

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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The Church-Growing People

Members Plant Churches That Meet Needs



Plus: 7 Takeaways From Successful Church Plants

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The Church-Growing People

Michele Joseph

The Columbia Union Conference continues to be a church planting leader. Why have our pastors and members embraced this focus on growth? What is helping these groups grow? And how can church planting help to revive your congregation?

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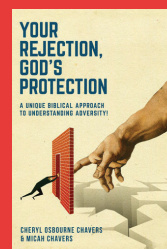
ON THE WEB

IN GOD'S TIME

For years Tony Liriano wanted to start and lead a new church. When he finally got that chance more than a year ago, he aimed to help nurture



a family atmosphere where members felt welcome. He didn't know that New Jersey Conference's Garfield church plant, the church he would help start and lead as a lay pastor, would be instrumental in helping his son, Sammy, return to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Watch Tony's story at columbiaunionvisitor.com/tonyliriano.

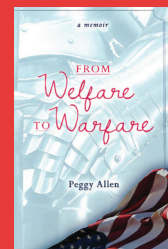


YOUR REJECTION, GOD'S PROTECTION

With more than 20 years of experience in Christian leadership, Cheryl and Micah Chavers, members of Allegheny East Conference's Calvary church in Newport News, Va., have ministered to many people and helped them seek God and maximize their potential. Through their own personal experiences, the Chavers have developed practical tools to help others overcome adversity in their lives. Read more about their book, *Your Rejection, God's Protection*, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/rejectionisprotection.

FROM WELFARE TO WARFARE

For many years, Peggy Allen, a member of Ohio Conference's Wilmington church, struggled with bipolar disorder. She spent many years in and out of mental hospitals.



Her life seemed to always go back to square one, and she says she felt like she couldn't get anywhere.

Then she found God and boldly prayed for healing. "I said, God, if you have a plan for me, you're going to have to heal me because I can't [live] like this," recalls Allen. "Then, I got into the Word, and He changed me!" Read more of her story and about her book, *From Welfare to Warfare*, at columbiaunionvisitor.com/welfaretowarfare.

LIRIANO PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 2

About Our Father's Business

I opened my Bible this morning to Luke 2:49. These are the first recorded public words spoken by Jesus: “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” (NKJV). He said these words when He was 12 years old, and then, 21 years later, in one of His last prayers, He said in John 17:4: “I have finished the work You gave me to do” (NKJV). Like bookends, these statements frame a well-lived, purpose-driven life. Jesus clearly understood and completed the mission the Father gave Him.



What was His mission? Jesus declared it in Luke 19:10: “For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost” (NLT). With misconceptions abounding about what the Messiah would be like, Jesus set the record straight at the start of His public ministry. His disciples and followers had competing agendas and priorities calling for His time and attention. Yet Jesus stayed resolutely on mission. Yes, He was busy, but never distracted by lesser things. He knew His priorities and stuck with them.



WHY WE EXIST

The mission Jesus had on earth is now the mission of the church, for we are the body of Christ. Our mission is to introduce people to God! “Christ changed us from enemies into His friends and gave us the task of making others His friends also” (2 Cor. 5:18, GNT).

Evangelism and discipleship are the quintessential reasons why the church exists. The church was created by mission and for mission. Adventism today is called to engage and minister to a hurting and fractured world.

Our churches are busy places with a myriad of activities and ministries. Yet the church often reflects the distractions so prevalent in our culture where lives and calendars are filled with frenetic activities and multitasking. In these times, the words of Jesus seem especially relevant: “You are busy and troubled by many things” (Luke 10:40, WYC).

At our 2016 constituency meeting, the officers of the Columbia Union Conference and our eight local conference presidents resolved to continue making Christ’s *last* command, “Go ye into all the world” (Mark 16:15, KJV), our *first* priority.

Despite the many distractions vying for our time and attention, we remain single-mindedly focused on our Father’s business. Our conferences continue to make evangelism, discipleship and church planting our priority. Members across our union are busy introducing people to Jesus. We are united in mission.

This month’s *Visitor* highlights just a few of the many church planting initiatives in the Columbia Union. God is working through people here, and He invites you to participate in what He is doing. Wherever you see God at work, consider it your invitation to join Him.

Frank Bondurant serves the Columbia Union Conference as vice president for Ministries Development.

Newsline



YOU'RE NOT THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH, [youth and young adults] are the church now. ... We need you to take over, press us and ask us hard questions. If you're offered an office, take it. ... Young people have to run [the church] now.—Henry Wright, during his final sermon at Potomac Conference's Takoma Park (Md.) church before retiring from 53 years of ministry at the local, conference, union and collegiate levels. Read more in the Potomac Conference's newsletter on page 29.



forward to working with the great staff at CURF” and thanks God for placing her in a conference that provided her opportunities to learn and gave her the tools she needed to be a servant leader.

Read more in Allegheny West Conference's newsletter on page 17.—V. Michelle Bernard



IS YOUR CHURCH SAFE?

Church leaders do many things to safeguard and grow the church.

They organize and lead evangelistic programs,

install building alarms to prevent theft and mount fire extinguishers in various areas of the church. But the reality is, if they do not have a designated emergency plan, and do not practice this procedure, churches could quickly lose all that they have protected in a matter of minutes, say risk management experts.

Adventist Risk Management has organized a Safety Sabbath, March 24, to help churches prepare for emergencies. Read more, and find out how to register your church at columbiaunionvisitor.com/safety-sabbath2018.—Elizabeth Camps

NEW CURF DIRECTOR ELECTED

Starting April 1, H. Candace Nurse will serve as secretary/treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). Nurse, currently the chief financial officer (CFO) for the Allegheny West Conference (AWC), has worked at AWC since 2007 in various roles, including assistant treasurer and Human Resources director.

“Candace has demonstrated her acumen and abilities at the Allegheny West Conference and has done an excellent job,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president and chair of the CURF board, who notes that her love for people is exemplified in her work.

Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union treasurer and the most recent CURF secretary/treasurer, adds, “Candace is talented, mission-focused, has a great personality and will provide exceptional customer service to CURF members.”

Nurse says she is “looking

I believe God gave us Psalm 46:10 [Be still and know that I am God.] because He knew that our [multi-tasking] culture today would need it.

—Ann Roda, vice president of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, during Columbia Union Conference's 2018 Day of Spiritual Emphasis program.



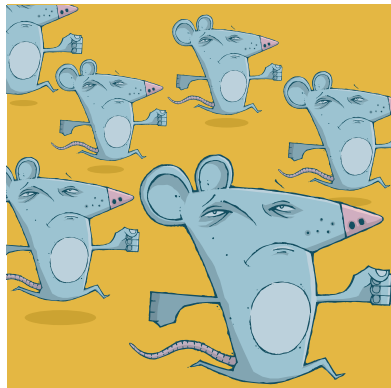
MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

The Mountain View Conference (MVC) elected Mike Hewitt president during their recent Executive Committee meeting. Hewitt served in MVC for a year as executive secretary and ministerial director. The position opened when Larry Boggess, former MVC president, retired in November.



“Mike is an exceptional leader, deeply committed to the mission of the church. I am confident he will provide excellent leadership for Mountain View Conference,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. “He comes to the position with a broad experience in various levels of the church, serving as a lay pastor and full-time district pastor, as well as a conference executive secretary. Finally, he’s passionate about soul-winning and is a capable evangelist.”

Read more in the MVC newsletter on page 21.—MVC Staff



Many live like in a rat race, and think because they are moving, they are going somewhere; well ... at least they are exercising.

—Sergio Romero, director of Multicultural Ministries at Allegheny West Conference

PATHWAY TO HEALTH HELPS THOUSANDS IN PHOENIX

More than 3,300 volunteers, including Sue Hinkle and Alex Partyka (pictured), members of Chesapeake Conference’s Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., recently traveled to Phoenix to participate in Your Best Pathway to Health. The clinic, a humanitarian service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, provided medical, dental, vision, physical therapy, lifestyle education, financial, legal, childcare, haircuts and other services to 6,770 patients. Volunteers provided medical procedures and services worth \$40,608,800.

“We love the idea of demonstrating God’s gift of life through Jesus Christ,” says Lela Lewis, co-founder and CEO of Your Best Pathway to Health.



Partyka adds, “[Attending Pathway to Health] is like being on a mission trip, but right here at home. Just like when Jesus was on earth, He often ministered to people’s physical needs and then their spiritual. This program is doing just that. It’s touching to see people so appreciative for some of the things we take for granted.”—VMB and Pathway to Health Communication Team

Will the New Tax Bill Impact Adventists?

Several changes were made to the U.S. Internal Revenue Code when President Donald Trump signed into law H.R. 1, formerly known as the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.” Various changes, such as requiring certain qualified moving expenses to be taxable, could negatively impact denominational employees. Other items remain unchanged. Get a summary of what the law could mean for members at columbiaunionvisitor.com/taxbill.—General Conference Office of General Counsel & General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty



PHOTOS BY JAMES PARTLOW IV AND BRYANT TAYLOR

Noticias



NO ERES EL FUTURO DE LA IGLESIA, eres la iglesia ahora. ... Necesitamos que te hagas cargo, nos presiones y nos hagas preguntas difíciles. Si te ofrecen una responsabilidad, tómalala. ... Los jóvenes tienen que dirigir [la iglesia] ahora.”—Henry Wright, hablando a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes durante su sermón final en la iglesia de Takoma Park (Md.) de la Conferencia de Potomac antes de retirarse de 53 años y medio de ministerio en diferentes niveles de servicio. Lea más en el boletín de la Conferencia Potomac en la página 29.

PARTICIPA EN SÁBADO DE SEGURIDAD

Los líderes de la iglesia hacen muchas cosas para salvaguardar y hacer crecer la iglesia.

Organizan y conducen programas de evangelización, instalan alarmas para evitar robos y montan extingui-

dores de fuego en varias áreas de la iglesia. Pero si no tienen un plan de emergencia designado y no practican este procedimiento, la realidad es que las iglesias podrían perder rápidamente todo lo que han protegido en cuestión de minutos, dicen los expertos en gestión de riesgos. Adventist Risk Management organizó un “Sábado de seguridad” el 24 de marzo para ayudar a las iglesias a prepararse para las emergencias.



Mire un video promocional que puede usar en su iglesia y encuentre información sobre cómo registrar su iglesia en columbiaunionvisitor.com/safetysabbath2018.—Elizabeth Camps

NUEVA DIRECTORA PARA CURF

A partir de Abril 1, H. Candace Nurse se desempeñará como secretaria/tesorera de Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF). Nurse, actualmente tesorera (CFO) de la Conferencia de Allegheny



West (AWC), ha trabajado en AWC desde 2007 en diversas funciones, incluyendo asistente de tesorería y directora de Recursos Humanos.

“Candace ha demostrado su perspicacia y habilidades en la Conferencia de Allegheny West y ha realizado un excelente trabajo”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia y presidente de la junta de CURF.

Nurse dice que está “deseando trabajar con el excelente personal de CURF” y le agradece a Dios por haberla colocado en una conferencia que le brindó la oportunidad de aprender y le dio las herramientas que necesitaba para liderar en el servicio a Dios.

Lea más en el boletín de la Conferencia de Allegheny West en la página 17.—V. Michelle Bernard

CONFERENCIA DE MOUNTAIN VIEW ELIGE NUEVO PRESIDENTE

La Conferencia de Mountain View (MVC) eligió a Mike Hewitt



como presidente durante su reciente reunión del Comité Ejecutivo. Hewitt trabajó en MVC durante un año como secretario ejecutivo y director ministerial. La posición se abrió cuando Larry Boggess, ex presidente de MVC, se retiró recientemente.

“Mike es un líder excepcional, profundamente comprometido con la misión de la iglesia. Estoy seguro de que proporcionará un excelente liderazgo para la Conferencia de Mountain View”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia.

Lea más en el boletín de MVC en la página 21.—Personal de MVC

**PATHWAY TO HEALTH
AYUDA A MILES EN
PHOENIX**

Más de 3,300 voluntarios, entre ellos Ekaterina Tomenko Di Pinto (centro), miembro de la iglesia de Sligo (Takoma Park, Md.) de la Conferencia de Potomac, viajaron recientemente a Phoenix para participar en Your Best Pathway



Muchos viven caminando en círculos y creen que porque se están moviendo, están yendo a algún lado, bueno ... al menos están haciendo ejercicio.

