

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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*'Tis the
Season to Pray
Testimonies of Answered Prayer*

Plus: 6 Ways to Deepen Your Prayer Life



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Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Michele Joseph

Read incredible answers to prayer from members in the Columbia Union. Also, meet three prayer warriors who have experienced the power of prayer, and, as a result, are leading others to a closer walk with God.

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ON THE WEB

A PRAISE DEFICIENCY?

Many of us stumble over how to express praise in a culture in which it seems alien. The wonderful contribution of the Psalms is that they solve the problem of our praise deficiency by providing the words. Read more about it in Rob Vandeman's latest blog at columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms.

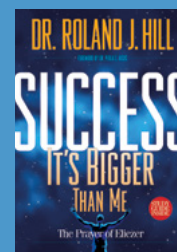
MIRACLE OF THE GAS STOVE

Mandy Corea, Campus Ministries director and English as a Second Language teacher at Chesapeake Conference's Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., was serving as a missionary at an orphanage in Honduras one morning when she couldn't find matches to light her gas stove in the kitchen. After searching for 40 minutes to no avail, she prayed and asked God to help her find matches so she could cook breakfast for the children. Read how God answered her prayer in an unexpected way at columbiaunionvisitor.com/matches.



TOP 5 PRAYER REQUESTS

WGTS 91.9, Washington Adventist University's Christian radio station in Takoma Park, Md., has moved their ministry beyond the airwaves. PrayerWorks, their online prayer site, is one of the ways listeners can gather to share and pray for others' prayer requests. Morning host Jerry Woods reports that the site received 300,000 prayer requests in 2016. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/topprayerrequests to see the top five prayer requests.



BIGGER THAN ME

Roland Hill's wife, Susie, was tired of hearing Hill complain that there wasn't a deep Christian book about success, so she encouraged the stewardship guru to write his own book. Six months later, Hill, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Maranatha church in Fredericksburg, Va., and Penuel church in Brandy Station, Va., noticed the prayer of Eliezer in Genesis 24—a prayer for success. His latest book, *Success It's Bigger Than Me*, delves into all areas of success in Christian living. Read more about it at columbiaunionvisitor.com/biggerthanme.

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Volume 122 ■ Issue 10

An Answered Prayer

“I don’t think your son’s going to make it,” said the chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to my parents. “It’s not looking good.”

On April 4, 2009, during postoperative care for ulcerative colitis, something went terribly wrong. My left lung collapsed, I stopped breathing and fell into a coma. Code blue was set in motion, as nurses hooked me to every resuscitation device available. Conventional wisdom pointed to a young man’s death, and it was the chaplain’s duty to break the heart-wrenching news to my parents.

But my mother and father weren’t finished with me yet—they set Code God in motion! On their knees, they cried out for Him to save my life. My sister and brother-in-law also prayed earnestly. Two thousand miles away, my cousin started a prayer chain with friends and family members, pleading for God to do the impossible.

And the impossible happened. I woke up to a screaming nurse yelling my name. My parents’ tears of sadness transformed into tears of joy. My mom kissed my forehead, and said, “You’re my little Lazarus.” Eight years later, I have an unbelievable wife, an adorable 2-year-old, an amazing job and a cozy home.



WHY GOD?

I wish I could say my life is as perfect as my Facebook posts, but I’d be lying; God hasn’t answered *all* of my prayers. Like, why did my grandfather die a year after my miracle? I prayed, didn’t I? And why hasn’t God yet healed my friend’s dad who has stage 4 cancer? Do I need to

dirty my knees more for God to respond? I mean, sometimes I find it hard to relate to my favorite passage of Scripture: “God is [my] refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1, NIV).

However, it’s the times I doubt God when He reminds me to trust and praise Him always, because His promises are like the ever-present sun in the sky, even when all I see are dark curtains of gray clouds. The story of Job is one example in which he lost nearly everything that was near and dear to him, yet managed to exclaim, “‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised’” (Job 1:20, 21, NIV).

Even if God doesn’t react to my prayers—or yours—exactly how I want Him to doesn’t mean heaven is too far for my “Wi-Fi” to reach Him. In His own time, in His own way, He repeatedly responds.

I’ll admit, sometimes I get angry when God seems to avoid my plea for help. But it’s at that moment—when I’ve forgotten what God has done for me in the past—that my son comes up to me, points to my scar and asks, “What is that, Daddy?” and I simply say, “An answered prayer.”

Ricardo Bacchus, assistant editor of the Visitor, serves as newsletter editor and editor of the Visitor News Bulletin email newsletter.





Runners, walkers, supporters and veterans from across the country gathered in Lynchburg, Va., recently for the first annual Desmond T. Doss Fun Run and Walk in honor of the celebrated American hero.

UNION ELECTS NEW TREASURER

During the November Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting, members elected Emmanuel Asiedu as the new treasurer of the union, effective January 1.

“Emmanuel is a uniquely gifted leader,” says Dave Weigley, union president. “He’s very mission focused. ... I think he’ll be a real blessing to our union in many ways.”

Asiedu most recently served as secretary/treasurer of the



Emmanuel Asiedu, newly elected Columbia Union Conference treasurer, speaks to the Executive Committee.

Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) and as an associate treasurer for the union. He previously worked as an associate treasurer at the Chesapeake Conference, an audit manager for the General Conference Auditing Service and a staff accountant at Ahern Adcock Devlin, LLP (Calif.). Asiedu has a Master of Business Administration from La Sierra University (Calif.), a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Valley View University in Ghana and is a certified public accountant, internal auditor, management accountant and fraud examiner, among other certifications.

“Emmanuel has that rare combination of being highly skilled as to the technical details of church finances and policies, while also possessing a great deal of wisdom for his age,” says Rob Vandeman, union executive secretary.

Asiedu is married to Annette, and they have two daughters, Azaria and Anneliese.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE PRESIDENT RETIRES

Larry Boggess, president of the Mountain View Conference since



2006, retired November 30.

He and his wife, Jo’an, have served in the conference for nearly 29 years. Before becoming president, Larry served as the executive secretary and a pastor. Jo’an has held positions in the conference, including conference clerk, administrative assistant for several departments and teacher.

“Larry has been a very intentional evangelistic administrator,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “He has worked to equip his membership for soul-winning and encouraged his workers to be about God’s mission.”

Read more in the Mountain View Conference newsletter on page 21.—*VMB*

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ELECTS TREASURER

The Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee has elected Carlos Charnichart to serve as the new conference treasurer. His wife, Liz, will fill an administrative assistant position in the office. Carlos previously served as the accountant for the Hope Channel in Silver Spring, Md., and as an adjunct



professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

“Our executive committee had an excellent interview with Carlos and Liz, and were impressed with their deep commitment to God and His church. They voted unanimously to call Carlos to be our conference treasurer and for Liz to join us as an administrative assistant,” reports Gary Gibbs, president.

Read more on page 28 in the Pennsylvania Conference newsletter.—*Tamyra Horst*

POTOMAC CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 215 BAPTISMS

Members from 30 Hispanic churches across the Potomac Conference recently gathered at the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., to celebrate 215 baptisms during “Pentecostes Now.”



#Vivangelismo2017

Can't make it to Vivangelismo 2017, the Columbia Union's celebration of Hispanic ministry in 2017? Follow along on Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #Vivangelismo2017. Use it to share your favorite moments, too!

Thirty evangelists, led by Pastor Abel Pacheco, president of the Salvadoran Union, joined Potomac pastors to preach during 30 series across the conference and visit attendees in their homes.

The pastors who conducted the meetings each shared testimonies and reports from the event. The 215 baptisms are part of the 2,498 that have taken place so far in Columbia Union Hispanic churches in 2017. Members from around the union will gather to celebrate these evangelism efforts at Vivangelismo 2017, December 8–10, in Ocean City, Md.

visitor@columbiaunion.net to inform more people about what is happening in your church or school.



2018 CALENDARS TO ARRIVE SOON

Are you a “dog person”? A “cat lady”? Is a turtle tops on your list? No matter your favorite, you're sure to enjoy this year's *Columbia Union Calendar*, featuring life lessons from animal companions.

For additional free copies of the calendar, call (443) 259-9578 or email srowley@columbiaunion.net.—*Oksana Wetmore*

SIGN UP FOR VISITOR NEWS BULLETIN

Did you know you can receive weekly news from the Columbia Union *Visitor* via email? Sign up at columbiaunionvisitor.com/vnb, and send event information to



NAD OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North America Division (NAD) recently welcomed guests to the grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony at its new headquarters in Columbia, Md.

Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president, described the purpose of the headquarters, saying, “This building does not stand for human progress, for human ingenuity; it stands to serve the purposes of the almighty God.”

More than 600 people gathered for the two-and-a-half hour event. Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, also located in Columbia, welcomed the NAD to the neighborhood. Several groups from the union performed, including a band from Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., a choir from Potomac Conference's Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., and Pathfinders from the Allegheny East Conference Drum Corps (pictured) and the Potomac Conference's Beltsville church (Md.).—*Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD*



PHOTOS BY PIETER DAMSTEEGT, MICHELLE HALL, RICKY OLIVERAS



WALDORF CELEBRA LA HISTORIA DE LA IGLESIA

Miembros de la iglesia de Waldorf (Md.) de la Conferencia de Chesapeake: Willy Quiambao, Ernest Hernández, Vicki Nelson-Flores, Robert Flores y el pastor Dan Darrikhuma participaron recientemente en el primer sábado de celebración de la Historia de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día.

LA UNIÓN ELIGE NUEVO TESORERO

Durante la reunión de noviembre del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia, los miembros eligieron a Emmanuel Asiedu como nuevo tesorero.

“Emmanuel es un líder excepcionalmente talentoso,” dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión. “Está muy centrado en la misión y aporta una capacidad intelectual increíble con sus habilidades financieras ejecutivas. Creo que será una verdadera bendición para nuestra Unión en muchos sentidos”.

Recientemente, Asiedu se



desempeñó como secretario / tesorero de Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) y tesorero asociado de la Unión. Anteriormente trabajó como tesorero asociado en la Conferencia de Chesapeake, gerente de auditoría en el Servicio de Auditoría de la Conferencia General y contador del personal en Ahern Adcock Devlin, LLP (California). Asiedu tiene una Maestría en Administración de Empresas de la Universidad La Sierra (California), Una Licenciatura en Administración de Empresas (Contabilidad) de la Universidad de Valley View en Ghana y es contador público certificado, auditor interno, contador administrativo y examinador de fraudes, entre otras certificaciones.

Asiedu está casado con Annette, y tienen dos hijas, Azaria y Anneliese.—V. Michelle Bernard

PRESIDENTE BOGGESS SE RETIRA

Larry Boggess, presidente de la Conferencia de Mountain View desde 2006, anunció recientemente su retiro.

“Larry ha sido un administrador de evangelización muy intencional”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. “Él ha trabajado para equipar a su membresía para ganar almas y alentó a sus trabajadores a que se concentren en la misión de Dios”.

Larry y su esposa, Jo’an han servido en la conferencia durante casi 29 años. Antes de convertirse en presidente, Larry fue secretario ejecutivo y pastor. Jo’an ha ocupado puestos en la conferencia, incluyendo el de secretaria de la conferencia, asistente administrativa de varios departamentos y maestra.

“He trabajado con el pastor Boggess desde 2001”, dice Victor Zill, tesorero de la Conferencia, “y lo he encontrado constante y apasionadamente dedicado a hacer crecer el reino de Dios en la Conferencia de Mountain View ... Larry ha sido una fuente de inspiración para muchos y su trabajo, y el trabajo de su esposa Jo’an, serán extrañados enormemente”.



Lea más información en el boletín de la conferencia Mountain View en la página 21.—VMB

PENNSYLVANIA ELIGE TESORERO

El Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania eligió a Carlos Charnichart como nuevo tesorero de la conferencia. Su esposa, Liz, ocupará un puesto de asistente administrativo en la oficina. Anteriormente, Carlos se desempeñó como contador para Hope Channel en Silver Spring, Maryland, y profesor adjunto en la Universidad Adventista de



Washington en Takoma Park, Maryland. “Nuestro comité ejecutivo tuvo una excelente entrevista con Carlos y Liz y quedó impresionado con su profundo compromiso con Dios y su iglesia. Votaron unánimemente para llamar a Carlos para que sea nuestro tesorero de la conferencia y para que Liz se una a nosotros como asistente administrativa”, informa Gary Gibbs, presidente. Lea más en la página 28 en el boletín informativo de la Conferencia de Pensilvania. —Tamyra Horst

NAD ABRE SUS NUEVAS OFICINAS

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo día en la División Norteamericana (NAD) recientemente dio la bienvenida a los invitados a la ceremonia de inauguración y corte de cinta en su nueva sede en Columbia, Maryland.

