | 7:48   |
| Richmond     | 8:34   | 8:32    | 8:28    | 8:22    | 8:16  | 8:08   | 7:59   | 7:50   |
| Roanoke      | 8:43   | 8:41    | 8:37    | 8:32    | 8:25  | 8:17   | 8:09   | 8:00   |
| Toledo       | 9:11   | 9:08    | 9:03    | 8:57    | 8:49  | 8:41   | 8:31   | 8:20   |
| Trenton      | 8:31   | 8:28    | 8:24    | 8:18    | 8:11  | 8:02   | 7:53   | 7:43   |
| Wash., D.C.  | 8:36   | 8:34    | 8:29    | 8:24    | 8:17  | 8:09   | 8:00   | 7:50   |

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