

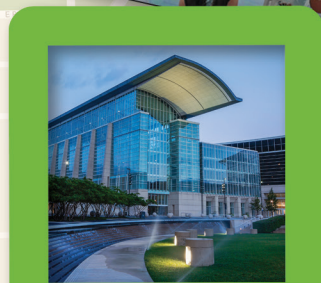
VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OCTOBER 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 8

Field Trip

Columbia Union Educators Attend NAD Teachers' Convention in Chicago



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PHOTO BY DAN WEBER/NAD COMMUNICATION

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ON THE WEB



THE POWER OF A TEACHER

Tears streamed down Manny Scott's face as he talked to Seventh-day Adventist educators at the North

American Division (NAD) Teachers' Convention in Chicago. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/mannyscott for a snippet of how this former car-stealing student was transformed, all thanks to a teacher.

GETTING CLOSER TO CHRIST

Each day our Columbia Union Conference teachers dedicate their lives to sharing Christ with their students in the classroom. During the NAD Teachers' Convention, we asked them to share creative ways they minister. Find out tips and ideas for helping your children spend time with Jesus at columbiaunionvisitor.com/experiencingjesus.



DEFENDING ORPHANS FAST

The NAD Education, Ministerial and Youth Departments have teamed up with Restore a Child, Inc., to hold "do fast" (defending orphans fast) on November 10, World Orphans Day.



The day, planned for churches, youth groups and schools at all levels, is a 24-hour fast to raise hunger awareness. Instead of eating, participants will be involved in activities and are encouraged to donate the money saved from fasting to feed hungry and starving children. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/dofast for materials and curriculum to use in your local group.

OBITUARY SUBMISSIONS

As a free service to our members, we post obituaries in the Bulletin Board section of the *Visitor*. If you'd like to submit an obituary of a family member or loved one, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary to download a submission form.

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 V. Michelle Bernard ■ News, Features and Online Editor
 Ricardo Bacchus ■ Newsletter Editor
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CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiunionvisitor.com
 visitor@columbiunion.net ■ To subscribe, change address or discontinue *Visitor* mailings, call your local conference, as listed below. Ask for the membership clerk. Free to members. All others, \$20 annually. Email sjones@columbiunion.net.

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OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
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Volume 123 ■ Issue 8

Exemplifying the Face of Jesus

“Mom, will you see Coach Webster in Chicago?” My adult children asked with eager interest as I prepared for my trip to the 2018 North American Division Teachers’ Convention. Tedd Webster (not pictured), who serves at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (Mich.), is special to all three of them. Not only was he their P. E. teacher and gymnas-tics coach at Greater Miami Academy (Fla.), but he also embraced and loved them when they first arrived in this country with no friends and limited knowledge of the language. Every day he showed them the face of Jesus. Many years later, and now with children of their own, my kids have never forgotten Coach Webster’s Christlike attitude.



WORTH THE TRIP

Just before the academic year started, our Columbia Union Conference team joined some 6,000 Seventh-day Adventist education professionals who descended on the exhilarating city of Chicago to participate in the



teachers’ convention. I am so thankful that the Church decided to invest in one of its most precious resources—our educa-tors—by providing such an experience.

Bringing educators together once every six years provides a tangi-ble way to thank these unsung heroes who stand before our young peo-ple day in and day out to lift up Jesus. These men and women are sometimes the only face of Jesus their students

will ever see. They give selflessly of their time, knowledge and expertise, often sacrificing their own wellbeing (and that of their families) for their students, at times even closing the gaps for books and supplies in their classrooms out of their own pockets.

As always, the gathering provided an opportunity for much-needed professional and spiritual growth and for re-uniting with former class-mates, colleagues and teachers. Above all, we had the chance to laugh, sing and pray with peers, understanding that we all share the same pas-sion—guiding our children to have a meaningful encounter with Jesus.

The experience of my own children is not unique; it is one of thousands and thousands replicated across the globe. I have a huge debt of gratitude to so many educators, like Coach Webster, who helped shape my life, my children’s lives and are now shaping the lives of my grandchildren. The next time you meet a teacher, stop to thank him or her for furthering the ministry of Seventh-day Adventist education. And let us continue to pray for them and our young people, as we work together to hasten the return of our Lord.

Ileana Santa Cruz-Espinosa serves as associate director of Elementary Education for the Columbia Union Conference Office of Education.

Newsline



Mario Thorp, New Jersey Conference executive secretary, baptizes May Namisato, a member of the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway, and one of the 20 baptized at the conference's 2018 Pathfinder Camporee at the Tranquility Valley Retreat Center.

COLUMBIA UNION ASI WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

Mark Brown, a member of Allegheny East Conference's New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md., recently started his new role as president of the Columbia



Union Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (CUASI). He served as CUASI general vice president from April 2017 to August 2018, when the board voted him in as president.

Brown, who joined CUASI in 2014, retired from the federal government after 38 years of service. He runs a small IT consulting firm and is president of 3 Brown Granola.

Brown says involving young professionals is a top ASI goal, thus he plans to hold young professional meet-ups and include them in executive leadership roles.

He also hopes that through ASI, members will foster a culture of and focus on evangelism wherever they have been placed. "If everyone would embrace this, we'd spread the gospel much faster," he says.

Brown follows Emanuel Pelote, who served as CUASI president since 2013. Pelote recently moved to Kenya to serve as assistant to the president of the East-Central Africa Division.

Plan to attend the CUASI Prayer Summit, October 14, at the North American Division Headquarters in Columbia, Md.,

and the CUASI Fall Convention, November 1-3. Visit cuasi.org for more information.—V. Michelle Bernard

KETTERING STUDENTS ATTEND ADRA EXTREME TRIP

For two weeks this summer, students from six Seventh-day Adventist universities, including Kettering College in Ohio, as well as the University of Hawaii, participated in Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) first Connections Extreme Trip. The volunteers helped construct the Adventist Technical School of Massauari in Brazil.

Deborah Kim (pictured below, right, with fellow Kettering student, Olivia Robinson), a human biology



pre-med major at Kettering College, wants to be a medical missionary and saw the trip as a way to get first-hand experience.

"The first few days had me second-guessing my desire to do long-term mission work because we were without the luxuries and comforts of home," says Kim. "But it only took a few more days until I was sure and knew that this kind

It's never been easier to speak up; it's never been harder to be heard.

—Sam Neves, associate director of communications for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at the Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) in Goyang, South Korea.

of work is the most fulfilling work I have ever experienced. In those two weeks in Brazil, I found my calling in mission work.”

—Kimi-Roux James

HIGHER ED LEADERS VOTE TO EXPLORE COLLABORATION

Against a backdrop of tighter finances and dwindling enrollments at Adventist colleges and universities in North America, school administrators and church leaders voted overwhelmingly in favor of forming a “strategic alliance” to strengthen the overall educational system.

The vote, dubbed “The Chicago Declaration,” came after four days of presentations at the Future of Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education Summit, following the North American Division Teachers’ Convention in Chicago. The declaration states, “We share a commitment to shape a strategic alliance, consisting of a coalition of the willing, with the goal of first piloting and then evaluating the efficacy of an eventual higher education system. We intend for this to result in a whole that is stronger than the sum of its parts.”

Details on the collaboration will be hammered out in the coming

A dry season is not necessarily a bad thing for the child of God. It is necessary to test the depths of your spiritual roots.

—Violet Cox, in her devotional at the September Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee.

months. A timetable is set for college and university presidents to discuss the issue with their various constituencies, and, by the end of the calendar year, each campus is to select a representative to serve as liaison between the schools.

—Debbie Michel

UNION COMMITTEE INVITES MEMBERS TO PRAY

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee traveled to Columbus, Ohio, last month for their third quarter meeting at the Allegheny West Conference’s newly opened headquarters.

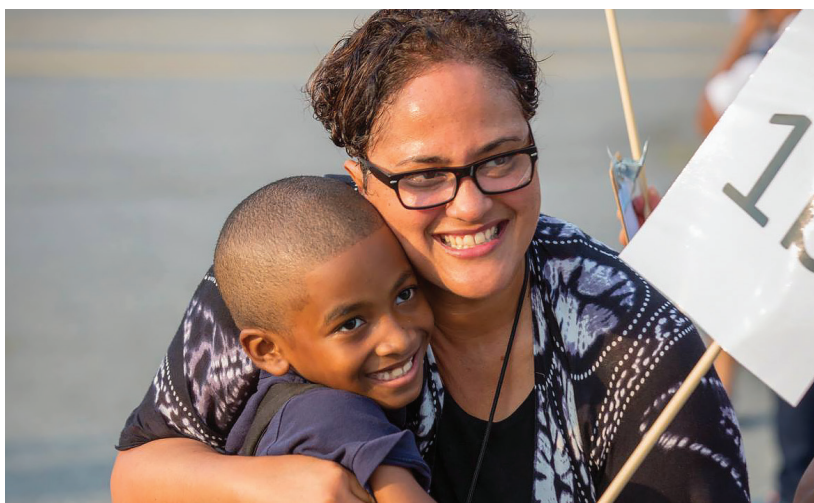
At the news that tithe rose by \$6 million or 9.09 percent above



the previous year, the committee paused for a prayer of thanksgiving. “This would not be possible without the faithfulness of our members,” said Emmanuel Asiedu, union treasurer.

They also rejoiced when Frank Bondurant (pictured), vice president for Ministries Development, announced that 55 churches have been planted unionwide this year.

The committee discussed the upcoming Annual Council where church leaders will consider adopting a new system to address “noncompliance” with certain policies and actions. While it considers further action, the committee calls members to set aside the Sabbath during Annual Council, October 13, as a day of prayer. “This has moved way beyond ordination. It challenges our Protestant DNA, values and grassroots governance, and means we would become a more top-down organization,” says Dave Weigley, union president. “Let’s pray that the decisions will advance mission and not constrain the moving of the Holy Spirit.”—Visitor staff



Jocelyn Bethea embraces second-grader Gabriel Burgess on the first day of school at Potomac Conference’s Takoma Academy Preparatory School in Takoma Park, Md.

PHOTOS BY JORGE PILLCO AND RICHARD CASTILLO

Noticias



PASTORES DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA TOMAN CLASE DE PREDICACIÓN

Este verano 21 pastores (fotografiados arriba), la mayoría del territorio de la Unión de Columbia se inscribieron en la clase “Seminario de predicación” ofrecida por el Instituto de Ministerio Hispano de la Universidad de Andrews (Mich.) El evangelista Alejandro Bullón enseñó la clase en la iglesia Washington Spanish de la Conferencia de Potomac en Silver Spring, Md. Diecisiete pastores de la Unión se sumaron a la clase como oyentes.

“Los alumnos y pastores fueron realmente bendecidos por la clase presentada por Alejandro Bullón. Desde hace varios años la Unión de Columbia ha patrocinado las clases de Maestría en Ministerio Pastoral de la Universidad de Andrews para nuestros pastores hispanos. En esta ocasión además de los estudiantes regulares, pastores y pastores laicos fueron invitados a asistir”, dice Ruben Ramos, Vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingües para Unión de Columbia. “Se presentaron principios de predicación bíblicos y efectivos. Nuestros pastores aprendieron a ser creativos utilizando nada más ni nada menos que el método de Cristo”.—*Juliana Savoy*

ASI UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA DA LA BIENVENIDA A NUEVO PRESIDENTE

Mark Brown, miembro de la iglesia New Life de la Conferencia

de Allegheny East en Gaithersburg, Maryland, recientemente comenzó su nuevo rol como presidente de Servicios e industrias de laicos adventistas para la Unión de Columbia. Brown se desempeñó como vice-president general de CUASI desde abril de 2017 hasta agosto de 2018, cuando la junta lo votó como presidente.



Brown, quien se unió a CUASI en 2014, se retiró del gobierno federal después de 38 años de servicio, dirige una pequeña firma de consultoría de IT y es presidente de 3 Brown Boys Granola.

