

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Food from the Heart

Celebrating the
Ministry of Fellowship

Favorite Potluck
Memories
and Recipes



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Food from the Heart

V. Michelle Bernard and Sylvia Urrutia

Could that cobbler you're baking be an evangelistic tool? Might a simple conversation around the potluck table make a difference? This month we're sharing delicious recipes and inspiring stories that will make your mouth water and your heart full.

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Peppermint Bark Brownies

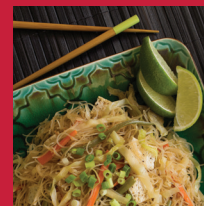
Recipe by Jackie Gonzalez-Feezer

Jackie Gonzalez-Feezer, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Ellicott City (Md.) church, shared the recipe for the peppermint bark brownies featured on the cover. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/peppermintbark for the recipe. Photo by Joel Springer, styling by Kelly Butler Coe.

ON THE WEB

MORE RECIPES!

In preparing for our December feature, we received more recipes than we could print. To find more tasty favorites from members around the Columbia Union, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/favoriterecipes.



GET INSPIRED

Even if you missed the Society of Adventist Communicators convention in Columbia, Md., you can watch the keynote presentations

from four young adult digital influencers: Kaleb Eisele, creator of Humans of Adventism; Erica Jones, creator of gorgeous2god; Justin Khoe (pictured), creator of That Christian Vlogger; and Emily DelMarie Long, editorial and creative director of the 71.5 magazine. Find these and other presentations at columbiaunionvisitor.com/sacpresentations.

LET THE CHILDREN COME

Our inbox overflowed with beautiful art that couldn't all fit in the 2019 Columbia Union Calendar, out this month. To see a slideshow of Bible stories through the eyes of the union's youngest members, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/2019calendarartwork.



TRY IT ONE MORE TIME

Sarah Frodelly, a member of New Jersey Conference's Hackettstown church, produced *Inténtalo una vez más* (Try it One More Time) with "gratitude to God for giving me a second chance in music to be able to praise Him," she says.

Frodelly wrote most of the songs to express her feelings about God's love. She hopes to soon translate some songs into English. For more information on the album, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/sarahfrodelly.

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 10

All God's Children

Blessings abound here at Washington Adventist University (WAU) in Takoma Park, Md., where we strive to engage minds and transform lives for all of God's children.

On our campus, just minutes from our nation's capital city, this includes nearly 160 international students from more than 50 countries, including Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Sierra Leone, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This fall's freshman class is the largest in 14 years, and undergraduate enrollment is 10 percent greater than that of last year. In addition, total enrollment reached 1,131, the largest group of students who have matriculated since fall 2013.



LIVING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Although WAU is a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher learning, students of many faiths express appreciation for our welcoming atmosphere, strong faculty and staff support, and the focus on spirituality and healthful life choices. This includes the vegetarian food served in our dining hall. At least one Muslim student noted with great relief that she would "never have to find pork hidden in the food." Another student in communication Professor Jarilyn Conner's class recently commented: "I like WAU because no one judges us about our religion or culture. WAU treats us as family," says Othman Aryan, '19, of Saudi Arabia.



With the growth in population and diversity, we are finding new ways to heed Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (NIV). The way we see it, more students

and a significant international presence translate into greater opportunities for mission, service, evangelism and transformation. This reality enhances educational opportunities for everyone, as individuals seek to better understand each other and the world at large. It also facilitates our desire and commitment to support the global Adventist mission to "Go and Tell," as well as the Columbia Union Conference goal to see every member "Experience the Mission."

I am proud to lead the WAU learning community, which is committed to the Adventist Christian vision of excellence and service. I am also profoundly grateful for the increasing opportunities to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to communities worldwide.

We solicit your continued prayers as we navigate higher education in this dynamic context.

Weymouth Spence serves as president of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Newsline

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE RE-ELECTS LEADERSHIP



Pennsylvania Conference members recently re-elected their leadership team (pictured left to right with their wives): Will Peterson (Darlene) as executive secretary; Gary Gibbs (Sherilyn) as president; and Carlos Charnichart (Liz) as treasurer. Read more information in the January/February 2019 Pennsylvania Conference newsletter.—*Tamyra Horst*

MEMBERS HONORED AT UNION LUNCHEON



Columbia Union leaders recently recognized three people as Notable Persons of Honor (pictured, flanked by Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, and Rob Vandeman, executive secretary) at the union's Thanksgiving luncheon. Honorees included Franklin David, senior pastor of Potomac Conference's Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md.; the late Pastor Dave Robinson, ranger at Ohio Conference's Camp Mohaven in Danville, accepted by his wife, Karen (center), in his honor; and Lillian Torres, Pennsylvania Conference's Bible worker trainer.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE ELECTS TREASURER

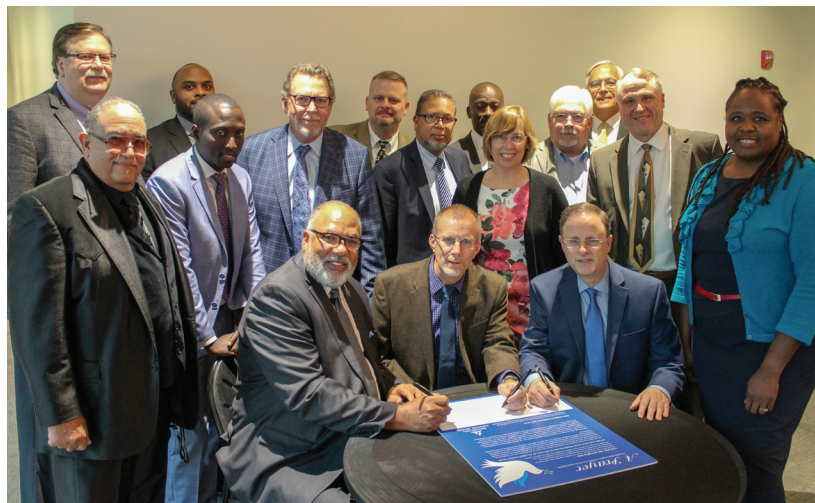
The New Jersey Conference Executive Committee unanimously elected Karen L. Senecal as their new treasurer. She will be the first woman to hold this position, and will join the conference team January 1, 2019. Senecal replaces Joel Tompkins, who now serves as treasurer for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division in South Korea.

Read more on page 24 in the New Jersey Conference newsletter.—*Ricardo Bacchus*



CHILDREN ILLUSTRATE 2019 CALENDAR

The 2019 Columbia Union Calendar features Bible stories depicted through the artwork of children across the Columbia Union Conference. Union leadership hopes the project will create opportunities for members to reflect on the beauty and primacy of God's Word—the foundation of our faith. Copies will be mailed to members later this month. For additional free copies, call (443) 259-9578, or email srowley@columbiaunion.net.—*VMB*



ADVENTISTS RESPOND TO PITTSBURGH SHOOTING

Leaders from across the Columbia Union Conference gather as (pictured, seated) William T. Cox Sr., president of the Allegheny West Conference; Stewart Pepper, pastor of Pennsylvania Conference's Pittsburgh church; and Gary Gibbs, Pennsylvania Conference president, sign a special prayer written for congregants of the Tree of Life Synagogue.—*VMB*

Union Committee Discusses Annual Council, NAD Votes

At the year-end meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee last month, members affirmed the need to focus on mission, discussed the 2018 General Conference (GC) Annual Council vote to implement a new system of compliance over church entities around the world and voted to issue a statement of response.

Sanjay Thomas, a young adult committee member who attends Potomac Conference's Takoma Park (Md.) church, shared that after the October 14 vote, he heard from many concerned young adults questioning if they wanted to be associated with such an organization that punitively addresses contextual approaches of spreading the gospel and serving in the church.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, added, "Our church is more polarized today than it was months ago, largely over a nonbiblical issue. This GC document violates how we do church. At the 1901 church re-organization, local unions were established to protect the expression of mission in their unique cultural context. How we express it is up to the local people."

Rob Vandeman, the union's executive secretary, noted that the issue has changed. "The elephant in the room is no longer women's ordination, but church authority."

Several committee members highlighted a desire to seek dialogue and reconciliation, while standing against discrimination of women in ministry, addressing concerns about increasing centralization of authority at the GC and remaining focused on mission.

"We have a responsibility to respond and speak on what we believe God has called us to do. The tension we're experiencing in the church is real; the divide is real," said Marcus Harris, senior pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C. "[But] the biggest issue [I see] is missional distraction, if we allow it."

During the meeting, members also affirmed the North American Division (NAD) vote to "Recommend to NAD administration to discuss with [the] General Conference the issue of financial parity to be accomplished in two to three years." The NAD currently gives 6.35 percent of its tithe to the GC, with a gradual reduction to 5.85 percent scheduled by 2020. All other divisions of the church give two percent.

After some discussion, the union committee also approved the following: "To request of the North American Division that whatever percentage adjustment of tithe is made toward parity shall be



retained at the local conference."
—V. Michelle Bernard

Statement Regarding 2018 Annual Council Vote

It is with unwavering allegiance to and love for the mission, message and fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that we appeal to world leaders to reconsider the vote at the 2018 Annual Council to approve a document titled "Regard for and Practice of General Conference (GC) Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions."

This vote proposes to centralize authority at the GC and endorse an unprecedented level of control to bypass established policies, processes, constitutions and bylaws that address the situations we now face. It also conveys a concerning lack of openness to respond to missional needs in the local context as the church has intentionally and successfully fostered for more than 115 years.

We affirm the response of the North American Division Committee on November 6, 2018, which states in part: "The structure of the church is characterized by unity and diversity, as stated by Paul in 1 Cor. 12:12: 'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ' (ESV). Such unity in the body of Christ reflects a reality for which He prays in John 17. Honoring diversity in implementing the Seventh-day Adventist mission allows for effective response to specific conditions while still maintaining global values and identity, as exemplified in Acts 15."

With mission and biblical unity as our focus, we continue to seek opportunities to promote wider understanding of the needs in the mission field in which we have been called to serve. We earnestly seek God's guidance and leading, as well as the opportunity for conversation and collaboration with our brothers and sisters around the world.

We join with the North American Division and others who have appealed to the General Conference Executive Committee to rescind the vote on this matter. And we again appeal to church leadership to facilitate and pursue dialogue that plants seeds of understanding, promotes unity and seeks reconciliation.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ..." (2 Cor. 5:18, NIV).

Noticias



PENNSYLVANIA REELIGE A SUS LÍDERES

La Conferencia de Pennsylvania recientemente reeligió a Carlos Charnichart como tesorero, Gary Gibbs como presidente y Will Peterson como vicepresidente administrativo (en la foto). Lea más información en el boletín de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania de enero/febrero.

TRIBUTO EN EL ALMUERZO DE LA UNIÓN



Los líderes de la Unión de Columbia reconocieron recientemente a tres Personas Notables de Honor (en la foto) en el almuerzo de Acción de Gracias de la Unión: Franklin David, pastor principal de la iglesia Sudasiática de la Conferencia de Potomac en Silver Spring, Md.; el difunto Pastor Dave Robinson, guardaparque en el Campamento Mohaven en Danville, Oh. de la Conferencia de Ohio recibido por su esposa Karen (centro); y Lillian Torres, entrenadora de obreros bíblicos de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania.

“Hoy les rendimos homenaje por su firme e inquebrantable compromiso de promover el reino de Dios a través de vivir una vida que ejemplifica a Cristo al cuidar y poner las necesidades de los demás en primer lugar”, dijo Rob Vandeman, Secretario Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia.—V. Michelle Bernard

LA CONFERENCIA DE NEW JERSEY ELIGE TESORERA



Después de considerarlo en oración, el Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia de New Jersey eligió por unanimidad a Karen L. Senecal como su nueva tesorera. Ella será la primera mujer en

ocupar este puesto y se unirá al equipo de la conferencia el primero de enero de 2019.

Lea más en la página 24 en el boletín de la Conferencia de New Jersey.—Ricardo Bacchus

RESPUESTA DE ADVENTISTAS AL ATAQUE DE PITTSBURGH

La comunidad adventista de Pittsburgh ha reforzado sus relaciones internas y está trabajando unida para tratar de brindar consuelo a la congregación Tree of Life después de que un hombre armado ingresó a la sinagoga y disparó a 11 personas.

