

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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The Lucy Byard Story

What Really Happened
and How it Changed
the Adventist Church



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About the Cover: Portrait of Lucille Byard by Xavier Cabrera Vargas. **Above:** Attendees to the Allegheny Conference workers meeting in 1946.

ON THE WEB

KEYS TO PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING

"A lot of the time we think blessings are only those things that make us feel good, but the key to walking with God is to understand that the blessing comes in whatever God sends our way that draws us closer to Him," says Charles Tapp, senior pastor of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. He shares similar practical applications in *Keys to Practical Living*, a CD of short messages from Sligo's radio ministry on WGTS 91.9.

Find out more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/simpletruthsforlife.



HOPE FOR TODAY'S FAMILIES

Written to meet one of today's strongest felt needs, *Hope for Today's Families* is the 2019 sharing book for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. We interviewed authors Willie and Elaine Oliver, director and

associate director of the Family Ministries Department at the General Conference, to learn more about the book and the biggest challenges facing families today.

Read more at columbiaunionvisitor.com/2019sharingbook.

GETTING TO KNOW LUCY BYARD

Want to personally know more about Lucille "Lucy" Byard? Read recollections from her step-granddaughter, Naomi R. Allen, who spent a lot of time with her grandparents at columbiaunionvisitor.com/personallucybyard.

WANT MORE HISTORY?

Want to learn more of the history (than we share in this issue) surrounding the Lucy Byard incident? See more historical photos and letters sent between the Washington Sanitarium and the Seventh-day Adventist Church executives regarding Byard's incident at columbiaunionvisitor.com/byardletters.

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VISITOR

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Editor and Publisher
 V. Michelle Bernard ■ News, Features and Online Editor
 Ricardo Bacchus ■ Newsletter Editor
 Kelly Butler Coe ■ Art Director and Designer
 Sandra Jones ■ Advertising and Circulation Manager

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

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Columbia Union Conference

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
 (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiunion.org

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ALLEGHENY EAST: Henry J. Fordham III, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com

ALLEGHENY WEST: William T. Cox Sr., President; Bryant Smith, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (614) 252-5271 ■ awconf.org

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POTOMAC: Bill Miller, President; Debra Anderson, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

KETTERING COLLEGE: Nate Brandstater, President; Lauren Brooks, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Richard Castillo, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, President & CEO; Thomas Grant, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ ketteringhealth.org

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Volume 124 ■ Issue 2

Lessons From Lucy Byard

That the legacy of Lucy Byard—who in 1943 was denied care from the Washington Sanitarium (now Washington Adventist Hospital) because she was African-American—would find such a generative expression in the successor to the hospital that failed to treat her is both appropriate and an indication of how her experience has shaped our history. Byard was sent to Freedman’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., which cared for black patients, where she died. This incident—which you will read about in this issue of the *Visitor*—forced our organization, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to confront the racism and prejudice that was present in our practice at that time.

Calvin Rock, former General Conference vice president, retired chair and president of Oakwood University (Ala.) and retired chair of what is now Loma Linda University Health (Calif.), has written eloquently about Lucy Byard in his book *Protest and Progress*. Perhaps no one is better qualified than Rock to state: “It was the Byard affair of late 1943 that served as the primary catalyst to bring about needed change in the church.”

We can now see how this tragic story shaped both Adventist health institutions and health ministries, as well as the church. Byard’s ill treatment at Washington Sanitarium—and the unfortunate response of church leadership to the incident—quickly became a matter for the entire Adventist community to confront. And many of the changes that it engendered continue to shape all our endeavors.

A CLEAR MISSION

Adventist HealthCare’s mission statement could not be clearer: “We extend God’s care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.” We are called to continue Jesus Christ’s life and ministry in extending the unconditional love and care of God. We believe every human being, no matter their condition, gender, race, nationality, social class or faith will be treated with respect and dignity. We commit to hold ourselves to the highest standards of speech and conduct toward all people with whom we interact. It is precisely the kind of care that Lucy Byard sought and was denied. If she were to visit us today, she would be welcomed, treated with respect and dignity and given excellent care.

We have not allowed the tragic circumstances of that failed experience to define us; in fact, it is likely that our stewardship of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ has been shaped and nurtured by what has been learned from it.

At the Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, now under construction in Silver Spring, Md., about a mile from the General Conference headquarters, work has already begun on a special place where Lucy Byard will be honored and recognized.

Jesus said, “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27, NIV). This is our calling. By God’s grace, we seek to fulfill it more fully each day.

Terry Forde has served as president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare since April 2014.



It was the Byard affair of late 1943 that served as the primary catalyst to bring about needed change in the church.

Newsline

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE PRESIDENT RETIRES

Roy Chew, president of Kettering Adventist HealthCare in Dayton, Ohio, since 2015, retired February 15 of this year.