—Sergio Romero, director de Ministerios Multiculturales de la Conferencia de Allegheny West



to Health. La clínica, un servicio humanitario de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, brindó servicios médicos, dentales, de visión, terapia física, educación sobre el estilo de vida, servicios financieros, legales,

cuidado de niños, cortes de cabello y otros servicios a 6.770 pacientes. Los voluntarios proporcionaron procedimientos y servicios médicos por un valor de \$40,608,800.—VMB y Pathway to Health Communication

En el tiempo de Dios

Durante años, Tony Liriano tuvo el sueño de comenzar y dirigir una nueva iglesia. Tony y su esposa, María, estaban entusiasmados por la oportunidad de plantar una iglesia y difundir el evangelio en Garfield, NJ. Desde que comenzó el proyecto hace más de un año, Tony, quien dirige la iglesia de la conferencia de Nueva Jersey como pastor laico, informa un crecimiento de membresía de 10 a 60 personas. Los miembros invitan fielmente a sus amigos a asistir, se reúnen para una sesión de oración semanal y ayudan a llegar a aquellos que no conocen a Jesús. Una familia de seis miembros comenzó a asistir a la iglesia después de que Tony los saludó en la calle y los invitó a asistir. María dice que la clave de su crecimiento es el ambiente familiar y los miembros que “actúan como Jesús y no juzgan”.

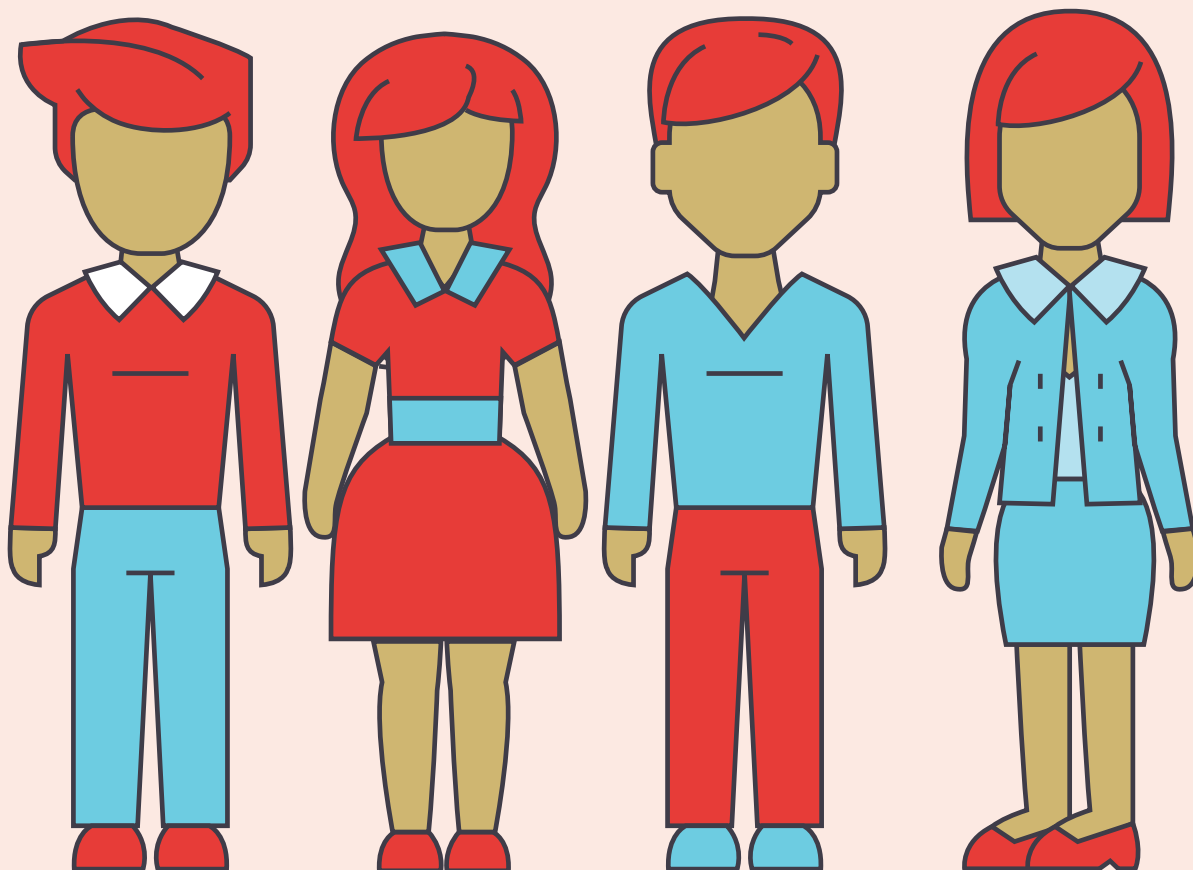
Uno de los nuevos miembros, Sammy Liriano (Firmando como miembros de la nueva compañía de Garfield, N.J.), es parte de la familia. Sammy y su mejor amigo habían abandonado la iglesia en la que creció, pero comenzaron a asistir a la planta de Garfield debido a la atmósfera cálida y acogedora. “Sentimos que Garfield se abrió para nosotros. ... Ambos pasamos por tiempos difíciles, le pedimos ayuda a Dios. Que Él nos guíe y abra una iglesia para nosotros ... fue una oración contestada”, dice Sammy.

María y Tony dicen que están felices de que su hijo regresara a la iglesia, pero no sorprendidos. “Fue una oración contestada [que su hijo regrese]. Sabía que volvería porque estaba orando por él. Cuando alguien ora, las oraciones se responden, en el tiempo de Dios, no en el nuestro”, dice María.



FOTOS POR JAMES PARTLOW IV, TERRY LOSS, JORGE PILLCO Y BRYANT TAYLOR

THEIR NEEDS



= A FORMULA FOR

By Michele Joseph

W

hen Juliana Marson received a call from a woman so depressed she was unable to leave her home, Marson did what she knew would work best—she prayed. Then she invited the woman to her two-week-old church plant, the New Jersey Conference’s Grace Place, in Lakewood.

Jacqueline Lewis didn’t come to church, but she arrived during fellowship dinner.

“I stopped what I was doing, ran and hugged her,” Marson says. But Lewis replied, “You can’t hug me. I’m ugly.”

Marson, the church’s volunteer lay pastor, called all the members to the parking lot where everyone stood and prayed over Lewis. Soon after Lewis left the parking lot, she called Marson saying she felt different. The next Sabbath, Marson found Lewis waiting in Grace



CHURCH PLANTING

Place's parking lot, and she has faithfully attended since. In July 2017, Lewis, transformed by the love received at the church plant, chose to be baptized. Her daughter and son now attend Grace Place, too.

Grace Place started with eight members, and, today, with the assistance from New Jersey Conference's Collingwood church, 43 people regularly attend. Their main focus is meeting the needs of the community, including a babysitting service launched for single mothers.

This Lakewood plant is one of 51 funded church plants in the Columbia Union Conference, reports Carolina Ramos, administrative assistant for the Union's Office of Ministries Development. While the total number of church plants in the union is unknown—not all church plants use the funding available through a partnership between the conference, union, North American Division (NAD) and General Conference (GC)—there have been 58 Hispanic church plants since 2016, says Rubén Ramos, the union's vice president for Multilingual Ministries.

FOSTERING RENEWAL AND REVIVAL

“We have found that new churches are the best thing for existing churches seeking to experience renewal and revival,” says Frank Bondurant, the union’s vice president for Ministries Development, referring to research provided by the NAD. “When a church births another church, it brings renewal and revival to the existing church.”

Pastor Fismed Omar, who leads a five-church Hispanic district in Maryland and Northern Virginia for the Potomac Conference, has seen this firsthand. In January 2017, he and the church board asked about 30 members of the Gaithersburg (Md.) Spanish congregation to help start a new church plant in the Seneca Valley section of their city. That left the mother church with about 80 members. However, it sparked revival, and a year later, the mother church is now at full capacity each Sabbath with about 120 attendees. The new Seneca Valley church plant now has 55 attendees. Leaders at the mother church are now planning to plant another congregation, Omar reports.

The growth is fueled by small groups he calls “home churches.” Groups of eight to 10 members go door-to-door to meet neighbors and discover their needs. Then church members offer to help with translation services for court appearances and documents, set up counseling sessions with the pastor, provide baskets of food and more.

“We make them understand that this is what worked when Jesus was here—meeting the needs of the community,” says Omar. “That’s what the disciples did.”

Gaithersburg Spanish church members met Bartolo Gomez in 2016 when they knocked on his door. At the time, Gomez was unemployed and experiencing marital issues. Omar offered counseling and church members offered support and hope.



WHY EVERY CHURCH NEEDS TO GET PREGNANT ... AND MULTIPLY



The Bible gives a specific command: multiply, says Peter Casillas, most recently the associate director for pastoral ministries in evangelism and church planting and volunteer lay pastors in Potomac Conference.

However, as a church gets bigger, it is easy to go into institutional mode.

“Church planting reminds us to come back to the movement and not stick with the institution,” he says. “Church planting is ... like blood to the body. It’s the moving dynamic action of the body. If you kill church planting, you kill the movement.”

For that reason, he believes every church should get “pregnant.”

“If there is a church that hasn’t planted for 40 years, they need to get pregnant and plant,” he admonishes. “Life will come into that church that is not expected.”

If church members haven’t planted in a while, it can take approximately two years to get to the point where they are ready to plant, he predicts.

“We need to get on our knees and pray for God to interrupt the church,” he adds. “Something has to happen within the church that stirs up the passion again. That can only happen through the Holy Spirit.”



Clockwise: Seungho Park, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Delaware Korean church in Newark, assists Susie Ra and Myungja Kim during a computer class held at the church's community center. • Jacqueline Lewis (right) credits Lay Pastor Juliana Marson and the New Jersey Conference's Grace Place church members in Lakewood for helping her overcome depression. • Now active members, Marcos and Bartolo Gomez, were introduced to Potomac Conference's Gaithersburg (Md.) Spanish church when a church member knocked on Bartolo's door and offered assistance. • Isaias Bernardo, Mainor Perez, Zacarias Lorenzo, members of Allegheny West Conference's La Esperanza church in Cincinnati, are part of a community that regularly serves the neighborhood where they reside.

Later that year, Gomez was baptized into the Gaithersburg Spanish church. Then in 2017, he became an active member of the Seneca Valley home church. Gomez asked the members to pray for his son Marcos, who was struggling with drug and alcohol use.

The members began to pray and visit Marcos. He began counseling sessions with Omar, attended the home church Bible studies and was baptized in December. Now, Marcos and his father attend the Seneca Valley church plant and lead another home church.

Meeting physical needs of individuals allows church members to then show people like Gomez that “God has answers for your problems. God wants to bless you,” Omar says. “We want to help them understand God is present all the time.”

The church also gives people who may feel alone, especially if their families are in other countries, an opportunity to have a spiritual family here, Omar says. “Someone they can trust.”



CHURCH PLANTING BOOT CAMP

Interested in starting a church plant? The North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department has two upcoming events:

August 16-19: A Church Planter's Boot Camp

September 11-13: NAD Church Planting Advisory

For more information, visit nadchurchplant.org.

DESIGNING A CHURCH

Church plants also provide opportunities to reach people in a way that makes sense to their culture or subculture, whether hipsters or millennials or residents of a geographic area, says Peter Casillas, former associate director for pastoral ministries in evangelism, church planting and volunteer lay pastors for the Potomac Conference.

“The beauty of church planting is that you get to design a church not by what we need, but by what the community needs,” he notes. This means understanding the community—what people do, their worldview, things they enjoy, population demographics and more, he adds. The church planters then tailor their approach and methodologies to the community, not reducing or changing the truth, but sharing it in a way that resonates or speaks to them.

BRINGING CHURCH TO THE PEOPLE

Allegheny East Conference's Pastor Seungho Park spent four months surveying the needs of residents from New Castle County, Delaware before realizing there were no community services for the Korean population within its five main cities. Using his experience with the Seventh-day Adventist Language Institute in South Korea, he created a community center in Newark City, Del., that offered classes in conversational English, citizenship preparation, computers and even guitar. Members also provided health screenings and cooking classes. This opened the door to Bible studies in English and Sabbath worship services.

If he had not considered a community-based approach, it would have been difficult to connect with Korean people in the area because of prejudices against Adventists, says Park. “In this atmosphere, if I tried to evangelize them with direct evangelistic methods, my work would have soon ended,” he says.

Members of Allegheny West Conference's La Esperanza church plant in Cincinnati decided to mow lawns, help with house maintenance, paint and clean streets to reach neighbors in the Price Hill community. The acts of service and opportunities for involvement have helped to grow the church that is 95 percent Guatemalan.