Brown dice que involucrar a jóvenes profesionales es uno de los principales objetivos de ASI y planea organizar reuniones de jóvenes e incluirlos en puestos de liderazgo ejecutivo.

También espera que a través de ASI, los miembros fomenten una cultura de evangelización y se concentren en ella dondequiera Dios los ponga. “Si todos aceptaran esto, difundiríamos el evangelio mucho más rápido”.

Brown reemplaza a Emanuel Pelote, quien se desempeñó

como presidente de CUASI desde 2013. Pelote se mudó recientemente a Kenia para servir como asistente del presidente de la División de África Centro-Oriental.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

LOS ESTUDIANTES DE KETTERING ASISTEN A ADRA EXTREME TRIP

Durante dos semanas este verano, estudiantes de seis universidades adventistas, incluyendo Kettering College en Ohio, así como la Universidad de Hawaii, participaron en el primer programa de voluntariado de la Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales (ADRA) llamado “ADRA Connections” para ayudar en la construcción de la Escuela Técnica Adventista de Massauari (ETAM) en Brasil.

Deborah Kim (a la derecha en la foto con otros participantes), estudiante de biología humana en Kettering College, quiere ser médica misionera y vio ADRA Connections Extreme Trip como una forma de obtener experiencia de primera mano en ese tipo de entorno.

“Los primeros días me hicieron dudar de mi deseo de hacer un trabajo misionero a largo plazo porque estábamos sin los lujos y comodidades del hogar”, dice Kim. “Pero me tomó unos días más hasta que estuve segura y supe que este tipo de trabajo es el trabajo más gratificante que he experimentado. En esas dos semanas en Brasil, encontré mi vocación en el trabajo misionero”.—*Kimi-Roux James*



Docentes reunidos en Convención de la División Norteamericana

Justo antes del comienzo de clases, unos 6.000 educadores adventistas se reunieron en Chicago para la Convención de Maestros de la División Norteamericana 2018, con el tema “Encuentra a Jesús, vive la excelencia”. Vinieron a perfeccionar sus habilidades, a disfrutar del compañerismo y, después de tres días de inspiradores oradores y 420 opciones de talleres, quedaron más comprometidos que



Zoraida Duany, maestra de la escuela adventista de Miami Spring y Ruth Nino, directora de la escuela adventista Waldwick, se reencuentran después de 7 años.

nunca para cultivar una cultura de excelencia e introducir a los estudiantes al mejor maestro que haya existido: Jesucristo.

“Todo sucedió gracias a [un] maestro que se tomó el tiempo de recordarme cuán grande es mi Dios”, dijo Elizabeth Talbot, oradora / directora del Instituto Bíblico Jesus101, la oradora principal de la convención, mientras desafiaba a los asistentes a llenarse de Jesús antes de compartirlo con sus alumnos.

Otro conferencista popular, Sam Leonor, capellán de la Universidad La Sierra en Riverside, California, se hizo eco del sentimiento de Talbot en sus devocionales matutinos. “Deberíamos encontrar nuestra alegría completa en Él antes de pararnos frente a nuestros estudiantes”.

En otra sesión general, el orador Manny Scott (cuya historia fue narrada en la película Freedom Writers de 2007) compartió cómo la maestra de inglés Erin Gruwell que llegó a su escuela del centro de la ciudad utilizó formas de arte culturalmente relevantes como el rap como herramienta de aprendizaje para llegar a los estudiantes. Scott también alentó a los maestros a hacer una diferencia en la vida de sus estudiantes. “A veces tienes que creer en la creencia de alguien más en ti antes de que la tuya se establezca”, dijo Scott, quien además alentó a los maestros a que incluso en sus peores días puedan ser la esperanza de otra persona.

Ruth Nino, directora de la Escuela Adventista del Séptimo Día Waldwick de la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey, dijo que los oradores “[nos] inspiraron a cómo mantener a Jesús en el centro de todo lo que hacemos, convirtiéndolo en nuestro modelo para que nuestros estudiantes puedan ver a Jesús en nosotros. Necesitamos ser capaces de ser un reflejo de Él en todo lo que decimos y hacemos, e incluso impulsar nuestros procesos de toma de decisiones”.

La convención ofreció 420 sesiones individuales que dieron a los educadores y al personal de la escuela la oportunidad de profundizar en temas, que van desde STEM para preescolar y primera infancia y cómo recaudar fondos exitosamente hasta cómo dibujar cuando no eres un artista.

“Si bien el enfoque principal de la convención [es] el desarrollo profesional, también nos brinda la oportunidad de renovar viejas amistades y conectarnos en fraternidad con educadores adventistas del séptimo día en todo Norteamérica. También da el mensaje de que la educación es un ministerio importante de la Iglesia y, cuando interactuamos con otros profesionales, recibimos la energía necesaria para comenzar el nuevo año”, dijo Donovan Ross,



Christine Greene, registrar para la Unión de Columbia, registrando a los participantes en la Convención de maestros 2018.

vicepresidenta de Educación de la Unión de Columbia.

La inspiración también vino a través de la conexión con viejos y nuevos amigos.

“Me impresionó sentarme en una mesa y conocer a dos nuevos amigos”, dijo Darlene Peterson, maestra de primer y segundo grado en la Academia Juvenil de Reading de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania. “Los escuché decir, ‘solo quiero estar donde el Señor quiere que esté’. Es un estímulo espiritual estar en un grupo de personas que quieren estar donde el Señor los quiere y que están satisfechos y dispuestos a moverse a donde Dios quiera”.—V. Michelle Bernard



Victor Brown, decano de admisión de Kettering College en Kettering, Ohio, repartiendo premios en el salón de exposiciones.

Columbia Union Educators Attend NAD Teachers' Convention in Chicago

V. Michelle Bernard



field trip

Just before school started, some 6,000 Seventh-day Adventist educators gathered in Chicago for the 2018 North American Division Teachers' Convention, themed "Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence." They came to sharpen their skills, fellowship, and, after three days of inspiring keynote speakers and 420 workshop options, left more committed than ever to cultivate a culture of excellence and introduce students to the



best teacher ever—Jesus Christ. In this recap, some of the 479 Columbia Union participants share takeaways from their whirlwind "Windy City" fieldtrip:

"Everything happened because of [a] teacher who took the time to remind me how great my God is," said Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director of Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, and keynote speaker for the convention, as she challenged the attendees to first be fed by Jesus before sharing Him with their students.

Another popular convention speaker, Sam Leonor (pictured left), chaplain of La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., echoed Talbot's sentiment in his morning devotionals. "We should find our joy complete in Him before we stand in front of our students," he said.

In another general session, speaker Manny Scott—whose stories were told in the 2007 film *Freedom Writers*—shared how English teacher Erin Gruwell came to his inner-city school and reached the students by using culturally relevant art forms like rap as learning tools. Scott also encouraged the teachers to make a difference in their students' lives. "Sometimes you have to believe in someone else's belief in you before yours sets in," said Scott, who further encouraged the teachers that even on their worst days they can be someone else's hope.

“I believe [teachers] are the most influential ministers our church has.”

—Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director of Jesus 101 Biblical Institute



Opposite page, top: Teachers at Allegheny East Conference's George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., pose by the Cloud Gate (also known as "the Bean") in downtown Chicago.

Top: Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director of Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, challenges teachers to spend time with Jesus.

Above: Steven Curtis Chapman performs a concert during the first night of the 2018 Teachers' Convention.

Teachers wait outside the meal hall where staff served an estimated 29,500 meals at the convention.



Angela Bryant-Brown, a member of Potomac Conference's Community Praise church in Alexandria, Va., performs a concert during the convention.

Below: Educators gather for an anointing and rededication ceremony.

Bottom: David Turner, principal of Allegheny East Conference's Baltimore Junior Academy, prepares to offer prayer during one of the general sessions at the 2018 Teachers' Convention.



Take-Home Inspiration

Ruth Nino, principal of New Jersey Conference's Waldwick Seventh-day Adventist School, said the speakers "inspired [us] as to how to keep Jesus at the center of everything we do—making Him our model so that our students can see Jesus in us. We need to be a reflection of Him in everything we say and do and even [in] our decision-making processes."

The Waldwick school staff has seen the power of sharing Christ through their everyday activities in one student who came to the school in seventh grade. "He was engaged in a community that wasn't helping him to progress, often bullying others and getting into fights," said Nino. "Little by little we helped him, nurtured him and saw how he had a lot of potential."

Over the years, she saw his character develop, and he became receptive to guidance and discipline. After completing ninth grade at Waldwick, he moved on to another school and faced another challenge—the death of his father. "He almost got to the point of saying, 'You know what, I'm going to give up, and I'm just going to try to support my family,'" she says.

But with the encouragement and support of the





Ophelia Barizo, STEM coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference, leads a workshop on how to incorporate engineering into classroom activities.

“Academics are important, but there is nothing more important than your relationship with God. ... We’re here, preparing you for this life on earth, but also preparing [students] for eternity.”

—Ophelia Barizo, STEM coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference

school staff—who were no longer his teachers—he continued his education and held on to his faith, finishing high school in three years. “I think it was the nurturing environment that was created by the teachers [that helped]. ... He just needed that love and attention to be able to get through these changes of character over time. [His teachers] modeled Christ for him in the classroom,” said Nino.

Manny Scott’s general session presentation (pictured right) inspired Lawrence Galera, a music teacher at Pennsylvania Conference’s Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg. Though located in rural Pennsylvania, the school has students from the country, city and Brazil, China, Russia and South Korea, among other countries.

“We need to be mindful of who our students are ... and actually relate to how they learn [generationally and ethnically],” said Galera, who stressed the importance of finding common ground with students. “If I can get them to trust me, that is when I can reach them.”

The Art of Teaching

The convention offered 420 breakout sessions that gave educators and school staff the opportunity to delve deeper into topics, ranging from STEM for



Convention at a Glance

4

Conventions the North American Division has held for educators. The first was in 2000 in Dallas. The next two were in Nashville in 2006 and 2012.

420

Educational/professional development sessions offered

479

Columbia Union members who registered

125

Volunteers and staff who worked at the event

Preschool and Early Childhood and how to successfully fundraise to how to draw when you're not an artist.

Many times when people first meet Shona Macomber, an art teacher at Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, they tell her they can't even draw a stick figure. "But you can," she said to the attendees in her breakout session. "Even writing is drawing. If you're capable of learning to draw letters, aren't you capable of drawing anything? You've been taught you aren't artistic, [but you are]."

Macomber, who worked as a freelance artist for 24 years, says an art teacher is the reason she "is here now."

After seeing a young Macomber drawing circles on the street with chalk, a random man passing by convinced her parents she was an artist. Her parents then hired an art teacher who made her believe she was an artist.

Macomber hopes her session, "Teaching Art by Divine Design," will similarly ignite a passion in art teachers. "There is purpose in teaching art. They aren't just babysitters for when another teacher needs to have a break. ... I also want those teachers who are teaching art but don't know how to do art 'cause they weren't art majors or artists themselves, to have something strong that they can stand on and something that helps them understand how children learn art."

In her "Engineering in Elementary Schools" session, Ophelia Barizo, STEM coordinator for the Chesapeake Conference, said, "[With so much technology], math and science don't seem real to kids today, but engineering can seem relevant. ... They like to build things, take things apart. They are innate engineers, and we squash that when they get to school," adding that statistics reveal that 33 percent of students lose interest in STEM by the third grade and 50 percent by the fifth grade."

She added, "Children can do these things. ... I hope teachers realize they can implement engineering and STEM in their classrooms."

Beyond the potential career benefits of adding STEM activities to the curriculum, Barizo also believes that STEM helps students appreciate and understand God's creation.

In one of the workshops, Anna-Gayle Hemmings, a science teacher at New Jersey Conference's Lake Nelson Adventist Academy in Piscataway, learned about REACH, an intervention program that provides

At the Columbia Union Conference booth, Evelyn Sullivan, associate director for the union's Early Childhood Education and Care program, presents a gift card to Ken Knudsen, vice principal for high school at Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy.