Los pastores del área de las conferencias de Allegheny West y Pennsylvania trabajaron con los líderes de la Unión de Columbia para redactar una oración para



William T. Cox Sr., presidente de la Conferencia de Allegheny West, firma una oración escrita para los feligreses de la Sinagoga Tree of Life mientras Gary Gibbs, presidente de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania, observa.

presentar al rabí y los feligreses de la sinagoga. Las iglesias locales también recolectaron una ofrenda especial para ayudar a los afectados por el ataque.

Lea más sobre cómo los miembros se vieron afectados y están trabajando para ayudar a sanar a su comunidad en columbiaunionvisitor.com/pittsburghshooting y en el boletín de la Conferencia de Allegheny West en la página 17.—VMB

Comité de la Unión discute los votos del Concilio Anual

En la reunión de fin de año del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia el mes pasado, los miembros afirmaron la necesidad de centrarse en la misión, discutieron la votación anual del Concilio de la Conferencia General (CG) 2018 para implementar un nuevo sistema de conformidad sobre las entidades eclesíásticas de todo el mundo y votaron emitir una declaración en respuesta.



Sanjay Thomas (en la foto), un adulto joven miembro del comité que asiste a la iglesia de Takoma Park (Md.) de la Conferencia de Potomac, compartió que después de la votación del 14 de octubre, escuchó a muchos adultos jóvenes preocupados que se preguntaban si querían asociarse con una organización que aborda de manera punitiva enfoques contextuales de difundir el evangelio y servir en la iglesia.

“Nuestra iglesia está más polarizada hoy que meses atrás, en gran parte debido a un problema no bíblico”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia. “Este documento de la CG viola cómo hacemos la iglesia. En la reorganización de la iglesia de 1901, se establecieron uniones locales para proteger la expresión de la misión en su contexto cultural particular. La forma en que la expresamos depende de la gente local”.

Varios miembros del comité destacaron el deseo de buscar el diálogo y la reconciliación, permaneciendo firmes en contra de la

discriminación de las mujeres en el ministerio, abordando las preocupaciones sobre el aumento de la centralización de autoridad en el CG y permaneciendo enfocados en la misión.

Durante la reunión, los miembros también afirmaron el voto de NAD para “Recomendar a la Administración de la División que discuta con [la] Conferencia General el tema de la paridad financiera a completarse en dos o tres años”. La División actualmente da el 6.35 por ciento de su diezmo

a la CG, con una reducción gradual a 5.85 por ciento programada para 2020. Todas las otras divisiones dan el dos por ciento.

Después de una discusión, el comité ejecutivo de la Unión también aprobó lo siguiente: “Para solicitar a la División Norteamericana que cualquier ajuste de porcentaje de diezmo que se haga sea retenido en la conferencia local”.

Para leer más sobre este tema, visite columbiaunionvisitor.com/cuexec2018.—V. Michelle Bernard

Declaración sobre la votación del Concilio Anual 2018

Es con inquebrantable lealtad y amor por la misión, el mensaje y las creencias fundamentales de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día que hacemos un llamado a los líderes mundiales para que reconsideren la votación hecha en el Concilio Anual 2018 para aprobar un documento titulado “Respeto y práctica de la Sesión de la Conferencia General (CG) y Acciones del Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia General”.

Este voto propone centralizar la autoridad en la CG y respaldar un nivel de control sin precedentes para eludir las políticas, los procesos, las constituciones y los estatutos establecidos que abordan las situaciones que enfrentamos ahora. También transmite una preocupante falta de apertura para responder a las necesidades misionales en el contexto local como la iglesia ha fomentado intencionalmente y con éxito durante más de 115 años.

Afirmamos la respuesta del Comité de la División Norteamericana del 6 de noviembre de 2018, que declara en parte: “La estructura de la iglesia se caracteriza por la unidad y la diversidad, como lo afirma Pablo en 1 Cor. 12:12: ‘De hecho, aunque el cuerpo es uno solo, tiene muchos miembros, no obstante ser muchos, forman un solo cuerpo. Así sucede con Cristo’ (NVI). Tal unidad en el cuerpo de Cristo refleja una realidad por la cual Él ora en Juan 17. Honrar la diversidad en la implementación de la misión adventista del séptimo día permite una respuesta efectiva a condiciones específicas mientras se mantienen los valores y la identidad global, como se ejemplifica en Hechos 15.”

Con la misión y la unidad bíblica como nuestro enfoque, continuamos buscando oportunidades para promover una comprensión más amplia de las necesidades en el campo de la misión en el que hemos sido llamados a servir. Buscamos sinceramente la guía de Dios, así como la oportunidad de conversar y colaborar con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de todo el mundo.

Nos unimos a la División Norteamericana y a otros que han apelado al Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia General para rescindir la votación sobre este asunto. Y nuevamente apelamos al liderazgo de la iglesia para facilitar y buscar el diálogo que siembra semillas de entendimiento, promueve la unidad y busca la reconciliación.

“Todo esto proviene de Dios, quien por medio de Cristo nos reconcilió consigo mismo y nos dio el ministerio de reconciliación ...” (2 Cor. 5:18, NVI).

Favorite Potluck
Recipes and Memories

Food from the Heart

*By V. Michelle Bernard & Sylvia Urrutia
Photography by Joel Springer
Styling by Kelly Butler Coe*

Sabbath potluck organizers make it their quiet mission to welcome and feed members and visitors. To them it isn't a job. It's the ministry of fellowship.



People come in on Sabbath morning, and the tables are set up, and the classrooms are ready. They don't know how it happens. It's like a little Sabbath fairy comes in and sets it all up," says Roxann Gambin (pictured below), organizer of Chesapeake Conference's Triadelphia church potluck for 12 years.

Gambin likes to operate behind the scenes. She and her husband, Len, volunteer at the church, located in Clarksville, Md., each Friday to set up the fellowship hall and prepare the kitchen. She schedules teams to run the weekly potlucks. The Sabbaths her team isn't serving, she still often helps by dropping by the kitchen before Sabbath School and in between church to heat up and prepare dishes. The Gambins often stay until 3 p.m. to clean.

Roxann says potluck is a way for church members to fellowship and build a community. Many widowed, single or divorced members enjoy the time together. Plus, Roxann says serving on teams helps the volunteers to connect and find their place in the church.

"It's not all about food; it's the fellowship, getting to know the other church members, making your guests feel welcomed," shares Roxann. "It's not a job; it's a ministry. Some people think it is a burden. I think it is a joy."

Roxann isn't the only potluck team leader looking to welcome volunteers.

No One Goes Hungry

A group of young visitors were near Ohio Conference's Cleveland First church one Sabbath and decided to visit. After the service, there was no potluck, so they left hungry, without making any real contacts.

After hearing about their experience, member Aracely Balleza determined to make sure that every visitor who walked through the church doors would have a lunch and a friend available for them after divine service. She has now led the ministry for the last seven years, ensuring there is a potluck every week and for every visitor.



Zucchini a la Mexicana

Recipe by Aracely Balleza

Ingredients

5 zucchini, diced	1 can of corn
3 tomatoes, diced	3 teaspoons sour cream
1 medium onion, diced	2 teaspoons butter
3 garlic cloves, minced	Salt to taste
1 jalapeño, thinly sliced	

Instructions

Heat frying pan, add butter, onion and garlic. Sauté until translucent (about five minutes). Add the zucchini, tomatoes, jalapeño, corn and salt. Cover and let simmer for about 15 minutes until vegetables are cooked through. Remove from heat and stir in sour cream.

Although Balleza is of Mexican descent, she shares that the church is very culturally diverse, so the menu varies each week. On any given Sabbath, the potluck table might contain a Subway- or Chipotle-style lunch, as well as a typical Puerto Rican menu of arroz con grandules (rice with pigeon peas) with vegetarian guiso (stew).

Besides being diverse, the church is now known for being friendly.

"A few months ago, Pastor Alejandro Bullón was speaking at [our] church, and he told the story of how his son had visited a church here in the states, and they were very unfriendly. ... No one said 'hi' or invited him for lunch," says Balleza. "Then he said, 'but it must not have been this church, right?'" Balleza says a visitor sitting next to her responded loudly, "Definitely *not* this church. ... Everyone here is so friendly and even has food for you!"

That visitor is now about to get baptized, she shares.

Feeling Loved, Firsthand

While potluck and haystacks are common for those who have grown up in the Adventist faith, Alex Karras, a member of Potomac Conference's Burnt Mills church in Silver Spring, Md., remembers what it was like when he first joined the church. "Potluck was

a very foreign concept to me. I hadn't experienced it at this level. It helped me in terms of fellowship," Karras says. "As a convert, it was huge for me to have potluck there as a way to connect more into the church. It was beneficial for my spiritual life. I feel like it would have been lacking otherwise."

Karras especially remembers how these potlucks helped open his eyes to other cultures. At any given potluck, he could spot a wide array of ethnicities and food: American, Indian and Caribbean, to name a few. "It's a great place to bring a friend and show them [what] fellowship in church is like," Karras shares. "I'm often able to connect with people and see how they are doing in a way I can't on ... Sabbath mornings."

Karras and his wife, Samantha, accepted an invitation from a friend to join the potluck team and discovered they really enjoyed its evangelistic component. Karras gives Bible studies in the surrounding church area, and has found that potluck is a method to invite people to church. "Potluck offers something that Bible studies can't offer: that sense of community. It's bringing that person to an environment where people can feel loved, firsthand," he says.

Trading Recipes, Building Connections

Nellie Dakanay had been a Seventh-day Adventist before attending Allegheny East Conference's Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md., but she was new to American life.

"I would not have known how to eat kale or collard greens, pastas or salads," says Dakanay, if she hadn't started attending Breath of Life. Originally from the Philippines, Dakanay and her family moved to the U.S. in the early 1980s. Prior to arriving to the U.S., they served as missionaries in Nigeria.

It was at the Breath of Life potlucks, in the predominantly African-American congregation, that the Dakanays learned how to cook American and vegetarian meals.

"When I started bringing food to potluck, I would approach other cooks and ask them how they made that," she says. "Little by little I [also] learned to cook vegetarian dishes. At the same time, they would ask for my pancit and eggroll recipes."

Dakanay encourages members to stick around after church and build relationships. "Stay over for the potluck or fellowship. That way [you] will [build] relationships with the church members you would not [normally] meet," she says, adding, "If you know the church members and you have a problem or any issues ... here in America you can ask church members. ... That way they can advise you with some biblical advice. ... Anybody who is new to a church should fellowship together."

Flavor Your World

After a 30-hour trip, the familiar smell and taste of food at the hospital canteen in Nepal was very



Pancit

Recipe by Nellie Dakanay

Ingredients

Tofu	1 clove garlic
Oil	Soy sauce
1 medium cabbage	2 lbs uncooked thin noodles
Handful short beans	Black pepper
Handful carrots	Salt
1 stalk celery	Garlic powder
1 medium onion	

Preparation (for 4+ people)

Slice tofu. Chop onion and garlic. Chop half of the cabbage. Thinly slice a handful of beans, carrots and celery.

Instructions

In a large saucepan, sauté tofu in oil with onion and garlic until it is light brown. Add cabbage, then beans, carrots, celery and soy sauce to taste, and enough water to cook vegetables until tender (but not overcooked).

Remove vegetables from pan, and set aside. Cook noodles in the pan with leftover sauce. Add water and soy sauce to taste. Noodles should be bland to balance the vegetables when they are mixed in. When the noodles are ready, mix all ingredients together. Add some pepper, salt, powdered garlic or Mrs. Dash to taste. Serve hot.



