

VISITOR

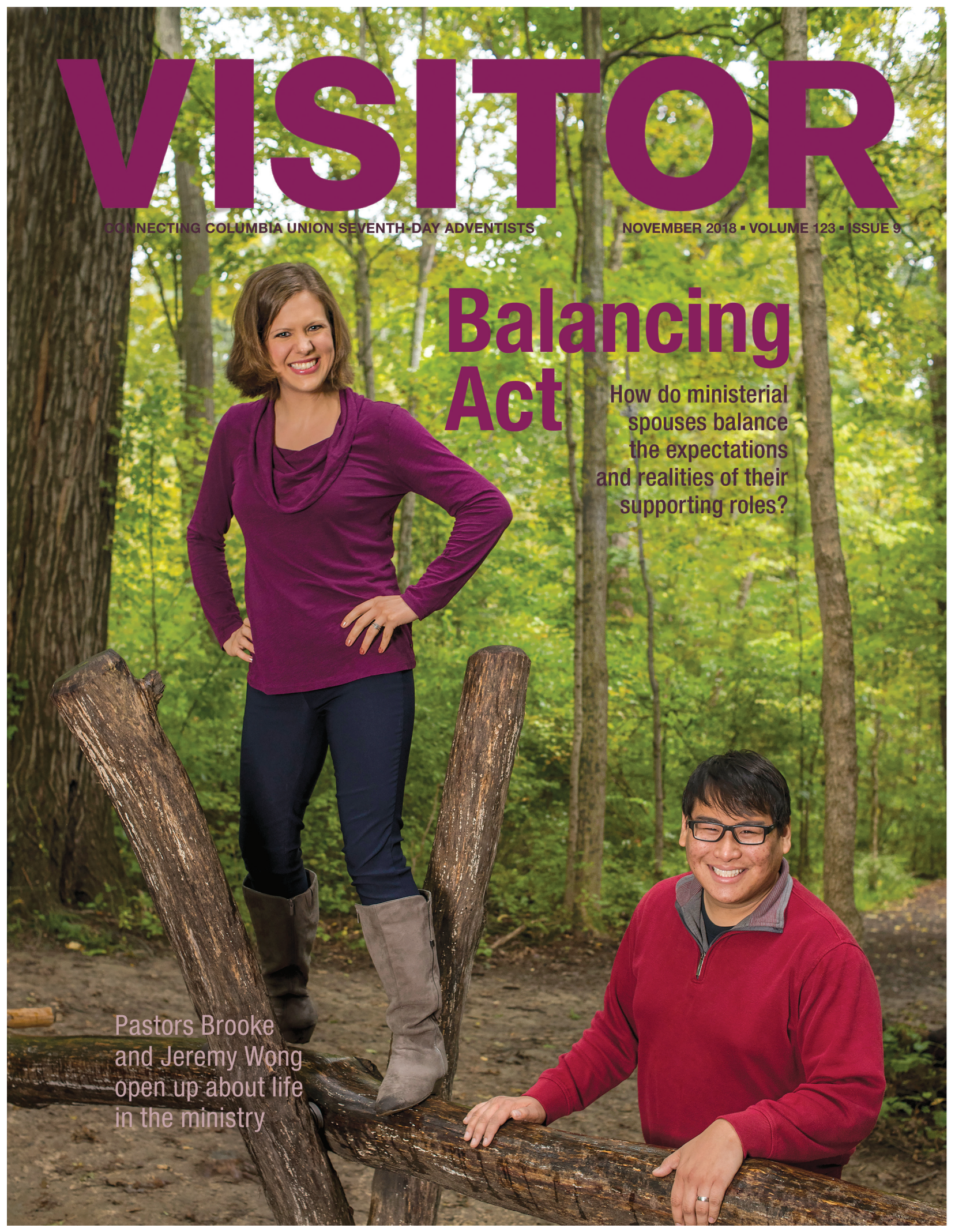
CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOVEMBER 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 9

Balancing Act

How do ministerial spouses balance the expectations and realities of their supporting roles?

Pastors Brooke and Jeremy Wong open up about life in the ministry



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Balancing Act

Michele Joseph

Nine ministerial spouses open up about life in the ministry spotlight. How do they balance the expectations and realities of their mutually supporting roles?

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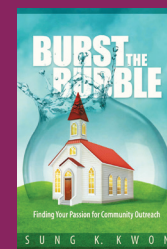
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About the Cover: Pastors Brooke and Jeremy Wong were photographed in Worthington, Ohio, by Ty Wright.

ON THE WEB

OUTSIDE HER COMFORT ZONE

While reading *The Desire of Ages* as part of her worship routine, Priska Volpe, whose husband pastors Mountain View Conference's Valley View and Beckley churches in W.Va., was struck with the idea to distribute one copy of *Steps to Christ* per day. The idea frightened Volpe, who is shy and doesn't like crowds, but she's learned a lesson about how God asks for what seems like hard requests. Read more about her ministry that flowed from this lesson at columbiaunionvisitor.com/stepstochristministry.



BOOK RELEASE: BURST THE BUBBLE

Sung Kwon, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., recently released *Burst the Bubble*, a book he hopes will help readers shift from church-based ministry to community-based ministry to transform their churches. Read our interview with him at columbiaunionvisitor.com/burstthebubble.

PATHFINDERS LAUNCH FUNDRAISING SITE

David Nazaire and Alexandre Inamasu, longtime members of New Jersey Conference's Hackettstown Pathfinder Club, know how hard it is to fundraise for events like the upcoming Chosen 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. To help their club and others like them, they recently launched pathfindermall.com, a site that sells Christian and Seventh-day Adventist-themed merchandise, including camporee gear. Read more about what inspired these young entrepreneurs and how your club can participate at columbiaunionvisitor.com/pathfindermall.



YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY RECIPES

Have a dish that everyone requests each holiday season? Share your best vegetarian recipes with us, and we'll publish our favorites online in December. Send a recipe of your original creation and a photo to visitor@columbiaunion.net.

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 9

Thankful for Pastors' Spouses

I wasn't planning on marrying a poor preacher. I was going to marry a teacher, someone who had summers free so we could both work at summer camp. But, 41 years ago, I fell in love and married a theology major. Back then I wasn't what some deemed to be preacher-wife material—I wasn't "perfect" nor could I play the piano. But like my marriage vows, stated in Ruth 1:16, I pledged, "For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God" (KJV).



A few months in, I found myself cutting cardboard to fit into the bottoms of his "holy" shoes and searching the house for coins to buy milk and bread. Sometime later we were called to serve as the evangelist team for one conference and then another. We traveled a lot, moved our "home on wheels" six times a year and homeschooled our children. Those years were often lonely and difficult, but that's when we grew into the close-knit



family we are today. Back then and throughout the years, we've been blessed by many wonderful people who saw and helped meet our needs. They brought meals to our home while we were packing to move, offered to babysit so Dave and I could go out on a date, anonymously gave money to fix our car and more.

Like everything else, ministry has changed so much in the past 41 years. The pastor's spouse isn't just the wife, homemaker or available 24/7 person who, like Superwoman, can perform unbelievable feats. Now the spouse can be either male or female, and in many cases, have their own careers and commitments.

Life is busy, and all too often it feels like there are too many responsibilities and not enough "me" to go around. Yet I am thankful for the privilege of playing a small part in God's great work.

To my fellow ministerial spouses: I'm thankful for your faithful service and for how you use your talents and gifts in ministry. You are greatly appreciated. May God bless and strengthen you for today's hard tasks and give you assurance of His leading as you place before Him your plans to be accepted or changed according to His master plan.

Here is some great advice given to me early on in my ministry journey: You will never please everyone. Never live your life according to what is right for someone else. Pray for wisdom. And remember, everything you go through grows you.

You are in my prayers.

Becky Weigley serves as director of the Columbia Union Conference Ministerial Spouses Association, which supports ministry spouses who serve in the union's eight conferences.

Newsline



CALLING ALL PATHFINDERS

Do you have a talent you would like to share at Chosen, the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis., August 12–17, 2019? Event organizers are now looking for musicians to appear onstage, submit theme song entries, teach honor classes, lead activities and more! Visit camporee.org/about/main-stage for details and deadlines. —V. Michelle Bernard

COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS HELP STORM RELIEF EFFORT

WGTS 91.9, a media ministry in the Columbia Union, recently spearheaded an initiative to help people suffering from the effects of Hurricane Florence in North and South Carolina. WGTS 91.9 staff teamed up with a trucking company, Reinhart FoodService and His Radio, a Christian radio station in Greenville, N.C. They invited listeners to bring cases of water to send to evacuees in North and South Carolina. Listeners,



WGTS staff and listeners celebrate filling up the first truck with water.

including members from the Potomac Conference's Leesburg (Va.) church, donated 35 pallets of water—11,500 gallons.

"When we heard about the need on WGTS, we put out an APB to everyone to let [them] know to bring water to church on Sabbath. Members of the church stepped up, and I'm just here to deliver what they gave to help," says Brian Ducharme, Leesburg church member.

Columbia Union Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) and Disaster Relief (DR) leaders also helped in relief efforts, assisting where needed and arranging donations of requested items to evacuees.—Jerry Woods and V. Michelle Bernard

ADVENTIST GIVING LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

For members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, giving tithes and offerings on digital platforms recently got much easier



with the launch of the Adventist Giving mobile app for both Apple (iOS) and Android devices.

Gordon Harty, North American Division web application developer, explained that members can search "Adventist Giving" in the respective application stores to find the app. "The mobile app allows for all the same donation services that are provided on the website," he says.—Kimberly Luste Maran

ACADEMY LEADERS GATHER FOR SALT

This year the Columbia Union Conference's annual Spiritual Academy Leadership Training

2,600

The number of small groups
Columbia Union Conference
Hispanic leaders hope to
establish by April 2019



(SALT) welcomed more than 220 student leaders and sponsors from 12 of the union's academies, one of SALT's largest groups in its 20-plus year history. Students in grades 9–12 gathered on the campgrounds of Allegheny East Conference in Boyertown, Pa., for a weekend of training and inspiration.

"The purpose is to get leaders together to energize them as they start the new school year. Most importantly, it is to strengthen their walk in the Lord," says Illeana Espinosa, associate director of Elementary Education for the Columbia Union.



Andrea Jakobsons, one of the pastors at Spencerville church, interacts with students at SALT.

The featured speaker Andrea Jakobsons, pastor for youth, collegiate and young adults at Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., reaffirmed the students' decision to be leaders, reminding them, "Every time you say 'yes' to a position is an opportunity to be used by God."

Throughout the weekend, leaders participated in various icebreakers, breakout sessions and activities that allowed them to share ideas and practice leadership principles such as teamwork and communication. Student leaders from Kettering College (Ohio) and Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., also shared tools for effective leadership. "I enjoy being around other leaders where you can bounce off ideas, meet people from other cultures and have



fun," says Reese McKoy, a junior from Pine Forge Academy (Pa.).

The bonfire on Friday evening brought to the surface a major longing among the youth. "As everyone shared, it really became apparent the need for young people to come together spiritually," observes Hector Hernandez, a student at the REACH School for Urban Evangelism at WAU.

Many of the sponsors have

attended SALT for many years, such as Ken Knudsen, high school vice principal from Ohio Conference's Spring Valley Academy in Centerville. "SALT energizes [our students] on how to build a spiritual emphasis [at their schools]," he says, adding, they leave refreshed with ideas of what others are doing and "ways they can implement them when they return."—*LaTasha Hewitt*

PERSPECTIVES: WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?

At the Columbia Union Conference 2018 Spiritual Academy Leadership Training, we asked student leaders what they've learned about being a good leader.



Ben Jemahwo, junior, head deacon, gymnastics team captain at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa.

“ I believe the greatest trait of a leader is to have a cool mind that brings everyone together. It's also important to take charge, be a risk-taker and show initiative. Most importantly, you have to be real; no one likes to follow anyone who is being fake.”



Peris Muene, senior, Student Association president/senate chair at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.