“Roy’s innovative approach and passion for the very best clinical technology, married with a faith-based approach to caring for our community, exemplifies Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s legacy of excellence in health care,” says Fred Manchur, CEO.



Chew’s 43-year career with Kettering included a broad range of roles and responsibilities. He joined Kettering Medical Center in Dayton in 1976 where he served in various capacities, including clinical coordinator for the department of Respiratory Therapy, vice president of Human Resources and vice president of Professional Services for the Non-nursing Patient Care and Clinical departments.

“Working at Kettering Health Network has enriched my life. I believe in the mission, vision and values of this faith-based organization that has guided my leadership and given me a sense of purpose throughout my tenure,” says Chew.—*Elizabeth Long*

LONGTIME COLUMBIA UNION MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

During the Adventist Ministries Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., North American Division (NAD) leaders recognized several longtime Columbia Union Conference leaders with Lifetime Achievement awards.



“Our hope is that when we recognize and show gratitude to individuals who are [providing] exemplary contributions, other leaders are inspired to value excellence in their pursuits for God and His Church,” says Debra Brill, NAD’s vice president for Ministries and event organizer.

Former Columbia Union Conference President Harold Lee (pictured above, center, with Bonita Shields, left, director of NAD’s Stewardship Department, and Lilya Wagner, director of Philanthropic Services for Institutions), received the Lifetime Achievement Award for philanthropic service. Lee, who retired from the Columbia Union as president in 2006, was the first stewardship director for the NAD and “continues to be a strong voice for stewardship,” says Shields. “That’s why we co-presented this award.”



Barbara Manspeaker, retired Children’s Ministries and Family Ministries director for the Columbia Union (pictured, center, with Gerry Lopez, associate director of NAD’s Children’s Ministries, and Sherri Uhrig, director), received the Lifetime Achievement Award for

her work in Children’s Ministries.

Minnie McNeil, former Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response director for the Allegheny East Conference and Columbia Union, was also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her 15 years of service.

Gary Swanson, retired associate director for the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department at the General Conference and a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville (Md.) church, and Ron and Karen Flowers, retired co-directors of the Family Ministries Department at the General Conference, who are now active in Potomac Conference’s Charlottesville, Va., church, also received Lifetime Achievement awards.

Tamyra Horst received an Excellence in Ministry award for her role as Women’s Ministries director for the Pennsylvania Conference and Columbia Union. Glen Milam received the same award for his work as volunteer Pathfinder coordinator for the NAD.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION HEADS TO NAD

After serving 10 years as associate director for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Columbia Union Conference’s Office of Education, and seven years as associate Superintendent of Schools for the Potomac Conference, Evelyn Sullivan recently left her position at the union. She started her new role



March 1 as the Early Childhood Education director at the North American Division.

“She has been a valuable pioneer-leader, contributing immensely to getting ECEC to where it is now—over 20 centers and over 1,200 students. While she is changing titles and buildings, we welcome the opportunity to cooperate closely with Evelyn, furthering the ministry of the ECEC,” says Donovan Ross, the union’s vice president for Education.—VMB

NAD HOSTS FIRST RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PRAYER EVENT

Several leaders and pastors from the Columbia Union Conference recently attended the North American Division’s first Religious Freedom Prayer Breakfast at NAD’s Columbia, Md., headquarters.

“We were just really hoping to bring together a lot of religious groups to pray together as a faith-based community,” says Orlan Johnson, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

What if we treated the Bible like we treat our cellphones—like we cannot live without them?

—Karl Haffner, senior pastor of Ohio Conference’s Kettering church in Dayton, speaking at the Columbia Union Conference Spiritual Renewal and Refocus Day

(PARL) for NAD and one of the event organizers.

Melissa Reid, an NAD associate director of PARL, adds, “This was a chance not only to celebrate the religious freedom, but also develop new friendships with fellow community leaders. There were business cards, handshakes, and hugs exchanged throughout the morning.”

Paulo Macena, lead pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s Ellicott City (Md.) church, shares that when pastors go into their local communities, they need to serve everybody. “They don’t have to agree with us for us to serve them. When we get together in groups like this, [it reminds us] we can serve each other, despite our differences.”—VMB



John Rengifo, associate pastor of Chesapeake Conference’s Atholton church in Columbia, Md., networks with Obie Chinemere, Baltimore regional director for U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Nelu Burcea, associate director of Political Affairs and Religious Liberty for the General Conference, at the Religious Freedom Prayer Breakfast.

ADVENTISTS HELP DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The recent government shutdown stopped the paychecks of 800,000 federal government employees. As a result, Seventh-day Adventists in the Washington metro area worked to help ease the burden.

After hearing of increased reports of federal workers struggling to feed their families, staff at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW) in Silver Spring, Md., hosted several Pop Up Pantries, sharing food with furloughed workers.