Indian Egg Curry

Recipe by Fylvia Fowler Kline

Ingredients

4 tablespoons oil
2 cups onions finely chopped
1 green chili (optional)
1 ½ tablespoons garlic pressed or ground to a thick paste
1 ½ tablespoons ginger finely grated or ground to a thick paste
½ teaspoon powdered Indian Kashmiri chili or cayenne pepper
(add more later to make it spicier)
1 teaspoon powdered cumin
1 teaspoon powdered coriander
½ teaspoon turmeric
2 cups tomatoes finely chopped
1 cup chopped cilantro (packed)
30 cashews, soaked (if allergic to nuts, leave out or substitute
with ½ cup toasted unsweetened coconut)
1 ½ tablespoons tomato paste
½ teaspoon powdered cinnamon
¼ teaspoon powdered cardamom
⅛ teaspoon powdered cloves
2 ½–3 cups water
12–18 boiled eggs
1 large potato
1 cup green beans
Salt to taste

Instructions

Heat oil in non-stick or heavy bottomed dutch oven. Sauté onions and green chili. When onions are slightly brown, add garlic and ginger. Stir over medium heat for about a minute. Take the pot off the stove and add Kashmiri chili/cayenne pepper, cumin, coriander and turmeric. (Adding it over heat often scorches the spices.) Mix well. Put the pot back on the stove and add tomatoes, ½ cup cilantro (save the rest). Cover and cook on medium low until tomato is mushy.

Take ⅔ of the onion-tomato mixture and blend cashews with 1 cup of water until creamy. Add this to the pot with remaining onion-tomato mixture. Rinse your blender jar with 1 cup of water and add this to the pot. Add tomato paste, cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, ¼ cup of cilantro and salt to taste. Add more red chili/cayenne now if you want to make this spicier.

This is your curry base.

Add boiled eggs, gently scored to allow curry to seep in, 1 large potato, cubed, and 1 cup of green beans. (Raw potatoes will take longer to cook because of the acidity in the tomatoes. If you're in a hurry, add chunks of a microwaved potato!)

Garnish with remaining cilantro. Serve with plain rice, or go to columbiaunionvisitor.com/ rice to get Fowler's recipe for cumin-onion rice, as well as other curry variations.



Grandma Sterner's Baked Beans

Recipe (pictured on page 8) shared by Robin Page

Ingredients

2 40 oz. cans Great Northern Beans
1 lb. brown sugar
1 ¾ cups (approx.) ketchup
½ cup bacon-flavored bits
1 onion, quartered

Instructions

Mix ingredients and bake for about one hour. Start at 500° and turn down to about 450° after 30 minutes. It may take longer, depending on your oven.



comforting and reassuring to Fylvia Fowler Kline's family, who had just arrived as missionaries from the U.S. The cafeteria delivered a plate of pakoras, an Indian snack made of vegetable chickpea fritters similar to falafels.

"Getting adjusted to a new cuisine is one of the challenges of mission service. But, it wasn't for us," says Kline, who adds that Nepalese food is influenced by the flavors of India and Tibet, similar to what she ate growing up.

Now living in the U.S. and attending Chesapeake Conference's Ellicott City (Md.) church, Kline enjoys sharing those comforting flavors with her community. She created her curry recipe about 10 years ago when there was an increased societal interest in vegetarianism and trying new foods. She packaged and sold her personal spice blend in local specialty stores and partnered with local churches to offer free cooking classes, followed by a free meal and talk on healthy living.

One of the Adventist churches she worked with, located across the road from another church, strategically scheduled the class the first Sunday of every month at 12:30 p.m., says Kline. "We had regulars who'd get out of their Sunday service and walk across the road to have a cooking lesson and a free Sunday lunch, and a few of them began attending church on Sabbaths and [now stay] for Sabbath potlucks."

An Extension of Family

Walk into a potluck at the Pennsylvania Conference's Shermans Dale church, and you might find sauerkraut or barley casserole or vegan lasagna. One thing you will *a/ways* find is a feeling of family. And a pot of "Grandma Sterner's" baked beans.

The beans have been a staple at the potluck for the last 30-plus years, first made by grandma Grace Sterner, now cooked by her granddaughter, Robin Page.

The congregation started hosting their regular potluck the second Sabbath of the month some 30 years ago, when members, some of whom live an hour from the church, had to drive home for lunch before returning to visit the residents of the Perry Village nursing home in New Bloomfield. Having a potluck saves them miles and time.

Ginny Engle-Weiland thinks that the potlucks help members bond. "Eating a meal, breaking bread together is a good time to let your hair down," says Weiland, a member since she was three and the potluck organizer. "We can talk about things we wouldn't be able to if we just got up and left after the church service."

Those years spent together have resulted in a family atmosphere. Children who grew up in the church refer to adults outside their family as "aunt" or "uncle," and even incorporate church traditions into their family functions.

For years Weiland regularly brought Grandma Sterner's baked beans to family potlucks. Member Lance Engle, one of Weiland's sons, has now taken over this tradition and shares the dish at family events. "It does feel like I am sharing a part of my church," he says. "It actually makes for an interesting witnessing opportunity because people ask, 'Where did you learn how to make these?' Because they are *vegetarian* baked beans, it becomes an open door to share about Jesus, our church and vegetarian health principles."

Nostalgia in Every Bite

"When I was very young, the [potluck] meals seemed to appear by magic. Everything looked appetizing and tasted so good," says Marci Wright (pictured), hospitality coordinator at Allegheny West Conference's Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio. Her grandmother, Eileen Wright Lester, taught all her daughters and daughters-in-law recipes for the church's vegetarian meals and baked goods, including Blackberry Cake Top. "My mother and aunts were the ones who made the potlucks better than mere 'luck,' adds Wright, who returned to her childhood church as an adult after living in several other locations.

"When I became a teenager, I helped in the kitchen at the church and loved to see the ladies of the church bring in so many favorites like macaroni and cheese, Special K loaf, baked beans, green beans, potatoes, cornbread, soup beans—like navy or butter beans—mixed greens and plenty of desserts," she says.

Today what she enjoys most about the potlucks is when her fellow church members "bring the best their kitchen has to offer with enough to share. I can see the pride and delight when they see others enjoying their wares, and I know they put a lot of love into each dish."





Blackberry Cake Top

Recipe by Eileen Wright Lester

Ingredients

3 16 oz. packages frozen blackberries	3 teaspoons baking powder
3 cups sugar	1 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons butter, cubed	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla	2 eggs
3 cups flour	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups milk
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar	



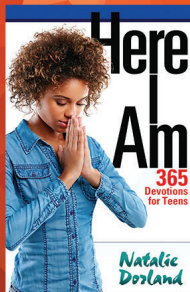
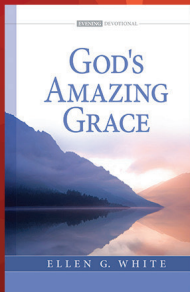
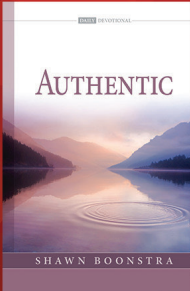
Instructions

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large pan, add frozen blackberries, sugar and butter. Heat through, and keep hot while you prepare the batter. Keep stove setting medium to medium/high. Stir ingredients occasionally, so the sugar does not settle and caramelize. Sift dry ingredients in a medium mixing bowl. Add oil, eggs, milk and vanilla. Stir together. Pour hot blackberry mixture into a 9 x 13 baking pan until it is half full. (Careful, it will splatter!) Using a large ladle, drop spoonfuls of batter on top of the hot berries, three across the narrow end and four down the long side. Repeat this process with the remaining berries and batter to fill a second, smaller pan. Bake immediately for 25 minutes. Tops should be golden.



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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Paterson Church Distributes 350 Bookbags

Earlier this year, the First Church of Paterson, located in New Jersey, hosted its annual bookbag giveaway Back to School Expo. This event allowed various church ministries to get involved, as hundreds of local residents responded. The pantry unit distributed groceries, the prayer team prayed with attendees, barbers and hairdressers gave nonstop, free haircuts and braided hairstyles and the hospitality team provided a meal and other refreshments.

Within two-and-a-half hours, the church's education team, led by Sarah Williams, distributed more than 350 bookbags, containing supplies for students in grades kindergarten through high school. Many residents expressed gratitude for the support and gifts. Joyce, an attendee and legal guardian of two grandchildren, was particularly grateful. "The backpacks were great, but when I looked inside the bags and saw all the supplies. ... It was such a blessing," she says.

Richard Campbell, pastor, shares, "The community has come to rely on our support. It was a blessing to see how church members rallied together in short



Charles Randall (left), an elder at Paterson church, along with other members, distribute school supplies to the community.

order to make this happen." The church plans to continue growing the Back to School Expo to serve more needs in the community.

Capitol Hill Church Hosts Math Academy

This year, the Education Ministries Department of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., joined forces with InspireMath Academy to provide a two-week intensive math academy for 14 students.

The idea originated with Lou Matthew, founder of

InspireMath, a program dedicated to building success for children in mathematics. When he approached the education team leaders Denzie and Darlene Henry about the idea, they were enthusiastic. "We wanted the children in our church to be exposed to programs that would enhance their mathematical background, especially since African-American children are underrepresented in the mathematics field," says Denzie.

During the introductory class, students explored various topics in algebra and advanced algebra, which aligned with the common core curriculum. Matthew also partnered with Texas Instruments®, which provided scientific graphing calculators and robotic carts that could be programmed by a person's calculations. Students conducted distance and time experiments using Texas Instruments readers.

At the conclusion of the academy, students received a graduation certificate indicating they had successfully completed the course. This year only high school students participated, but in the future, leaders hope to open up the program to junior high students as well.



Students from Capitol Hill church's inaugural math academy pose with their certificates and sponsors after completing the two-week course.

Sharon Temple Adventist School Reflects Jesus

Over the course of the 2017–18 school year, students from the Sharon Temple Adventist School in Wilmington, Del., distributed Spirit of Prophecy books as Christmas gifts to the school’s surrounding neighbors. They also helped the Millsboro (Del.) church distribute food to homeless people and cooked for women in a transitional home.

This 2018–19 school year, students, faculty and parents stretched their arms even wider around Wilmington by adopting the Sunday Breakfast Mission, an organization that serves the “homeless, addicted and impoverished individual through Christ-centered programs.”

With the school’s theme, “God’s Best: Reflecting the Character of Jesus,” driving them, the students have embraced the idea of doing a yearlong project, which involves collecting and distributing different items each month, such as deodorant, toothpaste, socks, etc.

During the school’s first collection, sixth-grader Cierra Dallam, fifth-grader Morgan Kea and kindergarten Malachi Kea gave 56 sticks of deodorant, along with a colorful handwritten message created by seventh-grader Andriana Yancy, to Debbie, a Sunday Breakfast Mission resident.

Kimberly Watkins, principal, originated this project after living in a homeless shelter during the 2018 North



American Division Teachers’ Convention in Chicago. It was through this experience that she could better understand the population of those her school serviced and help introduce to her students the idea of assisting those in need.

“This year we are being intentional and living out loud for all those surrounding us ... as we reflect the character of Jesus,” shares Watkins.

AEC to Host Regional Robotics Tournaments

Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Department of Education will be hosting two robotics events this spring at the Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School (JRW) and Pine Forge Academy (PFA). The goal of the tournaments is to expand robotics throughout the North American Division schools and to expose students to STEM-related careers. The FIRST LEGO League Junior Showcase and Expo, held at JRW, is for kindergarten through fourth grade. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Robotics Tournament, held at PFA, is for students fourth through eighth grade. All Adventist schools are invited to participate.

“I am extremely excited about the opportunity for AEC to host this year’s robotics Tournament and Lego League competitions,” says John Alberty, Superintendent of Schools. For more information, visit adventistrobotics.net.

Hillcrest, Ethan Temple Respond to Pittsburgh Shooting

Michael Hayes, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh, was recently driving to church when all the roads on his usual route were diverted. Hayes lives in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood where a gunman entered the Tree of Life Synagogue and killed 11 members/attendees. Since he was so late arriving to Hillcrest—about five miles from the synagogue—members feared for his safety. After arriving, Hayes and the congregation prayed for the situation and their hurting neighbors. "It was a very loving and connecting experience," says Hayes. "We share the same worship day [with the Tree of Life congregation], if you will. ... It just seemed really close to home."

That night Hayes and Stan Hood, pastor of AWC's Ethan Temple church in Pittsburgh, walked to the community vigil. Hood says he experienced an "overwhelming sense of solidarity" at the event where people sang "We Shall Overcome" in English and Hebrew simultaneously. "No one tried to drown the other out. We have believers in Jesus and those not so much. People have been asking questions about why did this man choose to attack the synagogue? I don't really



Stan Hood, pastor of the Ethan Temple church, participated in the community vigil following the shooting in Pittsburgh.