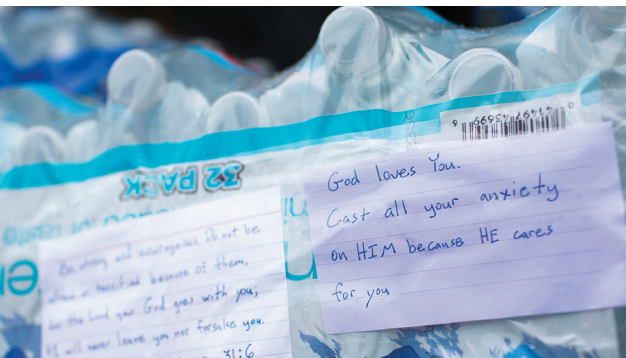
“ The most important leadership trait is learning how to work with others and being patient with each team member. As a leader, you also have to be a team player because no one can do it all alone.”



Maxwell Shull, junior, class president at Spring Valley Academy in Centerville, Ohio

“ A key trait for leaders is understanding. With so much going on in high school, you have to be flexible when working with others. You have to look at how we are all different and how we are the same. It helps each person to develop as an individual.”

Noticias



WGTS ORGANIZA AYUDA PARA AFECTADOS POR FLORENCE

WGTS 91.9, un ministerio de medios de comunicación en la Unión de Columbia, recientemente encabezó una iniciativa para ayudar a las personas que sufren los efectos del huracán Florence en Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur. El personal de WGTS 91.9 se asoció con una compañía de camiones, Reinhart FoodService, y His Radio, una estación de radio cristiana en Greenville, N.C. Invitaron a los oyentes a llevar packs de agua para enviar a los evacuados en Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur. Los oyentes, incluidos miembros de la iglesia de Leesburg (Virginia) de la Conferencia de Potomac, donaron 35 paletas de agua: 11,500 galones.

“Cuando nos enteramos de la necesidad a través de WGTS, pedimos a todos que llevaran agua a la iglesia el sábado. Los miembros de la iglesia colaboraron, y yo sólo estoy aquí para entregar lo que ellos dieron para ayudar”, dice Brian Ducharme, miembro de la iglesia de Leesburg.—*Jerry Woods*

LLAMANDO A TODOS LOS CONQUISTADORES

¿Tienes un talento que te gustaría compartir en Chosen, el Camporí Internacional de Conquistadores 2019 en Oshkosh, Wisconsin, del 12 al 17 de agosto de 2019? ¡Los organizadores del evento ahora están buscando músicos para aparecer en el escenario



y para componer el canto lema, y voluntarios para enseñar especialidades, dirigir actividades y mucho más! Visita camporee.org/about/main-stage para obtener detalles y fechas límites.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

ADVENTIST GIVING LANZA UNA APLICACIÓN MÓVIL

Para los miembros de la División Norte Americana (DNA), dar los diezmos y las ofrendas en plataformas digitales recientemente se hizo mucho más fácil con el lanzamiento de las aplicaciones móviles Adventist Giving para dispositivos Apple (iOS) y Android.



Gordon Harty, quien desarrolla las aplicaciones para DNA, explicó que los miembros pueden encontrar “Adventist Giving” en las respectivas tiendas de aplicaciones. “Las aplicaciones móviles permiten todos los mismos servicios de donación que se proporcionan en el sitio web”, dice.—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

LA IGLESIA DE ALLENTOWN ORGANIZA FERIA DE SALUD

Más de 150 personas asistieron recientemente a una feria de salud en la iglesia hispana de Allentown de la Conferencia de Pensilvania. Los participantes aprendieron sobre los ocho principios básicos de la salud; asistieron a presentaciones sobre prevención de enfermedades cardiovasculares y educación nutricional; y probaron un menú vegano, preparado por Paola Franchini, coordinadora de Hispanic Health Ministries para Adventist WholeHealth Network en Hamburg, Pa. “Es mi pasión ver a las personas con la oportunidad de transformar sus vidas a través

2600
es el número de grupos pequeños que los líderes hispanos de la Unión de Columbia se proponen establecer para Semana Santa 2019

de la reforma de salud”, dice ella.

Los miembros de la iglesia se ofrecieron como voluntarios en el evento, estableciendo contacto directo con los asistentes, mostrando interés en sus necesidades y orando con muchos. Los participantes se inscribieron para las próximas clases de inglés gratuitas, un curso de cocina saludable y grupos de apoyo para madres, parejas, aquellos que sufren de depresión y personas adictas a las drogas y el alcohol.

Andrés Marín, miembro de la comunidad, estaba muy feliz de haber asistido a la feria de salud, especialmente debido a los consejos que recibió sobre la obesidad, algo que ha estado complicando y afectando sus emociones. “Esto vino de Dios. No sabía lo que mi esposa y yo íbamos a hacer. La nutricionista nos dio una dieta”, dice Marín, quien planea permanecer en contacto con la iglesia y asistir a los próximos eventos.—*Personal de Salud Integral Adventista*



Cesar Mercado, miembro de la iglesia hispana de Allentown, consulta a un miembro de la comunidad durante la feria de salud de la iglesia.

Líderes de las Academia de la Unión reunidos en SALT

Este año, el entrenamiento anual de liderazgo espiritual para las academias (SALT por sus siglas en inglés) de la Unión de Columbia dio la bienvenida a más de 220 líderes estudiantiles y patrocinadores de 12 de sus academias, uno de los grupos más grandes en sus más de 20 años de historia. Los estudiantes de los grados 9-12 se reunieron en los campamentos de la Conferencia de Allegheny East en Boyertown, Pa., para un fin de semana de entrenamiento e inspiración.

“El objetivo es unir a los líderes para motivarlos en el comienzo del nuevo año escolar, y sobre todo fortalecer su caminar en el Señor”, dice Ileana Espinosa, directora asociada de Educación Primaria de la Unión de Columbia.



La oradora principal del evento fue Andrea Jakobsons (en la foto), pastora de jóvenes, universitarios y jóvenes adultos de la iglesia de Spencerville de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Silver Spring, Maryland. Durante sus charlas compartió muchos de sus propios miedos e inseguridades acerca del liderazgo y cómo vencerlos.

A lo largo del fin de semana, los líderes participaron en varios “rompehielos”, incluido uno en el que compartieron sus miedos y sueños. También participaron en sesiones y actividades que les permitieron compartir ideas y practicar principios de liderazgo como el trabajo en equipo y la comunicación. Los líderes estudiantes de Kettering College (Ohio)

y de la Universidad Adventista de Washington (WAU) en Takoma Park, Maryland, también compartieron herramientas para un liderazgo efectivo. “Disfruté estar cerca de otros líderes donde puedes intercambiar ideas, conocer gente de otras culturas y divertirte”, dice Reese McKoy, estudiante de la Academia Pine Forge (Pensilvania).

La sesión de entrenamiento de tres días también trajo un sentido de camaradería entre los líderes. “En mi sesión de grupo, fue interesante ver a presidentes de escuelas que a menudo son rivales entre sí ayudarse unos a otros con ideas sobre recaudación de fondos, eventos y relaciones interpersonales en el equipo”, comparte Sara Deveraj, presidenta de la asociación juvenil y estudiantil de WAU.

La fogata del viernes por la noche fue también un gran acontecimiento para los asistentes y trajo a la superficie una gran necesidad entre los jóvenes. “A medida que todos compartieron, realmente se hizo evidente la necesidad de que los jóvenes se unieran espiritualmente”, observa Héctor Hernández, un estudiante de la Escuela REACH para Evangelismo Urbano en WAU. La fogata también proporcionó una atmósfera de unión y compañerismo. “Todos se expresaban abiertamente”. Parecía que éramos familia”, dice Samantha Flores, vicepresidenta de la clase



Estudiantes de primer año de Lake Nelson Academy Sheeba Mathanbau, Nolan Pieters y Samantha Flores disfrutaron de su primera experiencia SALT.

de primer año en la Academia Adventista Lake Nelson de la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey en Piscataway.

Muchos de los patrocinadores han estado asistiendo a SALT durante muchos años, como Ken Knudsen, vicedirector de escuela secundaria de Spring Valley Academy de la Conferencia de Ohio en Centerville, que ha asistido por 13 años. “Nuestros estudiantes siempre tienen una muy buena experiencia. SALT les da energía sobre cómo construir un énfasis espiritual en su programa. Se van con ideas renovadas de lo que otros están haciendo y cómo pueden implementarlas cuando regresen”, comparte.—LaTasha Hewitt



Estudiantes de Pine Forge, Shenandoah y Spencerville dirigen una sesión de adoración en SALT.

Balancing Act

Michele Joseph

How Pastors' Spouses Navigate Life in the Spotlight

To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, through board meetings and visitations, home and school fundraisers, packing and moving, till death do us part. For pastoral couples, wedding vows take on a whole new meaning. How do they navigate life in the ministry spotlight?

Understanding the Call

Cindy Washington compares the calling of a pastoral couple to a joint checking account, where all the finances are mingled together and cannot be separated.

"It is a ministry that God has ordained and put us together to work together," she says.

Understanding *how* that worked took some time. When she married Kenneth Washington 35 years ago, some seasoned pastors' wives told her to make sure she had her own life and didn't depend on her husband. She thought that meant "he does his thing, and I do my thing," even as she was deeply involved in church. While she did support her husband, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's Bethel church in Cleveland, her mindset kept his ministry separate from her purpose.

"Later God revealed that's not how it is," Cindy says.

Now as an experienced pastor's wife, she views her role as a team member on a mission alongside her husband to win souls for Christ.

While a noble idea, the role is not always a welcomed one.

Cindy's husband was already a pastor when they married. Conversely, Kathy Pepper's husband, Stewart,



Cindy Washington is pictured with her husband, Kenneth, a pastor, and their son, Kendrick.

worked as a literature evangelist, and then, for 17 years, in the book bindery at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, then headquartered in Hagerstown, Md.

Stewart's revelation to become a pastor took the family by surprise.

"I threw an absolute fit, and that's the nice way of saying it," Kathy recalls. "... I went kicking and screaming into the ministry because I saw ministry as a fishbowl. Everyone was going to be watching what you did and criticizing."

She worried her children, then 13, 8 and 3, would be on display.

Priska Volpe—whose children were 19, 18, 10 and 6 when their father became a pastor—had similar concerns. She worried she'd be trapped by expectations and never see her husband who was meeting the 24/7 demands of ministry.

"They don't have their weekends off," she says. "They don't have their evenings."

Volpe's husband, James, served in the Coast Guard for 10 years, and then worked as a house painter. She knew she didn't want to be a pastor's wife based on her dating history. In fact, at 18, she turned down a marriage proposal from a seminarian because she felt the role of a pastor's wife was "too much responsibility" and felt sorry for pastors' wives, she recalls. "It was dealing with people and their drama and being in the spotlight and having to maybe portray a certain cliché."

With time and experience in the ministry, both Kathy and Priska have changed their views.

A year after becoming a pastor, Kathy's husband, Stewart, was ready to quit.

"I said, 'That's fine, I'm staying,'" she says. "In a year's time, my attitude totally switched. I love ministry."

That doesn't mean it has been easy. During their first evangelistic series, "war" broke out in the Pepper home.

"Both of us, especially he, was under so much pressure to get it right, and he didn't know what he was doing yet," she says. "We literally [fought] several nights and



I don't mean two or three. ... We would be in the car screaming, hollering at each other, quit screaming and hollering and walk in the church with a smiling face. I was miserable."

Today, after 16 years in ministry, Kathy describes working with her husband as the best part of being a pastor's wife. As a team, they've been assigned to 13 churches in the Mountain View and Pennsylvania conferences. Stewart currently pastors the Pittsburgh and New Brighton churches in Pennsylvania.

Priska now views her life in ministry as a "pleasant journey."

Early on, her focus was her children, while her husband met the demands of the pastorate. She even petitioned the conference president to keep her family in the same district for 10 years to allow her children the stability she felt they needed.

"The children really appreciated that I made them [my priority]," she says. "I didn't just run where my husband needed to go. And I think they appreciated that."

Now that their children are grown, she participates in pastoral visits with James at the Mountain View Conference's Valley View and Beckley churches in West

Stewart and Kathy Pepper, with Jessica Pepper; Katrina and Graydon Jedamski; and Jeremy (holding Makayla) and Rebecca Pepper gather during a family vacation.

Virginia. They often team up for health lectures where she offers cooking demonstrations. She has also always chosen her own focus, distributing *Steps to Christ*. (See On the Web, page 2, for more on this ministry.)

"I love to go to church," she says. "I'm not burned out, but I think it's because I have my own time with the Lord. ... I come with the attitude to minister. To whom can I give a smile? To whom can I give a hug?"