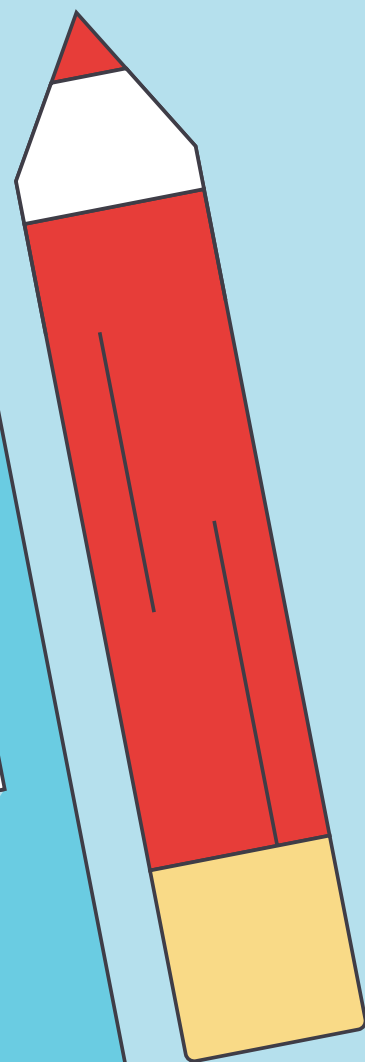
“It all started with the vision of the members living in the area,” says Pastor Horacio Quiroga. “They needed a church among their neighbors and families. ... They were thinking more [about] bringing the church to the people, not the people to the church.”

Involvement is high as the members “do everything. I'm there to challenge them, do some training and to help them achieve their dreams and goals as a church,” Quiroga says. “We involve everybody, before and after they become members. ... Our vision is: If you feel the need to do something for someone like Jesus did ... come and join us. We'll find a spot where you can serve.”

7 TAKEAWAYS FROM SUCCESSFUL CHURCH PLANTS

The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting churches,” says Rubén Ramos, the Columbia Union’s vice president for Multilingual Ministries, quoting from C. Peter Wagner’s book *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide*. Here are some tips for Ramos and Peter Casillas, who most recently served as associate director for pastoral ministries in evangelism and church planting and volunteer lay pastors in Potomac Conference, say any leader can use in their ministries:

- 1 Committed leadership is imperative**—The leader may not be experienced, but he or she must be 100 percent focused on growing the church plant. Leadership is 90 percent of the success.—Ramos
- 2 Location is key**—If the church plant is not visible or suitable for the community you want to reach, it will be very difficult to grow.—Ramos
- 3 Prayer is the main ingredient**—Prayer allows church planters to fall in love with their target audience. Prayer allows us to have the heart of God for the city or group of people. That heart of God fuels a passion that moves us to action.—Casillas
- 4 Have the right “why”**—If a church plant begins because someone is angry with their current church and leaves to start a new one, this will be cemented into the DNA of the new church and create havoc.—Casillas
- 5 Don’t be afraid to fail**—Failure allows learning, which can lead to success.—Casillas
- 6 Take risks**—Try something new, even if you are uncomfortable with it. Your audience may be a different generation, culture, etc. Those who relate to your target audience may have ideas that challenge your thinking, and that’s OK.—Casillas
- 7 Anyone can do it**—You don’t have to be a pastor, but you do have to find a way to connect with the community in which you are planting seeds.—Casillas



COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Maryland Central Korean Holds Fellowship Night

The Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md., recently hosted their annual Fellowship Night. The evening began with dinner, followed by a variety of cultural performances, including dancing, instrumental music, TaeKwonDo demonstrations, a comedy show, selection by a children's choir and a gift giveaway.

Church members of all ages participated, showcasing their talents for everyone to enjoy. Designed to present God in a fun and loving way, this event is not only intended to unify members across generational lines, but also to provide an opportunity to invite community friends to the church.

"At the beginning, the program was not designed to evangelize," says GyuNam Bak, associate pastor and organizer of the event. "But every year new attendees come to see this event and eventually become involved in other church programs."



Parents and children participate in a shark-dancing activity during Maryland Central Korean church's fellowship night.

Dupont Park Student Wins Oratorical Contest

Chase McClure, a third-grader at Dupont Park Adventist School (DPAS) in Washington, D.C., placed first in the annual Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest. Held at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in D.C., the goal of the contest is to capture the power of words, inspiration and interpretation of Frederick Douglass, the renowned abolitionist.



George E. Thornton, Sr., principal of the Dupont Park Adventist School, and eight students (left of the statue) Imani Yates, Simone Scott, Ayanna McInnis, Christopher Henderson, (right of the statue) Chase McClure, Jaffe Watkins, Dorian Donovan and Lawrence Talbert stand next to a Frederick Douglass statue.

McClure was invited to repeat his winning oration at the Frederick Douglass Birthday Celebration held in February. "I was excited about winning first place in the contest, and I'm grateful to God for putting His blessings in my life!" he says.

George E. Thornton, Sr., principal, and Charles Johnson, vice principal, thought this would be a great opportunity and experience for their students. Without hesitation, they entered eight students into the contest. For three weeks, these students memorized excerpts from speeches given by Douglass. Sixth-grader Imani Yates recalls, "At first, I was nervous; but the more I practiced, the more comfortable I became."

Students toured Douglass' home while visiting the site. "I didn't know he lived right here in D.C., and he was so powerful!" says Christopher Henderson, a second-grade participant. The tour left a lasting impression on the importance of who Douglass was and why it is important to carry on his legacy.

"The contest definitely tested my public speaking skills and abilities," says eighth-grader Ayanna McInnis.

"They made all of us who were in attendance—parents, teachers, relatives—very proud! We are eagerly looking forward to participating in next year's contest," says Thornton.

New Life Hosts Baby Shower, Resource Fair

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) department of the New Life church in Salisbury, Md., recently sponsored and hosted a neighborhood baby shower and resource fair, serving more than 300 families from the community. Volunteers mailed personal invitations to new and expecting mothers in the area.

Guests received diapers, onesies, bibs and teething rings. The Diaper Depot Ministry, another initiative of the ACS department, supplied the diapers. Walmart donated gift cards for other baby necessities. One popular give-away was a hand-crocheted baby blanket made by New Life members. Each guest also received a copy of the magazine *Happiness Digest* in their tote bag.

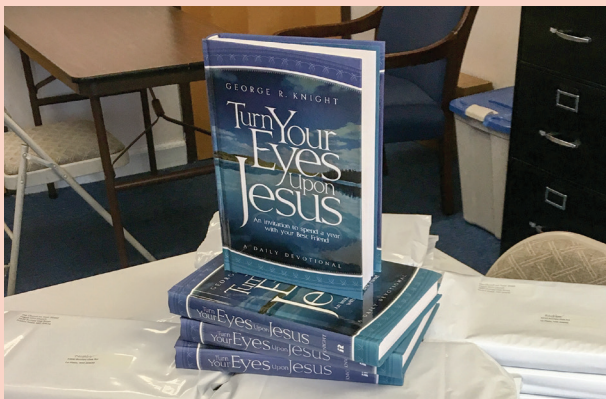
In addition to the baby shower, the ACS department organized a resource fair with community vendors, including Silent Tears Ministry; The Judy Center; Wicomico Health Department; Women, Infants and Children; Babies Born Healthy; Eastern Shore Mental Health; and provided information on smoking cessation. Each table was stocked with free, helpful information. During the baby shower and resource fair, Harvest Ministries Food Bank distributed food to guests.



Attendees of New Life church's community baby shower and resource fair receive bags filled with helpful information, including a copy of *Happiness Digest* magazine.

"This is ministry," says Sherrie Allie, ACS leader. "Meeting the needs in our community, letting them know that our church is friendly and showing them the love of Jesus in the work we do for Him."

Pisgah Mails Devotional Books to Neighbors



Members of the Pisgah church Community Services department mailed 41 copies of the devotional *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* by George Knight to neighbors on their street.

As part of its initiative, "The Church on Your Street," Pisgah church's Community Services department jumpstarted the year by mailing a devotional book to the 41 homes who share space with them on Bumpy Oak Road in Bryans Road, Md.

Often in their rural community, posted privacy signs inhibit door-to-door visitation. Gloria Dorsey, Adventist Community Services leader, thought that direct mailing would be the easiest solution for sharing their gift.

They mailed the books in late December, hoping the books would reach their neighbors in time for the new year. Regular mailings and invitations will be sent to specific homes throughout the year. "Our prayer is that neighbors will realize that there is a Bible-believing, people-loving, open-doored church on their street," says Dorsey.

Nurse Elected as New CURF Director

Haycin Candace Nurse was born in Trinidad and Tobago, the southernmost nation in the Caribbean. She moved with her family to the U.S. when she was five. Initially living in Long Island, N.Y., they eventually migrated to Huntsville, Ala., where she spent her last two years of high school at Oakwood Adventist Academy. Nurse attended Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis on Healthcare Administration.

During her last year at Oakwood, she interned as an auditor with the South Central Conference in Nashville. The exposure there opened her mind to working within the church, Nurse says. At the end of the summer of 2007, she joined the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) as a business intern. From 2009-2014 she served as Human Resources director and assistant treasurer. Since 2015 she has served as chief financial officer.

Starting April 1, Nurse will serve as secretary/treasurer of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) in Columbia, Md., which helps support the Adventist church's mission by providing cost-effective financing for churches, schools, conferences and other denominational entities within the Columbia Union. During the past five years, CURF approved some 288 loans, totaling more than \$127 million.

Nurse is adamant that she is not saying goodbye but "see you later" to her AWC family and constituents. She requests prayer as she follows God's direction in this new chapter of ministry. She is committed to doing the same by praying for continued blessings on AWC as they work to advance the soon coming of Christ.



Small Children at Victory Make a Mighty Difference!

The children's Sabbath School class at the Victory church in Delaware, Ohio, has been busy this past year learning about outreach under the leadership of Charla Henry and Kathleen Delgado.



Two children from Victory church's Sabbath School class gather canned goods for Delaware residents.

The children began their journey in outreach by packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in December 2016. They filled 13 shoeboxes bound for South Sudan, Africa. In June 2017, they collected canned goods at church and door to door in the neighborhood for the Second Ward Community Initiative. In July 2017, they collected school supplies for families in need.

They also take up a weekly lamb's offering during church service. Each Sabbath they send \$10 to Maranatha's \$10 Church Project to help build one new church every month. Future projects include gathering health and hygiene items for people in need and sending care packages to soldiers.

Delgado says, "We are so proud of our youth and cannot wait to see the effect they will continue to have on our community and the ambassadors they will [become] in the future." Henry agrees, "Our children's group may be small, but God's love is enormous. It is amazing to see the Holy Spirit at work. All I can say is, 'Thank you, Jesus!'"

Youth Director Honored as “Faith Leader of the Year”



The Ohio branch of Faith in Public Life (FPL) recently recognized Jason Ridley, youth director for the Allegheny West Conference (AWC), as “Faith Leader of the Year.”

“[Ridley] has used his gifts and calling to work for justice in the Hilltop neighborhood, at the Statehouse, City Hall, and all the way to Washington, D.C. Ridley

has fought to end police violence and maintain health care. He is Ohio’s FPL Faith Leader of the Year for his work for justice, compassion and the common good,” says Dan Clark, director of the Ohio branch of FPL.

Ridley is passionate about this work because he says he has a moral duty and responsibility to use his voice and platform God has given him to stand up, speak the truth and be a voice for the voiceless. “Ministry is not just preparing individuals for the second coming of Christ, but it’s also about helping and fighting for people to have a better quality of life while we’re living here on earth. This only happens when there’s equality for all,” he says. Ridley wants to continue educating Seventh-day Adventist members about how they can also help.

Ridley adds, “I’m now in contact with people who, when I was the pastor at AWC’s Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, Ohio, wouldn’t even visit my church. [But] because of my involvement in this work, I now see people who didn’t believe in God or have a relationship with Him open up meetings and prayer rallies and talk about faith.”—V. *Michelle Bernard*

Churches in Danville, South Boston Spread Cheer

The Three Angels Message church in Danville, Va., and the Emmanuel church in South Boston, Va., helped nearly 1,500 people receive holiday gifts



Community guests receive food, clothes and toiletries during a holiday giving event.

this year. At two separate events, community guests received hundreds of items, including new clothes, toiletries and food, after a brief sermon by John Coaxum, pastor of both churches. Local businesses God’s Pit Crew, Belk and Abe Koplen Clothing Company donated many of the giveaways.