Michael Hayes, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's Hillcrest church, and his wife, Rhia, live in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where a gunman entered the Tree of Life Synagogue and killed 11 members/attendees.

know. And I've had people say it could happen in any congregation," he says.

Hayes says what hit him the most about the situation was what Rabbi Jeffrey Myers was going through. During the shooting, Myers told his congregants in the back of the room to drop to the floor and take shelter under the wooden pews, and tried to usher members in the front out of the room.

During the vigil, Meyers spoke about his guilt over not being able to reach everyone in the room. "My heart goes out to him. I really feel for him, being a leader of people and a protector," says Hayes. "The reality is that that could actually happen [anywhere.] As members of his neighborhood continue to grieve and try to make sense of the situation, Hayes says he hasn't heard anyone talking about retaliation or revenge, but more so, "We're just going to love more, connect more with our neighbors and friends. We're not going to be changed by this."

Hayes also plans to reach out to Myers to offer support.—V. Michelle Bernard



Ephesus Church Sponsors Community Health Weekend

The Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, recently sponsored a Community Health Emphasis Weekend. The event featured a health forum comprised of mental health professionals to discuss local mental health issues within the African-American community. As a follow up to the forum, people interested in mental health advocacy were given the opportunity to serve as advocates by enrolling and certifying in a mental health first aid course.

Later that evening, award-winning actor/director Anthony Hackett (pictured, below, with his wife, Adana) showcased his film *Love Different*, and discussed humor's effect on health.

On Sunday the church held a Simulation Health Fair, which featured a Anatomage 3-D virtual imaging table which allowed participants to visualize various medical



Kettering College (Ohio) physician assistant and Professor Tim Scanlon performs an oral exam on an attendee during the Ephesus church-sponsored Community Health Emphasis Weekend.



Participants stop by the Anatomage 3-D virtual imaging table, which allowed them to visualize various medical conditions and effects on the body.

conditions and effects on the body. The fair also featured eight simulation activities to allow participants to interactively learn about medicine. This included a simulated surgical lab where participants performed procedures such as identifying the patient, draping, prepping, excision of lesions, specimen collection and stapling; safe sleep simulation to prevent crib death; a teddy bear clinic; and a live scenario theater where actors performed scenarios requiring participants to respond to persons with stroke, choking and cardiac arrest symptoms.

In addition to blood pressure and glucose screening, two new screenings were offered: oral healthcare, performed by Kettering College (Ohio) physician assistant and Professor Tim Scanlon, along with his students; and diabetic foot screening exams, carried out by podiatry student Samuel Macenjulo and Kettering College alum.

Simulations for children ages 10 and under included fire safety, when to call 911, how to respond in an emergency and safe sleeping positions.

The fair ended with a motivational presentation by Adana, a physician assistant who was given an advocacy award for her online work encouraging underrepresented young people to choose healthcare careers. This interactive health fair brought together churches, hospitals, public service organizations and colleges to encourage people to take a more proactive approach to their health and advocate for the health of others.

—Benin Lee



THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

A Child Is Born

Jesus' birth is the most important birth of all the billions that have taken place through earth's history. His life, death and resurrection are at the center of the plan of salvation and our hope for eternity.

Jesus' birth gives significance to every other birth on this planet. Every child that is born has infinite value because of His advent. As the people of God, we recognize this importance and choose to value every young person as well.

At the Chesapeake Conference, we have made ministry to children and youth a high priority. We invest time, resources, creativity and energy into a wide range of ministries to reach every child of God.

Every congregation is encouraged to focus ministry on their young people and the children in their community. It is at this stage in life when they are most open and receptive to the gospel. We want to invite each young person to make a lifelong commitment to Jesus.

Our Seventh-day Adventist schools have a curriculum focused on presenting Jesus as Creator, Redeemer and soon-coming King. We know each student matters to Him.

Who are the children God has brought into your sphere of influence? How can you reflect the love of our Messiah to them and let them know that they are highly valued?



Rick Remmers
President

Conference Schools Awarded \$50K in Scholarships

In the 2018–19 academic year, the Chesapeake Conference has awarded more than \$50,000 to conference schools in education scholarships. The 11 schools, spanning grades K–12, have a combined enrollment of about 1,000 students. Each school is given a percentage of the scholarship distribution based on enrollment rates. In turn, families in need are awarded critical tuition assistance, making Seventh-day Adventist education more affordable for more than 50 families this year.

These funds became available thanks to recent changes in the Chesapeake Advance Plan (CAP) distribution percentages, as well as from direct donations toward the educational scholarship fund. At the beginning of 2018, a newly approved 20 percent of all CAP offerings are earmarked for tuition assistance through educational scholarships.

The guidelines for the scholarships require the student and/or immediate family be members of a Chesapeake Conference church, company or group. The student also has to have passing grades from the previous school year and is encouraged to take an active part in service in their school/church community.

“On behalf of each recipient family, we want to thank you for your faithful giving. Your financial gifts to the Chesapeake Advance Plan make it possible to match

or grow the amount awarded to students in the years to come,” says Seán Robinson, director of Planned Giving and Trust Services.

Janesta Walker, Superintendent of Schools, adds, “We understand it takes a sacrifice to afford Adventist education and the conference is committed to making scholarship funds available to impact the lives of children for eternity.”



Highland View Academy students Zyon Wiley and Victoria Nacchio conduct a flame test to detect metal ions in Chemistry class.

Coordinated Evangelistic Meetings Make Impact

This fall more than 50 churches in the Chesapeake Conference engaged in Reach Chesapeake, a coordinated public evangelism effort designed to reach more people with the Advent message of hope. Churches presented It Is Written's Revelation Today series to convey relevant prophetic truths. Twelve-hundred people, including 450 community guests conferencewide, attended opening night as a result of mailed handbills, newspaper ads, Facebook campaigns and personal invitations.

"In 2015 the Chesapeake Conference renewed its coordinated evangelism efforts, beginning with the Prophecies of Hope series," says David Klinedinst, director for Evangelism and Church Growth. "Since that time, annual baptisms have grown more than 56 percent. Many recent baptisms are a direct result of coordinated public evangelism. Conferencewide campaigns have also contributed to helping churches focus on maintaining an annual cycle of evangelism and outreach."

Before opening night of the campaign, President Rick Remmers issued a conferencewide call to prayer. "Thousands of people are searching for something more in their lives. This outreach points them to Jesus and the answers He has for us," he says. Remmers led out meetings at the Annapolis (Md.) church.

To begin the series, many churches opted to meet at a neutral location to welcome the community. Led by Jerry Lutz, conference executive secretary, the Westminster (Md.) church launched their meetings



John Rengifo, associate pastor of Atholton church, presents prophetic truth in the amphitheater at the North American Division headquarters.

in the Carrol Arts Center (Md.) The Atholton church in Columbia, Md., hosted meetings at the new North American Division (NAD) headquarters, led by John Rengifo, associate pastor. The seminars included pre-meeting health talks and a fruit smoothie booth for guests to fellowship prior to the prophecy presentation.

Key to successful evangelistic meetings, parishioners volunteered their time and energy, some as parking lot attendants, greeters, Children's Ministries leaders, prayer warriors, audio/visual personnel and even preachers. "Providing the training, practice and opportunity to preach evangelistic sermons empowers elders to do ministry and exercise their spiritual gifts," says Dan Darrikhuma, pastor of the Waldorf (Md.) church.

John Cooper, an elder at Waldorf who preached a series for the first time, shares, "My greatest joy so far in leading out in the seminar is being a conduit for the Holy Spirit to deliver the end-time message of the book of Revelation and seeing the visitors and members leave with enlightenment and conviction of the heart."

Featured speaker Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, presented the prophecy series at the Hagerstown (Md.) church. The evangelistic efforts didn't end after the initial meetings. Roger Larsen, church pastor, launched a weekly follow-up Bible study. "We will continue to study in-depth with our meeting interests so they are more grounded and become fully integrated into our church," says Larsen.



Main speaker Todd Jerman, head elder of the Living Word church in Glen Burnie, Md., presents a Revelation Today series.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Pastors Begin Triad Prayer Groups

Recently our pastors asked if I would consider setting up a prayer group where they could pray together, share each other's burdens and connect with Christ as a ministry team. This is a fantastic idea! Prayer is the lifeblood of our walk with Jesus, and the depth of our pastors' relationship with Christ is vital to their own spiritual well-being. It is also vital for successful ministry in their churches and the forward movement of our conference mission.

We already have a conference call prayer group established for Mountain View Conference members that is an incredible blessing to all who participate. Because some of the pastors already join the conference call, I wanted to try something different.

As I thought and prayed, I remembered a small groups class I took while attending Andrews University (Mich). Professor Don James proposed the idea of triad prayer groups or small intimate prayer groups with no more than three people. I felt that triad prayer groups would work well for our pastors. Trust and transparency about individual feelings and struggles is usually easier in a small group than a large one.

Last month our triad prayer groups started with a 40 days of prayer initiative so our pastors could renew their relationship with Christ, connect with and begin to share their experience with fellow workers who can easily relate. I regularly tell our pastors that their success in ministry is directly influenced by their relationship with Christ. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest and the One who must lead our pastors, or their work will not have lasting results. We are very excited about our pastors entering into triad prayer groups where they can regularly renew their relationship with Jesus, hold each other accountable and support and encourage each other in ministry.



Mike Hewitt
President

Women Live and Give at Annual Retreat

Vicki Griffin, Michigan Conference's Health Ministries director, spoke at the annual women's retreat at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. Presenting on the topic of "Living Free," she shared these tidbits: "We can go to the throne or the phone." "What you magnify gets bigger." "God will replace your wishbone with a backbone." "Christian joy is not based on what is around you but Who or what is within you."

Griffin (pictured below, right, with Valley View church member Cindy Robbins) inspired and encouraged the women in their spiritual and health journey.



At the retreat, women annually choose a mission project to support. This year they provided kitchen and bathroom items for homeless families who recently received housing. Jessica Manantan, a Grafton (W.Va.) church member and former housing stabilization case manager for the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, which works to prevent and end homelessness across the state, and Dawn Wadsworth, a Charleston (W.Va.) church member, hold a basket filled with donated items, as Carol Rogers, Summersville (W.Va.) church member, joins them (pictured).

Toll Gate Church Hosts Inaugural Biker Sabbath

The Toll Gate church in Pennsboro, W.Va., recently hosted its inaugural Biker Sabbath, after connecting with Pastor Bill and Audrey Hunt, leaders of the Three Angels' Messengers (3AM) Motorcycle Association, during campmeeting.

For the last several years, church members have cultivated relationships with several individuals from the local motorcycle scene. Biker Sabbath gives them an opportunity to invite their friends to biker-focused Sabbath services, a delicious meal and an afternoon ride in the beautiful West Virginia hills. This year 3AM bikers came from as far away as California and Texas to participate.

Bill says, "The devil didn't want this to happen." He explained that two motorcycles broke down on the way to church that Sabbath morning. In spite of this, the bikers arrived just a few minutes late. Members share that Bill preached a powerful sermon about Jesus, bikers gave personal testimonies and Audrey and Mountain View Conference teacher Stacy Blanz,



Richard "Cowboy" Smith, a member of the Point Pleasant church in W.Va., shares about the Three Angels' Messengers Motorcycle Association during the special Biker Sabbath at the Toll Gate church.



Church and community members visit and learn about each other's motorcycles on Sabbath afternoon.

who traveled from Elkins, W.Va., led in music. One local attendee shared that he had been thinking all week about the need to forgive, and the message was just what he needed to hear.

Earlier in the year, 3AM interacted with and shared the good news of Revelation 14:6-12 with hundreds of other bikers at the Sturgis national biker rally. One church member stated that he was impressed by the reported courageous and direct witnessing style.

"I am so pleased to see each person in this church taking responsibility to reach their community," shares Daniel Morikone, Toll Gate pastor. "Their loving efforts are making a real difference in furthering God's kingdom."