And she allows herself to take breaks when needed.

Balancing Act

Finding a balance, as most two-career parents will agree, can be difficult, especially when the job demands are all-consuming. As Elizabeth David's husband, Franklin, worked to grow the Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md.,



I love helping people but I am human just like them and have the same amount of hours in the day like them.



Top: Elizabeth and Pastor Franklin David (center), flanked by Shalini, Tony and Eva Paulose (left) and Malini, Sanjay and Arabella Purushotham gather for a family portrait.

Priska and Pastor James Volpe (center) enjoy family time with (left to right) Jacob, Hannah, Sandra and Natalie Jordan (kneeling); Austin, Andrew, Francis and Zoe Aho; Angela and Mark Kent (standing); and Atalie Simons, Sarah Volpe and Austin Simons.

he embraced the pastoral duties of visiting members, giving Bible studies and attending to emergencies. But this meant he spent less time at home, and Elizabeth “filled more time with the children,” she says.

“I don’t think we went on family vacation or outings on Sunday or shopping because we always had something going on in the church community, and [the] pastor has to be there,” she says. “My children got used to it. As they grew and joined in church ministry with us, then the life was easier. They felt the responsibility of helping their father in the church, and they enjoyed it. And God blessed us.”

Elizabeth, a retired nurse, has been a pastor’s wife for 41 years. She worked the night shift, which helped her balance family and work needs. As the daughter of a pastor, she knew what she was getting into when she married Franklin. Though she grew up in a different culture, she saw what church members expected of her mother. “Even though my mom was a housewife, it was very challenging, tiring and frustrating for her at times, and I found it was hard for her to always please everybody. Many people criticized, they would watch the pastor’s wife, marriage and children growing up. ... I decided my priority is my family first.”

While Eric Crews was dating his wife, Pastor Heather Crews, he, too, decided that their family would be most important, and he would willingly follow her career moves. This decision hasn’t been without cost to his advancement as a software developer. When he got a job offer in Dallas, Texas, an hour and a half from his wife’s church at that time, he turned it down in order to stay closer to her. When they moved to Virginia—where she now pastors the Courthouse Road church near Richmond—he was able to telecommute, but the pay of his Texas-based job was not equivalent to similar jobs in that area.

Still, he has been able to continue his career and now has “the best job I’ve ever had,” he says.

Defying Tradition

Being a ministerial spouse doesn't always involve a stereotypical set of duties. As a young pastor's wife, Cindy Washington tried to fit what she thought was the traditional role of a pastor's wife.

She'd taken piano lessons but had never considered playing for church. It took her a while to realize she had a choice. "If that's not my gift, I don't have to play piano just because that's the typical role of a minister's wife," she says. "I can be who God called me to be and work through my gifts that God has given me."

Cindy chose to participate in things like Pathfinders and Health Ministries.

She also chose to keep her job when her husband was reassigned. She began her career teaching high school, and then decided to go to nursing school. While those two professions—nursing and teaching—have traditionally been popular choices for pastors' spouses, pursuing a career can still be a challenge and requires sacrifices. For her it meant staying in Columbus, Ohio, to continue teaching at the Central Ohio Technical College, when, almost three years ago, her husband was transferred two and half hours away to the Bethel church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eric Crews has a full-time job as a software engineer, but that doesn't stop his son's 4-year-old friend from calling him a pastor.

"I don't know why he thinks I'm a pastor," Eric says, laughing.

He would rather work in the background—designing sets, working with the AV team and taking care of the couple's young son and daughter.

"I told her, 'I'm marrying you so I never have to go up to do prayer or anything,'" Eric says.

It hasn't worked out so well. There are times when people assume he's the pastor and ask him to pray.

"I think there are a few people who assume, not too many," he says.

What Pastors' Spouses Wish You Knew

We're human!

"At one level, [people] realize that a pastor's wife's ministry in general is made up of real, actual human beings who have good days and bad days. . . . Who have marriages that they struggle [with] at times, who have finances that go up and down. But at another level, people put us on a pedestal like you don't really have any problems because you are a pastor's wife.

"I like being able to pull back the curtain, which I really do. I wear my heart on my sleeve a lot of the time. I think it surprises people."—*Kathy Pepper*

We're busy too!

"We work full time, take care of our children; we are no different than others. . . . I love helping people, but I am human just like them and have the same amount of hours in the day like them."—*Elizabeth David*

We don't get paid for this.

"I have a large part-time job that I'm not paid for."
—*Eric Crews*

Our spouses need downtime too.

"Someone calls the pastor at eight at night. They weren't just sitting around waiting for a phone call. They were having a conversation with their spouse or doing the things that you would be doing in the evening. Now you've just dragged them back into work."—*Eric Crews*

It can be lonely.

"Family and longtime friends can be far away. Sometimes it is hard to make friends at church because you cannot join cliques or play favorites. That may leave you with no friends at all. Church members, if willing, can ease that loneliness just by being friendly, just by being open."—*Cindy Washington*



Double Duty

When Pastor Franke Zollman took his wife, Kandace, home to the Indiana church where he grew up, an “older saint” told Kandace, “It’s a shame you don’t play the ‘piany,’” Franke remembers.

As a 22-year-old pastor’s wife, Kandace wanted to be perfect. What she found was what one person thought was the perfect pastor’s wife, someone else thought was the worst. The traditional “prototype” of a pastor’s wife just never fit. It was impossible to meet everyone’s expectations, she says.

Then God showed her, “The one you have to please is Me,” she says.

In truth, Kandace felt God’s call went beyond being a pastor’s wife. But in the late 1970’s, there were few opportunities for women

in ministry. Still, she earned a bachelor’s degree in religion and a master’s degree in counseling.

As her husband built his 38-year pastoral career, she became an educator, teaching everything from preschool to high school and serving as a principal. At church, she gave Bible studies and was ordained as an elder at age 30. More than 25 years passed before her call to be a pastor would be fulfilled.

Today she serves as the associate pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Williamsport (Md.) church, along with her husband, who is the senior pastor.

While she relishes the role, her appointment has given her husband a new role as well: pastor’s spouse.

“We tease about it a lot,” Franke chuckles. “I did go to the ministerial spouse meeting during camp meeting. It was not geared for male ministerial spouses.”

There are few male spouses in Chesapeake Conference, and the Zollmans are currently the only pastor duo.

Pastors Franke and Kandace Zollman serve together.

Pastors Brooke and Jeremy Wong hug daughter, JJ.

Pastor Heather and Eric Crews pose for a family picture with Molly and Owen.

Supporting Roles

They aren’t the only pastor duo in the Columbia Union. Brooke and



Jeremy Wong also serve as a ministerial team in Worthington, Ohio.

Jeremy is the youth pastor at Ohio Conference's Worthington church. Brooke is the children's chaplain at Worthington Adventist Academy and Stepping Stone's Learning Center, which is affiliated with the church.

The two met their first year at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), but they didn't begin dating until their last year. Since both were on a ministerial track, Brooke says she wasn't looking to date a pastor.

"I knew that initially ... pastors were going to be held to a higher standard," says Brooke. "The family would be on a pedestal of sorts. I was leery, but willing to embrace that challenge. When both [spouses] are pastors, I think people take it to a higher level. ...

People truly appreciate me being me and not trying to be somebody I'm not.

I don't enjoy that piece."

When the couple started to get serious, Jeremy says it helped that Brooke's strengths were his weaknesses. He has a laid-back personality. She is Type A. "I knew she would be a great support to me, and I would be a great support to her," he says. "Career wise—it impacts me in the sense that there are times [that because] Brooke is a pastor as well, I need to take [the supporting] role," says Jeremy. "On Sabbath morning, she preaches a lot more. ... It's my turn to take care of [our daughter], JJ. It's a different mindset, different situation. ... I need to be the one who

gets JJ ready, takes her to church, takes her to Sabbath School. I'm in the background. I've always been OK with [the idea of] it, but now that I do it, [it takes] a different mindset."

Looking back on it now, Brooke says she can't imagine life any other way "because there are so many benefits to doing ministry together. ... It encapsulates the entire lifestyle. So much so that I can't imagine not being with someone who understands the importance of that life work. Life work [an Ellen White term], is a great term to use because [ministry] involves every aspect of the life."

5 Lessons Learned as a Pastor's Spouse

1. Be You.

"It's OK to be you. I truly thought I was going to have to change my whole way of life. People truly appreciate me being me and not trying to be somebody I'm not."—*Kathy Pepper*

2. Be Humble.

"[I've learned] humility, and how to [be] OK in a supporting role."—*Jeremy Wong*

3. There's Joy in Giving.

"It's all about others, and glorifying God helps them in the struggles, sadness and difficulties of life. God showed me when you help others in their pain and sadness, it gives me joy, and my own sadness becomes much less."—*Elizabeth David*

4. Only Jesus Saves.

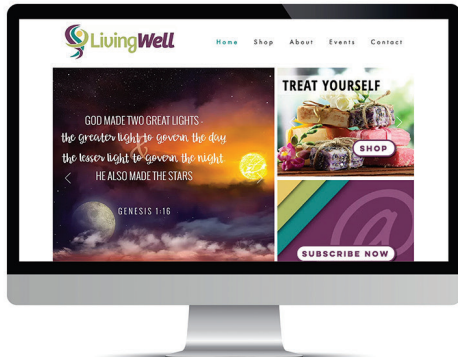
"I don't need to solve other people's problems. I'm not their savior. I'm happy to point them to what has helped me."—*Priska Volpe*

5. Stay Within Your Gifts.

"We have to use our gifts to further the gospel. If we are not doing that, are we truly being led by God? ... I think church members can pressure you to do certain things, and, if that is not what God has asked you, it is OK. It takes a while to determine if that is what God has asked and then be bold enough to say 'no.'"—*Cindy Washington*



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Global Mission pioneers continue to make great sacrifices to be laborers in God's field. On November 10, your sacrificial offering will help equip them with much-needed resources to reach even more people with God's love. Mark your envelope "Annual Sacrifice Offering" or Visit Global-Mission.org/Giving

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10

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— Onifade



GLOBAL MISSION

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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Philadelphia New Life Participates in 'Touch 10K'

Members of the New Life church in Philadelphia recently committed to reignite their presence in the community. Morraye Berrios, one of the church's Bible workers, heard about the Touch 10K Challenge and shared it with John Hall, III, pastor. The movement challenges congregations to find ways to touch the lives of 10,000 people in one year's time. "We saw this as an opportunity to take evangelism to the next level," says Hall.

On the first Sabbath, 55 participants formed two groups and traveled to the Logan neighborhood of Philadelphia. As they met people, they shared *Bible Answers* books, *Message* magazines and prayer cards. They also distributed business cards and T-shirts with New Life's contact information.

The group targeted areas known for prostitution, giving water bottles to those they encountered. They also fed 200 people in the Suburban Station, an underground commuter rail station where a large concentration of homeless live. By the end of the day, members reached more than 1,000 people.

Back at the church, former pastors Charlie Jenkins, Vern Joyner and Augustus O'Giste—via video call—addressed the members and encouraged them to continue showing Jesus' love to others.



New Life members Roshann Hoyte, youth church leader, and John Greene, head elder, prepare to reach 10,000 people in Philadelphia.

Ephesus Junior Academy Hosts Journalism Camp



Students watch drone footage of a wide overhead view of the Ephesus church property.

When veteran reporter and instructor Bonnie Newman Davis approached Gary Banks, pastor of the Ephesus church in Richmond, Va., about hosting a media camp, he was more than willing. "It is actually something I've always wanted to do, so, it was an easy 'yes,'" says Banks.

Community and Ephesus members participated in the two-week camp, held at Ephesus Junior Academy, adjacent to the church. Students, ages 12–18, explored storytelling through various mediums, such as writing, interviewing and marketing. The program also included field trips. They visited the set of a local news broadcast and learned how to operate a camera on a drone.

After a successful first year, Ephesus plans to host another event next summer. Their goal is to add a specialty camp each year. In 2019 they will offer a music camp in addition to media.

Pine Forge Academy Attends Scholarship Boot Camp

The entire student body of Pine Forge Academy (PFA), located in Pennsylvania, recently participated in a three-hour scholarship boot camp. Sponsored by the Alumni Association Student Engagement Team (AASET), the boot camp featured presenter Gabrielle McCormick, founder of Scholarship Informer, an organization designed to



PFA students work on their scholarship profiles while attending the three-hour scholarship boot camp.

help educate students about how to completely fund college and other activities.