Right: Shona Macomber, art teacher at Spring Valley Academy, shows workshop participants that anyone can draw.



resources for helping teachers meet the special needs of students in the classroom.

“We’re noticing more and more students with disabilities and ESL students, and we’re wanting to give them an inclusive education. ... If I came here and this was the only class I took, it [would be] well worth it.”

Stacy Blanz, fifth- through eighth-grade teacher at Mountain View Conference’s Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., attended workshops on technology, differentiated instruction and behavioral issues. “This is kind of the peak time [for my students],” she said. “They’re figuring out life, and they need someone to help them. ... There are tons of resources at this convention—anything you could possibly think of; it’s fantastic.”

Energized for the Year

“While the primary focus of the convention [is] professional development, it also affords us the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and connect with the fraternity of Seventh-day Adventist educators across North America. It also sends the message that education is an important ministry of the Church, and, as we interact with fellow professionals, we are re-energized as we start the new year,” said Donovan Ross, vice president of Education for the Columbia Union Conference.

Janessa Garman, who recently started her first year as the first- and second-grade teacher at Ohio Conference’s Toledo Junior Academy, said the convention provided more than enough information. “I feel like every person I’ve talked with, not just presenters, has been helpful [as I prepare for my first year of teaching], she said. “They’ve given me a great amount of advice.”



Lawrence Galera (above, right), a music teacher at Pennsylvania Conference’s Blue Mountain Academy, and Daniel Biaggi (inset), director of music for Potomac Conference’s Shenandoah Valley Academy, participate in conducting workshops.

Joe Lowe, who recently started his first year as Bible teacher and recruiter at Potomac Conference’s Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., was “extremely impressed with the level of commitment of everyone [at the event]. ... They’re called to be in the rolls they’re in.”

The experience has also given Lowe insight into his time as a student at SVA and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. “They were both interested in me academically, socially and spiritually. ... When you look back, you recognize they were doing those things because they were also called.”

Inspiration also came through fellowship with old and new friends.

“I was impressed to sit at a table and meet two new friends,” said Darlene Peterson, first- and second-grade teacher at Pennsylvania Conference’s Reading Junior Academy. “I heard them say, ‘I just want to be where the Lord wants me to be.’ And that is such a spiritual encouragement to be in a group of people who want to be where the Lord wants them and who are satisfied and willing to move wherever God [calls].”



COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

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Delaware Korean Church Plant Repairs Homes

Recently the Delaware Korean church plant in Newark hosted a Happy House Program, a house repair service provided to Korean residents in the Wilmington, Del., area. To assist with the project, 26 students and two professors came from Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea, as well as five volunteers from the Andrews Korean church in Berrien Springs, Mich.

After advertising the program to 850 Korean households in the Wilmington area, Seungho Park, pastor of Delaware Korean, visited each of the 16 applicants. After a careful review of their financial status and the level of family support, he selected eight families.

For five days, volunteers tackled such projects as painting, plumbing, electrical repairing, basement remodeling, cleaning and gardening. When they completed the work, volunteers and Happy House Program homeowners gathered in Wilmington Junior Academy's (Del.) gym Sabbath morning to worship together and give thanks.

As a result of the program, one homeowner is currently having Bible studies with Park. In addition, eight people registered for church-led community programs such as ESL courses and Bible classes. "I just tried to



Volunteers from Sahmyook University and the Andrews Korean church and members from the Delaware Korean church plant celebrate with homeowners after completing house projects for them.

respond to the needs expressed to me by the community members, and I believe the program has created a positive image of our church in the community we serve," says Park.

Next year the group plans to sponsor a Korean language and culture camp for community members.

South Philadelphia Offers 'Loads of Love'

One Sunday morning, members of the Southwest Philadelphia (Pa.) church converged on the



Members of the Southwest church's laundry ministry include Johanna Peart, Dorothy Joint, Carmen Gibson, Corine Cunnison and Hazel Matthias.

K Laundromat in Southwest Philadelphia. They not only paid for 50 loads of laundry for surprised patrons, but assisted with washing and drying too—all as a part of their new laundry ministry, Loads of Love.

One grateful recipient, Lamar, shared that he had prayed for a financial miracle just that morning and felt led to go to K Laundromat instead of one closer to his home. He explains, "I knew I had to wash my clothes, but I also knew that after washing them, I wouldn't have enough money to make it through the week. This is nothing but God! Thank you so much."

The gratitude expressed by Lamar echoed throughout the K Laundromat as members of the Loads of Love team approached customers and offered to wash and dry their clothes and pray with them.

Team members expressed how blessed they felt after their interactions with the community. Ministry leader Hazel Matthias shares, "We're hoping to let our community know that we see, acknowledge and are here to help them however we can."

Prentis Park Members Outwit Heavy Rains

Since October 2017, every third Wednesday night and every third Sabbath, Prentis Park church members in Portsmouth, Va., engage in community outreach to three government-run communities of the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authorities. They provide food, clothing and blood pressure assessments in these communities.

During one of their recent Sabbath visits, one of the community centers from which they usually distribute

the food was locked. To add to their challenge, it was pouring rain, even creating flooding in some areas.

Members were determined not to leave without serving the community, so they found a spot on the sidewalk in the back of the building, and, with umbrellas in hand, positioned themselves for distribution.

"It's our goal to get people closer to God. This is what we do, and this was just one of those days," says Kia Bronwell, Prentis Park member.

Office of Education Welcomes New School Leaders

Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Office of Education welcomes new leadership in four schools for the 2018-19 academic year.



Shereen Ferguson is the new lead teacher at the Jessie R. Wagner Elementary School in Pine Forge, Pa. Ferguson is a third-generation Adventist and a product of both public and Adventist education. She comes to AEC with 25 years of public school teaching experience in Maryland,

Pennsylvania and Bermuda. After teaching every grade level from K-8, Ferguson loves teaching middle school the most. Her specialty is English Language Arts.

Ferguson says, "I'm looking forward to being able to implement my faith along with learning." She is also looking forward to learning from those around her who have taught in a multi-grade environment.

Shanel Marchany is the new principal at George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md. Marchany has been in the field of education for more than a decade, teaching preschool-8th grade, serving as a principal and working as a curriculum writer and editor for the North American Division. She holds a Master of Education in Instructional Leadership and is working on a doctoral program in K-12 Teacher Leader Studies.



"My mission in education is threefold: to provide a positive Christ-centered learning environment that engages all learners, to provide a quality educational program and lead by example," Marchany says. "I am committed to serving the G. E. Peters community with love, discernment and vigor for as long as God permits."

Renee Humphreys is the new principal at Ephesus Junior Academy in Richmond, Va.

Prior to this hire, she served as superintendent of Education for the Lake Region Conference. Her experience also includes being a teacher and school administrator.

"I believe in servant leadership and building school cultures that are Christ-centered, collaborative and academically strong," Humphreys says, "and I anticipate joy as I serve the Ephesus community."



Grace Ameyaw, the new principal at Dupont Park School in Washington, D.C., has taught third- through eighth-grade students and children in special education settings. As an administrator, Ameyaw has successfully managed and led teachers in planning, effective classroom management and instruction, data collection, meeting state standards and providing ongoing professional development.

"My priority is to ensure that our teachers and staff are engaged and committed to our students achieving their highest expectations of success by partnering with parents and the community," says Ameyaw.

Wright Family Celebrates Father's 100th Birthday

William R. Wright, Sr., was born September 17, 1918, the second child of seven born to Nathan and Willa Wright in Dayton, Ohio. His parents were two of the first four African-American Adventists in Dayton and co-founders of the Ethnan Temple church in Clayton.

The family moved to the country after the recession and there founded the Berea Chapel church, now the Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio. Wright served as an elder in the church for more than 60 years and served on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee from 1980–85.

For much of his life, he sang with his family, traveling extensively, singing in churches and recording music for radio. "He still has a beautiful tenor voice," says Henry M. Wright, son and retired pastor.



William R. Wright, Sr. (middle) sharing a moment with his brothers Dale (left) and Paul.



A committed Seventh-day Adventist, 100-year-old William R. Wright, Sr., smiles with his 94-year-old sister, Eileen Wright Lester, during his recent birthday celebration.

A commercial artist by trade, Wright was art director for the Sucher Packing company in Dayton, Ohio. He then served as art director for WHIO-TV in Dayton until his retirement in 1986.

William was married to Zoe for 48 years. They had four biological sons and reared four foster children. Three are still living and active members of the Adventist Church. Zoe passed away in 1987. William later married Flonzie Brown whom he brought into the Church. Together they became very active in community service, especially in the area of drug rehabilitation ministry.

In the known history of the Wright family, William is the first to live a century.

Victory Church Welcomes Six New Members

Over the past two years, the Victory church in Delaware, Ohio, has welcomed six new members through baptism. One of the most significant baptisms for Robert Whitner, pastor, was that of his brother Juan (pictured).

In addition, five others have entered the waters of baptism as a public expression of their love and commitment to God: Scotty Banks, Richard Hurd, John Thompson, Jeremiah Wood and Wood's mother, Cierra. "The congregation praises God for everyone He has brought to fellowship with them," says Whitner.





10 Young Adults Preach, 56 Baptized in South Africa

A group of young adults from across the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) recently traveled to Lesotho, South Africa. Their challenge was clear: to bring Jesus to the people of Lesotho.

Ten young people, along with Jason Ridley, Youth Ministries director; Jerome Hurst, Community Services director; and Sergio Romero, Multicultural Ministries director, spent two weeks sharing their time, lives and experiences with people they'd never met before, but loved instantly.

Using ShareHim materials, the group preached every day and night at different locations—churches, schools, tents and even on a mountainside. Many of



Jason Ridley, AWC's Youth Ministries director, baptizes Relay Matsora.



Sidney Harris (white skirt), a member of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., waves hello with a group of students who decided to get baptized as a result of Harris' ministry in Lesotho.



Congregants at the Maluti church pack the house to witness 56 baptisms during Allegheny West Conference's mission trip, led by young adults.

the places didn't even have light or a sound system, so the young people spoke the Word of God by candle-light or cellphone flashlights. Adversity didn't stop them from being bold in sharing God's love and making daily altar calls.

Every morning after the devotional time, group members shared testimonies, providing further confirmation that God was moving, bringing people to the hope of Jesus' Second Coming and seeing the need of giving their lives to Jesus as their personal Savior.

At the end of the week, everyone met at the Maluti church inside the Maluti Adventist Hospital. With sincere celebration, members and guests sang praises to God. The highlight of the weekend was when Ridley baptized 24 people. Then Hurst, inspired by the Holy Spirit, stood and began appealing for people to give their lives to Jesus and be baptized. "Amens" and "Hallelujahs" followed as 32 more people came to the waters and sealed their covenant with Jesus. At the end of the day, 56 people joined the church through baptism.

"This is an absolute record for our country; we've never baptized this many people. This is a miracle," says Chete Amos Bohale, president of the Lesotho Conference.

"This was a life-changing experience. I didn't expect this," says young adult Aaron Wimberly, with tears in his eyes. "I praise God for His love and mercies; I'm so happy I was able to come and be part of this great faith adventure."—Sergio Romero

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Our First Priority

What is important to you? What are the things you most want to accomplish? The Chesapeake Conference has established our priorities, and the first is very simple: Evangelism and Outreach.

Why would this be a top priority? Is it because everyone is excited to hit the proverbial sawdust trail and become a public evangelist? Or maybe people are eager to go door to door distributing literature and enrolling people in Bible studies. Perhaps members in your church are ready to open up a soup kitchen and start a tutoring program.

The reality is that in most churches, only a few people are enthusiastic about such outreach activities. So, why make evangelism and outreach a top priority? Well, because it is important to Jesus. It was an important part of the ministry He modeled for His disciples and us. In fact, Jesus' parting directions to His followers was the great commission to "Go."