An aging church, Toll Gate is committed to renewal. They are striving to become, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, "all things to all people so that by all possible means [they] might save some." Forty-four attendees, including 15 non-members, attended Biker Sabbath. Guests and members said, "We've got to do this again next year!" One guest committed to bring more of his biker friends next time.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Dec. 31–Jan. 1 | Office closed (holiday) |
| Jan. 18–20 | Pathfinder Winter Camp
(Valley Vista, Huttonsville, W.Va.) |
| Jan. 21 | Office closed (holiday) |
| Feb. 1–3 | Family Ski Weekend
(Valley Vista, Huttonsville, W.Va.) |
| Feb. 18 | Office closed (holiday) |

news

NEW JERSEY

Born for a Mission

The reason for both Jesus' birth and the Seventh-day Adventist Church have something in common. His birth was not to divide history into two time periods—B.C. and A.D., nor was the birth of the church created to divide Sabbath keepers from Sunday keepers. The commonality is that the birth of Jesus was prophesized by Old Testament prophets and the Adventist church was born of a prophetic movement.

Jesus was given His name, Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14), which means “God with us” (Matt. 1:23, NIV), before He was born because He was destined for a mission. God descended from heaven to a manger in Bethlehem to fulfill a mission in favor of humanity. Matthew 1:21 declares: “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (NKJV). Matthew clearly defines that Jesus' mission is to save. In fact, in Luke 19:10, Jesus explicitly says that His mission is “to save that which was lost” (NKJV).

We carry the name Adventist because it identifies our mission. This year we celebrate 155 years since our church was organized. Our mission is to spread the news of the Second Coming of Jesus. As a church, we cannot forget the reason we came into existence: to fulfill the mission of Jesus. Ellen White says, “The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9).

Jesus was born with a mission; our church was born for a mission. Let no one and nothing distract us from that divine mission.



Jorge Agüero
President

Nacidos para una Misión

El nacimiento de Jesús y la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día tienen algo en común. El propósito de su nacimiento no fue para dividir la historia en dos períodos—A.C. y D.C., así como el nacimiento de la iglesia no fue para dividir a los guardadores del sábado y del domingo. El punto en común es que el nacimiento de Jesús fue profetizado por los profetas del Antiguo Testamento y la iglesia Adventista nace de un movimiento profético.

A Jesús le fue dado el nombre Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14), que significa “Dios con nosotros” (Mt. 1:23), porque antes de nacer estaba predestinado para una misión. Dios descendió del cielo a un pesebre en Belén para cumplir una misión a favor de la humanidad. Mateo 1:21 declara: “Y dará a luz un hijo, y llamarás su nombre Jesús, porque él salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados”. Mateo claramente define que la misión de Jesús es salvar. De hecho, en Lucas 19:10, Jesús explícitamente dice que su misión es “salvar lo que se había perdido”.

Llevamos el nombre de Adventista porque identifica nuestra misión. Este año celebramos 155 años que la iglesia adventista fue organizada. Nuestra misión es compartir las nuevas del segundo advenimiento de Jesús. Como iglesia no podemos olvidar la razón del por qué venimos a la existencia: la de cumplir la misión de Jesús. Elena White declara: “La iglesia es el medio señalado por Dios para la salvación de los hombres. Fue organizada para servir, y su misión es la de anunciar el Evangelio al mundo” (Hechos de los Apóstoles, p. 9).

Jesús nació con una misión; nuestra iglesia nació para una misión. Que nada ni nadie nos distraiga de esta misión divina.—Jorge Agüero

New Jersey Conference Elects First Woman Treasurer

After prayerful consideration, the New Jersey Conference (NJC) Executive Committee unanimously elected Karen L. Senecal as their new treasurer. She will be the first female to hold this position, and will join the conference team January 1, 2019.

“We welcome Karen Senecal to the family of the New Jersey Conference. [Her] experience and passion for the mission of the church will be a blessing to the NJC,” says Jorge Aguero, president.

Senecal currently serves as the audit senior for the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS), working from the Columbia region in Columbia, Md. She has a Master of Arts in Teaching in Business Education from Andrews University (Mich.) and a Master of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas at Arlington. She received her Certified Public Accountant certification in 2001. Prior to working at GCAS, she was the treasurer for the Oklahoma Conference and the Ohio Conference.

“Like the other conferences where I’ve worked, New Jersey Conference is focused on spreading the gospel and furthering the mission of the church,” says Senecal. “The difference is that the New Jersey Conference is spreading the gospel in large cities and in several different languages. These differences present a new challenge, and I’m looking forward to helping in any way I can.”

Senecal replaces Joel Tompkins, who now serves as treasurer for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division in South Korea.

The New Jersey Conference has 92 churches, six companies, 16 church plants and five schools, including one day academy.—Ricardo Bacchus



Waldwick School Retreat Results in Three Baptisms

After a recent school-led spiritual retreat at the Waldwick Adventist School, three students accepted the call to baptism. Upper grade staff members Susana Sanchez, Yoel Paredes, Victor

Macucachi and Guerline Plaisir, along with trained staff and parents, Ricardo Plaisir and Balfre Marin, prayerfully planned this spiritual retreat for the upper classmen.

Guest speaker Cristian Moscoso, youth leader of the Perth Amboy Spanish church, presented God’s Word. As a result, seventh-grader Eimy Maldonado, freshman Jorge Vega and sophomore Stanley Acevedo accepted the call for baptism. Yoel Paredes, teacher and associate pastor at Waldwick church baptized two students, while the third will be baptized at his home church.



During a spiritual retreat at Waldwick Adventist School, Principal Ruth Nino celebrates the baptismal decisions made by sophomore Stanley Acevedo, seventh-grader Eimy Maldonado and freshman Jorge Vega, as Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, Superintendent of Schools, presents the baptismal candidates to the school body.

One-Day Retreat Attracts Record Attendance

Thank you for such an awesome and powerful speaker! Each session touched my heart and spoke to a need in my life!” says Dannielys Torrez Fernandez, a millennial who attended the retreat with her mother. “[Tamyra Horst] ministered to us with love and the Word. Incredible!” shares another guest.

These were but a few of the dozens of responses to the Ohio Conference Women’s Ministries one-day retreat held at their new conference office in Dayton. More than 175 people (including men) attended from across the state, with more than a third being first-time attendees to a women’s retreat event. Recognizing the new venue was far away for those in the northern part of the state, leadership opted to also livestream it via Facebook Live. Many took advantage of this option throughout the weekend.



The new one-day format appealed to a wide female demographic—including teens, young adults, single mothers and busy professionals who simply can’t get away for an entire weekend for “traditional” retreats. “It allows for one remaining weekend day for



Five-year-old Abby Ducaay sings “Til the Storm Passes By” during the women’s one-day retreat in Dayton.



Members from the Hillsboro church act out a skit, The Glass Slipper Gospel, before Tamyra Horst’s last presentation.

those who work or enjoy family days. I like the one-day format!” says Ashley Snow, Kettering church member.

Special guest Horst (pictured left), author, speaker and Women’s Ministries director for the Pennsylvania Conference, delved deep into Scripture, addressing the contemporary struggles of women today. “God only asks one thing of us. ... He doesn’t ask us to do a million things, to get it all right or to be perfect. That’s His job. ... Our job is to have a relationship with Him,” she spoke.

Members from several Adventist churches in Ohio presented skits before each of the four sessions, introducing Horst’s scripture text and topic. Featured performers at the retreat included Mabuhay Praise!, a vocal ensemble comprised of members from several Dayton-area Adventist churches, who sang a medley of traditional hymns with unique arrangements. The group’s youngest singer, 5-year-old Abby Ducaay from the Middletown church, brought tears to many eyes as she performed “Til the Storm Passes By.”

“[This event] was a breath of fresh air, to come and sit at the feet of Jesus,” shares one attendee.

Leaders are exploring additional one-day events in 2019. If you are interested in joining the Women’s Ministries team, please contact Heidi Shoemaker at (740) 397-4665, ext. 128, or email wministries@ohioadventist.org.

Conference Mourns Loss of Pastor, Camp Manager

Sabbath, October 13, 2018, at the age of 55, David William John Robinson fell asleep in the peace that only Jesus can provide. With his adored wife, Karen; daughter, Kayla; son, Michael; and daughter-in-law,



Camp Mohaven Ranger Dave Robinson receives an award in 2017 for his work with Danville City Schools.

Stacia, by his side, Robinson's greatest joy was being a husband, a father and "Poppa" to his grandchildren, Amelia and Corbin.

Moving to Camp Mohaven in 2010 and managing the camp located in Danville was Robinson's dream job. From the horse camp program and summer campers to the church groups that visited throughout the year, he loved it all. Exhausting days were the norm for Robinson, but you would never know it. Whether it was plumbing or construction, Robinson did everything with excellence.

In 2013 he was diagnosed with cancer. Just like everything else he did, he powered through. Many times he felt sick, but he placed every job, every person, every family member first despite how he felt.

Robinson is loved and missed by so many. He spoke of heaven and how, even though there are no guarantees in life, God has promised to send His Son, Jesus, to take us home soon. Robinson wanted to make sure that all of his family and friends planned to be there so they could be together for eternity.—Michelle Yeager

Disciple Ohio: Cleveland Initiative Begins

Numbers. They tell us many things. Sometimes they mark milestones like birthdays or anniversaries. Maybe they tell you it's time to get your oil changed in your car or how much money is in the bank. Whatever the case, numbers provide useful information on a wide variety of topics. In this case, the number is 382,000. Why is this number important? It is Cleveland's population. With two million in the greater Cleveland area, this number could seem daunting when viewed through the lens of outreach and evangelism.

As a part of Ohio Conference's vision, a major church revitalization and planting effort is beginning in the Cleveland area under the Disciple Ohio: Cleveland Initiative. Coordinated by Pastor Randy Barber, recently relocated from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with a strong background in church planting and growth, the initiative seeks to promote growth in area churches and to plant a least one major congregation in Cleveland.

Sabbath, December 8, will mark the official launch of this initiative, with a special Sabbath rally. Time and location will be provided as they become available. Please pray for those in the Cleveland area, as they



Randy Barber, Disciple Ohio: Cleveland coordinator, talks with Cleveland-area pastors about the conference's new church planting effort.

move forward in proclaiming hope in Christ, and please consider supporting Disciple Ohio through your sacrificial offerings.—Michael Stough II

Pennsylvania *Pen*

Answered Prayer

A few months after becoming an Adventist, God impressed me to visit a former hard-partying high school classmate who had also recently given his life to Jesus. After initially resisting the Lord out of fear, I succumbed and went to Michael's house, shared my testimony and gave him a copy of *The Great Controversy*. As I was leaving, he told me, "I need to make a very important decision today, and your visit is the answer to my prayer for God's guidance."

Two thousand years ago, Zacharias, Simeon, Anna and others were praying for God's direction—"waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25, NIV). God's answer was to send His Son to be the "true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world" (John 1:9, NKJV).

Just like Michael and Simeon, people are still praying today. "All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light" (Ellen G. White, *Maranatha*, p. 104). This holiday season, you can give them the gift of Light and Life. God can use you as His agents to answer the prayers for divine guidance from everyone, everywhere.



Gary Gibbs
President

Mount Pocono Haitian Church Organized

In 2011 they began as a group of less than two dozen people with a vision to plant a Haitian church in the Pocono region of Pennsylvania. As they intentionally worked together to reach the Haitian community, their small group grew. Recently 41 people signed the charter as Conference President Gary Gibbs and Vice President of Administration Will Peterson organized them into an official Pennsylvania Conference church.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome the Mount Pocono Haitian Seventh-day Adventist Church into the Pennsylvania Conference. I know they will continue to fulfill our mission to reach everyone, everywhere with the good news of Jesus Christ," states Gibbs.

Peterson adds, "This is the fruit of the faith of members as they believed that God could and would raise up a church in their community."

Mount Pocono is one of three Haitian churches in the Pennsylvania Conference. On Sabbaths they worship at the Mount Pocono United Methodist church. During the week, they meet in small groups for prayer and Bible study.



President Gary Gibbs (left) and Vice President of Administration Will Peterson (right) stand with leaders and members from the newly organized Mount Pocono Haitian church, a vision this group of faithfully committed people had since 2011 to grow a church in the northeast region of Pennsylvania.