Daniel R. Jackson, presidente de NAD, describió el propósito de la sede, diciendo: “Este edificio no representa el progreso humano, el ingenio humano; sirve para los propósitos del Dios todopoderoso”.

Más de 600 personas se reunieron para el evento. Dave

#Vivangelismo2017

¿No puede asistir a Vivangelismo 2017, la celebración del ministerio hispano de la Unión de Columbia en 2017? Siga a lo largo de Twitter e Instagram con el hashtag #Vivangelismo2017. ¡Úselo para compartir sus momentos favoritos, también!

Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, también ubicada en Columbia, dio la bienvenida a la NAD al vecindario, y varios grupos de la Unión, incluida la banda de la Academia Adventista Spencerville de la Conferencia de Chesapeake, en Maryland, el coro de la Academia de Takoma (en la foto) de la Conferencia de Potomac en Takoma Park, Md., los Conquistadores con sus tambores de la Conferencia de Allegheny East (en la foto) y la iglesia de Beltsville de la conferencia de Potomac (Md.) también participaron.—Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD

POTOMAC CELEBRA 215 BAUTISMOS



Miembros de 30 iglesias hispanas de la Conferencia de Potomac se reunieron recientemente en la iglesia Southern Asia en Silver Spring, Maryland, para celebrar 215 bautismos durante las reuniones “Pentecostés ahora”. Treinta evangelistas, dirigidos por el pastor Abel Pacheco, presidente de la Unión Salvadoreña, se unieron a los pastores de Potomac para predicar 30 series a lo largo de la conferencia y visitar a los asistentes en sus hogares.

Los pastores que condujeron las reuniones compartieron

testimonios e informes del evento. Los 215 bautizos son parte de los 2,498 que han tenido lugar en las iglesias hispanas de la Unión de Columbia en 2017. Los miembros de toda la Unión se reunirán para celebrar estos esfuerzos de evangelismo en Vivangelismo 2017, del 8 al 10 de diciembre en Ocean City, Md.—Por pastor de Potomac

REGÍSTRESE PARA RECIBIR EL BOLETÍN DE NOTICIAS DE VISITOR



¿Sabía que puede recibir noticias semanales de *Visitor* por correo electrónico?

Regístrese en columbiaunionvisitor.com/vnb y envíe información de eventos a visitor@columbiaunion.net para informar a más personas sobre lo que está sucediendo en su iglesia o escuela.

LOS CALENDARIOS 2018 LLEGAN PRONTO

¿Le gustan los perros? ¿Los gatos? ¿Las tortugas? ¿Prefiere un crustáceo tranquilo que le guste esconderse? No importa cuál sea su animal favorito, seguro que disfrutará del Calendario de la Unión de Columbia de este año, con mascotas favoritas.

Para obtener copias del calendario adicionales de manera gratuita, llame al (443) 259-9578 o envíe un correo electrónico a srowley@columbiaunion.net. —Oksana Wetmore



FOTOS POR PIETER DAMSTEEGT, ROHANN WELLINGTON



A top-down view of several people's hands clasped together in prayer on a wooden table. The hands are arranged in a circle, with fingers interlaced. The wood grain of the table is clearly visible, running vertically. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a sense of unity and peace.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

By Michele Joseph

Hannah's Healing

The doctors had given their prognosis. Linda and Craig Johnson responded by calling anyone who had been active in their daughter Hannah's life: their local Pathfinder director at Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) church in Hamburg, pastors, church members, family and friends. They needed everyone to pray. Now!

Hannah fractured a vertebra while doing a flip—a routine she had completed numerous times on a mini trampoline—during recess at Blue Mountain Elementary School, where she attended seventh-grade. That day—May 13, 2016—doctors in the pediatric trauma unit at Lehigh Valley Hospital told her parents an X-ray, CAT scan and MRI all confirmed a C4 vertebra fracture. Doctors sedated Hannah as they considered treatment options.

The next day, a Sabbath, members spread the news throughout Pennsylvania, to people in North Carolina and Michigan, and even to people on prayer lines in India and Africa.

"To me, it was a great comfort knowing that there were so many people out there who cared for Hannah that they were willing to pray for her," Linda says. "We put the word out there, and God was in control." Between phone calls to people connected with prayer groups, Linda continued to pray.

On Sabbath, while preaching at the academy church, Latoya Wright, assistant chaplain at BMA, told the congregation she felt impressed to stop and pray for Hannah. Wright asked God to work a miracle that even the doctors would not understand, Linda recalls.

That evening the doctors ordered another X-ray to assess Hannah's condition and determine how to treat her. They didn't find a fracture.

Her parents were shocked.

"What do you mean it's gone?" Linda says, remembering her reaction to the doctor's news. "Are you going to come down in a few weeks and say you were wrong?"

Craig later encouraged her to trust God, saying He must be shaking His head at their response to His miracle.

"We need to be praising God for what He did instead of questioning the doctors," Linda says, recalling her husband's words.

Doctors released Hannah from the hospital the next day, but it would still be a long road to recovery. A concussion on both sides of her brain left her with memory loss, migraines and instability when walking. She could

not attend the last two weeks of school, and during summer vacation, the doctors did not allow her to read, watch television or use electronic devices.

"I prayed a lot for patience for her and patience for me, and just guidance for what God needed us to do for her," says Linda.

God restored her. Today most of the side effects from the concussion are gone, and Hannah, 15, sings in BMA's Bell Canto choir and plays the violin in the orchestra.

The journey reinforced Linda's belief in the power of prayer.

"I've always been a pray-er," she says. "... My husband was active duty military for 26 years. He did three tours in Iraq, and I think that's when my prayer life became really strong."

The Miracle and the Lesson

Mandy Corea carefully counted every piece of fruit and each cracker she was going to serve during the agape feast at the Reach International Children's Home in Santa Barbara, Honduras. She knew she had just enough food to give small servings to the approximately 60 residents and live-in volunteers.

Food like egg salad, grapes, strawberries and cantaloupe were rare, as the budget usually included more economical choices like rice and beans, Corea says.



Linda and Craig Johnson say prayers from around the world helped heal their daughter, Hannah, (pictured center) from a fractured vertebra.

Tamyra Horst

It's Not About the Yes, No or Maybe

Sometimes it seems like you get answers to simple prayers [a parking space, things you need that are on sale]. Other times the things that mean the most to you seem to take the longest, only to find out later that He hasn't been silent," says Tamyra Horst, a departmental director for the Pennsylvania Conference whose many roles include Prayer Ministries.

There were moments in Horst's life when she was angry her prayers weren't working for the people she loved, but she didn't stop praying. "What else would I do?" she says.

Horst recalls praying for a friend's marriage. "I fasted and prayed for months, and the marriage still ended in divorce," she says.

That didn't deter her faith.

"I do believe in fasting. I don't believe it's one of those magic pills," she says. "I believe what it does is it trains you to pray."

She later saw that though God allowed the people in the marriage to choose the outcome, He gave the wife an opportunity to minister to others who faced similar circumstances.

Horst, the author of several books on prayer, says she doesn't believe God's answers to prayer are yes, no or maybe. Those answers are based on our limited view of the situation, she says.

"Maybe you will experience Him more if you get that miracle; but maybe you will experience Him more if you don't get that miracle and have to trust Him."

"Claim God's Word; pray it back to Him."



While shopping, she and the other live-in volunteers carefully chose ingredients and items to offer specific portions per resident.

To ensure each child received the treat, Corea checked with the home's director to make sure no visitors were scheduled for the Friday evening vespers and agape feast. That night, however, as Corea presented the vesper message, the director arrived with 16 American guests.

Corea admits, even as she spoke that night, she became angry.

"Who are these people?" she recalled thinking. "Why are they here?"

When vespers ended, Corea and the other live-in volunteers went into the kitchen to make last-minute preparations. Meanwhile, the visitors, whom she hoped would leave, joined the children in the cafeteria.

Corea said a "quick, angry prayer" asking God to make the food stretch.

Corea told the high schoolers who were assigned to serve at the event to ration the food, giving a specific number of each item to children, middle schoolers, high schoolers and adults. She also told them to serve the guests first. The live-in volunteers would not eat.

"One by one the kids [who were] serving came back, and there [was] still food on the platter," Corea says, remembering that night.

She figured they had not followed her instructions, and went to inspect the tables. Everyone was eating the portions she designated. Corea told the students to serve again, giving the smallest residents more food, since they had the tiniest portions the first time.



Mandy Corea believes that the Holy Spirit multiplied food and helped her overcome anger through a miracle that happened while she worked at an orphanage in Honduras.

“They kept coming back to me with food on the platter,” she says.

She told the servers to ask the older students and adults if they wanted seconds. Even after that round of service, leftovers of everything remained. They even had enough for a small snack the next night.

Corea attributes the leftovers, which based on her

math should not have existed, as a miracle and a lesson from God.

“He was working on ways to fight my anger and frustration,” Corea says. “I believe wholeheartedly that the Holy Spirit multiplied that food.”

That night in 2010 is one she shares with her current students at Chesapeake Conference’s Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., where she now serves as the Campus Ministries director and English as a Second Language teacher.

“We can feel like the things that we have to pray for are so unimportant,” she says in her testimony to the students. “... If God wants to take the time to count the hairs on my head, then He absolutely cares about the things I’ve brought before Him.”

Saundra Austin

It’s All God

Saundra Austin’s prayer life changed the day she got baptized in the late 1970s. On that day, she felt too sick to leave home. “I called my Bible worker,” says Austin, now prayer coordinator for the Allegheny East Conference (AEC). “She said to just go back and lay down, and we’ll pray for you.”

Hours passed, and each time a pastor or prayer warrior called, she still felt sick. However, no one gave up praying. By the time the baptism began later that day at AEC’s Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., she was the first one in line to enter the pool.

“From that day on, God did something miraculous in my life—healing [me] mentally, physically and spiritually,” says Austin. “It was the most beautiful experience. What struck my mind is, they assign you to people after you get baptized, and they assigned me to the prayer warriors.”

Soon after joining the Adventist Church, Austin said she felt impressed to start a prayer ministry on the phone. She didn’t have a conference line at the time—just call waiting. She created a prayer chain, and joined one of her friend’s international prayer chains.

Testimonies of answered prayers flow easily from the woman who has spent more than 30 years in prayer ministry. Today the busy wife, mother, teacher, real estate agent, ordained elder and certified hospital chaplain continues to answer God’s call to touch anyone she can through prayer and testimony anytime and any place. Those prayers have been said on Capitol Hill, on local and international prayer lines, on a cruise ship and at special events. They were said when a man beat and robbed her on the steps of the Dupont Park church; when the doctor said her unborn child might die, or that if the child lived, she might die; and in the midst of gunfire riddling her home while her infant—the same one doctors thought would die—and her older daughter slept.

She sometimes wonders how she made it through all of that, and realizes, “It’s all God.”

Austin adds, “He didn’t say this road would be easy. The type of ministry I am in, He chose me for this.” The only way to survive is to keep trusting God and choosing to move forward, she continues. “If we pray about something, God is going to answer in the way He sees fit for us.”

*“You’ve got to remove self.
If God’s not first, who is?”*



Richard Klinedinst

Standing in the Gap

Richard Klinedinst could not sit at home in retirement. In 2010 he started walking.

The 88-year-old member of Pennsylvania Conference's York church says he was inspired by Ron Halversen Sr.'s book *Prayer Warriors*. He began prayer walking in his York neighborhood and then expanded across the city. Up until 2016, he walked one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half hours each day, and logged more than 1,000 miles. Last year he fell and discontinued his daily walks. But he continues to pray. Using index cards to divide the town into 90 sections, he prays for several neighborhoods each day.

"I pray that God will bless that street, that He will cast out demons," Klinedinst says. "I pray for every person in every house. I ask the Lord to give each one the Holy Spirit."

His goal is to be the man God looked for but could not find in Ezekiel 22:30, who is willing to "stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it," he says.

Klinedinst misses physically walking the streets, and hopes he will be able to resume his walks soon.

In the meantime, he has advice for those thinking of becoming prayer walkers: "I would tell them to pray first, and make sure they are in God's will."

*"Pray first, and
make sure you are
in God's will."*



Principal Leona Bange, teacher Jeanne Sinka and their students continue to experience answers to prayer about their school, Northern Ohio Adventist Academy. Watch a video about their journey and a few of those answered prayers at columbiaunionvisitor.com/northernohioadventistacademy.