Danville resident Shirly Terry took her grandchildren to the church to help their family get through the holidays. “This is going to be real good for them ... their momma passed away in March [2017], and I want this to be the happiest Christmas they’ve ever had,” Terry said.

Coaxum shared that a woman recently told him that she had to choose between paying her light bill or giving her kids Christmas gifts. “We want to relieve some of that stress around Christmas time so that they can focus on family, God and the real meaning of the holiday,” he says. Coaxum credits his members and their sacrifice for the success of these events.

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

God's Beautiful People

I love people! I am fascinated by the uniqueness of each person I meet: their talents, personalities, cultures, quirks and mannerisms make each one special. From strangers in the mall or interesting characters at Walmart to family members, students, colleagues and friends—no two are alike. There are quiet ones whose depth of wisdom astounds me and bold ones whose courage challenges me. There are creative ones whose artistic expressions mesmerize me. Then there are the intellectuals whose knowledge boggles my mind and entertainers whose humor lightens my heart.

So many details went into creating each one of us! I think of what it must be like for God when He creates each human being. I imagine Him as an artist creating a masterpiece, carefully selecting each detail that will make us who we are, like no other.

The Bible tells us that He “knitted [us] together in [our] mother’s womb. ... [We are] fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:13-14, ESV). He knows us as only a Creator could know His creation, aware of even the number of hairs on our heads! (See Luke 12:6-7). God says to us, “You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you” (Isa. 43:4, ESV). People are God’s crowning act of creation. He saved the best for last and made us in His own image.

Look around at the people in your lives. Instead of finding faults, notice what makes them special. Look for the touch of the Master’s hand. Not only are they someone’s child, they are the Creator’s work of art. Try to see them through His eyes; you will be surprised by their value and beauty.



Janesta Walker
*Superintendent
of Schools*

West Wilmington Celebrates 125th Anniversary



Elvis Mogoi, pastor of the West Wilmington (Del.) church, leads the congregation in a call to prayer.

Hundreds recently gathered at West Wilmington (Del.) church to celebrate its 125th anniversary. Thankfulness to the Lord for past blessings and trusting Him with the future of the congregation served as foundational themes for the weekend.

The West Wilmington church formally organized on July 30, 1892. Through the years, the congregation has developed a rich legacy of ministry in their community, reaching many generations for Christ through evangelism, outreach initiatives and Adventist education.

Member Ellen Soire was thankful to see this special day come. “I have a sense of awe at how God saw that it would happen this way, that we would be here 125 years later,” she says. “I feel this is such a great honor being a part of a huge movement ... there is a sense of expectation for the years to come seeing that God has brought us this far.”

THE CHALLENGE

Youth Group Reaches Out in Urban Ministry

Every winter the youth group at the Baltimore Korean church in Ellicott City, Md., seeks to tangibly share the love of Jesus with those in need. The group recently visited West Lexington Street near the Inner Harbor in Baltimore to engage in meaningful outreach with the community.

Prior to visiting the area, the group prepared 60 lunch bags, 26 gift boxes for children, dental hygiene



items and winter hats and gloves. In addition to food and clothing, the group sought to share a spiritual blessing as they distributed *Steps to Christ* books.

Then on a Sabbath afternoon, the youth visited the outreach site, set up tables and laid out items for community members to obtain whatever they needed. Many residents expressed gratitude for their presence and generosity.

Jonathan Kim, youth pastor of Baltimore Korean, sees this work in the community as a mutual blessing and counts it a privilege to serve others. Additionally, the youth group collectively look forward to giving back as much as possible. "The weather had called for rain, but God graciously held it back for most of the time we were there," says Kim. "We were able to talk to and meet a lot of wonderful people, and we hope to do a similar outreach again in the near future."

Youth members Darlene Lee, Lauren Yoon and Yvette Kim from the Baltimore Korean church serve food, clothes and dental hygiene items to community residents near Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

PHOTOS BY CECILIA OH AND ELI ROJAS

65 Elders Gather to Focus on Growth

Sixty-five elders from the Chesapeake Conference recently attended the Lay Leader Training Seminar at the Living Hope church in Haymarket, Va. Mark Finley, director of the Living Hope School of Evangelism, conducted several sessions to equip and encourage the attendees to follow the biblical model for ministry leadership and church growth.

Seminar topics provided practical tools in areas such as spirituality, partnering with pastors in ministry, church growth and evangelism. The weekend seminar served as a springboard for the elders to return to their home churches with renewed tools and a passion to see continued growth.

Prior to this event, Eli Rojas, ministerial director for the conference, encouraged the elders to attend the training to help local churches be more effective in their efforts.

"Understanding the partnership between pastors and elders is pivotal to church growth," says Rojas. "I'm excited that we can provide this training opportunity to our church leaders."

Troy Elliot, an elder of the Connection Community church in Laurel, Md., found the training to be especially meaningful. "The parting impression I had was that, first and foremost, I need to spend the time to cultivate my own relationship with God," he says.



Mark Finley instructs lay leaders on best practices for evangelism and church growth.

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

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Hewitt Steps into New Role as President

The Mountain View Conference (MVC) Executive Committee recently voted Mike Hewitt to become the next MVC president—a position vacated by Larry Boggess' recent retirement.

Hewitt was raised in Salem, Va., in a Seventh-day Adventist home, where his grandmother, Jewell, played a large role in his spiritual life. Daily she read to him and his sisters from *The Bible Story* books and Scripture.

After high school, Hewitt became a police officer, a job he held for 10 years. He left law enforcement, however, after sensing God's leading and calling to become a minister. He served the Potomac Conference as a full-time pastor for 11 years.

MVC invited Hewitt to join the administration as executive secretary and ministerial director in December 2016. Just a year later, as he assumes the role of conference president, he sees how God was preparing him for this new role.

"God began preparing me as a police officer by teaching me discipline, leadership and teamwork," says Hewitt. "When I entered the pastoral ministry, God



allowed me to experience various situations that had a significant impact on me, which helped to make me a better leader. I can also see now that God used my last assignment in ministry to develop my skills in administration and Adventist education, although at the time I did not realize what God was doing."

Hewitt's vision for MVC is for healthy, growing, disciple-making congregations eager to plant new churches where they are needed most; that there be strong, growing schools where students are well-trained; and supported pastors and teachers who feel that they are part of a team who loves them.

When asked what goals he has as conference president, he replied, "My first goal is to work with the Executive Committee to review and refine our mission statement and prayerfully create a vision for the future that will challenge and motivate us as a conference. I am also eager to get the Volunteer Lay Pastor program up and running so multiple-church districts will have consistent pastoral leadership from week to week."

Hewitt is passionate that each MVC pastor and teacher receive the best training possible so they will be well-equipped to grow their churches and schools.

Hewitt and his wife, Brittan (pictured), have two children—Jewell and Levi.



Mike Hewitt (left), newly elected president for the Mountain View Conference, accepts congratulations from Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president.

Toll Gate Member Named 2017 “Citizen of the Year”

Doddridge County, West Virginia recently named Arthur Calhoun, M.D., their 2017 “Citizen of the Year.” Calhoun, a member of the Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va., received a proclamation from Jim Justice, the governor of West Virginia, and was recognized by the Senate of West Virginia.

Calhoun has provided medical services for Doddridge County residents since 1977. He served 35 years as medical director for the nursing home in Salem, West Virginia, and 21 years as physician for the correctional center in Salem, W.Va. He chaired the ethics committee for the region and made many house calls as a physician.

Calhoun has participated in a number of health-oriented programs in the local community, speaking on topics such as smoking, healthy cooking and exercise. In addition, he has taught seminars on depression and cancer-fighting foods.

Calhoun has a passion for young people and has been very active as a Pathfinder leader and a youth Sabbath School teacher for more than 35 years.

“By attending to the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the community,” says Bill Clark, Toll Gate



Arthur Calhoun receives the 2017 “Citizen of the Year” award from Debbie Montoya, a representative of the governor, for his medical services and volunteer work in Doddridge County, West Virginia.

church member and retired pastor, “Calhoun has earned a reputation of being a kind, humble and godly physician.”

Search for Truth Leads to Local Church Livestream

Zachary White and his teenage son, Justin, had been searching for Bible truth for several years. A long-time friend became a Seventh-day Adventist, but the beliefs his friend embraced were so different from White’s Baptist upbringing, that he didn’t believe they were true.

Years later, White began watching *Amazing Facts*, but he had a hard time understanding the biblical concepts. He felt impressed to search online for a

local Adventist church. Remarkably, he discovered livestreamed sermons on YouTube by Jared Briggman, pastor of the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va. Though White still didn’t agree with what he was viewing, he continued to watch with his son.

One day he opened his Bible while watching both the *Amazing Facts* telecast and the local Adventist church’s livestream. After comparing the information, he realized that these teachings were indeed true.

Last year East Pea Ridge members held a full series of 26 evangelistic meetings. Both White and his son watched the first 22 episodes of the meetings online, and after the presentation on baptism, they visited the church and inquired about becoming members. They attended the last four meetings in person and recently chose to be baptized along with two other individuals who made decisions for Jesus during the meetings.

“When Zach and Justin first walked into the church, we had no idea how they had heard about us,” shares Briggman. “Once we found out that they were there because of our internet livestream, our members realized how God could use this tool to reach people here in West Virginia.”—Peggy Criddle



Jared Briggman (left), pastor of the East Pea Ridge church, rejoices as Justin (middle) and Zachary White take their stand for Bible truth.

Indonesian Members Pray About Immigration Status

Members of two Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist churches in northern New Jersey are experiencing the effects of ramped up U.S. immigration reform firsthand. Dozens have been deported, voluntarily returned to their homeland or are struggling to gain permanent legal status.

Adrie Legoh (pictured below), pastor of New Jersey Conference's Pioneer church in Plainfield, says he lost four to five families in the past few years. Membership now stands between 40 and 50, down from about 90. "Last fall one of our members was deported. He had been here for almost 30 years and served as one of our elders," Legoh says.

Steven Rantung, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's First Indonesian church in South Plainfield, reports that during the last year, they lost 21 members due to deportation over their immigration situation. There was a time when this church had 250 members; now there are about 65. One of them, Gunawan Liem, a married father of two, church deacon and member since 1999, was detained January 25 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after he dropped his 10-year-old daughter at the school bus stop. At press time, he was still in custody.

Several newspaper articles have reported the decades-long ordeal began in the late 1990s when Indonesia experienced a change in power that led to economic and civil unrest and the rise of radical groups that carried out hate crimes against Christians, particularly those of Chinese descent. Many of these ethnic Chinese Christians, a minority in Indonesia, escaped persecution via a U.S. visitor visa and ended up in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and the state of Washington. They landed jobs at factories, nursing



Steven Rantung, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's First Indonesian church, prays with members who are facing immigration issues.

homes, assisted living facilities, etc., and settled down.

Both pastors say that is the case for many of their members and those of other denominations. Many of these immigrants overstayed their visas, and when they finally applied for asylum (lawful residency), they were denied, some more than once. Still they lived productively—they got married, started families and established small groups that grew into what remain the only Adventist Indonesian congregations in the Columbia Union to date.

Then "9/11" happened, and everything changed.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. established the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System that required males age 15 to 65 from the 24 largest Muslim countries in the world to be registered, fingerprinted, photographed and interviewed. Rantung says that because his ethnic Chinese members came from a primarily Muslim country, they self-reported and received either a "stay of removal" or "order of supervision." This allowed them to remain in the country, but required them to "check in" with ICE annually or as often as requested.

Among them was one of the founders of the Pioneer church who was deported last fall. His remaining family members are at a loss as to their next steps.

"In 2017 we saw a number of the males and heads of households who are members of our church go and report and not come home. They were detained and

some deported,” shares one Pioneer church member. “My father-in-law voluntarily went to report and did not return home.”

He admits that because of this crackdown, others have not reported as scheduled. Some members quit their jobs and are living in hiding. Others have relocated from the area. Some expect that any day they could be picked up and held in a detention center indefinitely.

“We live in fear,” says Johanes Tilaar, a husband and father of two sons who serves as first elder of the First Indonesian congregation, who says he came to the U.S. in 1996 to escape religious persecution. He also hasn’t registered yet this year and is constantly expecting ICE agents to come for him. “Every time I open my door or go to work, I am filled with fear,” he admits.

Ramly Siwi, who says he came to the U.S. in 1990 to escape religious persecution and to build a better life, is a co-founder of the First Indonesian church, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in May. “I didn’t report last October because I don’t want to be detained like the others,” he says. “We live in fear that our family will be separated.”