Yes, Jesus could empty the courts of heaven and get all His angels to do evangelism and outreach. But the amazing truth is that He asks *us* to be His voice and hands in reaching out to people.

Do you remember the story of the demoniac whom Jesus rescued? The demons left their victim and caused a herd of swine to drown in the Sea of Galilee. The villagers asked Jesus to leave, and the demoniac-turned-disciple wanted to go with Him. But instead, Jesus told him, "Go back home, and tell people all that God has done for you" (Luke 8:39, FBV).

Do you see the simplicity in Jesus' plan? Go and tell! Start with your home, and then branch out. Tell about your experience with Jesus. It is not complicated. Every one of us can do it. And in doing so, we accept *Jesus'* priority.



Rick Remmers
President

Chesapeake Launches New Strategic Plan for Ministry

Over the last year, Chesapeake Conference administrators have been on a journey, paved with an abundance of prayer and discussion. Members, pastors, educators, executive committee members, department directors and others engaged in a conversation about the mission of the conference. This prayerful dialogue refreshed the strategic ministry plan, officially voted in May 2018 by the conference executive committee.

"We are thankful for the input from throughout the conference and the careful consideration by the executive committee in developing the strategic plan. It will help to provide priority

and guidance of the ministries during this quinquennium," says Rick Remmers, president.

The mission statement that will continue to guide the conference is: *To reach the Chesapeake region with the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of Hope and Wholeness.* The conference seeks to bring this to fruition through activities from the vision statement: *Fulfilling the Great Commission through vibrant, healthy churches and schools.*

"To effectively advance the gospel in our territory, there must be a clear understanding of mission and a shared vision. The strategic plan not only articulates these essentials, but lays out a roadmap to success," says Jerry Lutz, conference executive secretary.

Five ministry priorities for the remainder of the quinquennium (through 2022) are as follows: evangelism and outreach, Children's and Youth Ministries, Adventist education, Young Adult and Family Ministries and leadership training and development.

"Our goal is not just to survive but to thrive and prosper the kingdom with precious souls who will share the Good News—in word and in deed—so that others might be saved," Lutz says.

To view the complete strategic plan, visit ccosda.org/plan.



Lay-led Philippines Mission Trip Changes Lives

Eighteen Chesapeake Conference members recently participated in a mission trip to the Philippines in the Central Luzon Conference territory. The trip served as a joint mission effort, spearheaded by It Is Written, to assist in the Philippines for Christ Initiative. The Central Luzon Conference is pursuing a greater goal of 50,000 baptisms for 2018. Over the course of two weeks, Chesapeake missionaries preached evangelistic messages at 11 sites, most averaging 50 people per meeting.



Nancy Byrkit, a member of the Chestertown (Md.) church, spoke at the Bayanan church site in Bacoor City. One evening during the middle of her message, floodwaters entered the sanctuary (pictured). “Looking down the center aisle ... I observed a wave of water about a foot or so high coming from the street and through the door of the church,” she says.



Diane Gatling (center), a member of the Rock Hall (Md.) church, celebrates with baptismal candidates from her C-5 church meeting site in the Philippines.

“Weighing the situation, Rudy, an elder from the Bayanan church, said, ‘We will continue.’ I ... persevered in the message of God’s love for us.” Those in attendance stayed and clung to every word of the sermon.

Another lay member, Peral Henry, who attends the Northeast church in Parkville, Md., preached at the Gagalangin site. “During my meetings, I saw a man who came a number of times wearing a mask on his face,” Henry relays. “During my devotion one morning, the Lord brought him to my memory, and I prayed for him. But I got a strong impression that I needed to do more. I asked him to wait for me after the meeting that evening.

“After greeting him, I asked about the mask. Danilo (pictured with Henry) is his name, and he answered, ‘I wear it because I have boils on my face.’ I asked if I could pray for him, and I prayed for his healing. Danilo missed a couple nights, but on the night of baptism, he came forward. He was baptized, and I was there to greet him, along with the other eight candidates. He said, ‘I thank God for you and your prayers for me. That night when I got home and removed my mask, the boils were gone.’”

At the conclusion of the mission trip, there were more than 115 baptisms from the 11 Chesapeake-led sites, and more than 130 baptismal decisions made for Christ.

PHOTO BY NANCY BYRKIT

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Why We Exist

"We exist to grow healthy churches that reflect Christ's love and compassion in our communities."

This is the new mission statement voted this year by our Mountain View Conference Executive Committee. And going forward, it will guide our work together.

Creating a mission statement is important for any organization that is serious about moving forward. To begin the process, I prayed fervently for God's guidance. I read Jesus' mission statement in Luke 4:18-19, and studied other Bible passages that deal with mission. I also looked at the mission statements of many of the conferences and unions around the North American Division (NAD), as well as some secular corporations and retailers.

At our March Executive Committee meeting, I presented an orientation to mission statement creation for the committee to process together. For our May Executive Committee meeting, I invited one of the most gifted communicators I know, Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president of communication for the Columbia Union Conference, to lead the process. After an in-depth Bible study, season of prayer and discussion about the demographics and unique needs of the people in our territory, we developed and voted our new mission statement.

We are very pleased with this statement for several reasons:

First it reminds us why we exist—to grow healthy churches. A healthy church is a Christ-centered, disciple-making congregation that loves Jesus, His truth and people.

Secondly, it points to Jesus. We chose the word "reflect" because we believe it's an ideal way to express our role as co-laborers with Christ. As we reflect Christ's character, through our deeds and actions, more people will come to know who He is and want to be a part of the family of God.

Third, it suggests how we can make a difference in the communities we serve by showing people the love and compassion of Christ. When we think about all that Jesus has done for us, we can't help but want to share Him with others. Jesus lavished His love on us by purchasing our forgiveness and salvation through His sacrifice on the cross. And He compassionately sets us free to live new lives, bears our burdens and walks with us through the storms of life.

We are committed to focus our time and energy, as well as God's resources, on fulfilling this mission in the Mountain View Conference. This is who we are, what we are all about and the rubric we will use to make decisions going forward. Our passionate desire is to grow the kingdom of God by reaching the people of West Virginia and Western Maryland. We believe our new mission statement is an important first step in accomplishing this goal.



Mike Hewitt
President

Youth Make Blueberry Muffins During VBS

The Frostburg (Md.) church hosted VBS, themed "Naturally Healthy," during summer break. Designed by church members, for four evenings, presenters spoke about the eight laws of health, including sunshine, water, exercise and fresh air. The youth enjoyed Bible stories, prayer time, crafts, fun activities and healthy food samples. But the highlight of VBS was when the children learned how to make healthy blueberry muffins.

"This was one of my favorite VBS programs that I have ever been involved in," shares Jim Buchanan, pastor. "And I think we should package it," chimed in his wife, Elaine.



Members Reflect on Spirit of Prophecy Quotes

October 20 is designated as Spirit of Prophecy and Adventist Heritage Sabbath. In preparation for this special Sabbath, members of the Mountain View Conference shared their favorite Spirit of Prophecy quotes and explained why they appreciate them.

If we seek Him, Christ will give us help. Our eyes will be opened to discern the healing promises recorded in His word. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to appropriate every blessing that will be an antidote to grief” (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 248).



I was going through a very hard trial. Discouraged and seeing no hope, I was on the verge of depression. As I beheld nature, I realized that our Creator was well in control, and He was also in control of my life.—*Sandee LeVos, Toll Gate church, Pennsboro, W.Va.*

“Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master Worker. ... With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound them to the throne of God” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 679).

More than 40 years ago, I discovered this quote. Being a literature evangelist and facing what seemed to be the impossible task of providing for my family, I was amazed as I read the solution to my challenges, doubts and fears.—*Ron Davis, Ripley (W.Va.) church*



“Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives. All who are consecrated to God are channels of light. God makes them instruments of righteousness to communicate to others the light of truth” (*Christian Service*, p. 18).



I’ve always had a passion for missionary work. It’s a great way to reconnect with God and draw closer to Him. After my mission trip to Honduras, I have let God guide my footsteps so I can do His work of spreading the good news to others. Are you willing to let God guide your steps?—*Gisselle Argueta, Lewisburg (W.Va.) Spanish Adventist Company*

Lewisburg (W.Va.) Spanish Adventist Company

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 19).

I love this quote because it eloquently sums up our mission as Seventh-day Adventists. I keep it in front of me continually as a reminder of who we are and what we are to do, lest I forget.—*Michael Koch, Charleston (W.Va.) church*



news

NEW JERSEY

Sharing Hope—The Rescue Story

At the beginning of the summer, families worldwide were captured by the rescue operation of a 12-member soccer team and coach from Thailand. When the team failed to come home after practice, the city and government launched a search and rescue operation. Days of agony and uncertainty worried their parents and the public. What a relief when, 10 days later, rescuers found the boys, and eight days later, everyone was safe. It was an amazing process and joint effort to free them from the Tham Luang Nang Non cave.

In this world, I picture humanity as though we live in a cave of sin, captive and unable to help ourselves to safety. But like the divers who came to the boys' rescue, Jesus and His angels dive into the flooded cave to help us.

This month a group of 26 pastors from around the country will "dive" into New Jersey to share the message of hope. Psalm 107:19 states, "You were in serious trouble, but you prayed to the Lord, and he rescued you" (CEV). This is the fuel that will move the laity to share hope this fall, because Jesus is coming soon. Let us join heaven's rescue team.



Mario Thorp
Executive Secretary

Cherry Hill Celebrates Eight Youth Baptisms

Members of the Cherry Hill church recently celebrated as eight young people, aged 10–16, chose to make their commitment to Christ public through baptism.

Willie Bonilla, church elder, shares that the young people are all members of the same Sabbath School class. When they began talking about baptism, he started a baptismal class. They met together every other Sabbath afternoon from January through July, 2018. Bonilla says, "They all wanted to be baptized to demonstrate their love for Jesus. ... They are excited to begin this new part of their walk with the Lord!"

Kristine Elivera, Edie Rose Racpan, Asa Williams, Nicholas Christopher Bonilla, Alexander Bryce Bonilla, Jared Tugade, Christopher Freire and Danniell Freire (pictured with Bonilla) stood in front of the congregation and expressed their personal convictions on why they wanted to be baptized. They recited their favorite Bible verses and affirmed their baptismal vows together.

One by one, the young people stepped into the pool, as Tom Dunham, pastor of Cherry Hill, baptized them. As Dunham presented the newborn Christians to the congregation, parents, relatives and church members praised God and rejoiced with the youth who decided

to be taught, filled and led by the Holy Spirit. The church elders joined Dunham to lay hands on and pray for each baptismal candidate.

Dunham says, "Seeing these young folks so anxiously demonstrating their love for Jesus by taking the initiative for getting baptized is testimony to the Christian character of this fellowship at Cherry Hill. These young folks are encouraged in a loving, accepting atmosphere where they are free to grow in Christ."



Willingboro Church Plant Hosts Youth Day

On a recent Sabbath afternoon, the Willingboro church plant hosted its first Youth Day program at its new location: 110 Buckingham Drive. “It was inspiring and heartwarming to see young people leading out in the various activities,” says Terrina Williams, youth leader.

The church hosted the Takoma Park (Md.) church’s Incito Youth Ministry group. Osei Daniels, Takoma Park’s youth pastor, spoke for the event. His powerful message, titled “Fireproof,” aimed to light a spiritual fire in the hearts of the attendees.

Understanding that the majority of the congregation comprised 41 college students, freshmen and high school seniors, Daniels shared some of the pitfalls of college life. He gave practical and helpful information to assist them in navigating higher education, while still remaining true to their core Christian values and principles.

Daniels alluded to Daniel 3:16–19 in his message. The passage encouraged attendees to be true and steadfast, assuring them that God, who is faithful, would not only stand for them, but with them.