“The primary objective was to expose, inspire and inform students of invaluable strategies for funding their high school, university and post-secondary experience,” says Lynn Davis, AASET member and PFA alumna.

During the boot camp, students were given a resource guide that will help them develop their scholarship profile, look for scholarships and know how to apply for them. The interactive session allowed for students to ask questions and receive immediate feedback on their scholarship profile. Students walked away from the experience with tools and inspiration.

“The scholarship boot camp was very informative and motivating because it shows that you can pay for your education if you apply yourself and apply for scholarships,” says Cassandra Omorodion ('19). Jonelea Goulding, also a senior, says, “My eyes were opened to a number of opportunities that could help me in funding my academic career in college.”

For more about Scholarship Informer, visit scholarshipinformer.com. For more information about activities from the PFA Alumni Department, visit pineforgeacademyalumni.com.

Conference Launches Prayer Line

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently launched its new 24-hour prayer line, a place where constituents can leave prayer requests and concerns. Henry J. Fordham, III, conference president, greets callers and invites them to leave an audio recording, detailing their prayer request. Upon receipt, the prayer team, consisting of AEC office staff, listen to the message and pray together for the specific request.

Callers also have the option to leave their name and number for someone to call them back to pray with them over the phone. Someone will respond to these requests within 24 hours. Individuals can also email their prayer requests to prayer@aecstda.com.

“It has always been a goal of ours to interact more with our constituents; not just for information’s sake, but to build a spiritual connection. ... We are hoping this prayer line will help us accomplish both,” says LaTasha Hewitt, communication director.

Prayer warriors are poised and ready to receive requests at (800) 830-0224, ext. 270.



Temple of Praise Facilitates Grief Support Group

The Temple of Praise in Cleveland quarterly hosts GriefShare, a Christ-centered grief support group comprised of friendly, caring people who walk alongside each other and provide comfort through one of life's most difficult experiences—the death of a loved one. The group is built around a 13-week video and a small group discussion curriculum. It also includes a workbook that helps guide participants through personal reflection, journaling and Bible readings for hope and encouragement.

The group discussion time, intentionally set aside to learn, comfort and help each other, is a powerful part of the class and helps to build strong relationships. "It's extremely rewarding to see the growth that participants have made and how they're able to turn around and help others," says Kim Davis, Disability Ministries leader and one of the group facilitators. "Our team [is] awesome and remains prayerful throughout the year for the ministry and for each of the participants. Each facilitator has experienced grief and also benefited from participating in the classes."

Special classes on managing grief during the holidays and how to grieve the loss of a spouse are also incorporated. GriefShare classes are held at the



Forging ongoing friendships as a result of the Temple of Praise GriefShare support group, facilitators and community guest participants Cynthia Ball, Ericka Ruff, Kim Davis, Johanna McCall, Latrece Tramble, Clara Light, Janice Morton and Catherine Moton stand ready for their next meeting.

church every Sunday from 2–4 p.m. and run through December 16.

Greater Faith Holds Nurses Recognition Sabbath

The Greater Faith congregation in Martinsville, Va., recently hosted a Nurses Recognition Sabbath to honor and appreciate the work of those who serve in the medical field. Greater Faith member Arlene Swanson, a local community services director who serves as a licensed practical nurse at the Blue Ridge Nursing Home (Va.), organized the event.

Honorees included certified nursing assistants, a personal care employee and several registered nurses. They each received a dozen long-stemmed roses and personal bags filled with encouraging and spiritual material. Greater Faith member Thomas Betts spoke and highlighted the importance of N.E.W.S.T.A.R.T (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God). Visitors Cheryl Steven and Robin Walton provided special music.

Ida Draper, a retired nurse, and Swanson ended the church service with a charge to nurses. Afterward, a fellowship meal provided more opportunities to dialogue about healthy living. One attendee remarked that they really enjoyed the program and looked forward to visiting again. As a result of this event, nurses Steven and Walton now attend Greater Faith.



Youth Celebrate Cultural Heritage/Awareness Day

Youth Ministries leaders recently introduced their first Cultural Heritage/Awareness Day at Camp Adena in Thornville, Ohio. The morning began with a presentation by Ronnie Vanderhorst, author and co-founder of Prepare Our Youth, an organization dedicated to providing for the educational, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs of youth, families and communities. Vanderhorst shared a group message on “The Power of Purpose,” then spent one-on-one time with the older youth, talking with them about their transition into adulthood.

In the afternoon, attendees tried on—and got to keep—traditional African attire, giving them a feeling of their cultural heritage. As they entered the banquet hall in traditional costume to enjoy the cultural heritage feast, many say they felt a sense of connection with history.

Students enjoyed a southern-style meal, and a program consisting of cultural dance instruction, spoken

word and worship. Each camper received a certificate inscribed with an African name and meaning chosen especially for them, and, as a keepsake, a personalized picture of them in their native dress. The evening concluded with a fireworks display.

“I have never experienced anything like that,” says camper Alena Valles. “The speaker made me really think about the difference I can make in the world around me. It was really cool to dress up in our cultural outfits. We all felt beautiful.” Another camper adds, “It really made us look and feel like royalty.”

Jason Ridley, Youth Ministries director, explains, “The idea behind this Cultural Heritage/Awareness Day was to show our youth that they are special, that [to be] black is beautiful and they truly are royalty. We wanted our youth to know that with God in their lives and knowing who they are and where they come from, there is no limit to what they can and will become in this life.”



Attendees of the first Cultural Heritage/Awareness Day wear traditional African attire, that, as one camper puts it, “made us look and feel like royalty.”

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

All Eyes on the Prize

In today's tech-reliant world, it can be tougher than ever to focus on something without getting distracted. Some of the wonderful gadgets designed to make our lives easier and keep us constantly connected can be dangerous—and even deadly—when, for instance, one's attention is on texting instead of on the more pressing matter of driving. Of course, ours is not the first generation to face the challenge of staying on-task. Proverbs 4:25 says, "Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you" (NIV). Distraction was apparently a concern back in the days of Solomon too.

In New Testament times, it was the apostle Paul whose life was surrounded by potential distractions that few of us can imagine. Yet, from prison he wrote, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14, NIV). In other words, keep your eyes on Jesus, *no matter what*, in order to receive the heavenly reward.

There are numerous examples in the Bible of what can happen when someone takes their eyes off the prize, not the least of which was Adam and Eve. Talk about the negative consequences of not maintaining one's focus!

And then there is us ... and *The Great Commission*. What would it be like if every Chesapeake member (and for that matter, every Adventist in the world) ignored the distractions from the mission, in *all* of their counterproductive forms, and was fully focused on keeping to the task to which Jesus has called us? Let us pray and strive for a day when this hope becomes a reality, not just for the sake of our own salvation, but for the sake of those who do not yet know Jesus as their Savior.



Jerry Lutz
Executive Secretary

Spencerville Ministry Fair Engages Members for Service

The Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., recently conducted its first Outreach Ministry Fair. This special event, organized by Spencerville's Adventist Community Services (ACS) and the pastoral staff, highlighted the current outreach ministries provided by the church in its community.

The threefold purpose of the fair was to create awareness among church members of the existing Spencerville outreach ministries; recruit additional volunteers from among Spencerville members to help facilitate these various ministries; and foster excitement among the members about the many opportunities to fulfill the church's mission of demonstrating the compassion of Jesus to the people in the community and impacting their lives with His love.

Eighteen outreach ministry exhibits focused on the unique contribution of each in the church's immediate community and beyond. Inviting exhibits, engaging discussions, informational literature, giveaways, prizes and a meal for all participants helped to create an atmosphere of excitement and celebration.

More than 143 individuals signed up to fill 226 positions in the 18 ministries.

Some of the ACS ministries are collaborations with existing community organizations. The Christmas Toy Drive collaborates with Shady Grove Medical Center

and Washington Adventist Hospital, both in Maryland. The Compassion Families project is a collaboration with the Briggs Chaney Middle School and Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.).

ACS ministries initiated by Spencerville include Keep In Stitches (pictured), Lord's Lunch, Hampshire Greens Outreach, Thanksgiving Food Drive and Health Ministries.

In the wake of this positive Outreach Ministry Fair experience, the church will endeavor to plan other such ministry fairs in the future.—*Gaspar Colón*



It's Not Too Late This Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the holiday of gratitude to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. Our families, relationships, employment, wealth, even successes, all belong to Him. God is the Creator, and He determined that all should live as stewards of His assets.

One of the meaningful gifts God has given is the gift of children, and their spiritual, emotional and physical welfare depends on parents. If you are a parent, think about this question: In the unlikely event of your passing, whom would you choose as the guardian of your children? Where would they live? Who will ensure they attend Adventist schools or even places of worship? Beyond verbalizing the answers to these questions, do you have all of this in writing yet?

The simple answer is to create an Estate Plan. This means you make these critical decisions in advance of any tragedy. Your forethought ensures your Christian wishes for your children and family will be followed. Your Estate Plan is one of the greatest acts of stewardship. The alternative, if you pass away intestate—without a will or other estate plan—the governmental system executes estate and familial choices as they decide.

At the beginning of the year, you may have initiated New Year's resolutions. Some of your resolutions remain in existence, while others lie broken. If one decision was to create or update your Estate Plan, it is not too late to fulfill that goal. This Thanksgiving, as you remember how God has blessed you, why not



remember Him and your responsibilities—especially to your family—through your Estate Plan.

Our Planned Giving & Trust Services Department at the Chesapeake Conference is designed to assist people who are preparing estate plans and planning to leave a portion of their estate to the Lord's work. There is no charge for the service, nor for most of the services that are provided through attorneys or other service providers. To contact us, call (410) 995-1910. —Seán K. Robinson



Calendar of Events

November 2–4: Women's Ministries Retreat

November 10–11: Pathfinder/Youth Lock-in

December 7–9: Spanish Federation Youth Retreat

December 14: Highland View Academy Christmas Concert

December 15: Family Ski Day

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Be Thankful

How often do you contemplate the blessings in your life? I firmly believe that focusing on the blessings God has given us—both individually and as a church—helps keep our priorities straight and our attitudes correctly tuned. Even if problems and tragedies run into us like a Mack Truck, with God on our side, there are plenty of things to celebrate.

According to my very unscientific anecdotal non-study of people, I have encountered that those who are focused on the positive tend to be happier in life, have more friends and influence more people. On the other hand, people who choose to allow their thoughts to drift into negative territory swim through life as if a sea anchor was attached to their waist.

As a church, God has blessed us in so many ways. First and foremost, He loves us, wants to save each one of us, is preparing heaven for us and has given us a message to share with the world. When God is on our side, all things are possible. We have a passionate membership that proves repeatedly their faithfulness in finances, in volunteering for ministry and their dedication to making the gospel mission move forward. I am very thankful for each church member, and, despite our imperfections, God wants to use each one of us to accomplish His goals. As we approach the end of 2018, let us praise God for the way He has blessed us, and find ways to share His love with those around us.



Victor Zill
*Executive Secretary/
Treasurer*

Couple Elected Family Ministries Directors

After their baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in May of 1999, Jim and Elaine Buchanan quickly began sharing the Word of God in their community. They enjoyed it so much that, two years later, they attended the Mission College of Evangelism (S.D.) for further Bible instructor training. After graduation, they became Bible workers in Florida, and, several years later, moved to Oregon to work as church trainers and outreach coordinators for the Mission College of Evangelism. It wasn't until 2007 that they received a call to minister in the Mountain View Conference (MVC).

"Our first district was two small membership churches, Richwood and Webster Springs, and, the following year, the Summersville and Braxton churches were added, all in West Virginia," says Elaine. Their next district was Logan and Williamson (W.Va.), where they spent three years before moving to a two-church district in Western Maryland—Cumberland and Frostburg—where they now serve.

At the July Executive Committee Meeting, Jim and Elaine were also elected to serve as MVC Family Ministries directors. The Buchanans already had an interest in counseling and working with people to

overcome family issues, and they've seen families reunited and lives changed as a result of their influence.