In response to national parks not being maintained due to the furlough, WGTS 91.9 staff planned an event to clean up the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

After arriving to the site, the volunteer group (pictured), comprised of WGTS staff and listeners from across the D.C., region, found that other volunteers had already cleaned up the area. Nonetheless, the listeners enjoyed the camaraderie and what morphed into a mini-WGTS rally.

Kevin Krueger, WGTS general manager, says, “[What] I noticed and thought about the effort is the coming together of community. ... People eager to do something to help. ... It was wonderful to see so many listeners from around the region show up.”—VMB



PHOTOS BY DAN WEBER/NAD COMMUNICATION, ANDRE HASTICK, EUGENE SIMONOV

Noticias

PRESIDENTE DE KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE SE RETIRA

Roy Chew, presidente de Kettering Adventist HealthCare en Dayton, Ohio desde 2015, se retiró el 15 de febrero de este año.

“El enfoque innovador de Roy y su pasión por la mejor tecnología clínica, combinado un enfoque basado en la fe para cuidar a nuestra comunidad, es un ejemplo del legado de excelencia en atención médica de Kettering Adventist HealthCare”, dice Fred Manchur, Director Ejecutivo.



La carrera de 43 años de Chew con Kettering incluyó una amplia gama de roles y responsabilidades. Se unió a Kettering Medical Center en Dayton en 1976, donde desempeñó diversos cargos, incluido el de coordinador clínico del departamento de Terapia Respiratoria, vicepresidente de Recursos Humanos y vicepresidente de Servicios Profesionales y Departamentos de Clínica.

“Trabajar en Kettering Health Network ha enriquecido mi vida. Creo en la misión, la visión y los valores de esta organización basada en la fe que ha guiado mi liderazgo y me ha dado un sentido de propósito a lo largo de mi mandato”, dice Chew.—*Elizabeth Long*

DIRECTORA ASOCIADA DE EDUCACIÓN SE DESPIDE DE LA UNIÓN

Después de servir 10 años como Directora Asociada de Educación y Cuidado de la Primera Infancia (ECEC) en la Oficina de Educación de la Unión de Columbia, y siete

años como Superintendente Asociada de Escuelas en la Conferencia de Potomac, Evelyn Sullivan está dejando su puesto en la Unión. El 1 de marzo comenzó su nuevo rol como directora de Educación de la Primera Infancia en la División Norteamericana.

“Ella ha sido una valiosa líder pionera, contribuyendo inmensamente a llevar el programa ECEC a donde está ahora: con más de 20 centros y más de 1,200 alumnos. Aunque ella esté cambiando títulos y edificios, agradecemos la oportunidad de cooperar con Evelyn, promoviendo el ministerio de ECEC”, dice Donovan Ross, vicepresidente de Educación de la Unión de Columbia.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

AYUDA DE LOS ADVENTISTAS DURANTE EL CIERRE DEL GOBIERNO

El reciente cierre del gobierno detuvo los cheques de 800,000 empleados del gobierno federal. Como resultado, los adventistas del séptimo día en el área metropolitana de Washington trabajaron para ayudar a aliviar la carga de los afectados.

Después de escuchar tantos informes de trabajadores federales que luchaban por alimentar a sus familias, el personal de Adventist Community Services de Greater Washington en Silver Spring, Md., organizó varios “Pop Up Pantries” (foto) para los trabajadores suspendidos, donde compartieron comida con más de una docena de personas.

En respuesta a que los parques nacionales no se están manteniendo debido al cierre, el personal de WGTS 91.9 planificó un evento para limpiar el Monumento a la Segunda Guerra Mundial en Washington, D.C.

Después de llegar al sitio, el grupo de voluntarios, compuesto por personal de WGTS y oyentes de toda la región de D.C., encontró que otros voluntarios ya habían limpiado el área. Sin embargo, los oyentes disfrutaron de la camaradería y lo que se transformó en un mini rally WGTS.



Kevin Krueger, gerente general de WGTS, dice: “[Lo que] noté y pensé sobre el esfuerzo fue la unión de la comunidad. ... gente con ganas de hacer algo, de ayudar. ... Fue maravilloso ver a tantos oyentes de toda la región ayudando”.—*VMB*

ASI DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA SERÁ SEDE DE LA CONFERENCIA DE PRIMAVERA

Haga planes para unirse a la Convención de primavera ASI (CUASI) de la Unión de Columbia, del 4 al 6 de abril, en la sede de la División Norteamericana en Columbia, Md. El lema del evento es “NEGOCIAD hasta que yo venga: con Cristo lo haremos.”

Mark Brown, presidente, dice: “Nuestra esperanza es llevar a los asistentes a reconocer que han sido colocados estratégicamente por Dios en sus respectivos negocios, profesión y ministerio, y por Su poder deben ocupar esos lugares, llenándolos con la luz del evangelio y la presencia de Jesucristo, en efecto, acelerando su venida. Ven y



únete a lo que Dios está haciendo. No tienes que convertirte en otra persona; sé quién Dios te hizo que fueras, y hónralo como lo haces”.