Following lunch, Cecil Calliste, Takoma Park’s youth director, outlined the various community service projects for the afternoon. These included neighborhood trash clean-up, distributing bottles of water to strangers and offering to pray with them, returning shopping carts for customers or collecting carts from a store parking lot, visiting a local Walmart to invite customers to Willingboro church services and getting 100 honks from “Honk if you love Jesus” posters created by Youth Day attendees.

“Most people were receptive and appreciated the



Youth design “Honk if you love Jesus” posters before heading out to do community outreach.



Sashawna Forde reads the Scripture verse prior to the sermon.



Young adults Iyanna Smith and Treyonnah Smith sing special music during the Youth Day program.

acts of kindness shown to them. The community exercise was a rewarding, enriching and fulfilling experience,” says Calliste.

Before the Incito group left that evening, Calliste led out in a vespers service at a local park. Youth and adults shared vignettes about their interactions and mutual positive impact. Calliste highlighted the importance of performing random acts of kindness without any expected remuneration. “Attendees left motivated to perform daily acts of kindness and to never underestimate the significant impact that kindness can have on the lives of both givers and receivers,” says Williams. “This initiative substantiates that ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ (Acts 20:35, KJV).”

Next Generation Radically Boosts District Churches

Affectionately nicknamed “King of the South” by his pastoral peers, Ron Anderson ministers to a large district that includes Chillicothe, Jackson, Manchester and Portsmouth churches in rural, southern Ohio. He regularly empowers, mentors and involves young people in leadership roles in his churches. Earlier this year, Anderson began thinking outside the box on how to do something different for his churches. Partnering with the Ohio Conference, he hired four students to extend their summer camp work experience and assist with the district.

Alain and Valerie Pichot, a brother-sister team from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., worked for two weeks leading a VBS program for the Manchester church. Utilizing their media and technology talents, they also assisted with advertisement design, updating the Portsmouth website and taking aerial shots of all four churches.

Anderson shares that no children attend the Manchester congregation, but several non-member community children attended the VBS. “This was such a blessing and shot in the arm for the congregation,” he says. “They would like to put this on their calendar



Ohio Conference President Ron Halvorsen Jr. visits Eric Anderson (left) and Amani Hrabowy, young adults who presented a Bible study program at a local pizza shop in Jackson.

for next year, and [they] were wondering if we can get some students to assist again!”

Two other students from Ohio, Amani Hrabowy from the Evergreen church and Eric Anderson from the Chillicothe church, presented an adult Bible study program in Manchester using the *Radical Teachings of Jesus* materials, authored by Derek Morris, president of the Hope Channel. After the program, they presented the Bible studies at a popular pizza shop in Jackson.

“There were typically eight or more in attendance, and it made a positive impact on many who knew our church was hosting a Bible study there,” reports Anderson. The Jackson church is now considering reinstating their weekly prayer meeting, a large boost to this smaller church.

The young men assisted the Portsmouth church with a lighting upgrade, switching out bulbs and fixtures to LEDs. They spent time at the Jackson church cutting down overgrown bushes, trimming trees, pressure washing the steeple and exterior and re-staining the exterior of the church. Together, the youth traveled nearly 1,500 miles over the course of the three weeks.

Asked about his favorite part of this outreach, Anderson replied, “Seeing the kids being willing to take on and complete the project. ... Seeing them take ownership of the church.”



Eric Anderson, a member of the Chillicothe church, power-washes the Jackson church steeple before presenting evening Bible studies.

14 Missionaries Make Memories in Malawi

My first mission trip to Malawi began with a hike to a waterfall with kids following us from every village,” shares Jennifer Pomales, assistant Pathfinder director for the Ohio Conference. “It was a 10k walk that was definitely not for the faint of heart. While we struggled up and down steep inclines and very rocky terrain, the locals went by with large loads on their heads. We got a glimpse of the burdens they have here and gained a greater respect for their sheer strength and determination.”

Fourteen individuals from across Ohio participated in “Mission to Malawi,” a mission trip sponsored by the Youth Ministries Department. Edward Marton, Ohio Conference youth director, helped raise \$8,000 toward building eight churches in Malawi. While the rainy season prohibited the team from actually constructing the churches, they were able to conduct health screenings, share toys with area children and hold a VBS in Malamulo—several hours south of Malawi and near an Adventist hospital.

Most villagers lack transportation to go to a hospital, so they rely on medical professionals and health clinics to come to the village and assess their health needs and provide medicine. Due to heavy, wet conditions, Marton’s team had a difficult time reaching the outlying areas, even in a four-wheel-drive truck. It’s often challenging for anyone to get in or out of the village, leaving villagers to survive with little food or medical help.

Hospitals are not exempt from challenges. One unexpected project was initiated by Marton’s wife, Mariya, with the assistance of a local chaplain at the Malamulo Adventist Hospital. “As they visited with some of the patients, the chaplain shared with Mariya that families bring food for themselves and their family members



Jennifer Pomales, assistant Pathfinder director, takes a selfie with a few of her new friends on a mission trip to Malawi.

who are in the hospital, because no food is provided for them,” explains Edward. Sometimes families sell their food to pay for medical and hospital bills.

Mariya, the chaplain and a few team members took patients’ family members to the grocery store and bought food for them and their loved ones, enabling them to eat for a few days. “They were so happy to buy and eat bread for the first time in a long time!” Edward says.

Recalling her final day there, Pomales shares, “We have all been so blessed to be here. We take away far more than we leave behind. Tomorrow we head home. It’s bittersweet. ... I’m anxious to see family but sad to leave the people of Malawi. We did not just meet people in Malawi ... we made friends.”



This church in Malawi, not more than a hole-filled tarp suspended by posts, will soon be replaced by a more permanent structure, thanks to donations by Ohio Conference churches and the Youth Ministries Department.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER POMALES

Pennsylvania Pen

It's Personal

Jesus is coming back to earth" is not simply a pious cliché for the super committed. It's rock solid Bible truth. It's also core to Pennsylvania Conference's mission to help people embrace the fact that Jesus loves them and is returning again.

But even more than a message point or mission focus, I have found that the certainty of Jesus' return is personally relevant. When death's darkness shuttered the eyes of my loved ones, the bright promise of a future resurrection brought comfort and hope. When family and friends are stricken with disease, the Second Coming reminds me that eternal healing is just around the corner. Even the pleasures of this life are exponentially enhanced when I consider that they are a foretaste of the boundless joy God has in store for His faithful people.

The Second Advent is not just doctrine. It is a way of life, woven into the fabric of our daily journey. A precious companion. It is certainly too good and grand to keep to ourselves. That's why it finds expression in our message and mission. And it is the reason you and I must do everything to share this amazing truth of Jesus' soon return with everyone, everywhere!



Gary Gibbs
President

Hernandez-Ble Joins Pennsylvania Team

The Pennsylvania Conference administrative team recently welcomed Horacio Hernandez-Ble as the new associate treasurer. A graduate of Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), Hernandez-Ble has served on the auditing staff for the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) and as an auditing intern for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He has also worked for Gospel Ministries International in McDonald, Tenn., and Mile High Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

"We are so happy that God answered our prayers to have a mission-minded professional who is so knowledgeable in accounting and finance," states Carlos Charnichart, conference treasurer. "Horacio has more than three years of experience working with GCAS, [before] recently working as a director of finance for Mile High Academy. We believe that we have a good team to do God's work in our treasury department."

Originally from Mexico, Hernandez-Ble moved to the states as a child and enjoys hiking, camping and the outdoors, and says he is looking forward to exploring Pennsylvania.

Hernandez-Ble fills the position left open when Karen Schneider accepted the invitation to serve as

treasurer for the Nevada-Utah Conference. Schneider was part of the treasury team for 11 years. "Karen brought a level of professionalism and positive changes to our treasury department, moving us online and updating programs so we work more efficiently," states Gary Gibbs, president. "She has been an important part of the office team and will be greatly missed."



Horacio Hernandez-Ble is the new associate treasurer for the Pennsylvania Conference.

Hispanic Leaders Attend Children's Ministries Training

More than 170 Sabbath School teachers, pastors' wives and lay members recently attended the Hispanic Ministries certification training, focused on Children's Ministries. Justo Morales, Hispanic Ministries director for the Illinois Conference, and his wife, Rosa Morales, a Children's Ministries leader, led participants through the North American Division Children's Ministries second track of training, which concentrates on teaching children. Topics included Bible learning, teaching Sabbath School, memorization, handcraft lab, interactive storytelling and teaching children how to think and pray.

"The goal was to provide teachers with ideas and resources that enabled them to teach children using methods that are fun, dynamic and spiritual. The track is designed to help people become knowledgeable about the Word of God, the needs of children and effective teaching and programming methods," says Saúl E. Elías, Hispanic Ministries coordinator.

Members of the Lawndale church in Philadelphia hosted the group and attendees, providing meals, lodging and a welcoming place for learning. More than 100 people completed at least seven of the 10 seminars in the track and received certifications.



Rosa Morales and her husband, Justo, from the Illinois Conference, sit with some of the 170 teachers and lay members they taught at a recent Hispanic Ministries training event.

This annual training is just one way the Hispanic Ministries department seeks to reach everyone, everywhere—strengthening, inspiring and training disciples to preach the gospel to adults and children through the abundant love and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Pennsylvania Conference Invites Girls ages 13-17

Daughter of the King



In a world full of labels and pressures to "belong," it's easy to lose sight of who you are. Some days you just wish you were someone else. Girls ages 13-17 are invited to join Erica Jones, Assistant Women's Ministries Director for the North American Division, and discover the source of your true identity, why it matters, and why there's no one else in the world more wonderful to be than you!

November 10, 2018
Blue Mountain Academy
Hamburg, Pa.

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

Discover Your



Beauty



Worth



Wonderfulness

Potomac People

Courthouse Road Continues to ‘Build Bridges’

Movie and paint nights, quilling and Bible journaling, Financial Peace University seminars and concert series are just a few items on the calendar at the Courthouse Road church, located in North Chesterfield, Va., near Richmond. These events, designed to connect and “build bridges back to God”—the church’s mission statement—continue to foster relationships outside the church walls.

“Typically, half of our event attendees are guests,” says Heather Crews, pastor, “and most of our events are very simple to host and plan.” Melissa Winn was introduced to the church through a Christian movie series held at the church. “The next day, Winn came to church, and after the service, asked if we had a baptistry,” says Crews. “She then asked the question that thrills my soul—‘Can I be baptized?’” Winn quickly went through the lessons and Crews baptized her shortly after.

In addition to hosting events, members distribute gift cards, offer messages of hope and pack personal care kits for people who are homeless. “Our focus on making disciples and building bridges allows us



Heather Crews (right), pastor of the Courthouse Road church, baptizes Melissa Winn, who first attended a Christian movie night, one of many events the church hosts to introduce guests to Christ.

to bring newcomers into the church [and] continually revives us as a church family,” says Crews.

Five Educators Selected for Two-year Program

Five Potomac Conference school administrators—Principal Nancy Melashenko, Richmond Academy; Principal Wendy Pega and Vice Principal Jeanne Marie Fraino-Garcia, Beltsville Adventist School; Principal



Five Potomac Conference school administrators, including Timothy LaPierre, Jennifer Hackley and Nancy Melashenko (pictured) have been selected to be a part of a two-year intensive program designed to help school leaders better serve their students.

Jennifer Hackley, C. F. Richards Christian School; and Principal Timothy LaPierre, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School—have been selected to be part of a new, two-year intensive program designed to help school leaders maximize their impact and better serve their students.

The Advancement of Christian Education Academy Leadership Coaching Program, launched by the Bainum Family Foundation and NYC Leadership Academy, has paired 10 novice school administrators (“coachees”) with 10 personal leadership coaches within the Columbia Union.

Hackley, a coachee, says, “I’ve learned so much and feel refreshed by the mentorship I have with my coach, Elisa Maragoto, principal of Lake Nelson Adventist Academy. ... I [now] have a stronger vision of where the school is going and where God is leading.”