"We want to be able to help people who are struggling with issues in their daily lives and would like to see more seminars brought to MVC," shares Jim. "Seminars on how to build strong families and marriages, since that is one thing the devil is attacking at this time of earth's history."



Hispanic Work in Conference Continues to Grow

Recently God has multiplied the efforts on behalf of the Hispanic community in the Mountain View Conference. Just a few years ago, there were less than 50 attendees at the conference's first Hispanic Camp Meeting. This year's camp meeting held over Labor Day at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Elkins, W.Va., brought more than 120 attendees. Charleston, Lewisburg, Moorefield, Morgantown and Summersville members represented their churches. It was a weekend of exhortation, motivation and commitment to God and His mission.

Mike Hewitt, conference president, challenged the congregation opening night to stay faithful and continue to grow in numbers so that the youth chapel would not be large enough to hold their camp meeting. The theme, "¿Quién Soy?" (Who am I?), provided many answers. Guest speaker Peter Simpson, Ohio Conference's Hispanic Ministries coordinator, preached on Christian identity and what the Christian's mission is on earth. "We are 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness.' We are called to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ," Simpson preached.

Rubén Ramos, vice president of Multilingual Ministries from the Columbia Union, shared keys to living a victorious Christian life. He also took a walk down memory lane by referencing Quelman Quiroz's



Representatives from the Lewisburg Spanish company, known as *Vida Nueva*, display their joy of being part of this year's camp meeting.

(pioneer of the Hispanic work in MVC and a member of the Moorefield Spanish Company) vision of beginning something in MVC for Spanish-speaking people.

Camp meeting attendees celebrated four baptisms: three candidates from the Moorefield Spanish (W.Va.) company, pastored by Heroes Sical; and one who received Bible studies from Gustavo Parada, pastor of the Charleston Spanish church plant.—*Walter Cardenas*

Cooking Class at Valley View Influences Community

An eight-week cooking class is quite an undertaking, but James Volpe, pastor of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., and his wife, Priska, were up to the challenge. Titled "Tasty Tuesday," classes consisted



of 20-minute health lectures, presented by James with Priska demonstrating one recipe from start to finish and explaining three other dishes each evening. Attendees sampled all four recipes. Weekly topics covered breakfast, meatless dishes, desserts, smoothies and sandwiches. At the last class, the couple asked participants to bring a ready-to-eat dish they learned how to make during class or a favorite plant-based recipe of their own to share.

Attendance ranged from 12 to 17 people, with several folks from the community. One couple posted pictures online of waffles and scrambled tofu, commenting, "We are beginning to eat healthier." Another community friend was very grateful for the new recipes and expressed how inspiring it was to attend the classes.

During an eight-week cooking class, member Priska Volpe shares her knowledge of healthy eating.

news

NEW JERSEY

Sharing Hope With the Scattered

Like meetings and seminars, where brothers and sisters gather to train and be trained in the name of God. These activities serve to recharge my spiritual batteries, make new friends and see old friends. It is at these types of events that I notice the immense variety of cultures and nationalities that comprise the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the New Jersey Conference being a beautiful example.

As I write, 1 Peter 1:1 comes to mind. In it, Peter refers to men and women who had to distance themselves from their homeland, very similar to some of us who moved to this country looking for a better place to live.

Despite distance and separation, Peter says there is a bond that unites us all, wherever we are. He tells us, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3, NKJV).

According to this verse, we have a living hope. Hope that accompanies us, helps us and urges us to continue advancing on the road to our definitive homeland and eternity. This means we must feed it, take care of it and multiply it by bearing fruit in as many people as possible.

For this reason, when the New Jersey Conference refers to “Sharing Hope,” we are talking about giving to others what we already have, and showing them that, just as God has given us a new life, He can do the same for them. These two words are much more than a motto; they must be a way of life, a permanent reality in all those who, thanks to God’s divine mercy, have been reborn.

Maybe your passport, culture or nationality is different from mine, but if we’ve found Jesus, we have the *same* citizenship, and we have been born again to live and share a glorious and wonderful hope.



Daniel Cabezas
Lead Pastor, Bridgeton
Spanish Church

Compartiendo Esperanza con los Dispersados

Me gustan las reuniones, los entrenamientos y los seminarios, donde hermanos y hermanas se reúnen para entrenar y entrenarse en el nombre de Dios. Estas actividades sirven para recargar mis baterías espirituales, hacer nuevos amigos y, lo mejor de todo, ver viejos amigos que no había visto en años. En este tipo de eventos, nota la inmensa variedad de culturas y nacionalidades que conforman nuestra Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, la conferencia de Nueva Jersey es un bello ejemplo.

Mientras escribo, me viene a la mente 1 Pedro 1:1. Pedro refería a hombres y mujeres que tuvieron que distanciarse de su patria, muy similar a algunos de nosotros que nos mudamos a este país en busca de un mejor lugar para vivir.

A pesar de la distancia y la separación, para Pedro hay un vínculo que nos une a todos, donde sea que estemos. Él nos dice: “Bendito sea el Dios y Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que por su misericordia nos ha engendrado de nuevo en esperanza viva por

la resurrección de Jesucristo de entre los muertos” (1 Pedro 1:3, NVI).

De acuerdo con este versículo, tenemos una esperanza viva. La esperanza que nos acompaña, nos ayuda y también nos urge a seguir avanzando en el camino hacia nuestra patria definitiva y a la eternidad. Esto significa que debemos alimentarlo, cuidarlo y multiplicarlo dando frutos en la mayor cantidad de gente posible.

Por esta razón, cuando nos referimos a “Compartir la esperanza”, estamos hablando de dar a los demás lo que ya tenemos, y mostrarles que, así como Dios nos ha dado una nueva vida, Él puede hacer lo mismo por ellos. Estas dos palabras son mucho más que un lema; deben ser una forma de vida, una realidad permanente en todos aquellos que, gracias a la divina misericordia de Dios, han renacido. Tal vez su pasaporte, cultura, o nacionalidad sea diferente a la mía, pero si hemos encontrado a Jesús, tenemos la *misma* ciudadanía, y hemos nacido de nuevo para vivir y compartir una gloriosa y maravillosa esperanza.—*Daniel Cabezas*

Conference Welcomes New Youth Director

The New Jersey Conference recently selected Eliasib Fajardo to serve as the new Youth Ministries Director. In 2001 Fajardo, a native of Mexico, received a bachelor's degree in theology at Montemorelos University (Mexico). From 2002–07, he pastored three churches in the Potomac Conference: the Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., the Beltsville (Md.) Spanish church and the Oxon Hill (Md.) Spanish church. He was also the Hispanic Youth Ministries coordinator for Potomac from 2004–07.

In 2009 he received his Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.) and became the senior pastor of three churches: the Arlington (Va.) Spanish, the Metro NOVA Spanish church, also in Arlington, and the Sterling (Va.) Spanish church. While managing three churches, he was also the Hispanic Youth Ministries associate director for the Potomac Conference, and later the Camp Ministries director. His background in social media, videography and filming has prepared him for his new role, as, by God's grace, he attempts to reach the young people in New Jersey.

"My goal is to live, love and serve God, as He did for me. My primary goal is to have a close relationship



with Jesus and walk with Him," says Fajardo. "I believe that wisdom comes from above in order to minister and empower others. I recognize that I should care primarily for my family, so they can also be ready to meet Him. I choose to imitate Him in whatever I do. Through my example and influence, I want to make people Jesus' disciples. I have a strong passion to empower young people to share the gospel of Jesus."

Fajardo and his wife, Yerusi, have three children.

Spanish Couples' Retreat Reinforces a Miracle

Seventy couples recently attended the Spanish Couples' Retreat, held at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. Organized by Carlos Torres, Family Ministries director, the seminar, themed, "Un Milagro para Dos" (A Miracle for Two), featured speaker Manuel Moral, a counselor and a religion and theology professor at Oakwood University (Ala.)

Moral referenced scholars to get his point across



that marriage is a miracle—it takes work but produces joy. He noted that Enrique Rojas says in his book, *El Hombre Light*, "Happiness is never a gift, you have to conquer it and work it with enthusiasm." To achieve this, a couple must form a team of two and try to be on the same page.

Moral listed four lessons that must be learned in order for marriage to work:

- God instituted marriage as a divine model for humans (Gen. 1:26–27).
- Spouses are both independent and complementary. Creation was not complete until "a fit helper" was created (Gen. 2:18).
- The relationship of both must be mutual and reciprocal (Mark 10:8).
- The goal is to become consolidated in "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

He concluded, "Both the husband and the wife, together, will turn many dreams into realities. As time goes by, the union that emerged with such enthusiasm must aim to become more solid and unbreakable in the midst of this era where marital fragility is one of the many fashions that invade society."

800 Attend Hispanic Ministries Event

Earlier this year, the Hispanic Ministries Department set a goal to baptize at least 100 people in 100 days during the “100 Days of Harvest” evangelistic campaign. As part of this initiative, more than 800 people recently attended the 2018 Ohio Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting at Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio. Themed “The Great Reaping Festival!” Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, says, “Church members from all Hispanic churches within the conference gathered to celebrate ‘the end of a great reaping.’” Those in attendance included Rubén Ramos (pictured right praying with leaders), vice president of Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union, and Oswaldo Magaña, executive secretary for the Ohio Conference.

According to Simpson, Melchor Ferreyra, Personal Ministries director for the Inter-American Division, delivered a powerful message. The internationally known quartet, Heralds of Hope, and Mónica Ospina, a Colombian soloist, also inspired the audience with their musical performances. The Hispanic renowned “Abuelito Jim” (Grandpa Jim) captivated children and adults alike using powerful, biblical teachings. Stereo Adventista, the conference’s Hispanic online radio station, livestreamed the events.

On Sabbath more than 65 small groups comprised of members from among Ohio’s Hispanic churches, participated in an inspirational parade. “Brothers and sisters in Christ marched with their banners, distinctive dresses, balloons and flags, and shared the blessed achievements the Lord had given them throughout the year,” says Simpson.



Ohio Conference’s youngest Hispanic preacher, Danny Paniagua from the First Hispanic church in Columbus, proves that God can use anyone at any age.



Lail Fuentes (left), pastor of the First Columbus Spanish church, and Enmanuel Freitas (right), pastor of the Dayton Spanish church, baptize one of five people during the 2018 Ohio Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting.

The youngest preacher at camp meeting, Danny Paniagua, a 6-year-old from the First Hispanic church of Columbus, and the oldest, Iluminada Perez, an 80-year-old from the Youngstown Spanish church, encouraged the congregation to continue preaching the gospel until Christ’s return.

The camp meeting concluded with five baptisms, totaling 108 baptisms during the “100 Days of Harvest.” Simpson exclaims, “We are happy, but not satisfied; we still have a lot to do, and God expects much from us. We give praise and bless the name of Jesus Christ for such a beautiful celebration!”

Miamisburg Couple Witnesses Through Tumbling Class

Visit the Miamisburg church on most Sunday afternoons, and you will find a room full of children, laughter, excitement and tumbling.

Tumblers Loving Christ (TLC) is one of the newest outreach ministries at the church, located on the campus of the Kettering Adventist HealthCare Sycamore Medical Center. “I had been thinking of this for years,” says Steve Siegel, founder of TLC, along with his wife, Teri. “I wanted to find a way to use my God-given gift—tumbling—and share it with other people for ministry, without them having to be charged for it.” His motivation and ministry philosophy are based on Matthew 10:8: “Freely it has been given you, freely you shall give” (paraphrased).

An alumnus of the Centerville-based Spring Valley Academy (SVA) tumbling team, Steve began teaching tumbling at an area gym which afforded him the opportunity to also teach his own children in lieu of paying for membership. While teaching, he noticed there were children who wanted to take his classes, but did not have the means to do so. Inspired to assist them, he talked with Lori Farr, Miamisburg pastor, who encourages her members to engage in various ministry opportunities. She was supportive of this novel idea.

During the tumbling classes, Farr visits with the children’s parents and family members. She has even begun Bible studies with Steve’s teenage son. “It’s a way to make connections,” says Farr. “It could also be a good feeder for Spring Valley Academy; when they



Steve and Teri Siegel, Tumblers Loving Christ coaches, instruct two “Tater Tots” tumblers during a Sunday class at the Miamisburg church.

get to SVA, they will know the [tumbling] basics.”