Young Adults Explore the Need for Compasses

Philip Kim, youth pastor of the Central Philadelphia church, explored the idea of a spiritual, moral and literal compass with more than 60 young adults at this fall's Campus Ministries event in Philadelphia. He sought to demonstrate that it is absolutely necessary to understand the compasses that guide us. Are those compasses healthy? Are they for eternal life? How do we determine which compass to follow? Are we really Christians following Jesus or is it a façade?

That afternoon participants experienced the need for a compass. They split into groups for a scavenger hunt with a list of objects to find. Group leaders had the exact location for each item but encouraged their group members to tackle finding the objects on their own without giving hints as to their locations. If they needed help, the leaders were then able to give them the street addresses.

"The purpose of giving them specific and detailed objects to find with no direction was to emphasize the need for navigation and direction in anything we set out to do," shares David Hong, conference Campus Ministries coordinator. "We hoped this would demonstrate our theme on a real level. We asked them to text a picture of each object to the activity leader's number with a caption that connected the object to the theme or to a Bible verse."

Campus Ministries seeks to offer events for Christian students at Philadelphia area colleges, creating a network for current college students and young professionals while sharing the gospel.
—Mica Hernandez



A group of young adults participate in a scavenger hunt during a Campus Ministries event in Philadelphia.



David Lee (middle), a Central Philadelphia member, leads a discussion with two other professionals.



More than 60 young adults attend a Campus Ministries fall event sponsored by the Pennsylvania Conference.

PHOTOS BY SANG-JIN HAN

Potomac People

LivingWell Launches New Online Store

“Welcome to our new store!” exclaimed Kermit Netteburg, general manager of LivingWell in Silver Spring, Md., as web designer Meera Gomer clicked a button on her keyboard, completing the final link to open the doors to LivingWell’s new e-commerce site. The day marked the culmination of a yearlong effort to make LivingWell’s most popular products available online. Management recognizes the growth of online sales, as online shopping throughout the world has more than doubled since 2014—and is expected to grow an additional \$2 billion over the next three years.

“A web store isn’t only like a second location,” says Netteburg, “it puts us in every location! You no longer have to make the five-hour drive from Lynchburg (Va.) to Silver Spring to buy a can of Choplets. You don’t have to worry about spending all day Sunday on the highway or getting here too late and finding the doors locked. Our website is open 24/6!”

Netteburg says LivingWell couldn’t claim to serve customers and members’ needs without making the store’s resources available online. “Books, music and other media—all the stuff an Adventist Book Center was originally designed to sell—are the second most popular online product category,” explains Netteburg.



“LivingWell is here to do more than just sell items; we’re here to be one of your spiritual growth partners. The internet allows us to partner with more people more easily than ever before.” Shop the new LivingWell website at livingwellabc.com.—Bruce Dillon

Two Pastors Highlighted in Appreciation Videos

To celebrate the hard work Potomac Conference pastors accomplish, leadership quietly selected and recognized two candidates at the annual Pastors’ Meeting, an event for team building, personal reflection and growth. The conference recognized Darryl Campbell, pastor of the Galax, Mountain View, New



River Valley and Wytheville churches in Virginia, and Don McFarlane, pastor for administration at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., for their excellence in ministry. This recognition included appreciation videos in which members shared how the ministries

of Campbell and McFarlane have personally touched their lives.

“There is something special about both of these individuals, as is brought out in the testimonies of their church members in these videos,” says Bill Miller, president.

“Pastor Campbell and Pastor McFarlane put their heart and soul into their ministry, going above and beyond what is asked of them to move forward in growing healthy disciples. It’s our privilege to honor the quality staff we have who so often go unrecognized.” Visit youtube.com/PotomacConference to watch the videos.



Potomac People

Nine Baptized at Youth Retreat

Nine young adults decided to give their lives to Christ through baptism during the conference's youth retreat, themed "Greater Things," earlier this year. More than 250 youth attended from around the conference, making their way to Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va. "We were able to spend a weekend in the mountains, away from the distractions of modern life, and enjoy the opportunities to socialize, study and worship God together," says Josant Barrientos, Youth Ministries director.

Guest speaker Jose Luis Nuñez, who leads two churches and Youth Ministries in the northern part of Italy, focused on apostle Paul's life—from who he was to who he became after his unique encounter with God. "Paul's distinctive experience with God was the beginning of his transformational process," explains Barrientos. "This led him to become an outstanding Christian leader. Today this is still God's desire and invitation to everyone, including youth and young adults."

The retreat featured a variety of activities, including a prayer walk that Arelys Santiago, attendee and Potomac youth staff, says was her favorite part. "This gave us the chance to have some alone time with God in prayer," she expresses. "We are always on the go. Taking time to settle down, think and pray is an important exercise we often don't do. It was so powerful to see God move at the retreat, when nine people decided to dedicate their lives to Christ after a very special ceremony of prayer and reconciliation. I love being a part



A group of young adults pray together at the conference youth retreat.



Attendees leave their burdens at the cross and reconnect with God at prayer wall stations.



Guest speaker Jose Luis Nuñez encourages young adults to receive the "Greater Things" God has for them.

of this ministry and the opportunity to work with such an amazing team."

Barrientos hopes the young adults who attended were encouraged. "God always prepares many wonderful surprises during these events," he says. "Is there anything more powerful than witnessing the birth of others into a new life with Christ? God continues to work powerfully. We just need to be still to allow ourselves to see and experience His Spirit calling and moving us."

The next young adult retreat will be held at Camp Blue Ridge, August 30–September 1, 2019.

Week of Prayer ‘Levels Up’ Spirituality on Campus

Students from Highland View Academy (HVA) recently enjoyed the year’s first Week of Prayer, themed “Level Up.” Leaders designed the morning and evening sessions to help students take their head knowledge of God and transform it into heart knowledge. The ultimate goal? For students to take their relationship with God to the next level.

Garrison Hayes, associate pastor of the Community Praise church in Alexandria, Va., taught students what it meant to “do even greater things,” as Jesus informs His disciples in John 14:12. Hayes challenged students through various topics, including how to put faith over feelings and not let emotions control decisions; how to work against doubts by doubting them; how to pray; and how to be peacemakers and not peacekeepers, among other important life lessons.

These instructions gave students real-life tools to take their relationship with God to the next level and showed students how to do “greater things” to spread the gospel message. Freshman Ana Lopes recounts, “It was an eye-opening experience. ... He told Bible stories in such a way that we could relate to them. He showed us what the Lord’s Prayer really means, why Jesus said it and how He used it to show the disciples how to pray. Now, I want to pray like that, and I know what to pray about.”



During Week of Prayer, Garrison Hayes challenges students to “Level Up” their spiritual lives.



Cesar Grassiotto, pastor of the Highland View church, and Garrison Hayes, associate pastor of the Community Praise church, flank junior Langston Crawford and sophomore Becky Lim, who publicly committed their lives to Christ through baptism at the end of Week of Prayer.

Throughout the week, leaders from the Highland View church, located on campus, HVA staff members and Hayes prayed with and for several students who requested special prayer. After the Friday morning meeting, a number of students came forward to rededicate their lives to Jesus. Additionally, four students took their relationship with Christ to the next level by deciding to get baptized.

Week of Prayer culminated with a student-led program. Both HVA choirs, the band and other participants led the entire church service. Through Hayes’ last message, the school and church community learned what it meant to embrace the Redeemer. The service ended with two baptisms.

Sophomore Ben Cruz says, “It was very powerful. I felt that Pastor Garrison understood us, and he could relate to us.” The HVA Campus Ministries Department, church leadership, faculty and staff pray this Week of Prayer will generate a great Holy Spirit movement on campus. The student leadership is encouraged and motivated to continue what Hayes started.



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

The Power of Faith in Action

For more than six decades, Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) has provided a Christ-centered education, empowering students with wisdom, knowledge and determination to reach their full, God-given potential.

Situated in Piscataway, N.J., LNAA's current enrollment is 287, grades pre-K through 12th. The school was built on the faith, hard work and generosity of devout church members, parents and friends. This 2018–19 academic year, LNAA celebrates their 60th year of providing a strong faith-filled education! And for the first time, it is embarking in an Annual Fund Drive with a goal of \$100,000.

LNAA is certain that this goal can only be reached through the prayerful and purposeful support of God's people: parents, alumni, faculty, community, church members and friends—the power of faith in action.

The academy established the Annual Fund Drive as a direct and voluntary support with the objective to provide an affordable Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. It supports every area of the school, and is an investment in Adventist education—the legacy and lifelong impact of the 21st century learners and leaders. One of those leaders in training is twelfth-grader Diogo Santo, who says, "LNAA has helped me to grow into a Christian leader. I have learned that faith without

works is dead (James 2). Lake Nelson helped me grow into a leader willing to display action alongside my faith."

In 2016 the academy inaugurated a new addition, which houses three state of the art classrooms and a Science lab. Now the school is at capacity, still using an additional three classrooms in the Lake Nelson church."

"God has indeed been good to us! But there are still challenges in keeping up with the growing needs of the academy as well as the needs of the students," says Jasmine Kelly-Stephens, development director for the New Jersey Conference.

Investing in the annual fund will make an impact on every aspect of school life: spiritual development, academics, athletics, fine arts, sports and technology programs—an investment in lives that will impact our world for the glory of God. Vanessa Guerrero, also a twelfth-grader, adds, "Without the spiritual foundation that LNAA provides, I would have never been blessed with the opportunities to express my faith through action, whether at chapel, choir or leadership in the Student Association."

For more information, visit lakenelsonadventistacademy.org or [facebook.com/lakenelsonsdaschool](https://www.facebook.com/lakenelsonsdaschool), or call (732) 981-0626.—*Elisa Maragoto*



Principal Elisa Maragoto speaks to Lake Nelson Adventist Academy students during Week of Prayer.

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

PFA POST



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

Creative Events Highlight Parent Weekend

Pine Forge Academy (PFA) recently hosted the 2018 Fall Parent Weekend. Students and parents were “reunited” during the weekend activities. The event included parent conferences, a Creative Arts drama presentation, a PFA choir fall concert and the senior class presentation, which debuted the 2018–19 honor guards, juniors who have a 3.9–4.0 GPA and demonstrate exemplary behavior.

The Creative Arts Department lived up to their mantra, “CA is ... Ministry,” in their soul-stirring performance of King and Country’s “My Help Comes From You” (pictured, below), which left the audience in tears.



At the 2018 Fall Parent Weekend, Choir Director Jarret Roseborough introduces and thanks the 93-member choir for their hard work and dedication.

Speaker Kevin Harrell ('88), president of the Parent Teacher Association, emphatically stated, “It is ministry of this quality that reminds us of the ‘why’ we send our children to Pine Forge Academy.”

Next, the 93-member PFA choir sang renditions of spirituals, hymns and classical arrangements, and an original African piece written and composed by Jarret Roseborough, choir director. Attendees say they were awestruck by the spirit-filled ministry and remarkable performance. Vivian Martell, parent of junior choir member Noel Martell, shares, “I was tremendously blessed by the performance of the choir.”

At the final event, PFA administrators presented the Class of 2019 to a packed room of onlookers. Steeped in the traditional fabric of the academy, seniors, along with their parents, participated in a solemn procession, flanked by the 2018–19 honor guards. Keynote speaker Orville Brisset ('95), pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s Germantown church in Philadelphia, admonished the students of their divine peculiarity and responsibility. He closed by reminding them that their lives and decisions should line up with God’s purpose.



The top ten juniors, known as honor guards for their 3.9–4.0 GPA and exemplary behavior, stand at attention as they welcome the Class of 2019.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

School Family Celebrates Latin American Heritage

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently held its fifth annual Latin American Festival. The Academy Chorale and the Cultural Appreciation Society (CAS) sponsored this year's event. "I think the entire student body thoroughly enjoyed themselves," says Lindsay Gispert ('20), co-president of the CAS. "It was an opportunity for many of the students to express themselves, whether through modeling their cultural garb in the fashion show or by proudly carrying their country's flag in the flag pageant."

In addition to listening to authentic Latin American folk music, provided by the chorale and the Academy Strings, the audience also enjoyed solo vocal and instrumental performances. Guests ate traditional cuisine from El Salvador, Mexico, the Caribbean, Guatemala and Argentina. Educational booths



Eighth-grader Soren Oster and his sister Kamila ('19) staff the Puerto Rico booth.