Resources From Heaven

Prayer has played a key role in the journey of Ohio Conference's Northern Ohio Adventist Academy (NOAA), says principal Leona Bange. From teacher Jeanne Sinka finding the North Sheffield Lake property before it was listed on the market, to the Home Depot staff volunteering to clean and repair the school's playground and completing other projects for free, Bange says she has seen God "pour out the resources of heaven for these kids." When she comes across any situation, "whether it seems small or insignificant, or whether it's momentous like [Sinka] recently being diagnosed with stage 4 adrenal cancer, I can take all of that to God immediately, give it to Him and trust His answers," Bange says.

Her prayers join those of church members in the area, who fast and pray for the needs of the school, Bange says. The students have learned to pray as they have witnessed God's miracle after miracle bless their school.

The students "pray every day for their teacher, Mrs. Sinka," Bange says. "She may be sick on the weekends, but by Monday morning she is in here teaching school."

It is the students, 31 in all, who remind Bange that "God has been doing miracles for us. This is just one more He can do for us," she says.

Recently, the high schoolers prayed for new students, and God brought four. One came from

Michigan, after learning about the school from a family member who attended one of the constituent Adventist churches in the Cleveland area. The girl's mom couldn't afford academy in Michigan. After visiting the school, the mother prayed that God would do a miracle if she wanted her daughter to attend NOAA, Bange says. The woman was able to sell her house and find rental housing in time for her daughter to begin school in August.

"It's definitely been a faith-building experience for the students, staff and for our supporting churches to see what God is doing and how He is leading," Bange says.

In late August, board member Michael Wisecup informed Bange that his employer, Nanofilm, in Valley View, Ohio, was getting rid of equipment. The Nanofilm Lab Manager Travis Bennett visited the school and asked for dimensions of the room set aside for a ninth- and tenth-grade science lab. He designed the school's lab based on equipment available from Nanofilm, some of it brand new, Bange says. It took two trips with a 26-foot U-Haul truck to deliver all of the glassware, cupboards, workstations, sinks, a hood vent and more. The equipment allowed NOAA to fulfill an accreditation requirement for its junior academy.

"This is how God has been taking care of us," Bange says.



10 Days of Prayer

Since 2006 members from more than 100 countries have gathered for a daily hour of prayer during the 10 Days of Prayer initiative. Visit tendaysofprayer.org to download materials in English or Spanish for the January 10-20, 2018, event.

6 Ways to Deepen Your Prayer Life

You don't need any special gifts or abilities," says Tamyra Horst, on being a prayer warrior. "You just need a willingness, an honest heart and a tenacity to not give up." Here are a few tips from Horst and other prayer warriors in the Columbia Union.

Make God first: You've got to remove self. If God's not first, who is?
—*Sandra Austin*

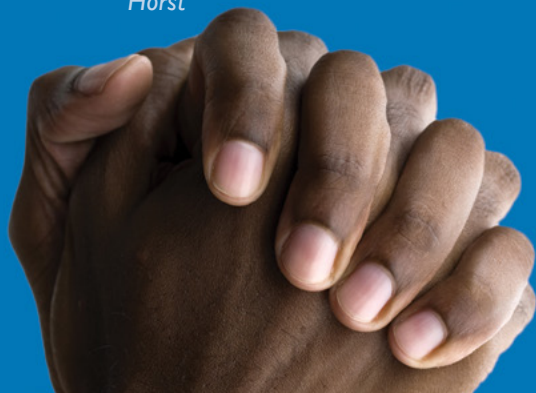
Pray Scripture: Claim God's Word; pray it back to Him.
—*Tamyra Horst*

Give fasting a chance: It deepens the prayer experience.
—*TH*

Be real: Don't worry about what your words sound like when you pray aloud. Swallow that fear about what other people are going to think about your words, and go for it.—*TH*

Praise God: When we get impatient or we can't see what is happening, then praise Him. Praise puts our attention on Him.—*Ruthie Jacobsen, retired prayer coordinator for the North American Division*

Endure: God wants to teach us endurance, dependence and trust. If He always answered our prayers in the same way, that would be bad. Then we would look to the answer and not to Him. He wants us to get to know Him.—*RJ*



Doggies and Fish and Kitties Oh My!

Factoid: Humans have a total of 206 bones in their bodies. Cats have an average of 230 bones and dogs have an average of 319 bones.

Are you a "dog person"? A "cat lady"? Is a turtle tops on your list? Prefer a quiet crustacean that likes to hide? No matter your favorite, you're sure to enjoy this year's *Columbia Union Calendar* featuring life lessons from animal companions.

To find, read and share highlights from our calendar, visit:

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Merry Christmas
from the Visitor team

Constituents Elect Leadership Team

During the recent Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) 21st Regular Constituency Meeting, delegates celebrated the conference's accomplishments and also elected a new officer to the leadership team. Celebrating 50 years of existence, the day incorporated the conference's yearlong theme, "Standing on the Promises."

During the session, hosted by the Reaching Hearts International church in Laurel, Md., delegates re-elected Henry J. Fordham III as president and Lawrence E. Martin as vice president for finance. New to the leadership team, delegates elected Pete Palmer as vice president for administration. Palmer has served AEC for more than 25 years as an educator and pastor, most recently pastoring at the Germantown church in Philadelphia.

New departmental leaders also joined the team, including Gene Donaldson, Ministerial director; John Alberty, Education superintendent; and Robert Smith, Adventist Community Services director. Smith will follow the leadership of Minnie McNeil, who recently retired after serving AEC for 20 years.

Each department gave a video report sharing ministry highlights from the previous term. Some of the highlights included membership growth from 35,121 to 40,426, a significant increase in the amount of churches actively using the e-Adventist.net membership program and the rise in enrollment of students within AEC schools.



Pete Palmer (Dahlia), vice president for administration; Henry J. Fordham III (Sharon), president; and Lawrence E. Martin (Kim), vice president for finance celebrate the AEC leadership team election.

Leaders also highlighted the addition of a new school, Ivy Hill Christian Academy in Philadelphia.

Delegates also voted minor changes to the bylaws and elected a new executive committee. Visit visitaec.org/constituency to view video presentations from the session.

First Church of Newtonville Celebrates 75 Years

The First church of Newtonville in Hammonton, N.J., recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. The church officially began in July 1942 when the Lord impressed several members of the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia to start a branch in Newtonville, N.J.



The celebration began on Friday, when guest musician Cassandra Freeman, church member of Mount Olivet in Camden, N.J., shared special music; Melvin Gregory, an elder, led testimony time; and Robert Smith, former First church pastor, preached.

The next day, divine worship began with a memorial video in recognition of deceased members, showcasing photos and videos of the church's history. Henry J. Fordham III, president, and other officials shared greetings; the First church's adult choir and the All Saint's youth choir provided musical selections; and Maurice Taylor, former pastor of First church, delivered the sermon.

Guests and members attended an afternoon concert featuring various soloists from Delaware State University. The service ended with George Camerra, current pastor, who expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in the weekend celebration.

Mizpah Church Celebrates Recovery Ministries Day

The Mizpah church in Philadelphia, recently celebrated its first Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin) Day. “By our work in the community, we’re trying to help people experience the life that God intends for them to enjoy,” says Donald McKinnie, pastor.

The ARMin program originated to encourage church members to come early for Sabbath School by providing breakfast for them. One day a member invited



Due to the Mizpah church ARMin program, Manuel Jimenez, a recovery house resident, now attends church regularly.

some men from a nearby recovery house. Excited by the prospect of ministry, Dorothy Alveranga, Mizpah outreach leader and Health Ministries director, called 10 other recovery centers. “We were told that 145 men could come,” Alveranga shares. The church could not accommodate that many, but they were—and still are able to—serve approximately 50 men each week.

Since the men are in recovery to treat their addictions to drugs, alcohol and other harmful substances, Mizpah church leaders tailor their Sabbath School program to address these specific needs. Now, after breakfast, guests filter into the sanctuary for faith-based lessons centered around overcoming addictions. “The church does a lot. I see the benefits,” says Raymond Drayton, transportation coordinator for the recovery program.

The work of ARMin doesn’t end on Sabbath. During the week, church members go to the recovery house and conduct group Bible studies. Alveranga envisions ARMin serving an even greater audience in the near future. The ministry needs more people to give Bible studies, space to accommodate them from the 10 recovery houses and a van to transport them back and forth. “I am confident that God’s work will be done. When we step out in faith, I have seen God provide,” Alveranga says.

Pisgah Sabbath School Members Reach out to School

The Sabbath School Department of the Pisgah church in Bryans Road, Md., has an ongoing outreach project with the local J.C. Parks Elementary School. For the past four years, they have prepared gifts for the 40 teachers who work at the school.

Gloria Dorsey, Pisgah Sabbath School leader, formed the idea when she overheard two teachers in a check-out line of a store debating which supplies they would have to purchase with their own funds. Dorsey paid for their items and brought the idea of supporting the local school to her Sabbath School class. “We try to alleviate some of the financial strain on teachers who spend their own funds for school supplies,” says Dorsey.

The Sabbath School members give the packages to the elementary school teachers at the beginning of the school year and then replenish the items after Christmas break. They’ve received multiple handwritten thank-you notes from children who receive the supplies.



Sabbath School members of the Pisgah church prepare gift bundles for teaches at a local school, including composition books, crayons and more.

Woman Baptized After Attending Grace Community Event

Members of the Grace Community church in Euclid, Ohio, recently experienced the joy that comes from being an unexpected blessing to someone in need.

It was 5 p.m. on Sabbath at the Bluestone Elementary School campus—the temporary home for Grace Community. Children, youth and adults mingled together on the playground, enjoying the church’s Summer Fest.

As participants enjoyed the activities, two Euclid police officers stopped by. They mentioned later, “We heard the music. It did not seem rowdy, but we were drawn to it!” During their short visit, the officers connected with Myron Edmonds, the Grace Community pastor, and many other members. One of the police officers was so impressed that she requested permission to post about Summer Fest on her Facebook page.

One highlight of Summer Fest was a \$100 gift card giveaway. For eligibility, individuals registered at all the activity tables, and had their entrance ticket stamped and then placed in a special box. The drawer pulled out ticket after ticket, but no one had the winning ticket!

In the meantime, Sierra Bell wandered over to the festival. She heard the noise from her nearby apartment, and came over to investigate. She had recently moved to the area, pregnant, alone and penniless.

A church member approached her and struck up a conversation. When asked if she had a ticket, Bell said, “I slipped in, so I don’t have a ticket.” A quick note to the person in charge of pulling the winning ticket quickly changed the rules, and in shock, Bell heard her name called over the microphone as the winner. With tears in her eyes, and words hardly above a whisper,



At a Grace Community church event, youth create arts and crafts at one of the activity tables.



she said, “I knew that God led me here for a reason! He is not done with me yet! Who would have thought that I could win a \$100 gift card! Only God knew I did not have any money!”

Bell delivered her baby two weeks after the Summer Fest. Four weeks later, she visited Grace Community church with her newborn baby strapped to her chest. She sat near the door for an easy exit, just in case the baby cried. Her baby was quiet all through the sermon. When the pastor made his appeal, Bell quickly stood and announced, “I want to be baptized!”

Outreach activities such as Summer Fest are a creative way to evangelize. Not only do they give occasions to meet the community, but they also present opportunities to share God’s love.—*Regina Johnson*



Sierra Bell celebrates her decision to get baptized after attending an event at Grace Community church.

Ramah Junior Academy Principal Brings Fresh Outlook

Celeste Giles, the new principal at Ramah Junior Academy (RJA) in Cleveland, is on a mission “to create an environment where children will love coming to school and love learning; where it will not feel like a burden, but fun. I want our teachers to spark curiosity, so [the children] can be lifelong learners,” she says.

Giles refocused RJA’s K-8 curriculum to emphasize movement, music and sound—not students just looking and listening. She believes exercise of mind and body will bring out the best performance in class.

She uses interactive cards during chapel; recess is an important time to move; and even some of the classroom chairs reflect a relaxed environment where students are encouraged to be creative and unique. Her husband, Randall, teaches a coding and robotics class where students are learning the basics of computer programming.

“Students are picking up a lot quicker than anticipated. Technology comes easy to them. Today’s children are competing with the world, and the more exposure they get, the more prepared



Teacher Randall Giles and Principal Celeste Giles have a bright outlook on Ramah Junior Academy where they are teaching students how to use fresh methods of learning.

they will be,” says Randall.

Under Celeste’s leadership, RJA recently made improvements to school hallways and classrooms. Students also now have a fresh salad bar option for lunch through a generous grant from Whole Foods. Her next step is to partner with local colleges to provide literacy and speech mentorship, as well as advanced course work. She is also looking into providing swimming lessons for the children to take their development to the next level.