One parent, James, recently spent much of one Sunday in the church fellowship room observing his three girls in two of the offered classes. “I like this better than other gymnastic classes,” says James. “I like the church setting and smaller classes. I’ve seen my daughter advance in handstands and other moves. I’d recommend this class to all.”

Though not a member himself, James is the son of Miamisburg member Glenna Hensley. Hensley often brings her granddaughters to church on Sabbaths and TLC on Sundays. Sometimes the girls bring their friends to both church and tumbling.

Steve teaches three classes: “Tater Tots” (beginners), “Spuds” (intermediate) and one geared toward teenagers. “Steve is professional and encouraging, reviewing what the children learned in prior weeks and building upon those skills. His love for his students, and for Christ, is evident. He and Teri, also a tumbling teacher, rarely miss a Sunday class,” says Farr.

TLC continues to grow, bringing in new students and families each week. While Steve and the church have done their best to keep up with the demand, they are in need of more mats and equipment to expand their ministry. If you’d like to learn more about this outreach, or contribute toward this ministry, contact the Miamisburg church at (937) 847-9451.



Miamisburg church member Steve Siegel teaches a tumbler how to stand on his head.

Pennsylvania Pen

It's About People, Not Numbers

During this year's Faith for Family door-to-door outreach, 2,073 members from across the state convened in Northeastern Pennsylvania to visit homes. (Our first effort began in 2016 with 1,340 people.) This united endeavor is having a major impact. For the first time in conference history, 500 people joined God's remnant church, resulting in a total of 555 new members in 2017.

What God is doing is truly astounding! The average net growth across the North American Division is 1.5 percent. With God's blessings, our net growth (as of last year) has grown from one percent in 2015 to 2.62 percent in 2017. We praise God for the total member involvement of each pastor, teacher and church member.

But this is so much more than numbers. This is about people—our children, friends, co-workers and neighbors. They are finding Jesus and following His truth. When my family went out with Faith for Family, we prayed with a man whose wife was dying and arranged for members from the local church to assist them. This man has now shown he is open to the Spirit of God.

There are thousands more like him who are waiting for an invitation to take Bible studies, come to church or



Michelle Becker, Allentown church member, and Gary Gibbs, conference president, prepare to go door to door in the community to pray with people and offer Bible studies, as part of the Faith for Family initiative.

attend a meeting. Together, we are reaching everyone, everywhere!—Gary Gibbs

More Than 2,000 Go Door to Door

As part of the Faith for Family initiative, more than 2,000 members from 81 churches—some driving more than five hours to partner with one of 19 churches



Members of the Williamsport, Lewistown and Milton churches partner with the Allentown church to connect with neighbors.

in Northeastern Pennsylvania—recently gathered to go door to door, pray with neighbors, share literature and invite people to attend upcoming evangelistic meetings.

Pastor Stewart and Kathy Pepper of the Pittsburgh church, encountered several unfriendly people as they knocked on doors in the Walnutport, Pa., area. Out of 100 invitations they distributed, “only one of them actually took the invitation,” says Kathy. “But Stewart told me later that he watched one of those unfriendly people ... throw away the door hanger and then get it back out of the trash bin ... and put it in his pocket! We believe that God can impress even the unfriendly people to respond and request Bible studies.”

By the end of the day, this army of workers gathered 274 Bible study interests to add to the more than 100 in-home Bible studies already in progress.

“Old and young Northeastern members ministered side by side, and many hearts were inspired to [return] to their churches and do more for Jesus in their sphere of influence,” shares Lillian Torres, who helped coordinate the Faith for Family day.

Youth Ignite Mission to the Extreme

The Pennsylvania Conference is committed to providing young people with opportunities to grow in their relationship with Christ and training so they can serve God with their unique gifts and abilities. Youth and young adult events are planned by a team of pastors, led by Lillian Torres, Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinator. These events occur regionally and have spiritual and outreach components to them.

“Mentoring and encouraging youth in their spiritual journey is an investment worth our unwavering dedication,” shares Torres. “Providing youth with opportunities to engage in sharing their faith leads them closer to Jesus in the process.”

James Black, North American Division Prayer Ministries director, recently challenged 230 attendees at the “Ignite Lehigh Valley” conference (pictured below). Eighty responded to the call to commit to Christ. After spiritual messages and discussion groups, 180 teens and adults lived out the call by partnering with the Allentown Hispanic church, the Allentown church and Simplicity Outreach Ministries.

During an Allentown Hispanic church community health event, youth went door to door connecting with and inviting neighbors to upcoming events. Others distributed water bottles with scripture verses on them to neighbors surrounding the Allentown church. A third team gave away bags of fresh vegetables from the Simplicity community garden and offered Bible studies. As a result, seven people requested studies.

At another event, Hispanic youth gathered at the Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center for “Jovenes Ilevando la Mision al Extremo”—Young People Taking Mission to the Extreme. More than 250 teens and young adults, along with a few adults, learned ways to connect with friends through social media and urban evangelism. They discussed methods to bridge the



Young people label water bottles with scripture verses before distributing them in the neighborhoods around the Allentown church.



More than 200 young people gathered at the Lehigh Valley Seventh-day Adventist School in Whitehall, Pa., for the “Ignite Lehigh Valley” youth rally.



generation gap and handle cyber bullying. “These young people then applied what they were learning by sharing the message of salvation to more than 1,600 friends through Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter, using #MyXtremeMission,” says Saud Elias, Hispanic Ministries coordinator.

Torres states, “We desire to see our youth ... impact Pennsylvania and the world, as Ellen White describes: ‘With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!’” (*Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, p. 555).

Potomac People

SASDAC Celebrates 30 Years

Members of the Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., recently celebrated 30 years of God's faithfulness. "Everyone joined to embrace the history and celebrate what lies ahead," says Franklin David, pastor.

In the late 1950s, many Southern Asian Adventists migrated to areas in the Potomac Conference and held church services in their homes. In the 1980s, they approached conference administration with a request to establish a Southern Asian church. David established a company as a volunteer leader, and, within two years, the congregation grew to 250 members. Today the church is attended by more than 900.

Special guest speakers for the celebration weekend included Dan Jackson, North American Division president; Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president; and Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president. Guest of honor Chris Van Hollen, a U.S. senator from Maryland, expressed his great affection and connection to Southern Asian countries and the Adventist church, as he was born in an Adventist hospital in



Karachi, Pakistan. Van Hollen also spent several years in Sri Lanka and India.

"This country is stronger because of the support of people that come from all nations," Van Hollen said. He commissioned those in attendance to rededicate themselves to God and continue to reach out to others in the spirit of fellowship. He also presented a commendation from the U.S. Senate, honoring David for 30 years of dedicated service to the community (pictured).

Two Pastors Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Alex Barrientos (pictured below), pastor of the Meadowbridge and Gloucester churches in Virginia, and Daniel Xisto (pictured right), associate pastor of the Takoma Park (Md.) church, were ordained to the gospel ministry earlier this year.

"I first felt Jesus calling me into ministry during my sophomore year at Takoma Academy [in Maryland]," says Barrientos. "Dunbar Henri, my Bible teacher,



asked if I would like to join the school's preaching team. One day he told me, 'You're going to be a pastor someday.' He had no way of knowing that his words deeply impressed my early sense of what the Lord was asking of me."

Some of Xisto's earliest memories are

of praying that Jesus would stay close to him. Raised in the Catholic tradition and sent to church school in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., Xisto learned to walk with Jesus from an early age. It was there, in the seventh grade, that he first sensed the call to ministry. High school and college, however, distracted him from that goal. He was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church during his senior year of college and fell in love with the simplicity and beauty of the Church's focus on Scripture and Jesus Christ.

Both Barrientos and Xisto hold Master of Divinity degrees from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.) and have a passion for connecting others to Jesus in a real and transformative way.



Potomac People

Two Church Food Banks Connect Community

Like many congregations, members from the Yale (Va.) church and the Damascus Grace Fellowship (Md.) church own food banks to help reach the community, but both congregations agree they are surprised with where it's led them.

Yale members wanted to take on this ministry full-time, and initially reached out to the Tidewater Food Pantry as an avenue for community outreach. "As it turns out, there was no distribution location for the surrounding area," says Rick Shull, an elder. "So, we took on the responsibility to be the new hub for the county." Area pastors of all denominations partnered with Yale members to help make this a reality, and now, on the first Tuesday of the month, they dispense 400,000 pounds of food to more than 200 families.

Through this work, Renee Stepp, pastor, was invited to speak at a volunteer recognition dinner. Her inspiring message led to a preaching engagement at the Hunting Quarter Baptist church (Va.). C. W. Robb, the church pastor, says he learned a thing or two about preaching from Stepp and that "this will not be the last time Adventists and Baptists fellowship together!"



A volunteer picks out fresh produce for community members living in the Yale church area.



Damascus Grace Fellowship members Bonnie Wilbur and Debbie Bass work to ensure the food bank remains stocked and runs smoothly.

Each month Damascus Grace members invite clients who use their food bank to join them for potluck. "Members bring extra food, and by God's grace, we have enough to feed all who come," says member Bonnie Wilbur. "We get to know each other and hear stories. One lady saw our sign and said she was so relieved because she only had enough money for food or to pick up medicine for her sick daughter—this allowed her to do both."

As a result of this ministry, people who frequent the food bank now donate food and attend church functions. This unique way of facilitating a food bank profoundly impacted visitors Marilyn Shultz and Jim Clemmens. They decided to go back to their church in Annapolis, Md., and implement something similar.

Several years ago, member Richard Tydings started the food bank and challenged members to donate to those who were struggling. Members have since turned to Ken Flemmer, director of Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, for advice on how to improve this ministry. From that meeting, Damascus Grace is in the process of forming a partnership that enables them to broaden their food distribution area.

"We sometimes feel like we need to reinvent the wheel in every ministry and every community, but, when we partner in ministries together, the benefits are compounded," says Stepp.



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

International Students Attend STEAM Camp

Just before school started, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) hosted their second annual STEAM Camp. Sixty-five students from Brazil, China and the U.S. participated in the two-week camp, filled with activities, classes and trips to New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Dave Morgan, principal, and Solomon Lazar, former science instructor, first created the camp in 2016 for a group of students from India. Since then it has grown to include students from other countries, with plans to invite students from Africa next year.

"The goal of the STEAM camp is to open the minds of students to the brilliance of science. One major theme that constantly comes up among the campers is their need to work together and think outside the box to solve complex problems," says Shida "Owen" Ma, STEAM coordinator.

This year three BMA students and two graduates served as camp counselors. Junior Daniela Jarquin says she enjoyed bonding with the kids. Fellow junior Lissie Perez liked the challenge of learning different



Former science instructor Solomon Lazar teaches principles of chemistry to campers from around the world.



Fourth-grader Korja Jorge (left, wearing pink) and fifth-grader Emily Dekel (right), build a tower using wooden blocks with two students from Shenzhen and Nanjing, China.

languages and cultures. "It was a great experience getting to know what people like so that we could make them feel more comfortable while they were here," shares Perez.

BMA staff, well-versed in their fields of study, taught science and critical-thinking classes. Fred Morgan, retired aeronautical engineer, shared a lesson on aviation; Eric Engen, flight trainer, took each student on a training flight; Lazar and Rose Bechtel, science instructors, presented the principles of chemistry and 3-D printing; Morgan and Diana Engen, administrators, led critical-thinking activities; and Ma and Sang Hae Kim, engineer teachers, along with Jian Zhang, math teacher, created an escape room that required mathematical and deductive-reasoning skills to solve.

"At this camp ... we learned that people are different, but in some ways we are all the same," shares Zhang. "Kids not only experienced how to cooperate with people from other cultures, they also had the opportunity to make friends from all over the world. I am so glad to see that our next generation is full of passion and trying to learn more to make our world a better place!"

Staff Build Campus Families

With the first few months of school behind them, students and staff at Highland View Academy (HVA) are settling into a normal routine. The freshmen are learning the ropes and the seniors have finally stopped thinking of themselves as juniors. While there is always adjustment at the beginning of a new year, HVA works diligently to ensure the students feel comfortable and included, whether they are new to the campus or not.