Pre-K student Nathalia Hernandez represents Peru at the event's fashion show.

representing Brazil, Cuba, El Salvador, Bolivia, Haiti, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Peru had crafts for children and displayed artifacts from each country.

Organizer Robert Martinez, SAA's chorale director, says, "The Latin American Festival serves not only as a choir concert, but the choir has used this event to give back to the community while celebrating the cultural diversity of students and their families at SAA."

Caleb Salazar ('20) says, "[This festival] is always a highlight of my year. Being a Hispanic American at SAA, it moved me to see all types of people both representing and enjoying Latin culture. It was also

a learning experience for me. Seeing the different customs at each booth and the various types of attire displayed in the fashion show gave me a better understanding of the different backgrounds represented at SAA. I enjoy being a part of a school that embraces diversity, where we can all share and learn from one another."

Calendar of Events

December

- 2 Student Association Winter Banquet
- 4 Instrumental Christmas Concert
- 6 Choral Christmas Concert

January

- 7 SAA Registration for Current Families
- 16 Academy Day
- 30 SAA Registration for New Families

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
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PHOTOS BY DENISSE HERNANDEZ

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{.ORG} CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Student Leaders Learn Effective Insight at SALT

Student leaders from Spring Valley Academy look forward to the annual Student Association Leadership Training (SALT). Twenty-five high school students (pictured) attended this year's event, held at Allegheny East Conference's Camp Danny Davis in Boyertown, Pa., and came away with a renewed sense of purpose and mission.

"SALT was a great learning experience for becoming a good and effective leader. We performed activities that corresponded with our leadership positions. It was a great bonding experience for our school as a whole!" exclaims Carmen Flaker, junior class fundraiser. Otto Keppke, senior class vice president, adds, "It was nice that we had the opportunity to hear various



perspectives, whether it be from those in similar positions as us or college recruiters. I truly feel like it allowed us all to become stronger leaders through increased understanding."

Elementary Students Get Down to Bare Bone Facts

Each week third- and fourth-grade students learn about a different section of the human body. Recently, students from the Radiology Sciences and Imaging Department of Kettering College (KC) in Ohio, under the direction of Idamae Jenkins, department head, presented and identified human bones in the upper and lower extremities.

"Their presentations centered around safety awareness, prevention of injuries to said area of the body and what to expect in the hospital setting if an injury does occur," says Katie Vincent, third- and fourth-grade

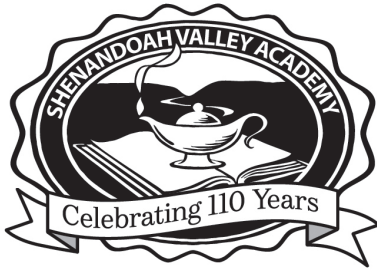
teacher. "The KC students also associated what they have learned about pediatrics from class lectures and clinics to create an age-appropriate, engaging presentation for our students." Using Indian candy corn, the college students ended the presentation by playing a game with the children. This activity reinforced facts about the human body.



Kettering College students (back row) smile with SVA's third- and fourth-graders after teaching the middle-schoolers about bones in the human body.

Upcoming Events—December

- 8 High School Band & Choir Christmas Concert in chapel, 7 p.m.
- 11 Grades 1–6 Piano Recital in chapel, 5 p.m.
- 13 Grades 7–12 Piano Recital in chapel, 5 p.m.
- 14 Gymnastics Christmas K-12 Assembly in gym, 9:46 a.m.
- 15 Praise Orchestra Christmas Concert at Kettering church, 5 p.m.
- 17–21 Exam week
- 21 End of Second Quarter
- 24–Jan. 4 Christmas Break (No School)



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Parents' Weekend Affirms Adventist Education

Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) students and faculty recently welcomed parents, siblings and grandparents to campus for the third annual Parents' Weekend. Parent Association President Traci Brossfield ('88), association officers and Principal Don Short planned a meaningful weekend for SVA families. Events included a student-led Friday night vespers; Sabbath church service featuring parents, students and SVA music groups; Sabbath lunch in the cafeteria; a Parent Association Meet and Greet; an afternoon sacred concert; and the classic academy Saturday night activity, "Junk Scramble."

On Sabbath Janine Hudson (pictured, right), SVA Board trustee, Parent Association officer and parent of four-year senior Karsen, presented a sermon titled, "You are Kind, You are Smart, You are Important: The Power of Affirmation." She preached about the power of Adventist education, where students are affirmed as God's valued children. She emphasized, "Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. ... Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children" (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 18).

Daniel Biaggi (pictured, below), new music director of the Shenandoans, chorale, band and bells; and Kelly Wiedemann, associate music director, who conducts strings and orchestra, led the fall sacred music concert. Monica, Daniel's wife, a talented arranger, musician and SVA's new piano and organ teacher, arranged praise music and accompanied the



music groups throughout the weekend.

Sunday provided an opportunity for parent-student-teacher conferences, and a "get to know you" Parent-Faculty Brunch, where cafeteria staff, student workers and parents worked together to provide a meal that set the tone for warm fellowship. "The warm spirit of affirmation and encouragement was felt by students, parents, faculty and staff throughout Parents' Weekend," says Short. "Thank you to SVA's wonderful, supportive parents who work and sacrifice to send their precious children to this special school where they are educated to love and serve Jesus."



SVA's Upcoming Music Performances

- Dec. 7 Candlelight Concert
- Dec. 8 New Market Church Service; Candlelight Concert; Christmas Pops Concert
- April 20 Alumni Weekend Church Service
- May 11 New Market Church Service; Spring Sacred and Secular Concerts

For additional music schedule information, visit shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.

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

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Student Receives Invitation to Turning Point USA

Takoma Academy (TA) student Ian Chandler ('19), vice president and former president of the Student Council, recently received an invitation to attend the 2019 Turning Point USA's High School Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. This event consists of a four-day conference for conservative students who strive for leadership and activism. Chandler, excited to be the only TA student to receive this opportunity, shares what made him eligible: "Just being an outgoing person who is willing to take the task of applying [oneself] and choosing to be a leader, despite what other people might say or think about you."

After he graduates from TA, Chandler plans to study political science at Oakwood University (Ala.) and later pursue a law degree at Vanderbilt University (Tenn.). "Personally, I want to go into politics as a career, and attending this leadership conference will teach me a lot of important tools for the future and allow me to be put in the environment with other kids that have the same goal as me. I can learn from them [about] how to be a strong, effective leader," he says.

Homework, vice president duties and baseball keep Chandler busy, but he shares his secret of a balanced life: "I make sure I keep the distractions out of my way. I don't watch TV, or I'll try not to look at my phone too long. If I want to complete a task, I uphold that task and do whatever I can to accomplish it."

Chandler's father, Harold, is his inspiration. Like father, like son, Harold, too, was Student Council president at TA ('87). "[My dad] is a strong leader, respectful to others, and I'm glad I am becoming more like him," he says. After the Turning Point USA conference, he plans to encourage other kids to strive for what they want, and, no matter what, to keep God at the forefront.



Who Said What?

1. What do you look forward to most about the holidays?

- a. Relaxing and shopping
- b. Spending time with family and friends
- c. Holiday traditions such as ice skating

2. What is your favorite holiday food?

- d. Cookies
- e. All of it
- f. Sweet potato pie



Principal Carla Thrower

Answers: a and b



Vice Principal Keith Beckett

Answers: b and e



Chaplain Shari Loveday

Answers: c and f

Night of Hope: Worship Service Offers Hope With Music, Message

It was truly a night of hope. For the 1,000 listeners and WGTS staff and volunteers who gathered at the the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., in October, the music of Meredith Andrews and the message of Pastor Terry Johnsson brought hope and light to the evening event.

The highlight was hearing Johnsson's story about his childhood struggle of learning how to read and write. He recalled how one teacher took the time to show him how smart and capable he really was.

"It is the words, those of encouragement or discouragement, that help us become who we are," says Johnsson. His teacher, Connie Sherlock, was in the audience and, at the end of his story, they met for the first time since he was a young boy in her class.

It was a powerful moment as Johnsson asked the audience to stand if they had ever been the subject of words that hurt them. His message: "God has a reason and a purpose for you. He will do incredible things in your life." This event has been faithfully supported by Adventist HealthCare.

After 43 years, Pastor Terry Johnsson meets the teacher who brought him hope by teaching him how to read.



Manager's Note: Prayer a Priority

The news arrived recently and was totally unexpected. On the WGTS 91.9 website *PrayerWorks!*, listeners had prayed more than 1 million prayers for other listeners who had posted prayer requests! What a wonderful and unexpected blessing to learn of this outpouring of prayer – listeners praying for each other!

When we talk about prayer we use the phrase, "Online, On-the-air, and on the ground!" No matter the method, engaging the Washington, D.C., region in prayer is a priority at WGTS 91.9.

Please visit *PrayerWorks!* at wgts919.com and pray for one (or several) of the hundreds of prayer requests posted every day. With your participation, WGTS 91.9 will remain a strong witness for Christ in the Nation's Capital. Minister to others, by praying for others.

– Kevin Krueger



Spreading Kindness at the Drive-Thru

It's a simple act of kindness to brighten someone's day. We call it the Drive-Thru Difference and it's an opportunity to pay for someone behind you at a drive-thru every Thursday. Here's a recent report from a listener about her experience.

I started into the drive-thru, planning to buy a meal for myself and the homeless man I'd seen on the corner. As I pulled up to the window, the cashier told me that my meal had already been paid for by the person in front of me. I've been struggling since my son passed away just three months ago due to a rare condition. This act of kindness was just what I needed to help me feel hopeful and encouraged.

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

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on Washington Adventist University. You have provided the University with more than



**Weymouth
Spence**

we could ever have imagined. You have surrounded us with people who care and support the mission. You have given us employees who are dedicated to the vision of making our graduates competent moral leaders.

We have met and in many areas exceeded all programmatic and institutional accreditation standards, this includes programs in Education, Radiography, and Nursing. The 2018 freshman class was increased by 68% resulting in an overall enrollment increase of 5.4%. We are experiencing a record retention rate of 79% compared to 38% in 2008. Employee engagement/satisfaction score is rated 4 on the Likert scale while students are continuing to rate their WAU experience at the 4 level.

My dear *Visitor* reader, we need your prayers and your financial support to continue on our journey to make Vision 2020-Growing with Excellence a reality for our learning community. Being a tuition dependent institution requires us to seek additional funding for students to access higher education at a reasonable cost. Please consider giving to student scholarships, endowments, and our infrastructure building projects. Join us on this exciting journey to grow WAU with excellence to a future that benefits our students, faculty and the community.

This is Washington Adventist University.

–Weymouth Spence, President

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Washington Adventist University recently welcomed Jason E. Brooks, Content Development Officer and Speaker for the John Maxwell Company, to campus for a First Year Experience (FYE) assembly.

Washington Adventist University's FYE program helps new students learn the WAU culture, adjust to the new academic challenges of higher education, and master the rigors of college life. The program is a university-wide effort to orient new students to the campus and help them quickly feel they are an important part of the community as they learn how to be a successful college student. The program combines thoughtful instruction, cooperative learning, experiential activities, and spiritual support in a small class setting to provide new students with a great beginning at WAU.

This year, FYE is participating in an inaugural leadership program with the John Maxwell Company and students are reading *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*. The Maxwell company offers an array of corporate leadership development and training programs based on the principles of John C. Maxwell, particularly his book *The Five Levels of Leadership*.

Brooks' presentation focused on the book and his 14-year journey to growth. In 2004 after the death of his daughter, he went into deep mourning and his life took a dive. He quickly realized that he needed to work on growing himself and discovering his purpose in life. Now working with the Maxwell Company he states that he would have never dreamt that his life would end up here.

"My calling from God is to unlock the brilliance in other people," shared Brooks.

Transitioning from youth pastor to senior pastor to radio writer, Brooks seeks to help others avoid regrets later in life. He reminded the students that they are at the perfect place in their life to question who they want to be and not just what they want to be.



Jason Brooks of the John Maxwell Company helps first-year WAU students discover their purpose.