Coach Nancy Melashenko says, “We cover different dimensions and competencies with our coaches, like student performance, situational problem-solving and spiritual practice.”—Columbia Union and Potomac Conference staff

Potomac People

ACSGW Continues 'Making Tracks'

Earlier this year, representatives from the Montgomery County Council of Maryland honored Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW) and Ken Flemmer, director (pictured below, third from right), for its 35 years of ministry to the community. Flemmer, who also serves on the East Montgomery County Advisory Board, took the opportunity to raise awareness of the rapidly expanding social and economic challenges of East Montgomery County, adding that 40 percent of ACSGW's clients are from the eastern area of the county.

"I have lived in this area over 30 years and wasn't aware of the realities that many Montgomery County citizens experience every day," said Flemmer, in his appeal to local church leaders and administrators. "We need to be more aware of the challenges so that we may develop partnerships and connections that can help us all do more."

With the needs of the community in mind, ACSGW provided its third "Making Tracks Summer Camp" to 170 at-risk youth this year.

"This project is fast becoming the flagship program in the area," says Flemmer. "This program isn't your typical summer camp. It's a six-week, five-day a week program



A camper, one of 170 at-risk youth who attended Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington's "Making Tracks Summer Camp" this year, raises his hand during the academic enrichment component of the program.

that provides quality care, teaches life skills and offers academic enrichment. The academic component of this camp is critical. Parents typically work long hours and struggle to engage with their children over the summer months, leaving little time to help build academic skills."

Flemmer reports that government statistics indicate about 40 percent of Montgomery County residents speak a language other than English at home. According to ACSGW's academic tracking, campers improve in reading, writing and math scores through the individualized help of certified school teachers, who serve as instructors at the camp.

Also offered are swimming lessons, taught by professionals. "Low-income families seldom have the means to provide instruction for this critical life skill. We're thrilled to be able to help," says Flemmer. This summer, for the first time, the camp also offered a six-hour introduction to computer coding.

ACSGW provides all of this through the help of its partners—Montgomery County Recreation Department (as part of its Food, Fun, Fitness and Fundamentals program), Montgomery County Public Schools, Health and Human Services, Manna Food, Adventist HealthCare and Strathmore. Throughout the year, leaders focus on meeting new needs in the area, like increasing the amount of food and clothing they can give to struggling families, as well as helping families and the elderly manage the rising costs of rent and utilities.

Visit acsgw.org for further information.—ACSGW and Potomac Conference staff



"Making Tracks" campers take swimming lessons, taught by professionals, during youth camp.

Academy Hosts International Students

Highland View Academy (HVA) recently partnered with Griggs International Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist accredited online school that provides services to both schools in North America and international partners. This collaboration brings international groups of students to the HVA campus to study English. The first group arrived from Brazil last winter and enrolled in a three-week intensive American Literature course. A second group from China spent two weeks on campus during the summer, studying ESL.

HVA's proximity to Washington, D.C., with its history and culture, paired with the beauty and peacefulness of the campus' rural setting, "make it a great place for groups to come," says Erik Borges, principal. The partnership allows Griggs to offer classes in American classrooms rather than only online, and the students have the opportunity to experience a different culture. Plus, the dormitories and cafeteria allows HVA to house groups easily.

The partnership brings students from around the world to experience HVA's campus and values, while students and staff learn about the visitors and their cultures. Matt Price, HVA boys' dean, notes, "The opportunity to teach students from another culture and country was truly a unique experience. Hosting students from Brazil through Griggs was beneficial not only for them; it was also a positive experience for me."

Two HVA siblings, senior Emerson McCain and sophomore Reagan McCain, served as teaching



Chinese students Garry Wang and Jane Liu study English during a summer intensive offered by HVA.

assistants for the Chinese group. "I enjoyed seeing how much they learned, not just in English, but also about America and our culture," says Emerson. "Their high energy and rambunctious personalities have made it a memorable experience!" Reagan adds, "Working with the Chinese students taught me that laughter is universal. I didn't have to understand their language to enjoy their amusing 'hijinks.' I was continually surprised by their generosity and humor."

HVA looks forward to hosting more international groups on campus. "We welcome students from all over the world," says Borges. "We like to share what we have with everyone around us."



Chinese students from various backgrounds spend the summer learning English with their teachers and assistants.



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Academy Makes Service a Priority

Lake Nelson Adventist Academy's (LNAA) educational program includes a purposeful and dynamic mandate of giving back. This directive is part of the legacy built with the participation and contribution of students, staff, teachers, family, friends and church partners who generously and consistently support LNAA's outreach ministry efforts.

As Christians, we have a divine purpose to serve, to bring a foretaste of God's kingdom to this world and to "share with the Lord's people who are in need" (Rom. 12:13, NIV). Educators at LNAA and elsewhere create a ripple effect in students' lives "to meet people with the message of Jesus" (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 55); to develop an attitude of service; and to reflect Jesus' love.

Responding to Jesus' call to serve and wanting to help those in need, during the past two years LNAA students participated in several local and international outreach missions—distributing food, school supplies, toys and personal care items. They painted, built and repaired school and church buildings. They offered a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on and a hug to those who needed one.

The international mission trips included Cuba,



Eleventh-grader Steven Escano gives a care package to a child in Cuba during a recent mission trip.

Dominican Republic and Colombia. Locally, the school had bake sales, fund drives and visited organizations such as Elijah's Promise Community Kitchen (N.J.) and nursing homes. "The reward of helping others benefits not only those we are helping, but it helps us grow too," says Brendan Sierra ('18).

"When we live our lives by the true definition of love, to give and serve become the reward," says Elisa Maragoto, principal. In fact, during LNAA's 60 years, students and staff have held 13 gospel concerts, numerous food and clothing drives and annual Christmas shoebox projects and St. Jude's Marathons.

"True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (White, *Education*, p. 13).

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"



Seniors Lyden Stanislaus-Niles and Taylore Williams help cut onions at Elijah's Promise Community Kitchen.

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Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ lakenelsonacademy.org ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Leonora Seferlis

PFA POST



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

School Celebrates 43rd Alumni Weekend

In September scores of alumni, along with their families, descended on the banks of the River Manatawny (Pa.) for the 43rd annual Pine Forge Academy (PFA) Alumni Weekend, sponsored by the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association (NPFAAA). The weekend's activities began with the inaugural Pine Forge Academy Scholarship Bootcamp (pictured), hosted by CEO and CTO R. Gabrielle McCormick of the Scholarship Informer.

McCormick used her experience and expertise to educate PFA students on how to successfully acquire scholarships to fund their college education. "The scholarship bootcamp was very informative and motivating to know that you could pay for your education if you applied yourself and by applying for scholarships," says senior Cassandra Omorodion.

On Friday evening, the PFA Creative Arts team performed for the first time. Kamryn Bonds ('06), PFA's guidance counselor, says, "The performance was comical, inspiring, and, at the same time, quite relevant to the age in which we live."

Divine worship on Sabbath was packed to capacity.



After a combined special music by PFA's Choir and NPFAAA members, Anthony Medley ('78), senior pastor of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., presented the sermon "Living in the Home Stretch." Medley emphasized the fact that "the house of God is a house that should become a theatre for God's grace. ... That those who leave this house should leave better than when they came."

The weekend activities culminated with the annual basketball classic, as the alumni gracefully bested the current PFA basketball team.

Increased Enrollment Highlights New School Year

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) recently kicked off the 2018-19 school year with the theme "You Matter." Kris Fielder (pictured), interim principal, says, "As a Christian boarding school, it is our responsibility to ensure that every student feels a sense of belonging as they develop into the leaders that they were



created by God to be, with a sense of purpose, direction and confidence." In expressing his optimism for the upcoming year, Jaymie Pottinger, vice principal, described his excitement as he watched "brilliant young scholars from across the country stake their claim on the successes that are imminent if they submit to God's divine calling while enrolled at this excellent and historic institution."

Understanding that low enrollment poses a viable threat to the operations of boarding academies across North America, PFA administrators are happy to celebrate a 20 percent growth in enrollment from last year to this year. "Enrollment is at the highest it has ever been within the past five years, and we ascribe all the glory and honor to God," says Fielder. "We look forward to a great school year with heightened anticipation of the many ways in which God will continue to pour out His blessings on this noble institution."

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 ■ Interim Principal, Kris Fielder ■ Editor, Jaymie Pottinger

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

STEM Teachers Engage in Professional Development

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) STEM teachers participated in two professional development activities this past summer. Yeka Unnikamaran, high school STEM teacher, and Gabrielle Agwu, computer teacher, attended the Chattanooga FAB Institute (Tenn.). This free digital fabrication workshop was designed to give K–12 teachers across the country hands-on experiences in brand-new Volkswagen eLabs.

“The project-based experience gave us strategies to seamlessly integrate digital fabrication to enhance student-learning experiences,” says Agwu. “We developed skills in computer numerical control routing, 3-D printing, laser cutting and micro-computing.”

Also during break, STEM coordinator Ophelia Barizo (pictured center) and STEM teachers Paty Serrano and Unnikamaran (pictured) attended the National STEM Forum and Expo (Penn.). The goal was for STEM educators and exhibitors to share tools and resources to successfully implement STEM in schools and communities.

Break-out sessions focused on effectively integrating STEM across all disciplines, programs and instructional strategies that support STEM in the pre-K through 12th-grade levels.



The conference also highlighted innovative, student-centered approaches to STEM; the development of partnerships between business and industry stakeholders; and strategies and best practices on how administrators can support STEM education.

“This STEM forum taught me new, effective strategies that I plan to implement in my science classes,” Serrano says. “I’m excited to bring a variety of methods so all my students can succeed!”

SAA Hosts STEM Camp



Enoc Serrano and other STEM campers dissect owl pellets to see what the owls ingested.

During summer break, Spencerville Adventist Academy hosted a STEM camp for 21 students, ages 8–11, under the direction of STEM educators Ophelia Barizo and Paty Serrano. Daily activities featured hands-on learning on topics such as polymer chemistry, electricity, engineering, rocketry, dissections and green STEM. Campers made slime, silly putty and polymer snow, and created robotics with Ozobots and Dash robots. They also constructed electrical circuits for various functions, such as turning on a fan and lights and having a siren go off. The group visited the Udvar-Hazy Center near the Washington Dulles International Airport (Va.), where they participated in an interactive activity on forces of flight and watched planes fly in and out from the airport’s observation tower.

“It sure was a STEM-filled week,” says Barizo.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

We're Celebrating 50 Years

As we celebrate Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) 50th anniversary, we've chosen to highlight the "Year of Jubilee" for our school theme. In the Old Testament, jubilee was that wonderful time of debt forgiveness, freedom for slaves and restoration for the downtrodden. Jubilee was a reset. A new start.

Jubilee at SVA means drawing inspiration from the vision of our founders and casting our eyes forward to a bright new future. It means letting go of grudges; being better the next 50 years than we were in the first 50. Most of all, we'll remember that Jesus is the personification of jubilee. He is the One who heals the broken-hearted, restores sight to the blind, releases the captives and proclaims the year of the Lord's favor. We can shower these blessings on others because we have received them from Him. I'm looking forward to a fantastic "Year of Jubilee" at SVA.



Darren Wilkins
Principal

News



Knudsen Assumes Role as Vice Principal

SVA is on a growth trajectory with an enrollment of more than 400 students this year. To meet the growing needs, the administration chose Ken Knudsen, previously SVA's guidance counselor and Bible IV teacher, to serve as vice principal. He will assume responsibility for supervising high school instruction, student discipline, student government, career and college guidance and standardized testing.

Knudsen has served 27 years in Adventist education, with a total of 10 years in the Ohio Conference—one year as superintendent of education and nine years at SVA.

Knudsen and his wife, Lisa, have a daughter, Katherine, in the eighth grade.