Possible separation from their children, many of whom are part of the DACA program that the U.S. Congress is presently discussing, is one of the reasons many of the immigrants seek to avoid detention and deportation. “Once you are deported, you can’t apply to return for 10 years,” explains a Pioneer church member, who also has not yet reported to ICE this year. “And with our status, we can’t leave to go see him either, otherwise we can’t come back.”

Legoh says that every fourth Sabbath members fast and every Sunday they gather to pray about the issue.



Members from New Jersey Conference’s Pioneer church gather weekly to pray for those affected by U.S. immigration reform.

“As a pastor I pray to have and maintain courage and for the spiritual frame of the church.”

Jorge Aguero, president of the New Jersey Conference, and administrators are also praying as they look to see how they can assist members during this ongoing immigration struggle.

On February 2, a federal judge issued a restraining order that temporarily halts the deportation of Indonesian Christians in New Jersey without legal status, while she reviews a class-action lawsuit that seeks to allow them the opportunity to reapply for asylum. Read more of the story and about the pending court decision expected March 9 at columbiaunionvisitor.com/indonesianresidents.—Celeste Ryan Blyden



PHOTOS BY BRIAN PATRICK TAGALOG

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President Shares Vision for Growth in Ohio

As we continue into 2018, I want to share with you some dreams we have for church growth in the Ohio Conference.

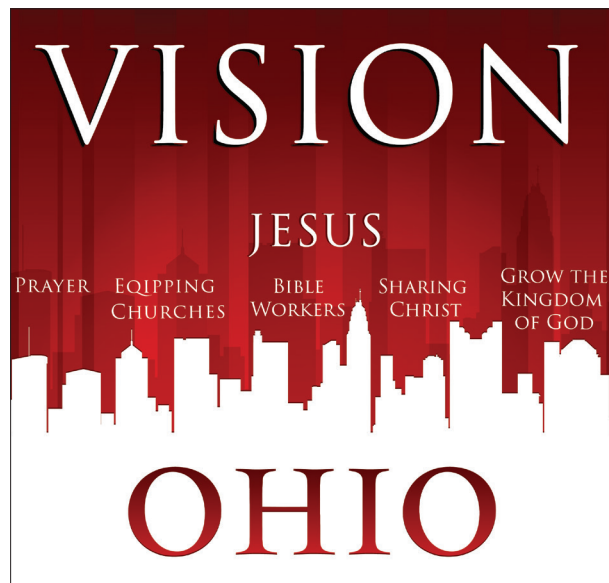
Three-and-a-half years ago, our conference faced serious financial challenges. I reached out to you through a letter about Vision Ohio, an initiative for growing healthy churches and continuing the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by training and mentoring our members in personal ministries and evangelism. Your response was overwhelming, and we pushed through that difficult time without having to cut pastors. Ministry in our conference remained unaffected. I'm glad to say that today we are no longer in that situation. As I have visited our churches, however, I have observed some needs that I would like to address.

Many of you are in districts with multiple churches, and your pastor's time is split between them. Others are in large churches with several pastors. From my experience, I have found that no matter the size of the church, pastors often do not have adequate time to train members for outreach.

People continue to give to Vision Ohio, although we have not made additional appeals. I would like to allocate these funds for teaching our laypeople not merely "how to give a Bible study," but how to comfortably do so, how to guide new believers through



Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president, shares with constituents the details of the Vision Ohio initiative.



the decision-making process, and, ultimately, how to assist them through preparation for baptism.

I'd like to hire ministers with successful public evangelism experience. It is very difficult to conduct a four- or five-week series of meetings these days. However, if our members are actively involved in giving in-depth Bible studies, we could conduct a Week of Prayer with an appeal for baptism or a short-term evangelistic meeting.

Please do not stop giving to your local church. Your tithe and local church offerings are the two highest priorities, as well as the financial lifeblood of the work here in Ohio. Perhaps you contribute to evangelism or mission work outside the conference. I would ask that you earmark those funds for Vision Ohio, and we will really see our mission move forward in a truly powerful way.

If you would like to be a part of this outreach, please contribute to the Vision Ohio initiative. This could boost our local church growth. After all, that is our commission, and we are serious about it.

Please pray with me for Vision Ohio, and give as you are able.—Ron Halvorsen Jr., President

Galion Church Members Impact Student in Big Way

He is an encouraging, funny kid,” says Nancy Bittner, head elder of the Galion church. Bittner is referring to Andrew Smith, a student the church is helping sponsor to attend Chesapeake Conference’s Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md.

Like many teens, Smith sometimes encountered questionable influences at his public school. One of Bittner’s daughters encouraged Smith’s mother, Heidi Kick, to send her son to HVA. After researching the school and tuition rates, mother and son met with Galion Pastor Marcellus de Oliveira, and shared with him Smith’s desire to study at HVA.

“The church board immediately agreed to support Andrew’s studies,” de Oliveira says.

Kick had not been to church in many years, but now that her son is attending HVA, she attends with her boyfriend.

Smith says he is enjoying his time at HVA working in the food service department and learning important life lessons. “I don’t know if I’m doing well academically,” he recently told his mother, “but I am growing spiritually.”

Galion is not a large church, yet “members continue



During a recent home leave, Galion church members pray over Andrew Smith before he returns to HVA.

to financially support Andrew,” says Bittner. “Some are on Social Security, and even nonmembers are donating to his education.”

Attend a Constituency Meeting at a Nearby Church

A series of regional town hall meetings are scheduled for delegates who will attend the 42nd Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The purpose of these area meetings is to provide delegates an opportunity to hear and discuss reports on various aspects of conference operations and specific agenda items for the May 6 Constituency Meeting. All elected delegates are urged to attend at a location close to you. Email information@ohioadventist.org, or call (740) 397-4665 for more information. Additional information is available online at ohioadventist.org.

Region	Date	Location	Time
Dayton Area	April 3	New Ohio Conference Office 1251 E Dorothy Ln, Kettering, OH 45419	7 p.m.
North	April 5	Toledo First Church 4909 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo, OH 43623	7 p.m.
Northeast	April 10	Akron First Church 655 E Waterloo Rd, Akron, OH 44306	7 p.m.
Columbus Area	April 12	Worthington Church 385 E Dublin Granville Rd, Worthington, OH 43085	7 p.m.
South	April 17	Chillicothe Church 510 Metzger Ave, Chillicothe, OH 45601	7 p.m.
Cleveland Area	April 19	Cleveland First Spanish Church 3631 Bosworth Rd, Cleveland, OH 44111	7 p.m.

Mission Ohio is published in the *Visitor* by the Ohio Conference ■ P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org ■ President, Ron Halvorsen Jr. ■ Communication Director, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania Pen

Be Bold

Are you interested in Bible studies?" It was a bold question for a senior member of a local church. When a salesman knocked on her door, her first response was, "It's the Sabbath; I'm not interested." But that morning I had preached a sermon that challenged the congregation to be bold. God used that message to spark this church member to ask the salesman if he would be interested in Bible studies.

"Actually, I am," the young man replied.

"Would you like to go to church?" Another bold question. Was she really doing this?

"Yes, I would. Can I go with you?" he seemed sincerely interested.

This young man has now connected with a local Bible worker to begin Bible studies, all because one member took the time to be bold. Instead of closing the door, she asked a question that opened the opportunity to share the gospel and connect a seeker with Christ.

The Christian church exists today because early believers boldly shared their faith. Boldness is so essential to mission that the disciples specifically prayed for it. That their prayer was pleasing to God is evident in the mighty answer they received (see Acts 4:29-31).

What about you and your church? By being bold for God, we personally grow in Christ. And our churches grow. This year I want to challenge you to pray for boldness. Why? Because this young salesman is not the only one looking for more. Every day you and I pass people on the street, at work, at school, in the store, who have questions about God and want to know more about Him. They're just waiting for someone bold enough to stop, talk and invite them to take the next step in building that relationship with God. Jesus is returning. Let's be bold!



Gary Gibbs
President

2018 Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting

Lift Him Up



June 8-16, 2018

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY HAMBURG, PA

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

John 12:32



INSPIRING WORSHIPS, SEMINARS & MORE



Derek Morris



Doug Batchelor



Gary Gibbs

Go to paconference.org for more information



Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611-1492
 Phone 610-374-8331 ext. 200

June 8-16, 2018 Camp Meeting Reservation Application
Applications only accepted with payment included

Office use only:

Assignment: _____

Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone (Cell Phone if possible) _____

Total # in your party _____. Provide information below for children.

Children	Age	Gender

NOTES:

1. A completed application with **payment in full** is required for all reservations. Partial payments will be returned to sender. Checks should be made payable to **Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**. Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.
2. We regret that we are unable to provide wheel chairs and other equipment for the disabled.
3. All those who plan to stay in the Dorms and have children ages 10 and over, will be asked to stay in the respective dormitories -- i.e., girls in Girls' Dorm and boys in Boys' Dorm.
4. Children under 18 years of age are not permitted to stay overnight at any of the camp meeting facilities **unless accompanied by an adult**.
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS** are allowed in the campgrounds or in the camping areas! Names of local kennels will be provided in your confirmation packet.
6. Use of microwaves, air conditioners, and other electrical appliances are **PROHIBITED** due to the lack of adequate electricity. **THIS INCLUDES ALL RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PARKED IN KEYSTONE WITH 20 AMP SERVICE.** (Exception -- Grove City trailer sites, as they all have 30amp service.)

Full Time Rates/Location –June 9-17,17	Amount	Total
Dorm room with 2 single beds <input type="checkbox"/> need handicap accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Request dorm with Bathroom	\$265.00 \$300.00	
Tent with 20 amp electricity & floor <input type="checkbox"/> 1 double cot –or– <input type="checkbox"/> 2 single cots <input type="checkbox"/> Request for ____ extra single mattress	\$120.00	
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. long, with 20 amp electricity (Located on field by Boys' Dorm)	\$60.00 Ten \$120.00 RV	
Keystone Cabin - (8 bunk beds) NOTE: a key deposit of \$20.00	\$200.00	
Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trailer size: _____ ft. 20 amp	\$120.00	
Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trailer size: _____ ft.	\$135.00	

Signature _____
 Print Name _____
 Date _____

Per Day Rates/Location	Amount	Total
Dorm room with 2 single beds <input type="checkbox"/> need handicap accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Request for ____ extra single mattress Dates Requested _____	\$35.00	
Tent with 20 amp electricity & floor <input type="checkbox"/> 1 double cot –or– <input type="checkbox"/> 2 single cots <input type="checkbox"/> Request for ____ extra single mattress Dates Requested _____	25.00	
Small personal tent or trailer space up to 20ft. long, with 20 amp electricity (Located on field by Boys' Dorm) Dates Requested _____	Tent \$15.00 RV \$20.00	
Keystone Trailer space, with electricity Trailer size: _____ ft. Dates Requested _____	25.00	
Grove City Trailer space, with 30 amp electricity usage Trailer size: _____ ft. Dates Requested _____	30.00	

Office use only:

Paid by check # _____ Paid in full
 Paid by cash Confirmation sent
 On-line payment Checked in by _____
 M/C -- or -- Visa
 Exp: _____ Code: _____ Date: _____

Total Charges \$ _____

Full Payment Enclosed:

Check # _____
 Money Order
 Cash (do not send cash in mail)
 Credit Card M/C -- or -- Visa
 Exp: _____ Code: _____
 Signature: _____

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the *Visitor* by the Pennsylvania Conference ■ 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611
 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 ■ paconference.org ■ President, Gary Gibbs ■ Communication Director, Tamyra Horst

Potomac People

Wright Retires after 53 Years in Ministry

After 53 years of ministerial service, Henry Wright recently preached his final sermon to a standing-room only crowd at the historic Takoma Park (Md.) church. Wright accepted his call to the Potomac Conference in 1993, becoming the pastor of Community Praise Church (CPC)—a small, struggling church in Alexandria, Va.

“There were so few people that you could lay on the pews and not touch anybody,” Wright jokes. “After the



PHOTO BY JAMES PARTLOW IV

service, I knelt in front of the altar and prayed a very simple prayer: ‘Lord, do not make me a success here; defend your name.’” Wright, with his leadership team, developed a five-year plan and quickly incorporated all attendees into the church program. One year later, CPC averaged 200 worshipers each Sabbath.

Today CPC is a witness to Wright’s fruitful ministry, with more than 1,000 people attending each week, 60 active ministries, annual tithe totals over \$2 million and several church plants. In 2014 Wright took on a new congregation as senior pastor of the Takoma Park church.