Present Truth Leadership Dedicates Better Living Center

Leadership of the Present Truth church in Glenville, Ohio, recently dedicated the church’s new Better Living Center, a completely renovated home next to the church facility. The community service building provides clothes, food and supplies to low-income individuals and families.

In a special Sabbath sermon, speaker Carl Rogers encouraged members to be, “just like the boy who gave his lunch to feed 5,000 plus people. God will bless what we bring to feed 10,000 plus people in the Glenville community.” At the end of the service, members came to the altar to dedicate themselves and praise God.

On Sunday morning, the celebration continued with an official ribbon cutting, songs of praise and an official tour of the Better Living Center building. Eugene Anthony, Present Truth pastor, says, “We thank God

that we are debt free, and do not owe anyone anything for the renovation.”



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Hope and a Future

Where I grew up in Central California, tule fog, a type of fog specific to that region, can be so dense this time of year it is virtually impossible to see beyond your nose. Several uninterrupted days of cold grayness can be oppressive *and* too dangerous for driving. But around midday, when the sun is at its brightest, the fog burns off, enough for normal traffic to resume. Every foggy day that goes by signals one day closer to the glorious San Joaquin Valley springtime that heralds the coming of eight successive, fog-free months. There is hope and a bright future to look forward to, for even the most fog-weary soul.

The Bible says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11, NIV). When this message was delivered to God’s people, they had already been removed from their homes in Jerusalem to Babylon, where they remained in captivity for 70 years. A great, oppressive and dangerous fog, if you will, had enveloped the people of God. Though they had largely brought the trouble on themselves by their disobedience, God’s love and mercy shone through the darkness with an encouraging promise of hope *and* a future.

Even in our “foggiest” moments, we are assured that God’s plans for us are glorious and made certain when he sent His Son to redeem us, as undeserving as we are. Let this season be a reminder that the brightest days—and eternity—are ahead for the people of God. Even so, come Lord Jesus!



Jerry Lutz
Executive Secretary

Communication Department Leaders Change

Chesapeake Conference staff recently bid farewell to Samantha Young, communication and Women’s Ministries director. Young came to the position in 2008 and also directed Children’s Ministries from 2009-13.

“It has been a joy and a blessing to work with the conference staff, pastors and teachers, leading these ministries and becoming acquainted with Adventists all over the conference territory,” says Young.

“We appreciate [Samantha’s] many talents and the contributions she has made through the years.



PHOTOS BY JOEL SPRINGER

Her work has been a blessing to thousands,” says Rick Remmers, president.

Andre Hastick replaces Young as communication director. Hired as pastor of the Aberdeen (Md.) church in 2011, Hastick most recently led both the Reisterstown (Md.) church and South Carroll church

in Westminster, Md. Ordained to the gospel ministry earlier this year, he is an adept communicator with excellent video and social media skills.

“Hastick has demonstrated a variety of strong communication skills in the context of pastoral ministry,” says Remmers. “We look forward to having him use those skills to benefit our entire conference in staying connected ... to our God-given mission.”

Hastick notes, “The Chesapeake Conference has a rich legacy of top-notch communicators, and I am humbled by this opportunity to build on such a firm foundation. I pray God will continue to guide us in effectively sharing the Advent message of hope.”

Hastick is married to Heather, an elementary teacher. They have three daughters—Brianna, Ashlyn and Aubrey.



THE CHALLENGE

Meetings Reap 91 Decisions for Christ in Bulgaria

A dozen Chesapeake Conference pastors and lay evangelists recently spent three weeks in and around Dupnitsa, Bulgaria, holding evangelistic meetings as part of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church's Total Member Involvement initiative. Bulgarian pastors spent months preparing people for baptism leading up to the meetings.

"We had 11 sites going, half of them in Gypsy churches," says Rick Remmers, president. "More than 800 guests, plus many members, attended opening weekend."

Franke and Kandace Zollman, senior and associate pastors of the Williamsport (Md.) church, preached in the city of Blagoyevgrad—Franke at a Bulgarian church and Kandace at a Roma (Gypsy) church. "The

Roma people were very interested in the meetings, and on the weekends, the deacons put chairs in the aisles as the overflow room and hallway were packed and people were looking in the windows," says Kandace (pictured with local kids). "We were warmly embraced by all of them, and were just honored to be able to share



A Bulgarian pastor; Geoff Crowley, pastor of the Bell Branch and Annapolis churches in Md.; and Eric Flickinger, associate speaker for *It Is Written*, baptize Bulgarian candidates during the three-week evangelistic meetings.

the love of Jesus with them!"

Eric Flickinger, associate speaker for *It Is Written*, hosted an evangelism field school each morning to provide training to the pastoral team. One lay evangelist, Caleb Johnson from the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church, is just 17 years old. As a result of these evangelistic meetings, the pastors and lay evangelists celebrated 91 baptisms, reports Remmers.—*Samantha Young*

Wilna Church Hosts Children's Health Fair



Wilna church member Rose LeBlanc, a nurse, checks the blood pressure of a young visitor.

The Wilna church in Joppa, Md., recently held its first annual children's health fair. The church's Health Ministries team coordinated the fair to showcase the Adventist health message in a hands-on, practical way to school-age children. Kids had the opportunity to make healthy vegetarian lunch recipes, such as "chicken" sandwiches made with chickpeas, fruit tacos and apple sandwiches. Multiple health stations provided vitals screening, mental health, healthy lungs, dental health, first aid, arts and crafts, fitness and face painting. Children received a prize after visiting all of the stations.

"It is critical for children to learn the importance of making healthy decisions from an early age. The church can play an important role in their development by providing education and resources for our kids," says Ingrid Orinda, a psychiatrist and leader of the Health Ministries team.—*Valerie Nozea*

PHOTO BY VALERIE NOZEA

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Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org ■ President, Rick Remmers ■ Communication Director, Andre Hastick

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Conference President Announces Retirement

After serving nearly 29 years in the Mountain View Conference (MVC), President Larry and Jo'an Boggess announced their retirement at the recent Executive Committee meeting in Parkersburg, W.Va.

The Boggess' came to MVC in 1989 to pastor. Larry was elected to serve as executive secretary in 2002 before becoming conference president in 2006. Prior to his years in MVC, Larry worked as publishing director for the Oklahoma, Texico and Texas conferences, and was manager of the Illinois Conference Adventist Book Center. Jo'an served within MVC as an elementary school teacher and at the conference office as conference clerk, receptionist and administrative assistant.

"I have worked with Elder Boggess since 2001," shares Victor Zill, MVC treasurer, "and have found him consistently and passionately dedicated to growing the kingdom of God. From countless meetings ... planning sessions, working to secure funding ... preaching and a constant vision of what could be done, Larry has been a source of inspiration. His work, and the work of his wife, Jo'an, will be greatly missed."

The Boggess' expressed their gratitude to the MVC Executive Committee for their steadfast support as



President Larry Boggess announces his retirement after serving 29 years in the Mountain View Conference.

they worked together to enlarge the kingdom of God. At the MVC Executive Committee meeting, Larry also shared what a privilege it was to work with such wonderful office staff and dedicated pastors and teachers.

Three Churches in West Virginia Make Health a Priority

Moorefield (W.Va.) church members recently hosted a health exhibit at a local elementary school. Members volunteered at health education booths,



Pathfinders Sophia Marques and Kristiana Hoffman, members of the Charleston River City (W.Va.) church, prepare sandwiches for the community.

checking weight and body mass index, blood pressure, blood sugar levels and cholesterol. Guests also tasted vegetarian food and ice cream samples. "As I wandered through the exhibits, I was impressed to see church members praying with folks," says Phyllis Jeffers, Moorefield treasurer.

Charleston River City (W.Va.) church members took the North American Division's annual Let's Move! Day event to the next level. In addition to exercising, Pathfinders and Adventurers prepared 50 lunches to deliver to homeless people in the area.

For the past several months, the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church has used Ernestine "Teenie" Finley's *Natural Lifestyle Cooking* program for a monthly health seminar. Guests learn how to plan balanced menus, incorporate more plant-based foods into their diet and receive healthy recipes for holidays and celebrations.

"Mountain View churches continue to work in their communities using the health message," says Daniel Morikone, conference Health Ministries director. "Churches hold various health programs throughout the year and make many friends for Jesus in the process."

Annual Wellness Camp Changes Lives

Ejection Fraction (EF), diabetes and defibrillator are scary words that my husband, Chuck, and I heard from his cardiologist,” says Vicki Reed, a guest who attended the recent Mountain View Conference (MVC) Wellness Camp. “The ejection is normally 55 percent or more, but Chuck’s was 22 percent, meaning his heart was in failure,” Vicki continues. “He was facing the installation of a defibrillator and cardiac bypass surgery. I, too, was facing serious medical challenges, including diabetes, obesity and high cholesterol. Needless to say, we were scared. Desperate, we prayed for guidance.”

The Reeds learned of the Wellness Camp from David and Oleta Emerson, medical professionals who attend church with them. In order for them to attend the two-week program, they needed to raise nearly \$1,600 and request medical leave from work.

Vicki shares, “God overcame every obstacle from finances to obtaining medical leave for Chuck. It was the best two weeks ever. We changed our high fat, dairy and meat diet to a plant-based diet. The camp had the most amazing volunteers. Each day included health lectures from doctors, emotional ‘well-being’ talks from pastors, walking, cooking classes, vegan, oil-free meals and so much more. The food was so good. We made such wonderful friends.

“We had blood work taken at the beginning of camp and again at the end. We were shocked at the results



Deborah Harding, Wellness Camp participant, receives a diploma from Dan Morikone, Health Ministries director, for meeting her health goals during the two-week program.



Daniel Morikone (front row, right), Health Ministries director, along with more than 20 Wellness Camp participants, celebrate achieving their two-week health goals.

in just two weeks. Chuck got off all his medications as his numbers greatly improved. I lost 8 pounds, and all my lab work numbers improved,” adds Vicki. From the incredible results they’ve seen, the Reeds plan to continue this journey to better health.

Deborah Harding, another guest at the Wellness Camp, shares that “I was feeling skeptical. I did not think that [the camp] would work for me, and I thought I would have an unpleasant experience. However, once I got there and started the program, I was really enjoying myself. ... I did not think that eating healthy could taste so good.

“Prior to going, my blood sugar readings were very high, but within two weeks my blood sugar readings were down, and I was able to cut my insulin dose by seventy-five percent,” Harding continues. “I also lost weight. Now I feel more energetic, more positive and more motivated to keep on this program. The wellness program has truly changed my life, and I want to encourage anyone and everyone to attend this program.”

The Wellness Camp accommodated more than 20 guests, and over the course of two weeks measured that guests lost a total of 110 lbs., dropped 269 points in blood sugar levels, and shaved 328 points off their total cholesterol.

NEWS NEW JERSEY

Share the Hope: Jesus is Coming Soon!

The Lord has given us a pertinent message for a crucial time in history. We eagerly anticipate the second coming of Jesus! Now is the time to share this hope with those around us. So many things are happening—the signs all tell us of Jesus' soon return.

Our name, "Seventh-day Adventists," identifies us as the church who believes, acts and hopes in the reality that we will see our Savior coming soon in the clouds with glory and mighty power. He is ready to get His bride, who has been waiting, praying and looking forward to that day. We cannot lose the great hope of His return.

It's time people hear about Jesus' second coming from our pulpits. It's time students in our schools learn of our hope. It's time our families live this hope. It's time to share this hope. It is crucial for us to live every day with this hope in our hearts.

God wants a church that is integrated and unified. It is imperative that we receive a double portion of the Holy Spirit to guide us in accomplishing our mission—to preach the gospel of Jesus with power and conviction. This month is a good time to share with others, not only the first coming of Jesus, but our great hope that He is coming again!



Jorge Agüero
President

Vineland Spanish Church Pastor Receives Ordination

Former administrators José H. Cortés and Mike Gill recently ordained Oscar Rodriguez to pastoral ministry at the Vineland Spanish church.



Oscar Rodriguez, pastor of the Vineland Spanish, Vineland English and Panamericana Spanish churches, receives his gospel ministry certificate.

Rodriguez was born in Dallas, but grew up in South Jersey. He became a church member at age 15 after attending several evangelistic series. He quickly got involved in youth ministry at his home church and under a former youth director at the conference. While working there, Rodriguez felt called to become a pastor. He attended Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

In 2012 Rodriguez received an invitation to join the New Jersey Conference as pastor of both English and Spanish congregations: Atlantic City Spanish, Atlantic County, Parkway South, Cape May Court House Spanish and Cape May Court House. Currently Rodriguez pastors the Vineland Spanish, Vineland English and Panamericana Spanish churches.