New Sculpture to Highlight Mission Focus

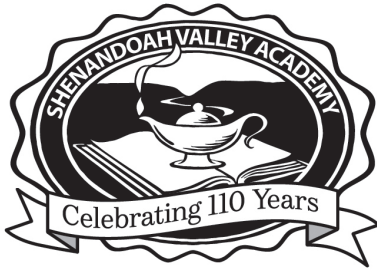
Over the next three months, the "center circle" of campus will take on a dramatic change. Thanks to a generous donation, the center will be redeveloped with a set of bronze sculptures to provide a visual representation of SVA's mission to anyone who walks or drives on the campus.

The flagpole will be moved to the top of the circle. In its place, a plaza featuring Victor Issa's artwork "Come Unto Me" and a seating/reflection area will be installed. Issa's art conveys the message that all children are welcome in Jesus' arms.

"When a child comes to SVA, our mission is to lead them to Jesus," says Darren Wilkins, principal.



SVA's campus will soon have a new look that will include Victor Issa's artwork "Come Unto Me," as well as another bronze sculpture, to highlight the school's mission focus.



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Academy Welcomes Alumnus as Recruiter-Bible Teacher

Alumnus Joe Lowe ('86), Shenandoah Valley Academy's (SVA) new recruiter and freshman Bible teacher, recently sat down with Janel Ware, SVA's development and alumni director, to discuss the school's impact on his life, how imperative an Adventist boarding school is for his sons and the desire God has placed on his heart for all teenagers to have this same opportunity:

Ware: You are a graduate of SVA. How has SVA shaped your life and values?

Lowe: SVA was an intense training ground for me that offered a superior formal education, encouraged growth in my relationship with God and provided opportunities to develop lifelong Christian mentors and friends who helped me learn important "soft skills." The faculty were very involved and interested in me, so I felt valued and loved. The biblical principles and values I learned here shaped me as a young man and remain the core values by which I live my life.

Ware: Is there a specific influence or event that changed your life?

Lowe: The Lord used grounds-farm manager Ted Decker (TD) and Coach J. J. Henline to influence me. As TD drove the bus to Harris Pine Mill where I worked, he talked about a wide range of subjects, from growing the grass on the front campus to the birth of a five-legged calf! I couldn't wait to climb on the bus to listen to TD speak passionately about whatever was on his mind, and those conversations included important life lessons. Henline's desire to coach winning basketball always took a back seat to his desire to teach me what it meant to exhibit Christian sportsmanship. I struggled with an uncontrolled temper, and God put two men in my path to help me understand that passion for loving and serving Him is much more stable and productive than misplaced passion.

Ware: Why is it important for your sons to have the same Adventist boarding school education you experienced?

Lowe: The most impactful years of my life, in terms of growth and development, were my junior and senior



Joe Lowe ('86) joins the SVA team as the new recruiter and freshman Bible teacher, accompanied by his family, Mason ('24), Zachary ('21), Laura ('91) and Ethan ('19).

years at SVA. In making the decision to accept the call to SVA, my wife Laura ('91) and I recognized this as a family calling. For us, it is imperative that our boys live in the dorm and receive the same education, Christian friendships and solid spiritual influence SVA provided for us. We desire an Adventist education, not only for our sons, but for *all* teenagers who are interested in being educated to love and serve Jesus. God has placed this calling on our hearts for His children, and we are committed to it as a family.

Lowe invites potential SVA students and parents to contact him directly at joe.lowe@sva-va.org or (757) 453-5860.

Important Upcoming Events

October 21–22	Academy Days
December 7–8	Candlelight Concerts
April 19–21	Alumni Weekend
May 24–26	Graduation Weekend

For event information, contact janel.ware@sva-va.org or (540) 740-2202.

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Chorale Medals at 10th World Choir Games

Earlier this year, the Takoma Academy (TA) chorale flew to Tshwane, South Africa, to participate in the 10th anniversary World Choir Games (WCG), not knowing they would make a huge impact in the lives of others, and, in return, be impacted themselves.

Choirs from around the world gathered at the WCG to worship and express their specialties in music. The TA chorale ended up winning in three categories: two silver medals in Mixed Youth and Jazz, and a gold medal in Spirituals.

Jared Allen, choir member and Class of 2020 student, says, "Winning the gold was something very special to me. I didn't originally go to TA the beginning of the school year, but coming there halfway through the year and putting in the work, while having friends and our Choir Director Lulu Mupfumbu by my side, really made it special for me."

In addition to a great win, the choir continued their service to God by sharing their music ministry at the Orlando West church in Soweto. They also visited the

Orlando Children's Home, where they shared encouraging stories with the children. In turn, the kids taught the choir some of their favorite South African songs.

Members also had the pleasure of meeting Jeofrey Hlongo, a local choir leader and Netflix hero in the series *Diepsloot* for the work he has done in his community. The 800,000 populated town of Diepsloot has a lack of infrastructure, a high unemployment rate and very few surrounding government support. In the trailer, Hlongo passionately explains, "I help young people discover their potential so that they can live their dream—the dream of a peaceful home, the dream of developing [their] talents, being educated, building healthy families, getting jobs and being free. That's our African dream."

Upon the choir's return home, students shared their improved spiritual outlook gained as a result of the trip. "The World Choir Games for me was the most emotional and spiritual trip that I have ever had in my life," says recent graduate Ci-Arra Dottin ('18). "I really was on a journey of faith through this entire trip. I realize that, first we minister, then we receive worldly gifts."

Simean Sagboje ('19), choir member, adds, "For me it was the biggest achievement of my life ... I know all the work we put in, the hours in rehearsal; it all paid off winning the gold."

Mupfumbu exclaims, "We praise God for leading us through this unforgettable journey of faith and transformation. We entered this competition as underdogs, with not much competition experience and no international competition experience. We also didn't have the funds or know where they would come from, but we believed. We asked God early on to allow all of us to see His hand in all aspects of this trip so that our faith may be strengthened and so that we would have a story to tell. The students also asked for transformation of character through the journey."

She continues, "To see how it all came together, how all our needs were met, how our souls were fed by the experiences, the people, the country, and how we got to our musical victory, it's truly a production God orchestrated, and we give Him *all* the glory."



The Takoma Academy Chorale sings during the Mixed Youth Competition inside the Desmond Abernethy Hall in South Africa.

KETTERING COLLEGE



Kettering College online BSBS students hosted a community health fair that integrates service and learning in a meaningful, hands-on service project.

Passion and Purpose: Program Offers Integrated Service Learning Opportunities

Kettering College strives to provide students with a mission-based experience that prepares them to pursue their calling and develop a passion for serving others in their communities and around the world.

The College actively demonstrates this dedication to service by developing service learning opportunities for all students—including those pursuing degrees online. Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSBS) program hosted a community health fair that gave online students the opportunity to integrate service and learning in a meaningful, hands-on service project.

"Students researched the Dayton population and designed the pamphlets and educational materials used for the health fair as teams," said Debra Stump, adjunct instructor in Kettering College's Health Sciences department. "Because we're

a completely online course, we actually have three students that live out of state. These students took on leadership roles in the course, including organizing the grant proposal."

These online students worked as a group to research and plan their topics. Local students came together to present their research, while students from other areas helped to prepare a grant proposal. "This program has taught me a lot, being that we haven't had face-to-face interaction until the health fair," said Sidney Clark, who is specializing in health management. "I've learned that you can still be a team and work together, even online."

The BSBS program also focuses on interprofessional collaboration, allowing students to develop a more holistic understanding of health and ultimately provide better patient care.

Innovative Shift in Online Learning

Beginning this fall, Kettering College will offer online courses on a shortened schedule to better fit the needs of students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSBS) degree.

Rather than taking multiple semester-long courses at once, students will have fewer classes in accelerated sessions that can be completed in seven- or eight-week increments.

"The new shift in the way our online courses are delivered will allow our students to better navigate the educational system and empower them to pursue their career goals with fewer obstacles," said Paula Reams, chair of health sciences.

The shortened online sessions will be offered year-round, giving students the advantage of a faster pace to degree completion along with higher flexibility to accommodate their work schedules.

See kc.edu/bshs for more information.



KETTERING MEDICAL CENTER



WASHINGTON
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

CAMPUS LIFE

Residence hall living is an essential part of the learning process at Washington Adventist University. During summer 2018, one of the major renovation projects was to significantly improve both the men's and women's residence halls. Just like university classes, residence hall living is a learning experience.



From the realities of sharing living space to the joys of taking part in late-night philosophical discussions, campus life is enhanced and lifelong friendships are created. Living in a residence hall offers the "traditional" college experience and helps new students make friends quickly. You can still make friends as a commuter, but it can take some extra effort. Our on-campus housing offers an added safety benefit. Rooms have secure doors and specific sign-in policies. Major improvements during this phase of the renovations included dorm rooms, bathrooms, hallways and entry ways. After a decade of research, Daniel F. Chambliss, an organizational sociologist at Hamilton College, believes he knows what most determines how students feel about their time at college. It comes down to factors like residence hall design, friends and extracurricular involvement more than what happens in the classroom.

This is Washington Adventist University.
–Weymouth Spence, President

NEW WAU MOBILE APP CONNECTS GROWING STUDENT BODY

U.S. adults are spending an average of nearly three hours a day on mobile devices like smartphones and tablet computers according to a recent study. The Washington Adventist University Class of 2022 is no exception.

And, as our learning community grows with this large, tech-savvy, incoming class, WAU expands that community to a new online venue—the WAU Mobile App!

The WAU Mobile App will help students engage in campus life, track classes and assignments, plug into unique worship opportunities and campus social events, connect with fellow learners and the WAU community, and find learning opportunities in the nearby Nation's Capital. Benefits for the university include the ability to reach students directly and instantly with important announcements and collect student feedback to ensure that we're providing the best possible customer service in the classroom, dining facility, and residence halls.

Developed by WAU IT Services in cooperation with OOHLALA (now Ready Education), the WAU Mobile App is similar to tools employed by the University of Texas at San Antonio, San Jose State University and the Harvard University Law School, and is available in the App Store for iPhone and iPad, and on Google Play for Android users.

In 2018, WAU is transforming student engagement!

Washington Adventist University App
Don't miss out!

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WAU WELCOMES GRADUATE SCHOOL DEAN, NEW FACULTY, AND STAFF

Washington Adventist University is pleased to announce the appointment of a new dean for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS). Brenda Chase moves over to this key academic leadership role at an exciting time for WAU's graduate and professional studies programs. For the past two years, she has served in the university's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness as the Assessment Coordinator for Education.

She brings with her over 25 years of progressively responsible leadership, management, and administrative experience including serving in profit and non-profit organizations as CFO/VP of Finance and Administration, and VP of Operations. Ms. Chase has a deep passion for adult learning and has been an adjunct faculty member at Andrews University and Chattanooga State Community Technical College.

"Brenda Chase moves into this key academic leadership role at an exciting time for WAU's graduate and professional studies programs," said Provost Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu. "She will energize our accredited, accelerated, and affordable adult learning programs serving professionals in and around our Nation's Capital and the world."

Chase anticipates graduating with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration (with a concentration on higher education) from Andrews University later this year. She holds an MBA in Finance from American University and is a proud alumna of Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University.

For more than 30 years, WAU has been a leader in providing career building degree programs for working professionals through its School of Graduate and Professional Studies. In a supportive and nurturing environment that meets the needs of adult learners, SGPS currently offers nine accelerated evening undergraduate programs and nine master's programs (including two fully online – the Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Public Administration programs).

Also joining the WAU faculty is Dr. Olivier Nsengiyumva. Our new assistant professor of chemistry in the Department of Biology/Chemistry, Dr. Nsengiyumva, who this summer earned his Doctorate in Organic and Polymer Chemistry from the University of Florida.

And Karla Rivera joins Washington Adventist University full-time as the Executive Assistant to the Provost. A graduate of WAU's music program, Ms. Rivera also holds a Master's Degree from The University of Maryland in Music Performance with an emphasis in Voice. Her music career has taken her all over the world with WAU choirs and orchestra, and as a soloist. She is happy to be back 'home' and excited to give back to her alma mater.