During his last sermon, Wright encouraged youth and young adults to remember their spiritual roots, and he emphasized that they aren’t the future of the church—they *are* the church—and that their ideas, energy and enthusiasm are key to a healthy church.

“Wright’s legacy far exceeds the borders of the Potomac Conference, as he touched the lives of many around the globe,” says Bill Miller, president.

Henry Wright, evangelist and senior pastor of Takoma Park (Md.) church, retires after 53 years in ministerial service.

OAPS Students Reach Out to Community

Fifth-graders of the Olney Adventist Preparatory School (OAPS) in Maryland recently spent a day making handmade blankets and afghans for Project Linus, a national organization focused on providing a sense of security and warmth to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or impoverished.

Jami Walker, principal and fifth-grade teacher, says, “We strive to teach students what it means to follow in Christ’s footsteps and how to find tangible ways to reach out to others.”

Walker encouraged students to donate their own money, by using their allowance or doing extra chores at home. Students made six blankets in various sizes and colors by tying two pieces of pre-cut fleece together. “The most popular blanket was the one with a big slice of pizza on it that said ‘Dreaming of pizza,’” laughs Walker.

Fourth-graders at OAPS also collected hats and gloves for those in need. In the past, students have worked with Montgomery County officials to pick up trash and deliver goodie baskets to the local fire

department. Additionally, each year the kindergarten class raises money for an Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) project.



Fifth-graders at Olney Adventist Preparatory School hold handmade blankets for Project Linus.

Potomac People

New Radio Program Brings International Reach

A contract with WAVA, a radio station with a potential listening audience of more than 8 million in the Washington, D.C. metro area, and Sirius XM, a satellite stream with international reach, has recently established a new program with evangelist Mark Finley, a member and the director of the School of Evangelism program at the Living Hope church in Haymarket, Va.

The half-hour program airs four times a week and focuses primarily on prophecy and health. The contract allows Bible studies to be shared over the air, and gives freedom to advertise upcoming events. Finley is currently working with the Voice of Prophecy to establish a local Bible School specifically for Bible study interests from Northern Virginia.

“Michael Oxentenکو (pictured), host of Reaching Your Heart—which has aired on WAVA for 20 years—asked me if I’d like to meet Tom Moyer, the station’s general manager, to discuss the possibility of joining the WAVA family of programming,” says Finley. “Moyer indicated that the station was looking for something solidly biblical, Christ-centered and filled with hope.”

After their initial meeting, Moyer sent a letter of invitation to General Conference President Ted Wilson for Seventh-day Adventists to air additional programs on WAVA 105.1 FM and Sirius XM 131 and become part of their international social media outreach.

“Finley and Oxentenکو add to Salem’s [Media Group] representation of the broader body of Christ,” Moyer shared in the letter sent to Wilson. “I’m asking the Seventh-day Adventist Church to prayerfully consider supporting this ministry partnership ... to reach the world with the gospel. Here at Salem, we will do everything we can to make the Adventist voice stronger on our platform and in outreach to the world.”

This powerful statement and network will give Adventists an even broader platform for proclaiming



the gospel. “What an opportunity God has given us, and what an amazing door He has opened,” says Finley. “Let’s pray that He will work a miracle through this adventure in faith. We have ... to develop 104 30-minute programs a year and raise \$100,000 annually for air time. This is bigger than we are, but we serve the God of the impossible, who blesses big dreams and giant leaps in faith.” Visit hopelives365.com for more information.

Radio Times

Hope Lives 365 with Pastor Mark Finley

WAVA 105.1 FM: Saturday, 3 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m.
Sirius XM 131: Saturday, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Reaching Your Heart with Pastor Michael Oxentenکو

WAVA 105.1 FM: Monday thru Friday, 10-10:30 p.m.
Sirius XM 131: Monday thru Friday, 10-10:30 p.m.

HopeLives365 radio
show with Pastor Mark Finley

SiriusXM
SATELLITE RADIO

Potomac People is published in the *Visitor* by the Potomac Conference ■ 606 Greenville Ave., Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Assistant, Tiffany Doss

HVA Dedicates Week for Service

Highland View Academy's (HVA) mission is "to inspire and mentor [their] students to excel in all Christ calls them to do." The administration and staff believe that Christ calls the students now, not just in the future, to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In line with HVA's mission, students and faculty will devote the second week of March to perform service projects both domestically and internationally.

A group of nine students, plus faculty and chaperones, will travel to Nairobi, Kenya, to build a dormitory for the Karura Adventist School. In addition to the construction project, they will present several Vacation Bible School programs. Senior Bree Hurst is looking forward to "experiencing cultural differences" that she has not yet encountered. Junior Valerie Akinyi thinks "it is important for us as Christians to find opportunities to help others and share the gospel."

Domestically, almost a dozen students, plus faculty members, will travel to Houston to help with hurricane



HVA volunteers (back row) Kyra Wirsz, Ariana Neverson, Levi Walker, History teacher April Lutz (front row) Reily Miller, Katie Seeders, Luci Borges, JoAnna Ketter, Zyon Wiley, Tristan Taylor and Principal Erik Borges will travel to Houston to assist with hurricane recovery efforts.



HVA students and staff members (back row) Benjamin Lee, Alec Gaskill, Mi Lian Za, Bree Hurst, Yana Ruiz (front row) Kevin Mills, Bible teacher Omar Gomez, Valerie Akinyi and Darlene Ntakirutimana will travel to Nairobi, Kenya, in March to build a dormitory and hold VBS programs.

recovery efforts. They will coordinate with the Texas Conference to focus on a local church and community. Junior Zyon Wiley believes that "helping people who were affected dramatically by Hurricane Harvey will be a humbling and eye-opening experience."

History teacher April Lutz says she is looking forward to "fostering a sense of service" in the students. "It is my hope that our students will find joy in their work and opportunity to help those who have suffered so much."

Some students will participate in a variety of service projects near Hagerstown, Md., and the regional community.

Principal Erik Borges states that the goal of the week of service is "to get out of our comfort zones. We will see Jesus work through us to help others. Students and staff always gain a different perspective on things after extended service projects. They see how fortunate they are. Others have it much worse than they do."



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Lake Nelson Continues Legacy, Opens New Academy



In 1957 Plainfield (N.J.) church members purchase a 12-acre lot to build the Lake Nelson Seventh-day Adventist School.



In 1977 a fire almost destroys the school. Church members unite in vision and mission for Christian education and rebuild the school.



In 2015 the expansion site is approved and leadership breaks ground for a new academy.

All of us have been entrusted with the unique gift of making a difference. Each day that passes, we leave a mark in the world around us, an imprint for others to walk, a guide in the journey of life.

Sixty-one years ago, a group of believers chose to create a path that would order the steps of thousands to Jesus. In 1957 Plainfield (N.J.) church members purchased the property of what is now Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) in Piscataway, N.J. Many gave up their savings, others donated their labor, time and energy to buy and build what is LNAA today. I do not know if their eyes traveled this far to envision what Lake Nelson would become. All the pioneers knew was they needed to leave a mark and create a path that would lead children and young people to Jesus. And so, a “Legacy” started.

Today, as we carry on what God has so delicately placed in our hands, I am honored to introduce to you LNAA. It has been a journey, indeed! These photos provide a glimpse of that journey. As we share and pass on what God is doing, our main objective is to magnify His name.—*Elisa Maragoto, Principal*



In 2017 Lake Nelson Adventist Academy’s first high school class, totaling 51 students, enjoys the campus.

Legacy is published in the *Visitor* by the Lake Nelson Adventist Academy ■ 555 South Randolphville Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854
Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ lakenelsonadventistacademy.org ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Leonora Seferlis

PFA POST



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

Academy Celebrates New STEM Space

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) recently debuted its innovative TE Connectivity STEM Space, designed to promote student interest in science, technology, engineering and math. The new building includes one classroom dedicated to math instruction and a second classroom fully outfitted with a smart board, robotics kits, tablet docking stations and science equipment.

Nicole Hughes, principal, is grateful for the team and leadership at TE Connectivity. "Our dream of constructing this facility was made possible in part by Mr. Lynch and his company," Hughes shares. Tom Lynch, executive board chairman for TE, represented the company at the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We are delighted to celebrate with the students and faculty of Pine Forge Academy," said Lynch.

"We were looking for more ways to gain inroads into the African-American community and to help develop a more robust and diverse talent pipeline for years to come," shares Leilani Scott, vice president for Human Resources at TE. "Pine Forge is passionate about



Physics and Robotics coach Courtney Brown, and seniors Cole Mattox and Joshua Perkins display their robotics project.

developing an emphasis on technical learning and local partnerships, so we realized a relationship with TE could advance the goals of both groups."

Dinah Jordan, PFA development officer, agrees: "TE Connectivity is dedicated to encouraging students to consider STEM careers and to provide students of color with access to pre-college STEM learning opportunities."

The completion of this project marks the launch of the next phase of PFA's STEM program. Students have already formed robotic teams, built two robots and entered local robotic competitions. Junior Marcel Mattox comments, "The STEM Space will be perfect for our robotics team to design, build, program and test our robots."



Principal Nicole Hughes (left) joins PFA STEM teachers, students, alumni association representatives, TE African-American Heritage Group executives and Tom Lynch, executive board chairman for TE Connectivity, as they celebrate the completion of PFA's new STEM Space.

Post is published in the *Visitor* by the Pine Forge Academy ■ P.O. Box 338, Pine Forge, PA 19548
Phone: (610) 326-5800 ■ Fax: (610) 326-5152 ■ pineforgeacademy.org ■ Principal, Nicole Hughes ■ Editor, Dinah Jordan

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

News

Benefit Concert Raises Funds for Puerto Rico

The Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) Music department recently organized a benefit concert at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., to raise funds for a mission trip to help repair an elementary school in Puerto Rico that was damaged during Hurricane Maria. The SAA chorale and orchestra performed Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival" to a packed church. The event raised \$2,000, augmenting the \$15,000 already collected by SAA students and faculty. The funds will go toward supplies for the March trip to Puerto Rico, in conjunction with Spencerville church's annual mission trip. For more on the Puerto Rico project, visit spaac.net.



SONscreen Film Festival participants Lindsey Gispert, Rebecca Oliyide and Olivia Brown discuss edits to their short film.

"It was such a fascinating experience exploring the same obstacles as professional filmmakers and finding solutions," says sophomore Lindsey Gispert. "We learned the salience of teamwork, time management and using each other's strengths to collectively create something we were proud of."

Next year Martinez hopes to open the film festival to local Adventist schools. Visit spaac.net to see excerpts from the film festival and films.

Drama Department Presents *My Fair Lady*

The Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) Drama department will present four performances of *My Fair Lady*, scheduled for April 18, 19, 21 and 22 in the SAA auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door or online at spaac.net.



SAA music students perform a benefit concert for a mission trip in March to Puerto Rico, raising \$2,000.

Students Participate in 36-Hour Film Festival

Students from the Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) broadcast journalism class recently participated in a 36-hour film festival. Julio Munoz, associate director for Communication at the North American Division and director of the SONscreen Film Festival, along with Emily Mastrapa, a local filmmaker and Spencerville alumna, served as festival mentors.

Each film had to incorporate the same prop, character and line of dialogue. "Giving constraints to student filmmakers empowers their creativity," shares Robert Martinez, organizer and broadcast journalism teacher.



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

News

Students Honor the Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Several Spring Valley Academy students recently attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. They met for breakfast at the Yankee Trace Golf Club in Centerville, Ohio, and later listened to a number of testimonies from civic and business leaders about King's continuing influence.

Joan Brown Campbell, the keynote speaker, is an ordained minister for two denominations, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the American Baptist Church. Campbell is a devoted activist for peace and social justice, a commitment crafted during her life-changing work with Martin Luther King Jr. Her passion deepened in the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, where Archbishop Desmond Tutu referred to her as "a woman of courage and compassion."

Principal Darren Wilkins shares, "It was great for our students to engage with their local community and recognize the continued importance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream."



Keynote speaker Joan Brown Campbell (middle) celebrates the life of Martin Luther King Jr. with SVA students (left to right) Torvy Wilkins, Max Shull, Marissa Steward, Sofia Ntirampeba, Grace Lawrence and Makeena Lunde.