Rodriguez is passionate about preaching the gospel and working with young people. He and his wife, Rosy, have two children—Diego, 7, and Melissa, 2.

Conference Summit Trains, Motivates Leaders

New Jersey Conference recently held its fifth annual Adventist Leadership Summit for English speaking members. Every year departmental leaders come together for training and inspiration to carry on the work in their local churches.

Nearly 400 leaders attended the event, which featured speakers José H. Cortés, then-president; Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, education superintendent; Paulo Macena, youth director and coordinator of the event; Jorge Aguero, current president; Rick Jordan, Potomac Conference vice president for Pastoral Ministries; Emmanuel Joseph, senior pastor for the Maranatha French church in Newark; and Weymouth Spence, president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

“As one of the presenters, I was enriched by the 2017 Adventist Leadership Summit,” says Saint-Ulysse. “Additionally, I was equally enriched ... by my colleagues’ presentations. I thank Paulo Macena and his team for their commitment to training leaders in our conference.”



At the fifth annual leadership summit, Weymouth Spence prays for José H. Cortés, as he officially retires as the president of New Jersey Conference.

New Pastors Join Conference

Leandro Robinson was born in the Dominican Republic. His pastoral experience began in 2007 as a volunteer associate pastor for the Hoboken church and in 2009 he pastored in Kenai, Alaska. Robinson later moved to Pennsylvania, where he acted as conference youth director until 2014. Most recently he worked as a chaplain for Hospice Plus in Arlington, Texas.

The conference recently hired Robinson to pastor the Atlantic City Spanish, Atlantic City English, Parkway South English, Cape May Court House Spanish and Cape May Court House English churches.



A graduate of Atlantic Union College (Mass.), Robinson is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.). He and his wife, Eunice, have two children, Emely and Nathalie.
Angel Laurencio

Delgado is originally from Cuba. Delgado is a graduate of Montemorelos University (Mexico) and the Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary in Havana, where he graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

Delgado served as a local church pastor in Havana until 2008, when he transitioned to the Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary as professor of Greek, Hermeneutics, Bible Doctrine and Youth Ministries Practices. In 2014 Delgado left the seminary and moved to Vancouver, Wash., to work as a Bible instructor. He also served as a chaplain at the Portland Adventist Medical Center (Ore.), and as senior pastor of the Denver Hispanic church.

Delgado is currently pastoring the Hackettstown Spanish, Dover Spanish and Morristown Spanish churches. He is married to Bertha Soriano, and they have two children, José and Ivett.



Third Annual Christmas Tea to Be Held at Camp Mohaven

Ladies of all ages are invited to take a few moments for themselves this busy holiday season and join women from across Ohio for the conference's third annual Celtic Christmas Tea. "Imagine a delightful seasonal menu of authentic Celtic teatime treats in a cozy setting, complete with a crackling fire, beautiful seasonal Celtic decor and Christmas music from Ireland, Scotland and Wales," says Heidi Shoemaker, Women's Ministries director.

Mariya Marton, chaplain for the Southview Medical Center in Dayton, will be the event's guest speaker. Attendees will receive a tartan heart ornament imported from the United Kingdom.

The Celtic Christmas Tea will be held Sunday, December 10, at the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville, from 12-2 p.m. Tickets

are \$12. For more information, or to register, please visit ohioadventist.org, or call (740) 397-4665, ext. 128.



Ghanaian Churches Host Church Planting Summit

The Columbus Ghanaian church and the Prince of Peace Ghanaian church, also located in Columbus, recently hosted the inaugural North America Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventists (NAGSDA) organization church planting summit. Sampson Twumasi and Derick Adu, Columbus-area pastors, coordinated the three-day summit, dubbed SALT (Soulwinning And Lay Training).

More than 100 Ghanaian church planters from several Ghanaian churches across the U.S. East Coast and Canada attended the training session. "Delegates

were comprised of Ghanaian pastors, church elders, personal ministry leaders and young adults eager 'to spend and be spent' for the cause of Christ," says Adu.

According to Appiah Kwarteng, president of NAGSDA, the trainees "view church planting as the King's business. It must be done with proper training and with the right tools to yield a bumper harvest for the Master."

Ron Halvorsen Jr., president of Ohio Conference, spoke on the importance of being fully equipped under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who empowers disciple-making members to succeed. He further challenged the church planters to cast a wider vision and get the right tools that will be useful for proper church planting and nurturing more churches worldwide.

Trainers taught church planting techniques, such as a paradigm shift in evangelism, patterns of church growth in the biblical book of Acts, assimilation and retention of new members and effective use of small groups in local churches.

Attendees pledged to make the SALT conference an annual event so that they may gather and network with other church planters to better equip themselves for intentional, round-the-clock evangelism.



Members from the Columbus Ghanaian and Prince of Peace Ghanaian churches gather during the SALT summit in Columbus.

Women's Retreat Reconnects Participants to Jesus

I never stay up late, and I never share personal things about myself," shared Kim Whitford, a first-time attendee at the annual Ohio Conference Women's Retreat held at Camp Mohaven earlier this fall. Whitford went on to explain how she stayed up late the first night, visiting with other attendees from around the state. The next day, one of her new friends stated she "really needed to talk to her."

The woman had recently lost her child, and felt impressed to reach out to Whitford after hearing her share the night before about losing her own son. They had a long conversation, prayed and walked away feeling that God had healed a part of their hearts. "And to think I almost didn't come!" says Whitford. "God knew we both needed to be here this weekend!"

More than 100 women attended the retreat and showed God's love in a practical way through a "baby shower" for Dominion Intercessors Ministry (DIM), an organization in Dayton that assists refugee families who are new to the area. Ladies contributed nearly \$900 in a special offering, as well as diapers, clothing, strollers and other necessary items—so much so that it took two vehicles to transport the gifts to Dayton!

The Christ-centered presentations by guest speaker Lori Farr, pastor of the Miamisburg church, highlighted the weekend. Farr reminded attendees that Jesus "wants nothing more than for us to spend time with Him. ... He says, 'Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' (Matt. 11:28, NIV)." Throughout a series of four presentations, Farr, with the help of the Holy Spirit, transported women



"I belong to Jesus!" Lori Farr exclaims during her "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus" presentation.



Attendees collect more than \$1,000 in donations and gifts during a "baby shower" to assist refugees in Dayton.



More than 100 women attend the annual Ohio Conference Women's Retreat, pictured wearing hand-made infinity scarves, a gift from The Tabitha's, the Mansfield Women's Ministries team.

to the feet of Jesus, reconnecting them with Him. "I belong to Jesus!" Farr exclaimed. "Thank God Jesus never gives up on us!"

After the event, the women received a letter from Tabitha Uwimpuhwe, chief operation officer of DIM, thanking them for their hard work. Uwimpuhwe informed the ladies how DIM will allocate the money they raised: "Your support will [enable us] to rent a small storage place for items we save for incoming refugees who seem to be in immediate need as they arrive. ... You are truly appreciated," she wrote. "We look forward to a continuing partnership with you in building DIM."

Pennsylvania Pen

Pennsylvania Members Undertake a Mighty Movement

With the Faith for Family evangelistic campaign just one weekend away, more than 1,820 people from across the conference joined members of 23 central Pennsylvania churches in door-to-door outreach. They focused their efforts on communities hosting Faith for Family seminars.

This mighty movement of Adventists represented a diverse cross section of ages and cultures. “Sixteen members of the Pittsburgh church, ages 10-84, made the more than four-hour trip to assist the Hillcrest church in Wellsboro,” reports Kathy Pepper, whose husband, Stewart, pastors the Pittsburgh church.

Ninety-year-old Clifford Calhoun and his 87-year-old wife, Rita, drove approximately 60 miles to serve the Lewistown church. For three hours, they distributed Faith for Family door hangers and talked with residents about the upcoming evangelistic meetings.

Pittsburgh member Paul Miovas was determined to be a part of the event even though he uses a walker. Cindy Wilcox and John Rundell, Hillcrest church members, distributed literature at an apartment complex and then at store parking lots. Several people they met seemed interested in the upcoming evangelistic meetings.

Members shared invitations with thousands of individuals, along with Glow tracks and other literature. As a result, the Lancaster, York and Harrisburg Hispanic churches, plus many more churches across central Pennsylvania, received more than 100 Bible study request cards.

Sixty-five Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students volunteered to spend their Sabbath afternoon with Faith for Family. Sophomore Misgana Lebso knocked on the door of a woman whose husband had recently



Bob Smith, Harrisburg First church member, leads a team consisting of his grandchildren and their friends, who were part of the 1,820 members who knocked on doors across central Pennsylvania.



Havertown church members prepare to go door to door in Harrisburg to invite the community to attend the Faith for Family evangelistic series.



Members of the Chestnut Hill church in Philadelphia, knock on a door in York as part of the Faith for Family initiative this fall.

passed away. Lebso and other students offered to pray with the woman. “You are the first people to pray with me since my husband died,” she tearfully told them.

In a recorded video message, Ted Wilson, General Conference president, shared, “[The] Faith for Family initiative is an ideal opportunity for everyone to be involved in some way.”

Gary Gibbs, conference president, had a wonderful experience. He states, “I felt so blessed to be part of the Pennsylvania Conference as I saw our churches come together for the cause of Christ. ... What we did this Sabbath is the best definition of who we are—God’s witnesses for this hour to share with others the truth of our loving and soon returning Lord. Let’s continue to experience Total Member Involvement as we reach our part of the world for Christ.”

Charnicharts Join Pennsylvania Team

Members of the Pennsylvania Conference Executive Committee recently elected Carlos Charnichart to serve as the new conference treasurer. His wife, Liz, also accepted an administrative assistant position in the conference office.

For the past three years, Charnichart has served as the accountant for the Hope Channel. He has experience as a business owner, manager, sales and marketing executive and adjunct professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

As the daughter of a pastor and church administrator, Liz has a heart for Adventist ministry. She most recently worked for the General Conference Secretariat Department and has certifications in Human Resources and Adventist Risk Management. A skilled musician, she will be a wonderful addition to the team.

The Charnichart's have two college-aged children: Paola, a nursing student at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.); and Charlie, a freshman at Montemorelos University (Mexico).

"[Our executive committee] voted unanimously to



President Gary Gibbs (left) and his wife, Sherilyn, welcome Liz and Carlos Charnichart to the Pennsylvania Conference team.

call Carlos to be our conference treasurer and for Liz to join us as an administrative assistant," reports Gary Gibbs, president. "We look forward to the Charnichart's ministry in Pennsylvania!"

2018 Pennsylvania Conference Marriage Retreat

FUN in the SUN

February 23-25, 2018
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey
4650 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, Pa.

Couples are invited to get away from the winter blahs and enjoy "fun in the sun"--complete with our Saturday night beach party. It will be a weekend filled with powerful messages, lots of laughter, fun, and time for couples to getaway and enjoy!

Featured speakers:
Jorge and Evelyn Torres



For more information or to register online, go to paconference.org.

A large background image of a man and a woman on a beach. The man is wearing a white t-shirt, yellow shorts, and a blue jacket, and is carrying the woman on his back. The woman is wearing a denim jacket and sunglasses. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a blue sky and ocean.

Potomac People

Living Hope Reaches Community

The annual Haymarket (Va.) Community Fair draws more than 25,000 people each year and features 260 vendors, local school marching bands, colorful floats, performers and law enforcement.

Members of the Living Hope church and School of Evangelism in Haymarket, Va., saw this as an opportunity to share the gospel with their neighbors. They set up a canopy on the parade route, and staffed their booth with trained masseurs and church volunteers.

“One lady told us that she was looking for a church who could help her understand Bible truths about the Sabbath,” says Chris Sealey, Personal Ministries director. “She had heard of Adventists, so when she saw the name on the canopy, she was excited to speak with us and sign up for Bible studies.”

During the parade, church members and masseurs provided 95 free massages, distributed 300 bottles of water, as well as 1,500 pieces of inspirational literature. Every hour volunteers held a drawing for a free copy of Living Hope member Ernestine “Teenie” Finley’s *Natural Lifestyle Cooking*, a plant-based cookbook full of healthful resources.

Members also participated in the Walk by Faith Christian Outreach Festival in Warrenton, Va., an outdoor event designed to provide a setting to meet



Living Hope church members and massage therapists provide chair massages during the annual Haymarket Community Fair.

and greet members of the community. Pastor/evangelist Mark Finley, married to Teenie, and Bob Banks, Living Hope pastor, shared that members distributed nearly 3,000 pieces of literature and nearly 150 people expressed interest in Bible studies and upcoming church events. Teams from the church and school have prayerfully begun the work of following up with the registrants.