Brenda Chase, newly appointed dean for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies

UPCOMING EVENTS

40th G. Arthur Keough Lectureship

Friday, October 19, 7:00

Sabbath, October 20, 3:30 p.m.

H.M.S. Richards Hall Chapel, WAU Campus

Featuring

- Jennifer A. Herdt, author of *Putting on Virtue: The Legacy of the Splendid Vices*
- Gilbert L. Stark, Professor of Christian Ethics and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Yale University Divinity School

Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series

Saturday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, WAU Campus
 Featuring the Parker String Quartet

President's Christmas Reception

Friday, November 30, 5:00 p.m.

The Votaw House, WAU Campus

WAU Christmas Concert

Friday, November 30, 7:00 p.m.

Sligo SDA Church, WAU Campus

What It Means to Serve

The word “serve” can have many meanings. It can mean to serve a purpose or function. It can mean being devoted to something like church, or art or country. It can mean working for someone or the military. It can mean bringing food or drink to others.

If there is a thread running through all these meanings, it is one of engagement: you can't serve without being personally involved.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus says “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27, NIV). Jesus often described His life and ministry in ways where He is personally involved.

As an organization rooted in Christian values, our understanding what it means to serve others is right in the heart of our defining five core values for Adventist HealthCare. In fact, the first value we list is “Service: We care for our patients, their families and each other with compassion.” With those words we express two things: both our willingness to engage and our commitment to do so with compassion.

First, our service isn't “virtual” – we are personally and physically engaged. It is anchored in time and place. Secondly, we serve with compassion when we listen to one another and appreciate the ways in which God has led us in the past. We serve with compassion when we stand up for those in need. And we serve with compassion when we don't give up but instead offer hope and healing to those we care for.

At Adventist HealthCare, we find ways to serve – and create hope, health, and happiness – every single day. Serving with compassion is at the heart of what we are and what we do.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, coming in the Summer of 2019 in White Oak, Md., will be located at 12100 Plum Orchard Drive off Route 29.

White Oak Medical Center Will Expand Compassionate Care and Continue Adventist Legacy

About a mile from the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters, a new health ministry is coming to life that will expand care to the community and continue the legacy that the early Adventist Church shaped more than a century ago.

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital's newly-constructed hospital will be located six miles north of its 13-acre Takoma Park, Maryland campus. The new location, on 48 acres in White Oak, Md., will allow Washington Adventist to offer private patient rooms, additional outpatient health services and doctor's offices on campus. Patients and ambulances will use major roadways for easier access to the hospital. There will also be additional public transportation routes.

The relocated hospital will also have a new name, Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, when it opens in the summer of 2019. The existing Takoma Park campus will offer 24/7 urgent care.

“Through the years, we have been blessed to help many in our community with our quality care and compassion,” said Terry Forde, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, which operates Washington Adventist Hospital. “That will remain at the core of what we do as we extend our mission at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center.”

Continued on next page



Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center in White Oak, Md., will expand access to care in the Washington, D.C., region. The new hospital will feature natural healing elements such as rooms with lake views and an outdoor walking trail. Learn more at AdventistWhiteOak.com.

A Century of Care and Compassion

Adventist HealthCare's new hospital extends a health ministry that began more than 110 years ago with the founding of the Washington Sanitarium in 1907. Adventists purchased the property in Takoma Park for \$6,000. Ellen White and her husband James used proceeds from her book, "The Ministry of Healing," to help with the purchase.

The Sanitarium began with 40 beds, 12 staff members and a focus on healing through wellness, pure food and relaxation in nature.

Daniel Kress, MD, the hospital's first medical superintendent and surgeon, and his wife Lauretta Kress, MD, Montgomery County's first female doctor, were instrumental in establishing the hospital's mission and clinical foundation.



The Washington Sanitarium

The Kresses also built much of what we have come to expect from any modern hospital, including maternity services and the emergency department, which set the stage for the hospital to begin one of the region's first cardiac centers in the 1960s.

"We're fortunate to be standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and working to ensure that our mission is as meaningful today as it was in the beginning," said Erik Wangsness, president of Washington Adventist Hospital. "We feel blessed to carry forward the message of health and wellness to the community we serve."

Rooted in Faith and Comfort

The legacy established by the Whites and Kresses will live on at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center through a focus on natural healing elements.

Patients, visitors and staff will take in the natural surroundings and fresh air from a green roof garden. Private rooms with large windows and lake views will offer patients natural light and landscape views which contribute to healing. An outdoor walking trail will also provide a fitness and wellness area for the surrounding community to enjoy.

The name of the center is connected to the hospital's current health and healing outreach as the white oak tree is a symbol of faith and comfort.

State-of-the-art Healing

Construction is now underway inside the new hospital after its seven-story exterior was completed late last year. During the design process, nurses and physicians worked closely with the architects to create an environment focused on providing quality, compassionate care.

In addition to featuring the latest medical equipment, patients and their caregivers will be able to discuss care plans and rest in privacy and comfort.

"We worked with the architects to thoughtfully design our new home in a way that allows us to provide compassionate care for patients at every step of the way," said Rose Melendez, RN, who has worked at Washington Adventist Hospital for nearly 30 years and serves as the project manager for the hospital's transition to White Oak. "We pray the new hospital will enhance the lives of our patients, their families and our caregivers."

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ketteringhealth.org/mission

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LEGAL NOTICES

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE TRIENNIAL SESSION

The triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 11, 2018, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports and to transact such other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

An Organizing Committee to select the Nominating Committee, and nominate the Constitution and Bylaws Committee met at 10 a.m., Sunday, September 9, 2018, at the Harrisburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

Gary D. Gibbs, President
William J. Peterson, Exec. Sec.

ADVENTIST WHOLEHEALTH NETWORK TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the regular session of the Adventist WholeHealth Network constituency will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 11, 2018, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports and to transact such other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Gary D. Gibbs, President
William J. Peterson, Exec. Sec.

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the triennial session of the

Pennsylvania Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the triennial session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 11, 2018, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the ensuing term, to receive reports and to transact such other business that may properly come before the session at that time. Delegates to the Pennsylvania Conference session are recognized as delegates to the association meeting.

*Gary D. Gibbs, President
William J. Peterson, Exec. Sec.*

OBITUARIES

CAMPBELL, Bruce Lee, born April 30, 1943, in Grantsville, W.Va.; died January 10, 2018, in Ravenswood, W.Va. He was a member of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church. Survivors: his wife, Shirley, of Ravenswood; his son, Jerry Michael Campbell; three brothers and seven sisters. His daughter, Jenny, and one brother preceded him in death.

COE, Hazel, 96, born October 6, 1921, in Passumpic, Vt.; died in her home, surrounded by family, November 20, 2017, in Mount Dora, Fla. She was the daughter of the late George and Jennie Warrell, and attended Atlantic Union College. Hazel married Wallace Coe May 20, 1945, and they were together for 63 years. Wallace "Wally" and Hazel served in Adventist ministry for 43 years, in pastorates and administration in the Georgia-Cumberland, Alabama-Mississippi, Carolina and Florida conferences; the Northern, Central and Columbia unions; and the General Conference. For 34 of those years, Hazel worked as an office secretary and registrar for the Alabama-Mississippi and Carolina conferences, Forest Lake Academy and Northern and Columbia Union conferences. Upon retirement, Wally and Hazel lived in Florida. Hazel was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was fun, loving, loyal to her family, had a great sense of humor and loved God with all her heart. Survivors: her son, Michael Coe of Mt. Dora, Fla.; her daughter, Janet Page, of Columbia, Md.; a brother, Ralph Warrell; six grandchildren: Samantha Young, Jason Coe, Michael Coe, Jr., Rebecca McKinney, Tyson

Page and Zachary Page; and seven great-grandchildren: Billy and Konnor Young, Griffin and Brenna Coe, and Daniel, Sean and Sonya Page. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2008.

DILL, Bryon J., born April 26, 1928, in Snow Hill, Md., the son of the late Byron Dill and Mary Tabitha Melson; died January 22, 2018, in Chestertown, Md. Following his graduation from Snow Hill High School in 1946, he attended trade school and later graduated from Prince George's Community College with a degree in computer technology. Byron served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged. He returned home, but his adventurous spirit led him to work for NASA as a service manager and for Pan Am. He was also self-employed as a mechanic and a long-haul truck driver until his retirement in 1992. As a model train enthusiast, he loved collecting while on the road and working on his trains when at home. Byron was a member of the Chestertown (Md.) church and served as head elder for 10 years. He also led out in the community services food program, as well as the fruit program. He was a constant friend, a devoted husband and loving father. Survivors: his wife, Helen Hill Dill, his high school sweetheart, whom he married October 27, 1991, after they were newly reunited; his children from his first marriage to Susan Keppler: Byron Jonathan (Beth) Dill, III, of Amarillo, Texas, and David Allen (Jennifer) Dill of Auburn, Wash.; step-sons: Frank and Vincent Spina; grandchildren: Whitney Dill Burnett, Austin White, Brandon Dill, Jessica Dill, Juliana Dill and Maureen Kelley Spina; great-grandchildren: Kendall White and Austin White, Jr.

GOSSARD, Sylvia "Faye," born February 11, 1947; died May 23, 2018, in Hagerstown, Md. She was a member of the Hagerstown church. Survivors: her husband, George Gossard; and her sisters, Carol, from Washington, and Dottie Kersker from Cincinnati, Ohio.

HOCKMAN, Evelyn V., born November 9, 1939, in Cumberland, Md.; died May 18, 2018, in Greencastle, Pa. She was a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Survivors: her daughters: Sherry and Julie Ann; her sons, Earnest and Eston; four brothers; three sisters; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Sunset Calendar

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
Baltimore	6:44	6:33	6:23	6:14
Cincinnati	7:16	7:05	6:55	6:45
Cleveland	7:03	6:52	6:41	6:31
Columbus	7:09	6:58	6:48	6:38
Jersey City	6:33	6:22	6:11	6:01
Norfolk	6:44	6:34	6:24	6:15
Parkersburg	7:04	6:53	6:43	6:33
Philadelphia	6:38	6:27	6:17	6:07
Pittsburgh	6:57	6:46	6:35	6:25
Reading	6:41	6:30	6:19	6:09
Richmond	6:48	6:38	6:29	6:20
Roanoke	6:58	6:48	6:39	6:30
Toledo	7:11	6:59	6:48	6:38
Trenton	6:36	6:25	6:15	6:05
Wash., D.C.	6:46	6:35	6:25	6:16

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Winchester Church
 10:20 AM - 10:40 AM

Strasburg Church
 11:10 AM - 11:30 AM

New Market Church
 12:10 PM - 12:30 PM

Harrisonburg Church
 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM

Staunton Church
 2:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Waynesboro Church
 3:15 PM - 3:35 PM

Charlottesville Church
 4:05 PM - 4:25 PM

Culpepper Church
 5:40 PM - 6:00 PM

Living Hope Church
 7:00 PM - 7:20 PM

RICHMOND ROUTE
NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Woodbridge Church
 9:00 AM - 9:20 AM

Dale City Spanish Church
 9:35 AM - 9:55 AM

Stafford Church
 10:30 AM - 10:50 AM

Fredericksburg Church
 11:25 AM - 11:45 AM

Far West End Church
 1:30 PM - 1:50 PM

Patterson Avenue Church
 2:10 PM - 2:30 PM

Richmond Brazilian Church
 2:45 PM - 3:05 PM

Courthouse Road Church
 3:25 PM - 3:45 PM

Petersburg Church
 4:45 PM - 5:05 PM

Meadowbridge Church
 5:30 PM - 5:50 PM

Churches on the routes will receive packets of food & Christmas gift specials in advance of these dates

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NOVEMBER 10, 2018



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*Judith Pierce, RN,
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