El evento está abierto a los miembros y no miembros de CUASI. Regístrate en cuasi.org antes del 27 de marzo.—*VMB*

DÉPART DE LA DIRECTRICE ADJOINTE POUR L'ÉDUCATION

Après avoir servi pendant 10 ans en tant que directrice adjointe pour l'éducation et la garde des jeunes enfants au département de l'Éducation (ECEC sigle en Anglais) de l'Union de Columbia, puis pendant sept ans en tant que directrice adjointe des Ecoles à la Fédération de Potomac, Evelyn Sullivan quitte son poste au sein de l'Union. Le 1er mars dernier, elle a commencé sa nouvelle fonction de directrice de l'Éducation de la Petite Enfance à la Division Nord-Américaine.

« Elle a été une précieuse leader pionnière qui a contribué énormément à amener ECEC là où il se trouve actuellement—plus de 20 centres et plus de 1 200 étudiants. Alors qu'elle change de titre et de bureau, nous nous félicitons de l'opportunité de



coopérer étroitement avec Evelyn afin de promouvoir le ministère de l'ECEC », a déclaré Donovan Ross, vice-président du département de l'Éducation de l'Union de Columbia.—V. Michelle Bernard

UNION DE COLUMBIA ASI ACCUEILLE LA CONFÉRENCE DE PRINTEMPS

Faites des plans pour participer à la Convention de Printemps de l'Union de Columbia ASI, qui se tiendra du 4 au 6 avril au siège de la Division Nord-Américaine à Columbia, dans le Maryland. Le thème de l'événement est « OCCUPÉ

Jusqu'à ce que Je Vienne: Avec Christ, Nous Le Feron ».

Mark Brown, le président, a déclaré: « Notre espoir est de faire en sorte que les participants reconnaissent qu'ils sont placés de manière stratégique par Dieu



dans leurs affaires, leurs professions et leurs ministères respectifs—et que par son pouvoir, ils doivent occuper ces espaces en les remplissant de la lumière de l'évangile et de la présence de Jésus-Christ, et ainsi hâter sa venue. Venez-vous joindre à nous dans ce que Dieu fait. Vous n'êtes pas obligé de devenir quelqu'un d'autre, soyez juste comme Dieu vous a fait et honorez-le dans ce que vous faites ». Inscrivez-vous à cuasi.org avant le 27 mars.—VMB

ASSISTANCE ADVENTISTE PENDANT LA FERMETURE DU GOUVERNEMENT (SHUTDOWN)

La récente fermeture du gouvernement fédéral (shutdown) a mis un terme à la paie de 800 000 fonctionnaires fédéraux. En cette occasion, les Adventistes du Septième Jour de la région métropolitaine de Washington ont travaillé pour alléger le fardeau. Après avoir appris que de plus en plus d'employés fédéraux avaient du mal à nourrir leur famille, le personnel de Services Communautaires Adventistes du Grand Washington (Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington) à Silver Spring, dans le Maryland, a organisé plusieurs garde-mangers

improvisés pour les travailleurs non rémunérés en chômage provisoire. Les responsables ont partagé de la nourriture avec plus d'une douzaine de personnes.

En réponse au fait que les parcs nationaux ne sont plus entretenus en raison des employés restés à la maison à cause du « shutdown », le personnel de WGTS 91.9 a planifié un programme pour nettoyer le Mémorial de la Seconde Guerre mondiale à Washington, DC.

Une fois arrivés sur les lieux, le groupe de volontaires, composé de membres du personnel de WGTS et d'auditeurs à travers la région de Washington DC, a découvert que d'autres volontaires avaient déjà nettoyé la zone. Néanmoins, les auditeurs ont apprécié la camaraderie et ce programme s'est transformé en un mini-rassemblement de WGTS.

Kevin Krueger, directeur général de WGTS, a déclaré : « Ce que j'ai remarqué et pensé de l'effort, c'était la réunion de la communauté. ... Les gens sont désireux de faire quelque chose, d'aider. ... Nous parlons sur le fait d'être les mains et le cœur de Jésus dans la Capitale du Pays et au-delà. C'était merveilleux de voir autant d'auditeurs de la région répondre présent. »—VMB



Etudiants et membres du personnel de l'Académie Adventiste Atholton de la Fédération Chesapeake à Columbia, dans le Maryland, se sont joints à d'autres auditeurs de WGTS 91.9 dans l'intention de nettoyer le Mémorial de la Seconde Guerre mondiale à Washington, DC.

The Lucy Byard Story

What Really Happened?

By Benjamin Baker

Lucy Byard is one of the most pivotal figures in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Yet many have never heard of her, or have just heard her name in passing as the casualty of a tragic event somewhere in the safely distant past. The details surrounding her death have become so muddled and murky that even otherwise trustworthy historians have repeated major inaccuracies about it.