Potomac Recognizes Four Teachers and Pastors

To celebrate the hard work teachers and pastors accomplish in the Potomac Conference, a group of conference leaders recognized four candidates at the annual Pastor/Teacher Convention, an event for team building, personal reflection and growth.

Administrators recognized two pastors and two teachers for their excellence in ministry (pictured, in order): Debbie Eisele, associate pastor of the Winchester, Winchester



Spanish, Strasburg and Damascus Grace Fellowship churches; David Barrozo, pastor of the Washington Brazilian church in College Park, Md.; Bob Kilgore, an educator

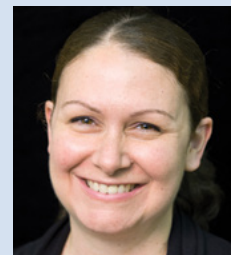


at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.; and Jeanne Marie Garcia, vice principal of the Beltsville (Md.) Adventist School.

“These individuals go above and beyond what is asked of them and have done amazing work in moving our conference forward in growing healthy disciples,” said Bill Miller, president. “It’s our privilege to

honor the quality staff we have who so often go unrecognized. We are thankful for the valuable contributions each makes to our students and members.”

Go to youtube.com/user/PotomacConference to watch the Pastor/Teacher Convention videos.



Potomac People

Petersburg Members Engage in Multiple Ministries

As nurses, Annemarie Meyer and Irene Chappell know that hospitals have unique needs that the average person might not think of when considering a service project. Meyer and Chappell, members of the Petersburg (Va.) church, created a ministry to supply these needs for local hospitals.

"It's a little-known fact that many, including rape, assault or abuse victims and psych ward patients, are often released from the hospital wearing nothing more than a gown," explains Meyer. "Clothes are sometimes collected for evidence, are torn or bloodied at the scene of an accident, and many hospitals do not have everyday clothes available for patients when they go home. People deserve to leave the hospital with more dignity."

After making an announcement at church and leaving a donation box in the lobby, Meyer and Chappell were thrilled to deliver 23 outfits to the Southside Regional Medical Center in Petersburg on their first visit. Each time that number has grown. On their fourth and most recent visit, they distributed 101 outfits.

"The response from hospital staff has been wonderful," says Meyer. "This ministry was featured on the back page of the hospital's newsletter, which I've been told by some employees is a pretty big deal. Usually huge donations or new procedures or equipment are announced on the back." Meyer said they shared the newsletter with the Petersburg church members to show how, through God, this ministry has been a blessing to others.

In addition to the hospital ministry, Petersburg members recently hosted a "thank you" pancake breakfast



Petersburg (Va.) church members, including (back row, right to left) Irene Chappell, head deaconess, co-founder and coordinator of a ministry that donates clothes to Southside Regional Medical Center (SRMC); Jesse Nascimento, pastor; Angie McFarland, Women's Ministries director; Tracey Lee, SRMC Trauma Program Manager; Elizabeth and Kay, trauma nurses; and (front row) Andrew and Madison Meyer, also Petersburg members, celebrate the delivery of clothing to discharged patients.

for the local police, fire and EMS departments (pictured). "There has been so much turmoil and controversy in the U.S. We wanted to let our local departments know that we are grateful for their protection and care," says Meyer. Both of these powerful ministries originated in the small, but mighty Women's Ministries group, after Director Angie McFarland challenged them to find creative outreach projects.

Petersburg, which has an average attendance of about 80 people, also has a food pantry, founded by Thelma Blackwell who retired earlier this year, and is now led by Ronald Smith. A local magazine selected the pantry as one of best and most unique in the area. "Most give people preselected packages," says Meyer. "We created a grocery store-like atmosphere instead, and have tables set up for people to select what they'd like." There's also a table containing literature. Meyer adds, "It's important for us to serve and love the community the way Jesus would."

Student Leaders Promote God's Love, Diversity

At the end of each academic year, students decide who the student leadership will be the following school year. Students make posters, converse with one another and vote for worthy “administrators.” Last year the student body elected incoming senior Janick Brun to serve as president for both the Student Association (SA) and Student Council. During her four years at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Brun has been heavily invested in community service, helping others and participating in ministry, both on and off campus.

“Four years ago, I was shocked when a new freshman walked up to me and asked if she could be in a leadership class,” Dave Morgan, principal, shares. “Normally freshman need a little more maturing before they are ready to understand what it means to lead others, but there was something different about Janick; it was clear she had a real desire to influence others in a positive way.”

Each year SA members select a theme they rally around throughout the year. At a special assembly on the first day of school, Brun shared the vision she established with the student body:

“Just as America is a melting pot of many different



Senior Janick Brun, Student Association and Student Council president, is making a positive difference on and off campus.



Sophomore Marcela DeOliveira shares how much she appreciates the international community on BMA's campus.

“races and cultures, so is BMA; therefore, it only seemed fitting that the SA's theme for this school year be: ‘Called to Represent.’ God's commandments can be summed up with one word—love. We are not only called to represent ourselves, but also God's love. Around our campus, in multiple languages, there are signs that read ‘Hate has no home here.’ In a world full of condemnation and hatred, we must epitomize the never-ending love that God shows us. Our acceptance of people is not contingent on their place of origin. This isn't just my opinion; to sophomore Marcela DeOliveira, it was ‘all the different nationalities present that made the transition of attending BMA easier. It is because of the vast diversity that [she knows] we are accepted no matter who we are or where we come from.’ As SA president, I want to continue to cultivate an environment of love and support for my fellow students.”

This type of focus, purpose and leadership has encouraged other students to step up and lend their voices to the cause of recognizing that each one is indeed part of the body of Christ. At BMA, growing leaders is just part of the DNA!

Students Share Enthusiasm for Christ, Service, School

Students at Highland View Academy (HVA) recently benefited from a myriad of opportunities for outreach, service and school spirit, both on and off campus.

Several students recently attended Dare 2 Share, a training and outreach event, at the Ringgold church, a nondenominational church in Hagerstown (Md.). “The event taught us how to spread the Word of God to our friends, neighbors and strangers,” explains Freshman Jiamya Morris. After a series of mini-sermons on prayer, care and share, the students put the training into practice. Sophomore Jadyn Ochoa says, “We had ‘gospel conversations’ all around Hagerstown.” Freshman Angel Hernandez especially enjoyed the youth-focused event because “it was made for teens.”

On a weekly basis, students serve others off campus at Faith Step, a Seventh-day Adventist ministry in downtown Hagerstown that assists struggling and displaced families and individuals. Mandy Corea, Campus Ministries coordinator, expounds, “On Sabbath mornings, HVA students and staff help with Faith Step’s breakfast ministry and build relationships with the regular attendees.” In addition, students present Sabbath afternoon spiritual programs once a month that include music, drama and interactive activities. Junior Katie Seeders shares her experience at Faith Step. “I had the opportunity to serve people in need, then sit down and speak with them. They were very kind,” she says.



Junior Darlene Ntakirutimana holds a box of prayer requests at the See You at the Pole event on the National Day of Prayer.

The annual Columbia Union Spiritual Academy Leadership Training (SALT) conference provides student leaders on campus the opportunity to further develop their spiritual leadership skills. Students who attended this year’s event found the experience to be beneficial. Junior Dain Ochoa enjoyed “coming together as leaders to learn our roles in our schools.” Junior Alec Gaskill adds, “SALT inspired me to be a better leader and a better person in Christ.”

Student leaders returned from SALT and led out in HVA’s participation of *See You at the Pole*, a National Day of Prayer event, in which the entire school gathered at the flagpole in the center of campus to praise God and pray together. Junior Rebecca Pierce, Student Association (SA) pastor, especially appreciated “the atmosphere, as everyone came together to worship Jesus.”

The leaders also worked with staff to boost HVA’s first pep rally in recent history. Junior Zyon Wiley says, “The SA really went all out.” Students and staff enjoyed a variety of activities and had lunch in the gym instead of the cafeteria. Junior Ariana Neverson found the event to be inspiring because “it brought together our school and let us share our Tartan pride.”



Members of the junior class show their school spirit at HVA’s pep rally.

PHOTO BY AUSTIN GOMEZ

PFA POST



Visit us online at PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG. *Excellence is no accident.*

PFA Harvests Apples and Produces Cider

Pine Forge Academy's (PFA) apple orchard is on its way back! During the 1970s, PFA students and personnel cultivated more than 75 acres of apples trees. Today, students, along with Henry Beck, farm director, pick apples from the remaining trees in the orchard, in which they have harvested more than 30 crates and have produced more than 120 gallons of organic apple cider. Nicole Hughes, principal, and a small group of United Student Movement class officers, recently visited Bauman's Apple Press to participate in the apple cider making process. Bauman's is a custom cider processing and bottling facility, located approximately 20 miles from PFA. The trip resulted in 60 gallons of fresh, organic apple cider!

PFA applied for a grant to fund the restoration of the apple orchard. The grant is in the third and final round of review. In the grant application, PFA commits to provide organic and natural foods to community members as an evangelistic outreach tool. Families will be able to "pick and pay" for produce, cultivate a small plot of their own and/or receive free produce PFA donates to the local food bank.

With only a small plot of land, Beck successfully harvested fresh produce throughout the harvesting season. Ramon Perez, Food Services director, shares, "I always enjoy cooking with fresh ingredients." Perez prepares meals using PFA-grown tomatoes, zucchini,



This crate of freshly picked apples, is one of 30 crates students harvested from PFA's orchard.

yellow squash, string beans, cucumbers, green peppers and basil.

Healthy eating and farming has long been a valued element of PFA's program. Through the generosity of alumni donors, PFA purchased a high tunnel greenhouse. Beck says, "This is what we really need for year-round gardening." PFA intends to integrate the garden and greenhouse programs into the school wide-work program.

This school year, all PFA students are required to participate in a work program. During phase one, students are assigned on- or off-campus employment. During phase two, faculty and staff work together to infuse the work experience with career-readiness learning activities and intergenerational discussions.

Almost 40 students work off campus as tutors at the Jessie R. Wagner Elementary School, senior citizen companions at local nursing homes and interns at Allegheny East Conference. As PFA expands the work program, students will also work on the school farm. Farm workers will cultivate the grounds, harvest produce, package foods for sale, help prepare baked goods and market PFA goods.

For more photos and videos, visit PFA's Facebook page.



A high tunnel greenhouse sits on PFA's grounds for year-round gardening.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Renowned Physical Therapist Trains Coaches, Athletes

Tony Touma, a senior partner of C.O.R.E. Physical Therapy, recently invited athletic coaches and physical education instructors from Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) to take part in a physical assessment and training program. Touma's program trained SAA coaches on proper exercises that will help reduce their athlete's chances of injury when competing in events.

Touma, a nationally renowned physical therapist who specializes in sports medicine, also serves as the physical therapist for the NBA's Washington Wizards team. He donated his time and services to help the Spencerville athletic program.

Students participated in the training session as Touma guided athletic coaches on proper techniques to protect young athletes from injury during competition. He focused on strengthening exercises and what coaches need to look for when evaluating a student's conditioning and physical strengths and weaknesses.

"I learned a lot of, what I consider to be, invaluable mobility exercises that I implemented in soccer practice immediately after the conference, with great response and results," says Jarrod Lutz, SAA's varsity women's soccer coach.

"Our team continues to do some of the stretches/exercises at each subsequent practice and before every game, and I



Jarrod Lutz, SAA's varsity women's soccer coach and one of the English teachers, performs a hurdle step to test his stepping ability.

have definitely noticed an improvement in agility and endurance across the board."

SAA teams compete in baseball, basketball, golf, softball, soccer and volleyball. Their gymnastics and acrobatic team also competes in events throughout the U.S.—*Dan Weber*

Tony Touma, physical therapist for the NBA's Washington Wizards team, looks on as SAA junior Zachary Hyde performs an active leg raise to test the mobility of his lifted leg, as well as his core strength.



Calendar of Events

- Dec. 5 Band Department Concert, SAA Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 Grades 4-12 Choral, Bells, Orchestra Concert, Spencerville Church, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9-10 Maryland Excel Middle School Basketball Tournament
- Dec. 11 PreK-4 General Music Concert, SAA Auditorium, 4:15 p.m.

PHOTOS BY HEIDI WEBER

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
 Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

High School Student Leaders Attend S.A.L.T. Conference

Sixteen Spring Valley Academy (SVA) high school students recently attended a four-day annual Spiritual Academy Leadership Training (S.A.L.T.) conference at Potomac Conference's Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. This is a special weekend for student leaders in grades 9-12 throughout the Columbia Union Conference to recommit their lives to God and to train in various leadership roles.