Police Sponsor Rwandan Fundraiser

When Police Officer Tom Thompson heard about the 26 Rwandan refugee students attending Spring Valley Academy (SVA), he determined to raise money to help provide them with lunches, tuition and other expenses. He encouraged fellow officers at the Grandview, Ohio, police department to join him in a "no-shave" fundraiser challenge. They proudly presented a \$3,000 check for the Rwandan students to Principal Darren



SVA's Rwandan refugee students meet members of the police department who raised funds for their education.

Wilkins at a pizza party held at the school.

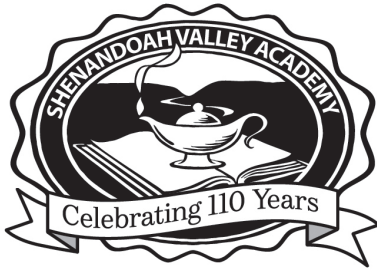
"This experience was a blessing for us and we really enjoyed talking and listening to the children," shares Thompson. "It is especially rewarding when you can put a face to those we endeavored to help."

Faculty Inducts New National Honor Society Members

During a recent special assembly, faculty inducted 18 high school students into Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Students become members by the effective demonstration of four highly esteemed qualities: Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character.

Sponsored by Vice Principal Ken Knudsen, SVA NHS members are also ambassador hosts for the annual "Celebration of Excellence" awards ceremony at the end of each school year—an evening where parents, teachers and friends celebrate the success of SVA students with acknowledgments and awards.





Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

My Journey to Bethlehem



Hannah Sloan, senior class president from Beltsville, Md., shares her perspective as a shepherd in sharing the good news of Jesus' saving grace during the annual live nativity production, Journey to Bethlehem. "Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song" (Ellen White, Desire of Ages, p. 48).

Journey to Bethlehem (J2B) is one of the most anticipated annual events on our campus. The New Market (Va.) church produces J2B, which involves Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students—140 this year—and church members of all ages as actors, set builders, musicians, script writers and seamstresses. These “ministers” spend five very special nights in Bethlehem sharing the reason for Jesus’ birth as a gift to community guests. Nearly 2,000 people attend each year, with free tickets disappearing in less than 10 minutes!

Every moment of the experience is meticulously planned. Each actor has a specific role, and all work together to take guests back 2,000 years to the time of Jesus’ birth. Guides treat guests as family, and together they attend a wedding; encounter outcast lepers; visit the school of the prophets; pay their taxes; are turned away from the inn; and experience the marketplace where there is music, the banging of the blacksmith and lots of noisy, live animals. This leads to meeting shepherds in a field, interrupted by an earthquake and angels proclaiming Jesus’ birth. When they meet Joseph, Mary and a live “Baby

Jesus” in the stable, it all becomes very real.

My night begins by putting on my costume and heading to the angel scene with other shepherds. We start with prayer and wait for each group to arrive so we can invite them to warm by the fire. And then, BANG!—blinding lights and rumbling! The shepherds fall on their faces, and the angels proclaim the great news of Jesus’ birth from the sky. We then lead our excited guests to the stable, kneeling to worship Baby Jesus when we arrive. As each group hears the story of Jesus’ birth in this realistic scene, we often see tears of joy!

I have personally been touched by participating in the story of Jesus’ coming to earth as our Savior, and believe God has His hand on this ministry. This is my last year participating in J2B as a student, but I hope to return someday soon and see new faces sharing the news of Christ’s birth, and once again feel Jesus’ presence on this campus.



www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Choir to Compete on World's Largest Stage

Takoma Academy's (TA) chorale and cameraata are joining forces to compete in the Music for All National Choir Festival and the World Choir Games (WCG)—the largest choral competition in the world!

Via a recorded audition, a panel of renowned choral conductors selected the TA chorale as one of the charter groups to sing at the premiere of the Music for All National Choir Festival in Indianapolis, March 15-17, 2018.

The Music for All National Choir Festival is a noncompetitive experience for outstanding middle school, high school and youth choirs. The festival is a celebration of musical excellence, combining world class performance and evaluation opportunities, with an exhilarating atmosphere of camaraderie in music.



Music for All

Together Brings Nations Together" and aims to inspire people to experience the strength of interaction, challenging personality and community

WCG is organized by the Interkultur Foundation for amateur choirs from all over the world, regardless of country of origin, race, genre of music or artistic ambitions. Its motto is "Singing

equality. It attracts upwards of 25,000 individuals from around the world and will take place in Tshwane, South Africa, July 4-15, 2018.

"The World Choir Games will provide our students with a once in a lifetime opportunity to stretch themselves as they embark upon such a high-profile event showcasing unity, team spirit and a spirit of excellence," says Lulu Mupfumbu, TA's music director. "This is an opportunity for them to not only be ambassadors of our faith, but of Takoma Academy and the State of Maryland."

In order for TA to compete in WCG, they need to raise \$250,000 by May 2018. "The TA community and parents of students are participating in fundraising," says Mupfumbu. "Yet, we need greater support from our larger community to achieve this goal."

To learn more and support this opportunity, visit ta.edu/donate and select "World Choir Competition."



World Choir Games





Making a Difference at the Drive-Thru

It's a simple act of kindness—a way we help each other through our Hands and Heart ministry. We call it the Drive-Thru Difference. Whether you pay for someone behind you at a drive-thru or find another way to brighten someone's day, every Thursday at WGTS 91.9 is filled with stories of generosity as listeners share how they've been blessed by acts of kindness.

I had stopped at the food court for a sandwich and started to dig into my purse for cash. After a feverish search, I wasn't finding the money and a line was forming behind me. I asked the cashier to void my order, and I stepped aside to keep searching for my money. The next thing I knew the cashier was handing me my sandwich. I explained to her that I had asked her to void it, and she told me that the lady in line behind me had paid for my sandwich. What a surprise. I turned to this beautiful soul and instinctively hugged her and, with tear-filled eyes, thanked her profusely. Everyone in line was smiling! The receipt from that day is now taped to the inside of my front door so that before I leave each day I am reminded of this amazing act of kindness and am inspired to pass it on.

Be a part of the Drive-Thru Difference experience—download the note from our website and be generous at the drive-thru!

To Your Health

Each Wednesday at 7:40 a.m., our morning show hosts Jerry and Blanca talk with Rose Melendez, a registered nurse, and head of the emergency department at Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital about important health topics.

Topics have included tips on keeping your health resolutions, packing a healthy lunch for children, managing asthma and diabetes, and information about lung cancer and quitting smoking.

If you miss it in the mornings, you can find the interviews on our website at wgts919.com.



Bring the Family for Fun on April 15

You're invited to join us for the annual Family Fun Festival on Sunday, April 15, in Takoma Park, Md., on the campus of Washington Adventist University. It's an afternoon of fun with a FREE concert by a special guest Christian music artist.

It will be a great time for all ages, so plan on bringing the whole family. In addition to the concert, the afternoon includes a performance by the university's gymnastics team, the AcroAirs, other activities, and many informational and food booths.



Christian artist Micah Tyler from the 2017 Family Fun Festival. Check our website for more details about our 2018 concert.



GROWING WITH EXCELLENCE: *Retention Rate*

Retention rate is the percentage of a school's first-time, first-year undergraduate students who continue



**Weymouth
Spence**

at that school the next year. For example, a student who studies full-time in the fall semester and keeps on studying in the program in the next fall

semester is counted in this rate. If the retention rate is high then the school has more appeal to the students. The classes meet their needs, they are able to pass the courses, the food is satisfactory, the learning environment is conducive to building friends, and/or the tuition is more affordable. Congratulations to the faculty and staff at WAU for creating a learning community that has moved the retention needle to the highest ever current rate of 78 percent. Our growing retention rate reflects the student body's overall interest in the university. This figure can explain many factors that compose the attractiveness of WAU, including the quality of its faculty, the relevance of its curriculum, and the perceived value of a Christian education at Washington Adventist University.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

BONNIE FRANCKOWIAK RETIRES FROM HER POSITION AS NURSING PROFESSOR

Washington Adventist University (WAU) recently honored Nursing Professor Bonnie Franckowiak, D.N.P., for her service. She retired at the end of December. She initially joined the campus community in May 2014 as an adjunct professor for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, and she was promoted the next year to Professor of Nursing and Faculty Coordinator for the graduate nursing programs.

Franckowiak is a certified family nurse practitioner and certified addictions registered nurse – advanced practice. She earned her B.S.N. degree in 1975 from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York; her M.S.N. degree in 1984 from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi; and her D.N.P. in 2014 from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

During her time at WAU, Franckowiak taught both community and academic practicum for nurse educators, advanced physical assessment, advanced pharmacology, and population health. She especially enjoyed working on community health programs. When first offered the opportunity to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses, Franckowiak thought she preferred teaching at the graduate level. Her first 15 minutes in the classroom with undergraduate students made her realize how much she enjoyed working with them, as well.

"In the lab, I would hear squeals of excitement from the students after they examined an eye, an ear or a liver," said Franckowiak. "That was refreshing for me because after more than 40 years as a nurse you take some things for granted."

Franckowiak was able to see her first group of undergrad nursing students graduate in December, and they invited her to speak at their pinning ceremony.

"All the students are special, but this group is especially meaningful to me," said Franckowiak. It's a nice completion because I started with them and now I'm finishing with them."

Franckowiak plans to enjoy a slower pace of life in retirement, with more time for exercise and knitting. In the future, she may return to teaching as an adjunct professor.



**Nursing Professor Bonnie
Franckowiak, D.N.P., retired
in December.**

RECENT NURSING GRADS RECEIVE PINS SIGNIFYING CAREER READINESS

Washington Adventist University (WAU) held a pinning ceremony for 15 recent nursing graduates on December 17 following the conclusion of the fall semester. A customized lapel pin was presented to the 12 graduates of the baccalaureate program who were in attendance. The pin signifies that a nurse is educated, trained and experienced in the field of nursing, and it is something that nursing professionals wear proudly.

WAU nursing graduates often seek careers in acute care settings such as hospitals. The recent graduates are no exception, having accepted positions at such facilities as MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital and the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Graduates are also prepared to work with community health agencies, health maintenance organizations, private industries, nursing homes, educational institutions,

missions and foreign services. Those with a graduate nursing degree have additional opportunities in research, practice and education.

WAU offers accredited undergraduate and graduate nursing programs that include: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and Business Leadership, Master of Science in Nursing Education, and an RN-MSN program that offers a smooth transition from an associate degree to a master's degree.

Both the baccalaureate and master's nursing programs at WAU are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities.



(From left) Nursing professors Margaret Persaud and Basava Jitta with the December 2017 nursing graduates at their pinning ceremony.



Nursing Professor Margaret Persaud pins graduate Roland Besiime at the nurses pinning ceremony.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Service Day: Wednesday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church

Alumni Weekend: Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15

Honoring the classes of 2013, 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988, 1983, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963, 1958, 1953 and 1948. The weekend includes a variety of special events for parents and alumni, and fun family activities. For more information, contact Tanya Sweeney at [301-576-0105](tel:301-576-0105) or tsweeney@wau.edu.

Commencement Weekend: Friday, May 4 through Sunday, May 6

- **Consecration Service:** Friday, May 4, 7 p.m., Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Baccalaureate Service:** Saturday, May 5, 11:15 a.m., Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Commencement Ceremony:** Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m., The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro, Md.

Engage and Renew

One of the best parts of my job is interacting with different members of our team where I hear and see the many approaches people use to achieve our mission.

Sometimes I meet people whose **physical** energy seems almost boundless. Often these are individuals whose jobs require exertion and strength. As I watch them power through their work, I am amazed at the grace and dexterity they bring to their daily responsibilities.

Other times I meet people who are required to bring very serious **mental** focus to complex and difficult tasks. They can drill down on a problem with great precision and persistence.

Then there are the people in our organization who bring such passion to our shared **spiritual** mission that they inspire whole teams to think more clearly about the inner commitment necessary to bring the healing ministry of Jesus to life.

What is it that enables excellence in each of these mission-critical areas? It is rest and renewal. The need to recharge is important so we can be wholly engaged in the often difficult journeys of our patients and their families to provide effective support.

I fully endorse making rest a part of your daily and weekly routine. I was raised in an Adventist family which observed the Sabbath every single week – an entire 24-hour period devoted to rest. I cannot adequately express how that cycle of rest and renewal has positively impacted my life, and I have tried to pass that appreciation along to my children.

The ebb and flow of resting and re-engaging is a primary component of achieving excellence in every aspect of our lives. May you enjoy the blessings of rest and renewal this spring!

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Physical Therapist Pilgrim Lin helps a patient with her leg stretches during a session at the new Gaithersburg location of Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation.