Byard and the narrative surrounding her last days have been cloaked in mystery and misinformation for much too long. Here is what really happened.

The Person Who Forever Changed Adventism

Lucille “Lucy” Spence was born September 22, 1877, in Petersburg, Va., one of eight children of Harriet and Jesse Spence. Born into slavery in southern Virginia in the 1850s, the Spences were emancipated with millions of other African-Americans during and at the close of the Civil War.

As is the case with many blacks in the South during the succeeding Jim Crow era, not much is known about Lucy’s childhood. She grew up in Petersburg and completed her second year of high school, but did not receive any further formal education. On August 10, 1899, Reverend F. J. Walker officiated her marriage to Charles W. Lewis in Allegheny, Pa. Also a Virginia native, born four years after Lucy, Charles became a railway porter. The newlyweds relocated to New York City shortly after their nuptials.¹

It was in the bustling metropolis where Lucy discovered the Seventh-day Adventist Church, becoming a member at age 25 in 1902. When she was baptized, she became one of the few black Adventists in the city, a woman with three minority strikes against her: race, gender and religion. Friend and fellow Adventist, Greta Martin, described Lucy as “an earnest, sincere believer and a faithful worker in the cause of the Lord. She always trusted the Lord, never complained, and supported the work of the Master.”²

Lucy’s step-granddaughter, Naomi R. Allen, would later write that Lucy “was a strong, energetic church worker. She was one of five black women who pioneered the work in New York City. All her life she worked untiringly to build up the church.”³

Lucy supplemented her lay church work with teaching piano, while Charles chauffeured for a wealthy family. In 1910 the couple lived on 98th Street; by 1920

Lucy Byard (center) joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1902 at the age of 25 and worked tirelessly as a lay member to help it grow.





In 1943 the Washington Sanitarium, now Washington Adventist Hospital, was a 188-bed facility, located in Takoma Park, Md.

Md., of which place, I was not referred to by anyone.⁷⁷ James asked Jeter E. Cox, an African-American pastor of the Bethel church in nearby Brooklyn, to write a letter of introduction for him to the Washington Sanitarium, arranging for Lucy to be admitted there. Cox was a respected Adventist minister who had pastored in several states and had been the Colored Department representative in the Columbia Union Conference, where the Sanitarium was located.

In 1943 the Washington Sanitarium was a 188-bed facility located just outside of the nation's capital. Although by the early 1940s, the Sanitarium was moving more toward the hospital model instead of the traditional Battle Creek-esque lifestyle and

they rented a house on West 141st Street in Harlem. Tragically, Charles died January 26, 1922, shortly after turning 40, leaving Lucy a widow in the big city.⁴

Five-and-a-half years later, Lucy found love again. Also from Virginia, James Henry Byard, a 58-year-old twice-widower with five children, who made a living as a cellar worker in Queens. Both were avid musicians, Lucy playing the piano and organ, and James the harmonica. They were married September 23, 1928, at the First Harlem church by James K. Humphrey, a charismatic Adventist minister who would break from the church just one-and-a-half years later.⁵ In the harshest of ironies, Humphrey presided over the wedding of a woman whose death would bring about the precise change in the church for which he defected.

Lucy was a vital part of church life, playing the organ, teaching piano lessons and directing the choir at the First Jamaica church in Jamaica, Long Island (now the Linden Boulevard church in Laurelton, N.Y.).

Lucy was also a renowned and superb cook, known for her “freshly baked rolls, breads, pies, cakes, nut loaves and gluten,” said Allen.

Throughout the decades, she entertained guests—great builders of the Adventist Church such as J. K. Humphrey, F. L. Peterson, L. B. Reynolds and W. W. Fordham—in her homes in Queens and Long Island. It was said she had a special gift for hospitality. Her home and her heart were open to everyone.⁶

The Event That Forever Changed Adventism

In the summer of 1943, Lucy, by then in her mid-sixties, developed liver cancer with a chronic case of cachexia, or the “wasting syndrome.” According to her husband, James, she “needed careful watch and attendance.” When considering what hospital to take her to, he states that he “was suddenly deeply impressed to send her to Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park,

Timeline of Lucy Byard's Life, Death and Impact

SEPT. 22, 1877



Lucille “Lucy” Spence is born in Petersburg, Va.

AUGUST 10, 1899

Spence marries Charles W. Lewis and moves to New York City.



1902

Lucy joins the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



JANUARY 26, 1922

Lucy's husband, Charles W. Lewis, dies.





Staff at Freedman’s Hospital treated Lucy Byard in their Washington, D.C., facility in 1943.

retreat center, it still adopted a more holistic approach to health and wellness, with a central social component. A 10-member board of directors administered the hospital, including General Conference (GC) officers. Robert A. Hare, a New Zealander from the legendary Hare family, served as medical director since 1938.