YALE ETHICS PROFESSOR HEADLINES 40TH KEOUGH LECTURES

“Why the Pursuit of Happiness is a Bad Idea” was the provocative opening talk presented recently at the 40th annual G. Arthur Keough Lectureship sponsored by the Washington Adventist University (WAU) Religion Department. This year’s Lectureship featured keynote speaker Jennifer A. Herdt, the Gilbert L. Stark Professor of Christian Ethics and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Yale University Divinity School.

“It may seem self-evident that we are always in search of happiness. In fact, though, the pursuit of happiness is self-defeating and therefore wrong-headed. We confuse happiness with our proper end: living well or worthily,” said Professor Herdt. “The only kind of happiness worth having is found in living well.”

Dr. Herdt’s second lecture, “The Promise of Natural Law for a Secular Age”, explored moral languages. “For what moral language should Christians reach in deeply divided and pluralistic social contexts? While the longstanding tradition of natural law has at times been invoked in deeply problematic ways, it offers a promising framework within which Christians can with integrity engage with others in the task of ordering well our common lives—and of ordering these lives to God.”

“I’ve wrestled with myself,” Dr. Herdt declared, and found that happiness is “a problematic pursuit.”

During her weekend visit to the university, Professor Herdt also addressed the Faith and Reason Sabbath School Class at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church



Dr. Jennifer A. Herdt of the Yale Divinity School expounds on “Why the Pursuit of Happiness is a Bad Idea.”

on the WAU campus. Dr. Herdt is the author of *Putting on Virtue: The Legacy of the Splendid Vices*.

“Dr. Herdt’s deep and brilliantly researched lectures on our human search for happiness and our responsibility to a higher moral law were immensely stimulating, timely and inspiring,” said Dr. Mikhail M. Kulakov, WAU Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy, who organizes the Keough Lectureship. “There was a lot of excitement on our campus about this year’s lectureship and we were not disappointed.” He added, “This is truly the signature event of our WAU Religion Department and we want to give it our very best.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series

Saturday, January 26, 8:00 p.m.

James T. Bingham Rehearsal Hall
 Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, WAU Campus
 Featuring Madison Leonard, soprano

Week in Spiritual Emphasis (W.I.S.E.)

January 28–February 2

Sponsored by the Student Association
 Featuring WAU Student Speakers

Save the Date:

Spring Revival: March 24-30

**Alumni & Parents Weekend
 Thursday–Sunday, April 11–14**

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

Commencement Weekend: May 3–5

Be Still

The end of the year has rightly earned the title “the holiday rush.” We are motivated by a strong desire to get everything just right, to get everything ready on time, and to get things completed as the year comes to an end. It is quite easy to get so wrapped up in all the activity that we lose sight of what’s most important about the holiday season to begin with.

And then we remember that one short verse: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

Which is why spending time with your kids doing next to nothing still matters. It’s why catching up with an old friend on the phone for a few minutes is worth the time invested. It’s why the holiday cards that arrive via post or email are worth taking the time to read.

Being still definitely means spending time with the sacred scriptures, and closing your eyes to the world while opening your heart to God in quiet moments of prayer. It can be easier to be still while sitting in a church or synagogue – or in the quiet of the morning before the first news report or email or Facebook post.

And here’s the important thing about all of these things: regardless of what you are doing or not doing, there is something to be learned by a few seconds of stillness. New insights can be found in just about every moment, every activity. Amid the busiest time, in the most hectic moments, and especially when the pressure is on – we can choose at any moment to be still. To be quiet and settled and to focus on what matters most.

Easy to say; hard to do.
But well worth the effort
every time.



Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare

Health Equity Workshop



On Sunday, Sept. 23, representatives from both Adventist HealthCare’s Center for Health Equity & Wellness and Faith Community Health hosted a symposium and workshop called *Am I My Neighbor’s Keeper? Rethinking Responsibility and the Role of the Church.*

The free event was designed to help pastors, ministry leaders, faith community nurses and anyone with an interest in addressing community health needs. Over the course of a full day, participants listened to keynote presentations by Marilyn Lynk, executive director, Adventist HealthCare Center for Health Equity & Wellness, and Gina Maxham, manager, Community Benefit, as well as resource presentations by Manna Food Center, CASA de Maryland, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County and MobileMed.

“Hospitals and health systems play an important role in understanding and addressing community health needs, especially for those who face barriers to care, such as poverty, food insecurity and lack of insurance,” said Marilyn. “Collaboration with faith-based and other organizations is essential to building a culture of health and eliminating disparities.”



Marilyn Lynk

Held at New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fulton, Maryland, the focus of the symposium was to address the question:

“When a neighbor is in need, who bears responsibility to help?”

Accordingly, the speakers helped the approximately 30 community members who attended to:

- ✓ Know the health disparities that exist in their neighborhoods
- ✓ Understand the impact of social determinants on whole-person health
- ✓ Learn about available resources
- ✓ Develop a plan for their neighborhoods

Many thanks to all the team members who helped make this important event a success and supported our ongoing commitment to improving Population Health and Health Equity to fulfill our Adventist HealthCare Mission and Vision.

Hospitals Earn Honors for Care of Severe Heart Attacks

Adventist HealthCare's two acute-care hospitals have each received two awards from the American Heart Association (AHA) for providing high-quality care to patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

High-Quality Care

Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital received the 2018 Mission: Lifeline NSTEMI Gold Achievement Award, and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center received the Bronze Achievement Award. These honors recognize the hospitals for their adherence to quality measures in treating patients with the two most severe types of heart attacks, caused by either a partial or full blockage of the heart's arteries.

The hospitals earned these awards by meeting specific criteria and standards of performance while quickly treating the type of heart attacks known as NSTEMIs, or non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarctions. Rapid treatment is critical for NSTEMI patients to save lives and prevent serious damage to the heart.

"We are honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our commitment to delivering world-class care for our heart attack patients," said Dennis Friedman, MD, Director of the Cardiac Catherization Lab and Medical Director of Inpatient Cardiac Services at Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville. "We recognize that minutes matter, and we strive to provide rapid and compassionate care that provides our patients with the best opportunity for a full recovery."

"We recognize that minutes matter, and we strive to provide rapid and compassionate care that provides our patients with the best opportunity for a full recovery."

Dennis Friedman, MD, Director of the Cardiac Catherization Lab and Medical Director of Inpatient Cardiac Services at Shady Grove Medical Center

Richard Waver of Gaithersburg is one of many patients helped by Adventist HealthCare's heart program. "Before I had the heart attack, I could maybe run a half mile," said Richard. "After my treatment at [Shady Grove Medical Center], I went out and I ran four miles non-stop."



Richard Waver was rushed to Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center after he had a heart attack. Thanks to the high-quality care from the cardiac team, Richard is now back to enjoying life and running longer distances with ease.

Fast Emergency Services

The AHA also recognized both hospitals for their emergency procedures for heart attack patients. Shady Grove received the 2018 Mission: Lifeline - STEMI Receiving Center- Silver Plus Achievement Award, and Washington Adventist earned the Bronze Achievement Award.

The hospitals earned these awards by adhering to strict quality standards that remove barriers to quick emergency treatment of heart attack patients throughout their care, beginning with the 911 call, to EMS transport, and continuing through hospital treatment and discharge.

"These awards speak to the dedication of our entire team to the rapid and effective treatment of heart attack patients. We know that receiving care as quickly as possible is vital for patients and we're honored to offer our community high-quality heart care," said Michael Chen, MD, interventional cardiologist and director, Cath Lab, Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Foundation clinical treatment guidelines.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGE RETREAT: "Love to Last a Lifetime: Letting God Lead the Way," February 15-17, will be held at Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Barb Jacques will be the presenter of the sessions, which run from Friday evening to Sunday morning. For more information, email peglites@comcast.net, or contact Mark and Peggy Lee, (301) 801-2344.

OBITUARIES

ELLIOTT, David N., II, born September 21, 1951, in Takoma Park, Md.; died October 31, 2017, in Columbia, Md. He was a member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md. The family then moved to Virginia, and David began his education at the Fredericksburg (Va.) Adventist School in 1957. At the end of that school year, the family returned to Maryland, and David began second grade at Atholton Adventist Academy. He remained there until he graduated in 1967. He then continued school at Highland View Academy and graduated in 1969. David then attended a technical school for electronics in Hyattsville, Md. He worked for Lanier Word Processing Company in the 1980s and for Washington Adventist Hospital as a night security officer. January 5, 1989, he married Jasmin Dagahong in the Philippines, after several years of correspondence, and they settled down in Maryland. David worked in the Network Operations Center for Fairfax County Public Schools for almost

Sunset Calendar				
	Dec 07	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
Baltimore	4:43	4:44	4:46	4:50
Cincinnati	5:15	5:16	5:18	5:22
Cleveland	4:57	4:57	5:00	5:04
Columbus	5:07	5:07	5:10	5:14
Jersey City	4:29	4:29	4:32	4:36
Norfolk	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56
Parkersburg	5:03	5:04	5:06	5:10
Philadelphia	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:42
Pittsburgh	4:53	4:54	4:56	5:00
Reading	4:37	4:38	4:40	4:44
Richmond	4:51	4:52	4:55	4:59
Roanoke	5:02	5:03	5:05	5:09
Toledo	5:04	5:04	5:07	5:11
Trenton	4:33	4:33	4:35	4:39
Wash., D.C.	4:46	4:47	4:49	4:53

30 years. He was one of the founding members of the Fairfax County Public Schools Network Architecture. His knowledge, willingness to train others and positive attitude made Fairfax County Public Schools one of the most advanced network designs of any public school system in the nation. Survivors: his wife, Jasmin of Columbia, Md.; his sons, David Elliott, III, and Daniel Elliott of Columbia; his daughter, Darcy (Simon) Mayer of Richmond, Va.; his brother, J. Victor (Linda) Elliott of Columbia; his sisters, Deborah Anne Elliott of Clarksville, Md., and Yolanda Sue Elliott of Clarksville; his father David N. Elliott, Sr., of Hancock Md.; his mother, Suzanne Hill-Elliott of Hancock; and many nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Dean Gaylord and Robert Roy preceded him in death.

JACOBSON, Margaret M., born June 23, 1933, in Frederick, Md.; died May 30, 2018, in Hagerstown, Md. Margaret attended Washington Missionary College and worked at Washington County Hospital as a CNA, and retired from there in 2002. She was an active member of the Hagerstown church for more than 50 years. Survivors: her sons, Alexander, Matthew and Albert "Tommy"; her daughters, Laura Shay and Beth

Voulgaris; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Fran Ausherman.

McCUNN, Violet, born November 1, 1924, in Pennsylvania; died October 15, 2017, in Homer City, Pa. She was a member of the Indiana (Pa.) church. She served as a deaconess, Sabbath School secretary assistant, and was a devoted greeter and prayer warrior. Violet is survived by her husband, Francis McCunn of Homer City.

PENA, John, born July 30, 1960, in Cleveland, Ohio; died April 12, 2018, in Spencer, W.Va. He was a member of the Spencer (W.Va.) church. Survivors: his wife, Sharon Kincaid Pena of Spencer; his daughters, Nichole (Marshall) Mitchell and Kyliia Pena; and his son, John (Kristin) Pena.

STONE, Naoma J., born February 12, 1933, in Toronto, Ohio; died January 5, 2018, in Millerstown, Pa. She was a member of the Shermans Dale (Pa.) church. Naoma was a grade school teacher at the Mansfield (Pa.) church school from approximately 1959-1961. Survivors: her sons, Benjamin Stone of Factoryville, Pa., and David Stone of Redlands, Calif.; her daughters, Dottie Yates of Millerstown and Margaret Davies of Factoryville.



"Noah's Ark" by Jolene Slifka, age 13,
a member of the Walnutport Adventist
Church, Pennsylvania

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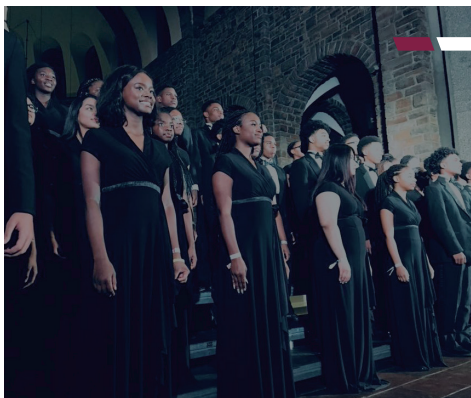


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