One of the most intentional ways staff work to achieve this is through Campus Families. At the beginning of the year, each student is assigned to a different staff “parent.” Each staff member is assigned six to nine students to intentionally build a relationship with them throughout the year. Students visit their staff members’ homes for vespers, receive a home-cooked meal or enjoy Saturday night gatherings. Campus Families also spend monthly chapels together to discuss how everyone is doing, if they need help with anything or share goals for the next few weeks. This is a method for students to get to know their teachers and staff outside the classroom and on a more personal level. Just as important, this creates a small group of peers they can rely on and trust. Plus, the random treats staff members give their families is a bonus!



Zyon Wiley, Kyra Wirsz and Hannah Scalzo, members of Vice Principal April Lutz’s campus family, rest in the shade during their Labor Day outing.



Members of Principal Erik Borges’ campus family (back, left to right) Ariana Neverson, Mariah Lee-Wong, Emerson McCain, Destiny Brumbaugh, Durrell Hess; (front, left to right) Rebecca Pierce, Dain Ochoa and Katie Seeders, pretend to be meerkats at the National Zoological Park.

To kick off Campus Families this year, staff creatively announced their “children.” Some tied “It’s a Boy” and “It’s a Girl” balloons in the hallway, announcing their new families. Others distributed homemade goodies, placed their family names on T-shirts or took “family” pictures. Each student ended the day linked with a staff member who will be their special mentor throughout the year.

For the first big event, the entire school spent Labor Day at the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. Each group spent the day getting to know each other while exploring the exhibits and learning a little bit more about God’s amazing creations.

Building the HVA family each year takes time and intentionality—something that can be hard to come by on a busy campus. “But,” says April Lutz, vice principal, “there is no doubt that students are enjoying a school year in which their academic lives are supported by a close, social bond that will uplift them and foster their success.”

PHOTOS BY ERIK BORGES AND APRIL LUTZ

PFA POST



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Alumnus Candidly Shares Revival Story

At Pine Forge Academy (PFA), placing God at the center of operations is the overall objective for the 2018–19 school year. It is for this reason the Religion Department, in collaboration with the Pine Forge church, intentionally planned a powerful and impactful back-to-school revival.

Keynote speaker and alumnus Garnett Adams ('10), currently a business major at Bowie State University (Md.), gave riveting experiences about lessons he has learned—and poignant lessons he failed to learn—while attending PFA.

Adams shared, how, like Jonah, he ran away from the calling God placed on his life. He detailed his run-ins with the law that led to his incarceration shortly after graduating from PFA. He recounted the multiple occasions in which his life was spared and underscored the fact that it was nothing but the mercies of a loving God why he was able to stand before them. He cited his struggle with suicide and drug use during his years of incarceration, and attributed his survival to the unwavering support, prayers of the saints and the watchful eyes of faithful friends that kept him alive.

In his presentation, Adams confessed that while he was behind bars, he prayed for God to give him an opportunity to address the students of his dearly beloved PFA about the need to develop a relationship with God.

Adams shared that his deliverance truly came when he poured his heart out to God. “Giving it all to Jesus and taking Him as your Lord and Savior is the recipe



At the back-to-school revival, alumnus Garnett Adams ('10) speaks to PFA students about how God saved him during his incarceration.

for deliverance healing and success,” he said.

He used the opportunity to inform students that their parents did not just send them to receive an education at PFA, but to establish a relationship with Jesus Christ that will impact their decisions over a lifetime. “You may choose to fail in everything, but you should never fail to establish a saving relationship with Jesus Christ,” he admonished.

Kohren Joseph, a fellow classmate of Adams and current PFA science teacher, highlights the relevance and timeliness of Adams’ message: “I think his testimony was essential for the students as they navigate through high school and develop their relationship with God.”

Tatyana O’Mara, president of the school’s United Student Movement, shares, “As students, we were able to connect with Garnett. ... We learned that if we fail to develop a relationship with God, we will have consequences, but it is never too late to get back on track.”

Junior Kevin Zapata adds, “As a minority, I realize that things can be difficult in the real world, and I can’t afford to waste a spiritual moment or opportunity while I’m here at Pine Forge Academy.”

To conclude a powerful weekend, Adams gave each student a signed copy of his book, *One Choice Away*, an initiative the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association and other PFA supporters funded.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN RICHARDSON

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Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Spiritual Retreat Creates Spiritual Bonding

JOY: Jesus, Others and You” was the theme of this year’s high school spiritual retreat at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA). The event emphasized the positive implications a personal relationship with Jesus can have on relationships with others.

After the students spent time reflecting on who Jesus is and what He did for them, they participated in the Agape Feast, designed by Leah Jordache, assistant chaplain, and Christy Zinke, parent of Kiersten ('19). This event featured numerous occasions for students to respond and reflect on the fact that “the closer we come to Him, the more fulfilling and joyful our relationships with each other can be,” says Tim Soper, chaplain.

Andrea Jakobsons, youth pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., encouraged students to consider their value and the value of each individual.

Individual stations at the feast provided specific opportunities to spiritually engage with each other. At the “J” station, they wrote a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus. They prayed together and washed each other’s feet at the “O” station. The “Y” stop allowed students to choose what they most needed in their life from among the Fruits of the Spirit, symbolized by different flavors of fruit juice.



Larissa Krueger and Katelynne Atterberry enjoy serving each other during the Agape Feast.

Broadcast Journalism Students Create Documentary

Students from the Broadcast Journalism Television News Production class recently conducted a social experiment during the lunch hour at school. They created a documentary titled *LunchMeet*, investigating the reasons why high school students are uncomfortable



Richard Machado and Evelyn Bao learn more about one another during the filming of LunchMeet.

sitting with a stranger during lunch. Evelyn (Jialu) Bao ('19), a Chinese foreign exchange student, and Sabrina Iannella Oliveira ('21), a transfer student from France, agreed to be a part of the project. Director Olivia Brown ('20) asked random high school students if they would be willing to have lunch with Bao or Oliveira. Richard Machado ('19) and Zoe Jenkins ('20) agreed to it.

After the encounters, the students reflected on their interactions. “I met Evelyn last year, but I did not get to talk to her much,” Machado reminisces. It is “easier to talk to her now than before.”

Referring to her meal with Oliveira, Jenkins admits, “I have seen her walking through the halls. ... I feel like I know a lot more about her now.”

Robert Martinez, broadcast teacher, states, “It was great seeing my students feel passionate about this issue. This project opens up a broader conversation about inclusiveness. ... We hope to continue the project twice a month, [anticipating a full-length] documentary.

The *LunchMeet* pilot premiered during this year’s high school spiritual retreat. To watch the first episode, visit spaac.net.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Fitness Friends 'Walk to Washington, D.C.'

Did you hear about the students in Swedish schools who walk a daily mile, resulting in higher academic abilities? This report inspired me to start something similar in my classroom this year.

At the start of school, my third- and fourth-graders walk/run for five to seven minutes around a loop I have measured on the blacktop behind Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) campus. The kids have "walking sticks" (popsicle sticks) they turn in to the day's helper with every lap they pass. Then, they add their sticks and divide them by the number of laps they need for a mile and see the growth in our group total. It's a real-life math lesson as we add and divide the miles to find our progress and subtract to see how far we still need to go.

Our goal, as "Fitness Friends," is to collectively walk 480 miles on campus, the distance between SVA and Washington, D.C. When we reach our goal, we will play and picnic during a special field trip to a local park. As a teacher and leader of this program, a win for me is the rotating time I get with my walking buddies each day as we chat and get to know each other along our course. I crave these meaningful times with



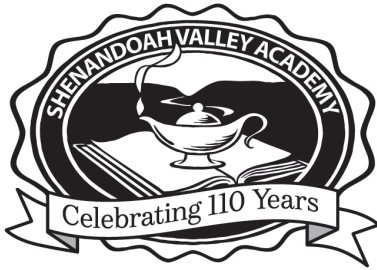
Judy Cambigue, third- and fourth-grade teacher, joins her "Fitness Friends" as they place their "walking sticks" in a bucket.



Fourth-grader Olivia Cole and third-grader Timothy Lee lead the pack as they and their classmates enjoy their morning walk/run.

my kiddos. The children do too! In fact, they are so enthusiastic to exercise each morning, they were sad the couple of times we had to skip it due to weather or school events.

"The 'Walk to Washington, D.C.' is a great way to get exercise and really refreshes your mind before a long day at school. There's nothing better than a few laps around the kickball field," shares third-grader David Constantine. Addison Cox, also a third-grader, adds, "The reason I like the 'Fitness Friends Walk to Washington, D.C.' is because I get rid of a lot of my energy, and then I behave better." Olivia Cole, a fourth-grader, says the walk is so much fun. "We do a routine around the cones and put our sticks in the bucket; every 10 sticks is one mile," she explains. Fourth-grader Faith Smith loves the walk. "It's amazing just to be able to feel proud to be one of the kids 'walking to Washington, D.C.' It keeps me healthy, and I always look forward to it."—Judy Cambigue



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Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

A Chosen Generation Into His Marvelous Light

The new school year at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) has already provided many blessings! Seeing the smiles and experiencing the youthful energy of 202 students reverberating through SVA's classrooms, ballfields, cafeteria and dorms is a great joy!

SVA “exists to provide a distinctly Seventh-day Adventist college preparatory program through experiences to produce disciples of Jesus.” This means that student life is focused on building Christian friendships with fellow students and receiving guidance and mentoring from faculty who love Jesus. First quarter highlights include:

First Sabbath: With open arms, New Market (Va.) church members welcomed SVA students with a special “handshake.” Students later enjoyed a Sabbath afternoon hike and picnic by the Shenandoah River.

First Saturday Night Activity: The juniors ('20) won “Almost Anything Goes” by a hair in fierce class-on-class games and competition.



First Senior Bonding: The Class of 2019 pitched camp in the beautiful Virginia wilderness for “Senior Survival,” spending time with God in nature and uniting as a class as they lead the school this year and prepare for graduation.

Add challenging academics (pictured left) and work schedules, music and sports practices, the Student Association Fall Picnic (pictured below), dorm club and class officer elections, Week of Prayer (pictured above), Career Day, senior career and college counseling, Community Service Day, hanging out with friends, etc., and you'll see that our students have a busy but rewarding academic experience.

During the fall Week of Prayer, Don Pate, guest pastor, shared stories of heroes who gave their lives for a cause in which they believed. He challenged students to choose what is worth living or dying for by using 1 Peter 2:9 as a guide: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (NKJV).

My prayer this school year is that each SVA student will establish and deepen their relationship with Jesus as Friend and Savior, and that this chosen generation will proclaim His praises and walk into His marvelous light.—*Don Short*



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

New Family Members Join Staff

This school year, Takoma Academy (TA) hired four new staff members, each with varied talents, experience and expertise.



Elizabeth Atterberry is the new receptionist. Her organizational skills, attention to detail and welcoming face serves TA well, as she states that her happy, patient and silly traits are what define her. Atterberry admits, however, that the most challenging

task so far is remembering all the students' names.

The best place I have traveled: My honeymoon to Hawaii

Shemika Campbell comes to TA from the Jessie R. Wagner School in Pottstown, Penn., and was hired to work closely with TA families as the academic specialist. She is an asset for programming needs to support students and teachers with different instruction practices, modalities of learning and standards-based instruction and grading. Campbell says her biggest inspiration is her daughter, Danielle Samuel, an alumna from Andrews University (Mich.), who has taught her how to be resilient and determined. Having Samuel at a young age motivated Campbell to fight against all odds and become the person God created her to be. She advises kids who struggle in school to "put God first; He has a way of sending the right people into [their] lives to help."



If I was rich: Help single mothers who want their children to get an Adventist education

Anthony Palmer joins the TA faculty as a chemistry and physics instructor. He most recently served as a secondary science teacher for the Northeastern Academy (N.Y.). His way of teaching is an asset to the TA STEM



department. Palmer states that the greatest challenge he has ever overcome in life is being a father *and* mother to his kids after the tragic passing of his first wife. This helped train him to be successful in all that he does. "I believe that success is realized when one finds their calling and totally gives all their energies to implementing whatever is required to fulfill that calling. The ultimate [reward will be] hearing 'well done' from the Master at the end of time," he says.

First equation I memorized: The area of a circle, πr^2

Salena Featherstone ('17). As communication lead, Featherstone manages all communication needs on and off campus, and is excited for the opportunity to transform the Development Department and take TA to the next level and beyond. Featherstone says that she knew she wanted to pursue a degree in communication when she picked up her first camera at the age of 10. "When I discovered it had recording features, I would film and edit videos of me interviewing my family or pretending to cover the weather forecast. I wrote scripts and even acted them out." She advises TA students to "keep God at your forefront, and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something."