The practice of admitting and treating black people at Washington Sanitarium and at other Adventist and community institutions was complicated. Prior to 1943, blacks had been treated at the Sanitarium, but on a limited, selective and subpar basis—meaning that only a certain kind of black person would be admitted in emergency cases and the patient had to be treated “in an inconspicuous way” in the basement of the Sanitarium by off-duty hospital staff. By 1943 the

policy had changed: no blacks were to be admitted to the Washington Sanitarium.⁸ It is important to note that when Cox agreed to contact the Sanitarium on behalf of Lucy, he did not know about the reversal of policy. When he had worked in the Columbia Union, blacks could still be admitted to the Sanitarium on a limited basis.

True to his word, Cox wrote a letter to the Washington Sanitarium, dated September 5, 1943, requesting a reservation be made on behalf of James and Lucy Byard and inquiring about assistance with the hospital expenses. Miss Brooke from the Sanitarium’s credit office answered the letter on September 9, with an enclosed form for “part-pay, part-charity care.” Cox responded to Brooke on September 14, advising her that the Bethel church would cover Lucy’s medical expenses, paying \$60 up front for the first week, with ensuing hospital bills to be sent to the church. Brooke replied on September 17 that the arrangement was acceptable and that the Sanitarium would be ready to admit Lucy as of Tuesday, September 21.

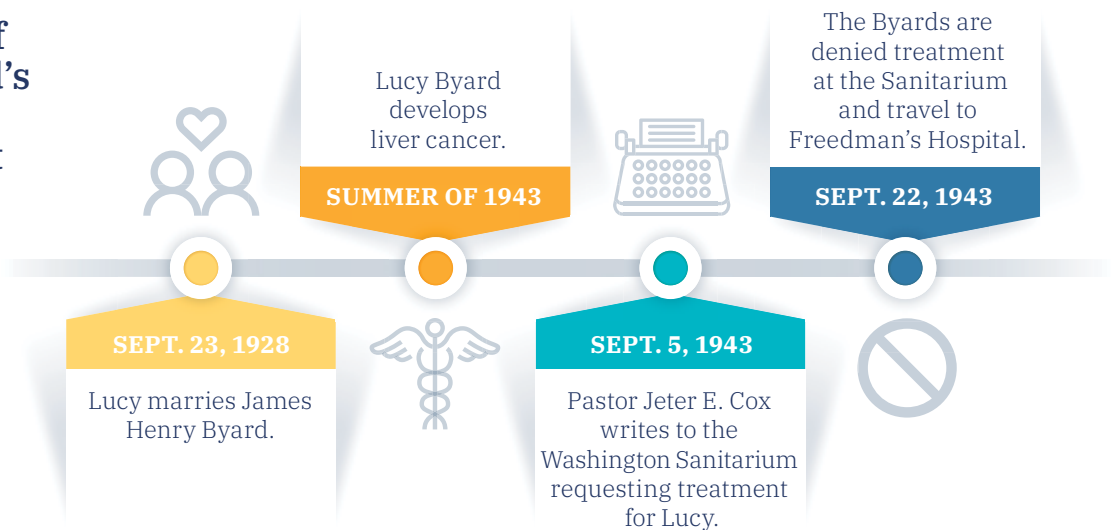
Due to the gasoline shortage brought on by World War II, the Byards boarded a train and arrived in Washington, D.C., at 7:05 a.m. on Wednesday.



The events that occurred in the last months of Lucy’s life would show the close bond between she and her husband, James Byard (pictured).

Timeline of Lucy Byard’s Life, Death and Impact

Continued



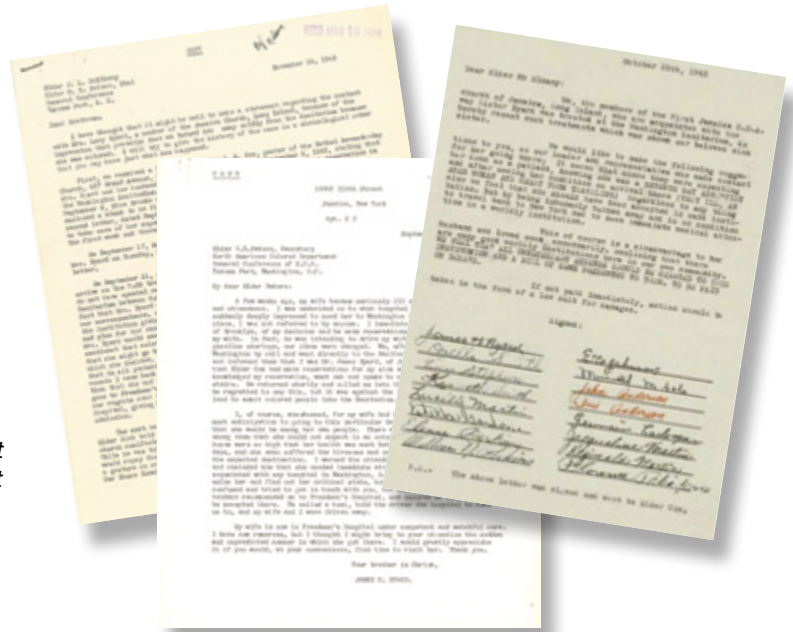
In a letter penned six days later, James described to G. E. Peters, secretary of the North American Colored Department, what transpired:

"We, after much effort, arrived in Washington by rail and went directly to the [Washington Adventist] Sanitarium. I went to the office and informed them that I was Mr. James Byard, of Jamaica, Long Island, and that Elder Cox had made reservations for my sick wife. The attendant acknowledged my reservation, went out and spoke to my wife and proceeded upstairs. He returned shortly and called me into the office, and told me that he regretted to say this, but it was against the law of the State of Maryland to admit colored people into the Sanitarium.

"I, of course, was stunned, for my wife had been looking forward with much anticipation to going to this particular Sanitarium, because she felt that she would be among her own people. There would be an understanding among them that she could not expect in an outside hospital. In fact her hopes were so high that her health was much better than it had been for days, and she even suffered the tiresome and painful train ride because of the expected destination. I warned the attendant of my wife's condition, and reminded him that she needed immediate attention; also that I was not acquainted with any hospital in Washington, D.C., hoping that he might examine her and find out her critical state, but to no avail. I was utterly confused and tried to get in touch with you, but was unsuccessful. The attendant recommended me to Freedman's Hospital [now Howard University Hospital], and assured me that she would be accepted there. He called a taxi, told the driver the hospital to take us to, and my wife and I were driven away."

In closing, James stated:

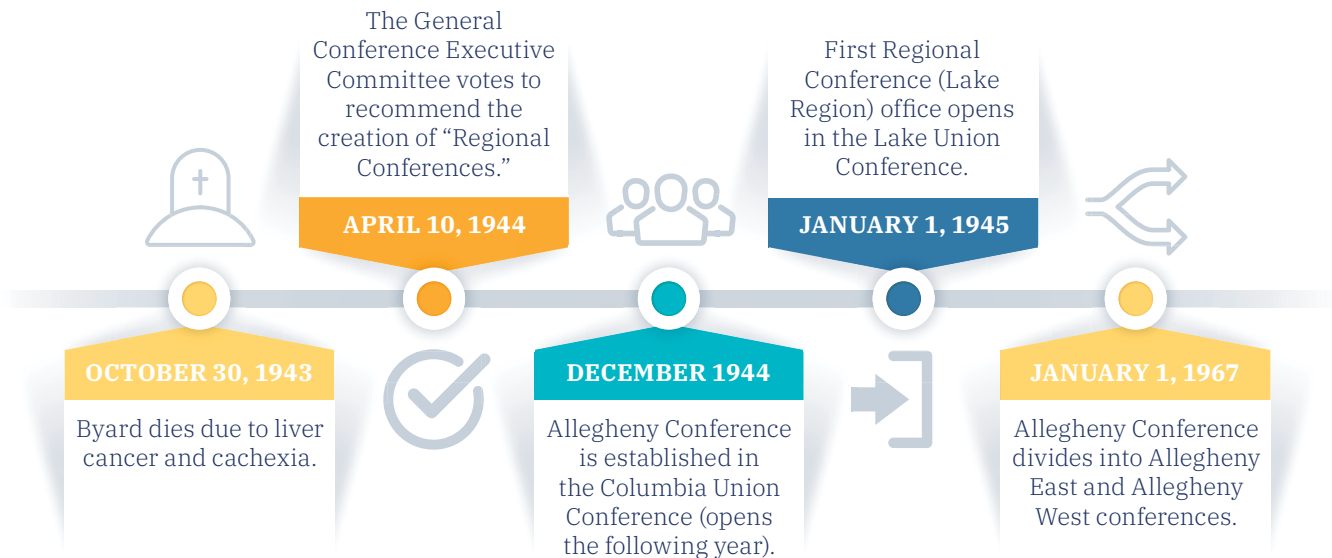
"My wife is now in Freedman's Hospital under competent and watchful care. I have now [no]



Read letters sent between the Washington Sanitarium and the Seventh-day Adventist Church executives regarding the Lucy Byard incident at columbiaunionvisitor.com/byardletters.