Senior Francelle Dubuisson shares, "The highlight of S.A.L.T. was getting to know students from other schools and reuniting with my friends from [sister] schools." Senior Saqib Rasheed adds, "I felt the icebreakers and testimonies were some of my favorite highlights. We came away knowing that we are all chosen by God for a purpose—because He loves us!"



Spring Valley Academy student leaders attend the Spiritual Academy Leadership Training Conference.

Seniors Survive Camp Mohaven Adventure

Every school year, the Spring Valley Academy senior class makes a pilgrimage to Ohio Conference's Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center in Danville, Ohio, for a senior survival adventure. This is a time set aside for seniors to focus on life's basic issues and be challenged in ways they have never been before in a natural environment that allows for self-exploration and revelation of God.

When the seniors arrived at the campsite, staff provided basic materials—such as plastic and duct tape—so the seniors could build shelters that would withstand wind and/or rain for the next five days.

This experience is part of the senior Bible grade and includes journal writing, group activities, participation, attitude and attendance, as measured through the evaluations of staff and group members. Staff designed the team-building activities to challenge seniors individually and strengthen them as a class, or as senior Gabi Thomas says, "It forced us to work with people we wouldn't have really worked with in school, and it brought us closer by taking us out of our busy lives."

Student Danelle Grubbs adds, "Over the course of the week, we learned that to succeed, we needed to give everyone a chance to participate and cooperate

100 percent." Richard Garrett exclaims, "It brought us together by letting us bond and seeing what we're all like outside of school!"

Candice Luo sums up the adventure: "We brought our class together in games, kitchen duty and worships. We shared our thoughts and gave our affirmation and friendship to each other!"



Spring Valley Academy seniors participate in their senior survival week at the Camp Mohaven Retreat and Conference Center.



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

“Team SVA” Promotes, Hosts Successful Academy Days

Shenandoah Valley Academy’s (SVA) mission is “to educate disciples of Jesus.” Student ambassadors were the embodiment of that mission as they hosted visitors with enthusiasm and care at Academy Days this fall.

“It’s incredible how ambassadors on every level—students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff—came together as Team SVA,” says Janine Hudson, SVA board member, Parent Association officer and Manassas (Va.) church member. “I care about Adventist education for young people today, because years ago people cared about me having a Christian education when my parents couldn’t afford it,” she shared during her personal testimony at Academy Days.

Hudson knows that students who have the opportunity to experience Adventist education understand its value and want to connect others to its power. “Then they are the ones who will make sure their children have this opportunity, and give to help other people’s children attend. This is what I see happening at SVA,” says Hudson.

The large number of prospective students and level of engagement by visiting parents impressed Don Short, principal. “Families are choosing SVA because we are a positive school community seeking to build relationships established in Christian love, nurture students in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and

educate them for a life of service for Him—this is the reason our school exists,” Short explains.

Academy Days is a yearly opportunity for students, grades 7-11, to experience campus life: attend classes, spend a night in a dorm, audition for scholarships, worship and have fun getting to know the SVA family. It’s a vital part of the decision-making process for families when considering an Adventist boarding school. This process includes serious, prayerful assessment of spiritual, financial, academic and interpersonal priorities.

“As you make this decision, it’s not an easy one,” shared Barbara Suddarth, parent, psychologist and member of the Olney (Md.) church, in her Academy Days testimonial. Last year when her son, Kent, told her and her husband he was thinking of attending SVA, it was not something they had planned for him. But they prayed intentionally over a period of months, and ultimately felt impressed that SVA was a good decision.

“The things that particularly impress us include the strong, spiritual environment where Christ is very much lifted up; teenagers who stop and smile; strong academics; an unparalleled music program; and that students are encouraged to work, which teaches important lessons about budgeting time in preparation for college and beyond,” said Suddarth. “So far we are delighted with our son’s experience.”



During Academy Days 2017, talented scholarship recipients gather after testing, auditioning and trying out for more than \$70,000 in academic, music and athletic scholarships.

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Students Gain Real-World Experience Off Campus

Takoma Academy's (TA) unique Monday through Thursday class schedule allows extra career and learning opportunities for students. Students normally don't have class on Friday, except for special occasions such as Community Service Day. This gives students the opportunity for employment, to explore potential careers and to shadow professionals.

Several TA students are taking advantage of the program, building their resumes and earning income.

Senior Ebonie Thompson, born premature, is considering a career in the health professions, specifically neonatal medicine. A well-rounded student, she is vice president of the National Honor Society, a member of the cheerleading squad and training to be a Pathfinder Master Guide at



Potomac Conference's Community Praise church in Alexandria, Va.

Thompson recently shadowed Cecelia Lester, one of Maryland's premier pediatricians. At the end of the day, Lester offered her a part-time job. "I have been a mentor to many students over the years," says Lester. "And when I interviewed Ebonie, I was impressed that not only would she be a good fit for my office, but also for the medical community," in her future quest to become a pediatrician.

"I love working at Dr. Lester's office because it has given me an early experience of the career field I want to go into," says Thompson. "Because of this experience, I am confident that God definitely wants me to enter the health professions."

Senior Mehki Brown plans to be an engineer. He is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and the soccer team. As an employee at Chipotle, Brown says he likes his various duty rotations. "It has given me a sense of teamwork," says Brown. "Also my resume will demonstrate that I have some type of work experience and will not be a novice to hard work."



Senior Camryn Billett desires to become an OBGYN and run her own medical practice. She states that she wants her practice to focus on Medicaid and Medicare recipients, and that she will utilize funds to help cash flow, to possibly counteract slow government funding.

Billett works as a secretary at the Norman Law Firm in Silver Spring, Md. In addition to clerical duties, she is being exposed to the practice of medical malpractice and medical billing. "I like the environment because it helps me stay focused," Billett says. "Also it brings out my professionalism because I have to dress professionally. But the best benefit I receive is that I get a glimpse of healthcare and how to treat people."





Morning show host Jerry Woods was among 100 people at the blood drive where they were able to collect 50 pints of blood and replenish the area's blood supply. He is joined by afternoon hosts Johnny and Stacey Stone.

Listeners Help Fill Need for Blood

In mid-September, WGTS 91.9 teamed together with the American Red Cross in the Washington, D.C., region to help with the blood shortage following the hurricanes in Texas and Florida. In the days following the hurricanes, the Red Cross had sent the majority of their local blood supply to those areas.



hands & heart

In just six hours, WGTS 91.9 listeners, as well as several staff members, gave enough blood to stock the entire D.C. area for a month. "We want to thank WGTS for the outpouring of support. It's really exciting and amazing what happened," said Regina Booth Bratton of the American Red Cross.

"This blood drive was part of our 'Hands and Heart' initiative which strives to give listeners tangible ways to impact their community. Once again the WGTS family stepped up in a major way to literally save lives," said WGTS general manager Kevin Krueger.



Sligo church Pastor Charles Tapp invited concertgoers to come forward for prayer.

Hope for Hundreds in D.C. Area

Over 700 people joined the WGTS 91.9 team for "Night of Hope" on Friday, October 13, at the Bethel World Outreach church in Olney, Md. "Night of Hope" is the station's primary outreach event designed to reach those who are curious about Christianity and want to learn more.

Christian music group "We Are Messengers" provided the music as lead singer Darren Mulligan interwove his testimony between the songs. Pastor Charles Tapp of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., encouraged listeners to make a decision for Christ, and many did exactly that. One 15-year-old girl shared that her mom made her come to the event, but she was touched in ways she never expected. She gave her heart to Christ.

"It's amazing to see people come together with one purpose—to find hope. It's a rough world, we need the reminder of God's presence in our lives and that's what we all left with—a sense of God's closeness to us and his love. It was a special evening," said WGTS 91.9 general manager Kevin Krueger.

The station holds a "Night of Hope" one to two times a year with sponsorship support from Adventist HealthCare. During the daytime hours, the station also hosted a "Day of Hope" with inspirational stories, short worship thoughts and music.

New Hope church Pastor Marilyn Scott prayed with a listener at the Night of Hope.



The Story Project

WGTS 91.9 started the Story Project several years ago so real-life listeners could share (in the form of a video) firsthand about their struggles and how God helped them by what they heard on the station.

Our most recent video features six listeners, including Dean, an Iraq veteran who struggled with addiction; and Michelle, who prayed for a baby to love. You can watch the videos on our website, wgts919.com.



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A Christian Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on Washington Adventist University. You have provided the University with more than we could ever have imagined. You have surrounded us with people who care and support the mission. You have given us employees who are dedicated to the vision of making our graduates competent moral leaders.



Weymouth Spence

This issue of the Gateway identifies just two of our many graduates who are satisfied that they attended WAU. They, like many others, have given credit to the WAU learning environment for their success. We need your prayers and your financial support to continue on our journey to make Vision 2020 a reality for our learning community. Being a tuition-dependent institution requires us to seek additional funding for students to access higher education at a reasonable cost. Please consider giving to student scholarships, endowments, and our infrastructure building projects. Join us on this exciting journey to grow WAU with excellence to a future that benefits our students, faculty and the community.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

TALENTED CONDUCTOR AND ALUMNUS ANWAR OTTLEY NAMED TO LEAD COLUMBIA COLLEGIATE CHORALE AND PRO-MUSICA

Anwar Ottley is a new adjunct professor in the Music Department who will lead the Columbia Collegiate Chorale and Pro-Musica choral organizations of Washington Adventist University (WAU).

With a Bachelor of Music degree in organ from WAU and a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Andrews University in Michigan, Ottley is well equipped to lead the choir to excellence. He is a talented conductor and published composer whose choral arrangements have been performed at venues both locally and nationally, including at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington National Cathedral.

While attending WAU, Ottley formed the Black Student Union (BSU) Chorale, featuring music that celebrates the African-American culture. During his tenure, the group was in high demand, making annual appearances on local television networks, and performing for events in the local community and across the country.

Ottley has studied under a variety of prominent musicians, including Andrews University Director of Choral Activities Stephen Zork, former WAU Music Department Chair James Bingham, Oakwood University Music Department Chair Jason Ferdinand, and Artistic Director Thomas Colohan of the Washington Master Chorale, where Ottley served as rehearsal conductor.

Ottley has conducted clinics, festivals and workshops for both choral music and worship, and has expressed his “desire to teach the next generation of musicians and worship leaders successful and biblical worship practices to guide their congregations into a lifestyle of worship.”

In his leisure time, Ottley enjoys cooking, rooting for his beloved Washington Redskins, swimming, and spending time with his wife and newborn son.

He is currently completing coursework toward a Doctor of Worship Studies degree at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia and serves as Pastor of Worship at the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.



The Music Department's new Adjunct Professor Anwar Ottley during a music performance.

ALUMNA CINDY MALDONADO TEACHES STUDENTS THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE CHALLENGES, NEVER GIVE UP

With a new Washington Adventist University diploma in hand, Cindy Maldonado ('15) moved to Texas and began a career in education where she has already achieved the honor of being "New Teacher of the Year."

Her Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies: Elementary/Special Education has served her well at the Houston, Texas public middle school where she works. She teaches math and science to 5th and 6th graders at Rick Schneider Middle School, a Title I school that has a large percentage of at-risk and low-income students.



Cindy Maldonado

Since Hurricane Harvey last August, which devastated much of Houston, Maldonado moved back to Conroe, Texas to live with her parents, and she makes the nearly one-hour commute each way, to and from work.

An Adventist who was a member of the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and attended Shenandoah Valley Academy prior to college, Maldonado sought her education at Washington Adventist University (WAU) to take advantage of the school's proximity to Washington, D.C. She was also attracted to the small class sizes and excellent student-to-teacher ratio that provided her with greater support and opportunities.

Maldonado credits her education at WAU and her on-campus work opportunities – two years in the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and two in the

Registrar's Office – with giving her valuable experience and a broad perspective. Her advice to current students seeking success is to "take advantage of all of the resources and opportunities around you."

In addition to working on campus during her four years at WAU, which included helping with documents during an accreditation process, Maldonado also taught evening ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to adults because the demand was so great. In addition, she served an internship with Teach for America that gave her experience working in the area of Latino Engagement and Partnerships within the organization. Although she was offered the opportunity to serve with Teach for America in Las Vegas, Nevada after graduation, she decided it wasn't the right choice for her and instead pursued a career in Texas.

Maldonado is a member of the New Caney Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Caney, Texas where her father is an elder. She spends her leisure time at the Fearless Boxing Gym in Conroe, where she says she has made many Christian boxing friends.

"Although most people think of boxing as a solo sport, it involves a lot of other people. You have to have trust in a team of trainers and coaches in order to develop the discipline and skills," said Maldonado. "I hang my gloves in my classroom as a message to my students that they should never give up. I tell them that no matter what your obstacles, you can overcome them."