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation Opens New Location in Gaithersburg

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation's new Outpatient Clinic in Gaithersburg, Maryland's Downtown Crown community provides physical therapy to relieve pain from sports-related and orthopedic conditions and injuries.

The new location offers a number of therapeutic services, including manual therapy, therapeutic dry needling, functional movement screening, pain management and education and ergonomic screening. The clinic also offers a free 15-minute injury screening, which can help assess and improve movement and pinpoint problem areas that could benefit from therapy.

"We are pleased to bring our expert care to the community to help people move more freely and enjoy their favorite activities without pain," said Elizabeth Kotroba, associate vice president of operations at Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation.

In addition to its outpatient services, Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation's location in Rockville is the first and only acute rehabilitation hospital in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Check out the new center by visiting the new Downtown Crown location at 117 Ellington Boulevard in Gaithersburg. To learn more about the full, comprehensive services we offer at Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation, please visit AdventistRehab.com

Adventist HealthCare Home Health Earns Award for 7th Consecutive Year

Adventist HealthCare's Home Health division has once again been recognized as one of the top performing home health agencies in the nation for quality care.

The Home Health division has been named a Top Agency of 2017 HomeCare Elite®. This is the seventh year in a row that Adventist Home Health, part of Adventist HealthCare's Home Care Services, has received this award, which is presented to the top 25 percent of agencies in the United States.



"Our goal is to help our patients remain in their homes by providing an exceptional experience and top quality care," said Keith Ballenger, president of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. "The Home Care Elite Award is once again an indicator that we are achieving this goal with our patients and the community we serve. We are honored to receive this recognition."

HomeCare Elite agencies are determined by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, best practices implementation, patient experience, quality improvement and consistency and financial health. In order to be considered, an agency must be Medicare-certified and have data for at least three outcomes in Home Health Compare. Out of 9,064 agencies considered, Adventist HealthCare Home Health is one of 2,268 agencies recognized on the 2017 winners list.



The ranking of home health agencies is developed by ABILITY® Network, a leading information technology company helping providers and payers simplify the administrative and clinical complexities of healthcare; and sponsored by DecisionHealth, publisher of Home Health Line and the Complete Home Health ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Coding Manual.



Home health nurses, therapists, aides and social workers provide a variety of services tailored to each patient's specific needs.

"The team at Adventist HealthCare Home Health has demonstrated an impressive ability to deliver great patient care," said Christine Lang, senior director for ABILITY Network. "This is due to the skill and dedication of their clinical professionals, as well as the proficiency and efforts of their quality team tracking, measuring and interpreting the data that supports the delivery of care."

Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services has provided in-home care to the community for more than 40 years through a dedicated team of skilled nurses, therapists, home health aides and social workers that provide home health services tailored to each patient's specific needs. Today, Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services, which is part of the Gaithersburg-based Adventist HealthCare system, offers care throughout Suburban Maryland including Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's, Anne Arundel and Howard counties.

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- BRINGING GOD TO WORK
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EMPLOYMENT

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS' OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

seeks a law student for an eight- to 10-week, paid summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for 1Ls. Duties include legal research and other projects; emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be an Adventist church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicant's responsibility. Send résumé, writing sample and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

PSYCHIATRIST OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, PH.D., needed for rural health clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute, Weimar, Calif. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens, (615) 604-0142.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Director of Clinical Education (DCE) for Physical Therapist Assistant Program to hold a faculty appointment and administrative, academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with SAU's mission. This individual demonstrates competence in clinical education, teaching and curriculum development. Primary responsibilities include planning, coordinating, facilitating, administering, and monitoring clinical education activities on behalf of SAU and in coordination with academic and clinical faculty. Send letter of application, CV and three references to Dr. Christopher Stewart, cbstewart@southern.edu, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For full

description and qualifications of position, visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks professor for History and Political Studies, teaching American history, developing courses and advising students. Must be able to teach Atlantic history, African history, and African-American and/or Latin American pop culture, with a combination of expertise in one of two regional/cultural areas. PhD in History preferred. There are two openings for this position, one part-time and one full-time professor. When applying, please indicate preference. Send cover letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy and references to Dr. Mark Peach, peach@southern.edu, and Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu, POB 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For full description, visit southern.edu/jobs.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an Adventist PA faculty member; master's degree required. This position will be responsible for both didactic and clinical components of the curriculum. Prior teaching experience is desired, but not necessary. Send CV and references to Megan Heidtbrink, megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu. For further information, visit ucollege.edu/faculty-openings.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an Adventist OTA Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. This faculty position is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining students' fieldwork education, and includes teaching responsibilities. An OTA degree with a minimum of three years of clinical experience is required. Send CV and references to Cami

Hollins, cami.hollins@ucollege.edu. For further information, visit ucollege.edu/faculty-openings.

CAPTAIN GILMER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Fletcher, N.C., seeks

qualified candidates for the position of kindergarten teacher. This full-time, salaried position (with benefits) is responsible for fostering the intellectual and social development of children in the first phase of their elementary school experience. Duties will include both teaching and staff duties. Position requires current basic NAD teaching certification; candidates must be members in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Contact the Fletcher Academy, Inc., HR manager at (828) 209-6714.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing, who will hold a faculty appointment and have academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Nursing Department. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic, clinical education, teaching and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For further information, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Nursing

Department seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; MSN considered. Experience in medical/surgical or critical care nursing required. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Education and Psychology Department invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner, dberkner@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. Ph.D. preferred; master's degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

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REACHING MILLENNIAL

GENERATIONS, April 12-14, is a gathering for Spirit-filled leaders committed to the mission of the church in a 21st century global youth culture, sponsored by the Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies, Global Mission and the SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University. Register online at millennial-globalmission.org.

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MINISTRY CONGRESS: 54.5 percent of the world's population lives in cities. By 2050 that number will be 66 percent. Learn now how to reach people in cities. Pastors, students, academicians, leaders and others are invited to attend the Urban Mission and Ministry Congress, Sept. 6-8 at Andrews. Visit UrbanMissionAndMinistry.org

REWARD FOR PROVIDING

DATES for L.E. From meetings held in autumn of 1954 at Capital Memorial or Pennsylvania Ave Church. Dan Cotton and Marilyn Dillow (Cotton) were in charge of music. Anyone have a bulletin, notice or memory of dates? Email dancotton1931@gmail.com, or phone (909) 800-5110.

REAL ESTATE

FAMILY PRACTICE IN QUAKERTOWN, PA., FOR SALE:

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stand-alone location in the heart of Quakertown has been servicing the community since 1905. Currently there is one doctor who has been providing the community healthcare since 1987. The doctor is retiring and desires to have someone take over the practice. For more information, please call (215) 804-8284.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, FAACP,

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

ADVENTIST BOOKS AND

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

MARYLAND ADVENTIST

PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter,

Sunset Calendar

	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
Baltimore	5:59	6:06	7:13	7:20	7:27
Cincinnati	6:31	6:38	7:45	7:52	7:59
Cleveland	6:17	6:26	7:33	7:41	7:49
Columbus	6:24	6:31	7:39	7:46	7:53
Jersey City	5:48	5:55	7:03	7:11	7:18
Norfolk	5:59	6:06	7:12	7:19	7:25
Parkersburg	6:19	6:26	7:33	7:40	7:47
Philadelphia	5:53	6:00	7:08	7:15	7:22
Pittsburgh	6:11	6:19	7:27	7:34	7:41
Reading	5:55	6:03	7:11	7:18	7:25
Richmond	6:04	6:11	7:17	7:24	7:30
Roanoke	6:14	6:21	7:27	7:33	7:40
Toledo	6:25	6:33	7:41	7:49	7:56
Trenton	5:51	5:58	7:06	7:13	7:20
Wash., D.C.	6:01	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:29

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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For further information, visit AriseForGod.org, email churchoffice@AriseForGod.org, or phone (301) 662-5254

BROADVIEW ACADEMY

ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 27-28. Mark your calendars and start planning for this weekend! Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993 and 1998. To be held at N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch and afternoon musical program. *Your email addresses are needed for communication purposes.* Send questions and/or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com; call Dale Rollins, (224) 407-0233; or visit broadviewacademy.org.

Bulletin Board

UNION COLLEGE

HOMECOMING, APRIL 5-8: Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2008. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (401) 486-2503; 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506; or email, alumni@ucollege.edu.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE

ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 8-10, for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1938, 1948, 1958 and 1968. For further information, please contact the GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY (LSA) ALUMNI WEEKEND,

APRIL 27-28. Honor Classes: 3s and 8s. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The 42nd regular constituency meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday May 6, 2018, at the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church, 385 East Dublin-Granville Road, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and committees, consider recommendations for revisions of the articles and regulations, and to transact such other business as comes before the conference.

*Ron Halvorsen Jr., President
Oswaldo Magaña, Secretary*

OBITUARIES

ROONEY, William R., born August 23, 1924, in Youngstown, Ohio; died February 19, 2017, at Crystal Oaks Skilled Nursing Center in Festus, Mo. He was a son of the late Leo and Mary McDonald Rooney. William was a graduate of Scienceville (North) High School in Youngstown, and

was proud to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he worked in sales and as a service technician for Remington-Rand Office Equipment. He retired in 1989, spending 47 years in the office equipment business. After retirement, William worked for Pinkerton Security until 2002, and in 2010 he moved with his wife, June, to Missouri. He enjoyed singing and was a soloist for several area churches, and also sang at weddings, funerals and social events. He was a member of the Ninth Air Force Veteran's Assn. and a licensed pilot since 1945, enjoying his time in the sky. He loved his church, his family and had a great love of dogs. He will always be remembered for his warm heart, big voice and firm handshake. Survivors: his daughter, Melody J. (Conrad) Weier of Youngstown; a granddaughter, Heather J. (Adam) Rowland; two great-grandchildren, Conner and Chloe Rowland; a sister-in-law, Elsie Rooney of Struthers, Ohio; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 60 years, June M. Haupt Hendricks Rooney in 2011; a brother, Everett P. Rooney; a sister, Phyllis Stacy; and a half-brother, Kenneth Aiman.

SELDOMRIDGE, Carol, born December 15, 1959, in Ronceverte, W.Va., to Kester and Marie Erskine; died January 21, 2017, at her home in Caldwell, W.Va. She graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a degree in nursing and worked at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Fairlea, W.Va. She was a member of the Lewisburg (W.Va.) church, and her love of God, others and gardening were well known within the community. Carol was also a loving foster parent to 16 children. Survivors: her husband, Keith; her daughter, Rebecca (Jeremy) Seldomridge Pepper; her son, Jeff T. (Becca) Seldomridge; her brother, Dr. Gerald (Vicki) Erskine; and sisters Rita (Greg) Gibson and Dawn Marie Erskine.

Interested in placing an obituary?

Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary to download an obituary submission form, or contact Sandra Jones for more information. sjones@columbiaunion.net (410) 997-3414, ext. 571
Obituaries are posted as a free service to our members.

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA), in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies:

1. Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
2. Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution.
3. Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification.
4. Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered.
5. Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Adventist Academy, Calvary Seventh-day Adventist School, Dupont Park Adventist Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Seventh-day Adventist School, Ivy Hill Christian Academy, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Adventist School, Trinity Temple Academy, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore-White Marsh Adventist School, Chester River Adventist School, Dover First Christian School, Frederick Adventist Academy, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Mount Aetna Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Wilmington Jr. Academy

Mountain View—Boulevard Adventist Academy, Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville SDA School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson SDA School, Meadow View Junior Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Clifton Christian Academy, Eastwood SDA Junior Academy, Mansfield SDA School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon SDA School, Northern Ohio Adventist Academy, Piqua SDA School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Jr. Academy, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville SDA School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain SDA Elementary, Gettysburg Adventist Christian School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Lehigh Valley SDA School, Mountain View Christian School, Pocono Adventist Christian School, Reading SDA Junior Academy, Simplicity Mission Academy, The Northern Tier Christian School, Wyoming Valley SDA School, York Adventist Christian School

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C.F. Richards Christian School, Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Academy, Roanoke Adventist Preparatory School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary, Stanley SDA School, Takoma Academy, Takoma Academy Preparatory School, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Vienna Adventist Academy



ALUMNI & PARENTS WEEKEND 2018

SAVE THE DATE APRIL 12-15

HONORING THE CLASSES OF:

1948

1953

1958

1963

1968

1978

1988

1993

1998

2008

For more Information contact

■ Tanya Sweeney at tsweeney@wau.edu or call 301-576-0105 ■
<https://www.wau.edu/alumni/alumni-weekend.edu>

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