What I do on my free time: Coach the TA girls' soccer team and shop online

KETTERING COLLEGE

BOONSHOFT
CENTER FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



Kettering College celebrated its second annual KC Giving Day, which raised money for scholarships and funds for students at Kettering College.

Kettering College Holds Second Annual KC Giving Day

Kettering College celebrated its second annual KC Giving Day on September 13 with donuts and coffee, Chick-fil-A, popcorn, and sweet treats. More importantly, the College celebrated with a spirit of giving among alumni, students, staff, and friends.

KC Giving Day and fundraising throughout the year supports students through the Kettering College Fund, Kettering College Student Assistance Fund, and Kettering College Scholarship Fund, among others. The total

of KC Giving Day gifts surpassed \$45,000 and continues to grow.

The 2018 KC Giving Day theme was "The Ripple Effect." Just as a pebble dropped into a pond creates ripples, this day of giving has a far-reaching impact on tomorrow's health care professionals.

"Receiving a scholarship not only encouraged me to finish strong in my senior year, but also strengthened my faith," said Jasmyne Martin, a 2018 nursing graduate. "I'm a firm believer that

God allows everything to happen for a reason, and I believe that God opened all the doors for me to attend and graduate from Kettering College. I can't thank my donors enough for selflessly providing the funds for me to finish my education right when I needed it."

To learn more about KC Giving Day or support a Kettering College student, visit www.kc.edu/givingday





BUSINESS MODEL: *Leadership is Stewardship*

It is well documented that the cost of delivering high quality academic and non-academic programs continues to rise, and the expectations of students and parents have never been higher. Reliance on tuition to cover costs is increasingly unsustainable. Revenue from private giving and church support has not kept pace. Discount rates are increasing



**Weymouth
Spence**

as prospective students shop for more affordable options. To secure a financial future, an institution should experience a minimum four percent operating margin, according to Strategic Financial Analysis for Higher Education by Prager & Co. LLC. For WAU that means enrollments are growing or at least are stable, costs are being controlled to ensure they do not rise faster than revenues, and debt is kept within threshold limits. It also means that WAU must offer academic programs that match student interests and teach the skills that are necessary in the workplace, as long as they are consistent with the WAU mission and educational purpose.

Thank you for supporting Christian education in the Nation's Capital. Your support helps us to daily engage minds and transform lives. Our focus continues to be on building a sustainable future. To God be the Glory for the positive outcomes we are experiencing.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

TRIUMPH IN ADVERSITY

WAU congratulates Lebrent R. Walker, 2018 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Health Fitness Management, and a new Graduate Assistant at Louisiana State University.

LB played basketball at Central Arizona College, and continued at Midland College in Texas, graduating with an Associate's degree before arriving at WAU in 2014. He found WAU a vastly different atmosphere from that of his Queens, NY childhood. Once at WAU, Coach Patrick Crarey and Professor Alvin Fuentes interceded.

"Fuentes, that is my guy, and you can quote me on that!" exclaimed Walker. "He helped me through everything!"

In his second year on campus, Lebrent discovered that he and his girlfriend were expecting. She later developed complications. Initially, Walker decided to withdraw from one class to stay with her at the hospital. However, the next semester he withdrew from school completely in order to work and provide for his family.

Upon his return, faculty and staff helped Walker get on the path to completing his degree. He attributes his success to his professors and Senior Student Financial Aid Advisor Curtis Roberts who prayed and helped and even allowed LB to bring his daughter to class. Walker is grateful to WAU for giving him an opportunity and providing him the tools he needed to succeed.

Unfortunately, LB was not able to participate in the spring Commencement. That did not stop his department from putting together a special ceremony just for him in WAU's new Boyer Health Professions building. After completing summer classes, Lebrent R. Walker donned his cap and gown and received his degree.

"Lebrent is a respectful and dedicated student and athlete," Professor Fuentes shared. "I kept in contact and encouraged him to continue the journey that God has already set up for him. I reminded him of Jeremiah 29:11 and he took that to heart and finished his degree. I am very proud of him!"



**2018 WAU Graduate
Lebrent "LB" Walker**

PROLIFIC WAU PROFESSOR PUBLISHES A PAIR OF PAPERS

WAU Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Samuel D. Perez enjoyed a fruitful Summer co-publishing research papers exploring the links between gene networks and voluntary physical activity, and results from previous research activities exploring the sympathetic neurotransmission in the spleen of a laboratory animal model.

Dr. Perez was the lead author of *Sympathetic Neurotransmission in Spleens from Aging Brown-Norway Rats Subjected To Reduced Sympathetic Tone*, a recently accepted original research article for the November issue of the Journal of Neuroimmunology. He presented results from a chronic study designed to investigate the effects of age on neurotransmission in a lymphoid organ (i.e. spleen), where activation of immune cells takes place. His studies began elucidating the effects of heightened sympathetic activity on immune cells in a rat model for healthy aging. The main insight from this study, Dr. Perez says, is that the increase in sympathetic activity observed in individuals that tend to live longer, may reside in how their immune cells react to neurotransmitter output from the nervous system. He adds that these observations provide an opportunity to explore possible therapeutic strategies designed to tame the age-related increase in the flight or fight response, greatly helping our immune system to be more efficient as we age.

Also this summer, the peer-reviewed open access scientific journal PLOS One published *Brain Region-Dependent Gene Networks Associated with Selective Breeding for*

Increased Voluntary Wheel-Running Behavior by Dr. Perez and a team of renown scientists from the University of Illinois. This study explored mouse gene networks associated with increased motivation for physical activity, and may help science find ways to motivate humans to increased physical activity and fitness. A second notable finding confirms that regular exercise can protect the brain against neurodegenerative conditions. "There is much more to investigate regarding the contribution of exercise to brain health and mental processes, although we are slowly making progress," Dr. Perez affirms.

"Dr. Perez's research contributes to the advancement of the health sciences in much the same way that his expertise contributes to the edification of students here in our learning community," said WAU President, Dr. Weymouth Spence. "His work is a sterling example of the kind of excellence that defines Washington Adventist University."

"WAU is proud to celebrate this significant and most distinctive accomplishment by Dr. Perez," added university Provost Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu.



Dr. Samuel D. Perez, Washington Adventist University Assistant Professor of Biology

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, 7:30 p.m.

Sligo SDA Church, WAU Campus

Christmas Break: December 13-January 7

Save the Date:

**Alumni & Parents Weekend:
Thursday-Sunday, April 11-14**

**Family Fun Festival:
Sunday, April 14,
noon-5:00 p.m.
WAU Campus**

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Opening New Doors to Care in Middletown

By Christina Keresoma

Kettering Adventist HealthCare completed construction on a new medical complex in Middletown, Ohio, just south of Dayton. The new, 67,000-square-foot facility has a full-service emergency department, outpatient lab, and imaging services, including a full complement of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), X-ray, and ultrasound. There is also a medical office building for primary care and specialty practices.

"There's a substantial number of Middletown residents who travel up to Dayton for care," said Daniel Tryon, campus administrator and executive director of Kettering Adventist HealthCare Middletown. "For us, wanting to bring access close to our patients is a huge part of it."

The goal of the facility is to be a "one-stop shop" for residents' medical needs, Tryon said.

During the open house, 3,000 community members came out to support and tour the new facility that brings health care closer to home. Staff members were stationed around the facility to help guide visitors and answer any questions. The response from the community was overwhelmingly positive.



THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Stepping Up to Support a Community

Grandview Medical Center is expanding its services in response to the needs of the community. Following the closure of a nearby hospital in downtown Dayton, Grandview is adding a new electrophysiology lab, cath lab, cardiovascular management unit, and doubling the size of its emergency department, among other things.

"We don't want to see West Dayton become a health care desert, so our commitment is to make sure the entire community has access to quality health care," says Roy Chew, president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "We really feel expanding services at this critical time is simply the right thing to do."



Southview Medical Center Celebrates 40 Years of Care



Southview Medical Center celebrated its 40th anniversary with employees and the community. The hospital hosted a Public Safety Fair to help educate the community and allow the children to interact with various emergency medical vehicles. Children also could bring an injured stuffed animal to be examined by physicians and residents. Attendees finished the evening by enjoying a free concert.

Soin Medical Center Breaks Ground on Patient Tower

A new, 170,000-square-foot patient tower is being built at Soin Medical Center to meet the needs of the community. The new tower will accommodate more surgical services, heart and vascular services, private inpatient rooms, and shelled space to allow for further expansion. Construction will be completed in 2020.

"From the beginning, Soin Medical Center was built with the future in mind," says Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "As demand for our services continues to grow in Greene County, these expanded services allow us to provide comprehensive, advanced care to residents close to where they live."





Don't Miss

Washington Adventist University's Annual Christmas Concert

Friday November 30, 2018



Presidential Reception, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
7633 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
Required RSVP to alumni@wau.edu

Annual Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland

The annual Christmas concert is free and open to the public. It will be presented by the Department of Music and will feature performances by:

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OBITUARIES

NASE, Earl, born July 28, 1925, in Sellersville, Pa., to the late William Nase and Clara (Messinger) Moyer; died February 23, 2018, at the Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center (Pa.). He was a member of the Souderton (Pa.) church. Earl began working as a farmer and then served as a pharmacist's mate in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Earl then made a life-time career as a self-employed building contractor in Bucks and Montgomery counties for 48 years. He also obtained his real estate license in 1975 and listed and sold the homes that he built. Earl was a lifelong member of the Adventist Church and served as a deacon, a youth leader, an adult Sabbath School teacher and helped to maintain the church property. He loved spending time with his family; and enjoyed the outdoors, nature, gardening, bird watching, hiking

and identifying wild flowers. In his younger years, he was a great ice skater and enjoyed skiing. During retirement, he made birdhouses, built toy boxes for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and grew the best lima beans around! Survivors: his wife, Emily Bernice Nase of Fleetwood, Pa.; his daughter, Patricia Anne (Stephen) Awe of Paradise, Calif.; his son, Dr. William Brian (Lori) Nase of Schnecksville, Pa.; his two granddaughters, Heather (Casey) Harris of Chico, Calif., and Kelsey (Carlos) Rosales of Roxborough, Pa.; his two grandsons, Ryan (Nicole) Awe of Chico, and Kyle Nase of Schnecksville; his great-grandson, Nathan Harris of Chico; and his two great-granddaughters, Kaley Harris and Alexis Awe, both of Chico.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the September feature, "How I Know God is Real," we mistakenly wrote that Mariya Marton did a residency at Ohio State University (OSU). She interned at OSU and did her residency at Kettering Adventist HealthCare. Also, we inadvertently wrote that physicians removed a tumor. Though her symptoms were severe and they thought she had a tumor, it turns out she did not. We regret this error.



Christmas Spectacular

Presented by
The Columbia Collegiate Chorale
and
The New England Youth Ensemble

December 1, 2018
4:00 P. M.

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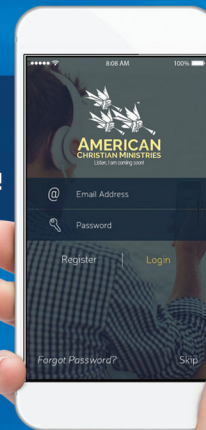
Sunset Calendar

	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Baltimore	6:05	4:58	4:52	4:47	4:44
Cincinnati	6:01	4:53	4:46	4:42	4:39
Cleveland	6:22	5:13	5:07	5:02	4:58
Columbus	6:29	5:22	5:16	5:11	5:08
Jersey City	5:52	4:45	4:38	4:43	4:30
Norfolk	6:08	5:01	4:55	4:51	4:49
Parkersburg	6:25	5:18	5:11	5:07	5:04
Philadelphia	5:58	4:51	4:44	4:40	4:37
Pittsburgh	6:17	5:09	5:02	4:58	4:54
Reading	6:01	4:53	4:46	4:42	4:39
Richmond	6:12	5:05	4:59	4:55	4:52
Roanoke	6:22	5:15	5:09	5:05	5:03
Toledo	6:29	5:21	5:14	5:09	5:05
Trenton	5:56	4:48	4:42	4:37	4:34
Wash., D.C.	6:08	5:00	4:54	4:50	4:47

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