"New Teacher of the Year" Cindy Maldonado (second from left) celebrates the honor with her Rick Schneider Middle School colleagues: (From left) Science Peer Facilitator Aheroana Hightower, Mentor Teacher Penny Havard; Principal Kristin Still; and Math Peer Facilitator Martha Guerra.

Christmas Schedule

This year, the University's offices will be closed the week of December 25 for the Christmas holiday through Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day. Christmas break for students will be from December 15 through January 7.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of Prayer

Monday, January 29 – Saturday, February 3

A convocation is held each day at 11:15 a.m. at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church on campus, and a brief sermonette is offered each evening at 7:30 p.m. from January 29 through February 1 at Richards Hall Chapel.

Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series

Saturday, February 3, 8 p.m.

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, featuring violinist Charles Castleman

Watchword Protection

Children are fond of creating secret clubs for which the rules of admittance are rigorously discussed and argued over when they play, and then finally distilled to a single symbol that allows admittance into the secret circle: "What's the password?"

These childhood games are based on the old practice of a predetermined response to the challenge of a guard or sentry with a "watchword," a signal that one is a friend and not an enemy. It seems to me that each of us carries in hearts and minds a complex assortment of watchwords that both define us and help us gain entry into the groups that share our values and worldview.

At Adventist HealthCare, we have five very specific watchwords that we have named as our core values – Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence and Stewardship.

These are the words that define our work, our association with each other, and our presence in the communities we serve. Embraced collectively, they admit us into a group of people who passionately state in our Mission that "we extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing."

And that brings me to another watchword – an expression that speaks to a shared faith in Divine providence as well as God's love and presence. It is one the ancient psalmist wrote and that I have also taken as my own:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1, RSV)

What are your watchwords?
How do you signal to others
your values and beliefs?



Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare

Care in the Community

Adventist HealthCare continues to share the Seventh-day Adventist principles of health and wellness throughout the Washington, D.C., region.

As part of our ongoing population health strategy, each year we reach more than 70,000 people at events in local churches, schools, community centers, shopping centers and many other places.

During the summer and fall of 2017, Adventist HealthCare employees took part in free health events, lectures and church and neighborhood screenings to bring healthcare to where communities need it.

This outreach is all part of our Mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.



Top: Adventist HealthCare nurse and diabetes educator Michele McBride provides a blood pressure screening and health information during the Mid-Maryland Health Equity Festival at the University of Maryland in September.

Above: Adventist HealthCare President & CEO Terry Forde thanks employees Reina Lazo (left) and Carmen Lezama for helping residents at the Hyattsville, Maryland National Night Out celebration in August.

Announcing Adventist HealthCare's New Hospital Name

A new health ministry is coming to life in eastern Montgomery County that will expand Adventist HealthCare's services to the community and continue the legacy that Ellen G. White shaped more than a century ago.

The new hospital and campus will be the **Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center** when it opens in the summer of 2019. Our construction is making steady progress, including the completion of the outside of the seven-story main hospital in late November. Work on the inside, as well as on a medical office building and a parking garage, will advance over the next 18 months as part of our careful preparation for the full range of healthcare services that will be offered in this additional location.

"Through the years, so many in our community have been blessed and healed by our care, our compassion and our unfailing commitment to our mission," said Terry Forde, Adventist HealthCare president and CEO. "That will remain at the core of what we do when we move to the new site. The White Oak location, along with plans for urgent care, primary care and outpatient services in Takoma Park, allows Adventist HealthCare to continue extending our mission and expanding care to the community."

Past and Present...

While most people in the Washington, D.C., region know Adventist HealthCare's Takoma Park hospital as Washington Adventist Hospital, its name changed over time:

- 1907 Washington Sanitarium moves to Takoma Park
- 1918 Washington Sanitarium and Hospital
- 1973 Washington Adventist Hospital
- 2014 Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital

and Future!

The Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center name fits our latest outreach of health and healing for several reasons:

- The White Oak tree is a symbol of faith, comfort, quality and strength. A Hebrew name for an oak is derived from the word "providence" meaning divine guidance, and frequently linked to God's ability to "see ahead." The White Oak is also the Maryland state tree and valued for its strength, quality and resiliency.
- Including the words "Adventist HealthCare" pays tribute to our founders and our rich history in providing health and wellness care. The words also show our unity with our other entities that serve the community.
- The White Oak area, where the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is located, is becoming nationally known as a hub of Life Sciences and Health. Washington Adventist Hospital's current collaboration with FDA on medical research will grow with our closer proximity.

"When you look at our hospital's name changes over the course of our 110-year history, they have come during times of growth and expanded service to our community," said Erik Wangsness, president of Washington Adventist Hospital. "This is a blessed time in our history. We are enthusiastic about our future of continued care for our patients."



New signage in 1973



Construction in November 2017



Rendering of future White Oak Medical Center campus

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seeks full-time positions for a tradesman supervisor-painter, and a tradesman 1 carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting and carpentry. For painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, must be a team player and can handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call (707) 965-6231, or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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net and on Facebook at Hillsboro Family Dentistry. If you have questions or would like to set up a time to come meet with Dr. Bryan Nickell, call (937) 241-8903.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an online adjunct professor(s) to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/ résumé to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference is given with prior teaching experience.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is looking for a full-time English professor with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty considered. Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest Street, Keene, Texas 76059, or email lauej@swau.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an assistant/associate professor of architecture. Will hold a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture and Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCERT, December 16, 4 p.m., at the Frederick church, 6437 Jefferson Pike, Frederick, MD 21703. Performance by Brass Mosaic, a brass and percussion ensemble, formed from members of our nation's service bands, combined with a chamber choir conducted by Mark Willey. Program includes John Rutter's festive "Gloria," a three-movement suite for organ and brass by composer Jeremy Filself, and

favorite carols sung by all, with accompaniments by Richard Webster. For more information, call (301) 662-5254, email churchoffice@ariseforgod.org, or visit ariseforgod.org.

“I ‘STILL’ DO” MARRIAGE RETREAT, MARCH 9-11, 2018!

It will be held at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Eric and Ann Marie Bates will be the presenters of the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net or contact Mark and Peggy Lee, (301) 801-2344, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz, (443) 864-6328.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA) ALUMNI WEEKEND,

April 27-28. Honor Classes 3's and 8's. Welcome reception Friday, 7 p.m., LSA Library. Sabbath services: registration 9 a.m. and Homecoming Service 10 a.m., LSA Gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions and varsity basketball. Please update contact information: JNelson@lsak12.com, lsak12.com, or alumni office (951) 351-1445, ext. 244.

OBITUARIES

ADAMS, Carolyn Arlene

(Barron), born May 26, 1937, in Kearneysville, W.Va., to the late William L. Barron and Evelyn A. (Barney) Barron; died December 9, 2016, at Hillhaven Assisted Living, Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Beltsville, Md., after a two-month struggle with cancer. She retired from the Seventh-day World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., as an executive secretary in 2004, after 21 years of dedicated service to the Church. Carolyn was a 1955 graduate of Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. She is survived by her husband, Leroy; daughters, Karen (Ian) Laing and Wanda Duncan; son, D. Alan Adams (Dixil Rodriguez); and three grandchildren: Delaney and Duncan Laing, and Connor Duncan; her sister Ruthann Williams; her brother, Sheldon (Merrie Lyn) Barron; and sister-in-law, Barbara Barron, wife of Carolyn's late brother, Jerry.

BUTLER, Lois Edith (Howeth),

born July 25, 1917, in Syracuse, N.Y., the only surviving child of the late Albert and Edith Howeth; died September 19, 2016, in Frederick, Md. She graduated at the head of her class at Union Springs Academy and left home to attend Atlantic Union College. While at college she met Albert Boardman Butler III, and they married June 12, 1938. Lois was a classically trained musician in voice, piano and organ. Throughout their lives, Lois and Albert shared their

musical talents, singing together in churches and at social gatherings. Shortly after they married, the couple moved to Takoma Park, Md., where Albert finished his theology training at Washington Adventist University. Accepting a call to Tyler, Texas, the couple ministered to the members of several local churches there. In the fall of 1945, the family returned to Maryland, where they pastored several Baltimore-area churches. Lois then started work at the Chesapeake Conference as an administrative secretary and accountant assistant, before transitioning into managing Adventist Book Centers in the Chesapeake, New Jersey and Potomac conferences. After retirement, Lois enjoyed volunteering in the Sligo church office, the local community service center and for Global Mission at the General Conference. Survivors: her two sons, Albert IV and Harold (Carole), two daughters, Gayle (Ron) and Carol Mae (Leroy); 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

CASSELL, Judie Ann,

born December 21, 1939, in Richmond, Va.; died January 13, 2017, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. Judie worked for many years at the Review and Herald Publishing Assn., in Hagerstown, before retiring in Hagerstown. Survivors: her son William Cassell and daughter Kathy Harvey; sisters, Lillie Byrd and Florence Langford; grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

DiMEMMO, Constance Lou

“Connie,” born June 21, 1932, in Altoona, Pa.; died December 27, 2016, in Newburg, Pa. She was a member of the Carlisle (Pa.) church. Connie graduated from Ridley Park (Pa.) High School and Goldey-Beacom College (Del.). She was employed by Dupont Company (Del.), and IBM (Md.) as a cashier, statistical typist and secretary. Connie loved to paint, do needlepoint, cross-stitch, macramé, petit point and designing Faberge eggs. She was also accomplished at doing decoupage. Connie loved reading and marking her Bibles too. Survivors: her husband, Caesar of Newburg; her son, Douglas Warren of Newburg; her daughter-in-law, Stacy Ann of Newburg; grandchildren, Natasha Anne of Blosserville, Pa., Zachary Warren of Newburg, and Tabitha Lee of Newburg; and great-grandchildren, Andree Paul and Lacey Lee Michael of Blosserville. Connie was preceded in death by her brother, Stanley Warren, and her parents, Ralph and Wilma (Emes) Kelly of Altoona.

Sunset Calendar

	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Baltimore	4:44	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:51
Cincinnati	5:16	5:15	5:16	5:19	5:23
Cleveland	4:58	4:57	4:58	5:00	5:05
Columbus	5:07	5:07	5:07	5:10	5:14
Jersey City	4:30	4:29	4:30	4:32	4:37
Norfolk	4:49	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56
Parkersburg	5:04	5:03	5:04	5:07	5:11
Philadelphia	4:36	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
Pittsburgh	4:54	4:53	4:54	4:57	5:01
Reading	4:38	4:37	4:38	4:41	4:45
Richmond	4:52	4:51	4:53	4:55	5:00
Roanoke	5:03	5:02	5:03	5:06	5:10
Toledo	5:05	5:04	5:05	5:07	5:12
Trenton	4:34	4:33	4:34	4:37	4:41
Wash., D.C.	4:47	4:46	4:47	4:50	4:54



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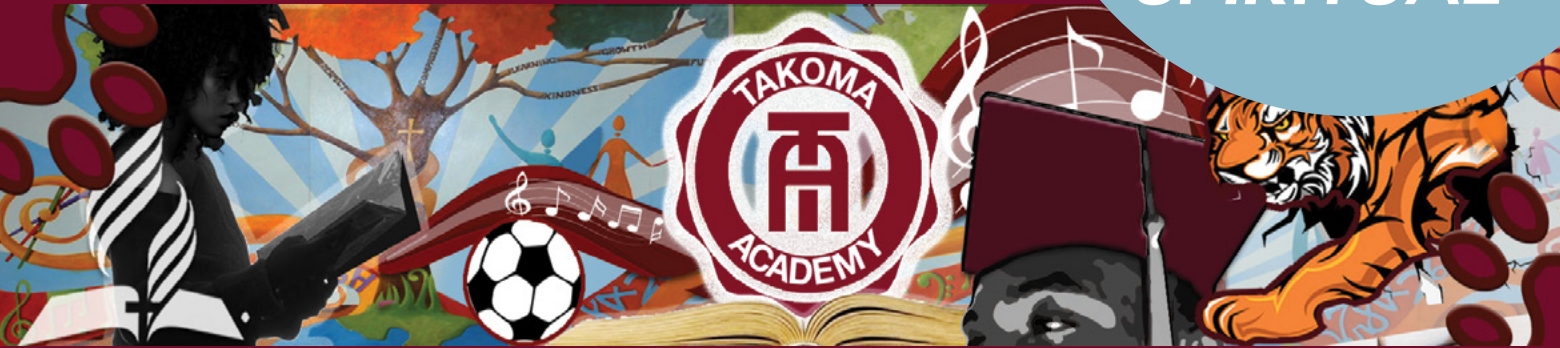
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