*remorses [sic], but I thought I might bring to your attention the sudden and unpredictable manner in which she got there. I would greatly appreciate it if you would, at your convenience, find time to visit her."*⁹⁹

Medical Director Robert Hare had a different take on what happened, even though he never had any personal contact with the Byards. In a letter to the GC president and secretary on November 15, a full 54 days after the event, and about two weeks after Lucy's death, Hare is seen in crisis mode, trying to diffuse a tense situation that had spun out of his control. Here is his account of the episode:



“On September 21, a telegram was received at 11:00 p.m., stating that Mrs. Byard would arrive on the 7:05 train Wednesday morning—Elder Cox asking that she be met. As we do not have special means of meeting patients they took a taxicab and arrived at the Sanitarium between 9:00 and 10:00. Mr. [P.L.] Baker called me immediately and told me of the fact that Mrs. Byard was a colored person. In view of the fact that we had carried on our correspondence, not knowing that she was colored, I advised that we receive her into the institution giving her a private room and arrange for her meals to be sent on

[Lucy] was a strong, energetic church worker. ... All her life she worked untiringly to build up the church.—Naomi R. Allen, Lucy’s step-granddaughter

trays, and plan for her examination and diagnosis by our physicians in off hours, hoping that Mrs. Byard would see the fairness of this in view of our misunderstanding and the social sentiment that exists in Maryland. As an alternative Mr. Baker and I suggested the idea that she might go to Freedman’s Hospital in Washington and have the diagnostic work done which she desired. I did not come to the office to meet Mrs. Byard at the time, feeling that in all probability she would elect to take the private room. When I finished my rounds I came back to my office and inquired what she had decided to do. I learned then that she and her husband had refused to accept our offer of a private room and have gone to Freedman’s Hospital.”¹⁰

Hare’s recounting may seem innocuous enough, but half-a-year later, a letter to W. E. Nelson, the GC treasurer and chair of the Washington Sanitarium Board at the time, revealed his true sentiments:

“I cannot feel that the Sanitarium should be called upon to carry a mixed clientele. We have persons of high degree and low degree of the white race and no question exists with regard to their presence here, but were colored patients seen in our buildings there will immediately rise numerous complicating questions and certain groups of our patients such as those coming from Virginia and the Carolinas would be expected to take a degree of offense at their presence. I would just as willingly minister to the needs of a colored patient as anyone else, but mentally, emotionally, and in certain physiological respects they differ from the white, and I do not favor mixing them.”

Hare continued writing that he did “not see any just grounds on which we could say we would maintain a negro ward and limit admissions on a religious basis. This would be quite contrary to hospital practice. ... So we would possibly open a contact with the negro population entering our grounds more or less regularly.

And right now I feel that the Sligo creek and the woods along it are little enough barrier between us and the local negro settlements.”¹¹

Nelson responded:

“You mention that patients from the Carolinas and Virginia [sic] would object, but I believe patients coming from the District of Columbia and Maryland and from every other State would object almost as strenuously. The psychology of these black people is so different from the white that it would be impossible for us to mix them. Some have suggested that we have a wing in the hospital. That would be all right if we did not have a sanitarium in connection with it. ... As I view the whole situation, Dr. Hare, it is not a matter of the colored people wanting a little sanitarium of their own where they can receive attention, but what they want is racial and social equality.”¹²

As both accounts attest, the Byards took a taxi across town for approximately six miles to Freedman’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1862 during the Civil War, five years before its current namesake, Howard University, Freedman’s Hospital was the first hospital in the nation of its size and stature, established specifically for the treatment of black people. At the time that Lucy was admitted to Freedman’s, Charles Drew, the renowned medical researcher, was chief surgeon there. James spoke well of the hospital, assuring Peters that Lucy was “under competent and watchful care.”

However, Lucy’s condition began to worsen. Thirty-eight days after being denied equal treatment at the Sanitarium, she died at Freedman’s Hospital, October 30, 1943. The immediate cause of death, as listed on her death certificate,¹³ was liver cancer with a resulting cachexia—literally wasting away. Her body was transported to New York, where her funeral was held at the Ephesus church in Harlem. It is said that hundreds attended and 13 ministers officiated. She is buried at the Siloam section of The Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Lucy Byard was laid to rest on November 3, 1943, in The Evergreens Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.

What Happened Next

How Regional Conferences Began



News of Lucy Byard's death sent shock waves through the Seventh-day Adventist Church, especially among its 16,000 African-American members. The rejection and her subsequent death was the "last straw" and a "slap in the face" in a "series of denials, negotiations, cold shoulders and brush-offs that the black membership had experienced for decades," says Alvin Kibble, vice president of the North American Division (NAD) and a former Allegheny East Conference president.

In a 2018 NAD article titled "Organization Honors Memory of Lucille Byard," Debbie Michel wrote, "Byard's death triggered a new level of activism as never before seen. A letter from Byard's Long Island, N.Y., congregation was sent to the General Conference (GC) president threatening a lawsuit. One group comprised of a number of highly educated and articulate women met in the back room of a Washington, D.C., bookstore and began to organize. According to an account in Calvin Rock's 2018 book *Protest and Progress*, 'They passed the hat to help on the telephone bill and began calling various persons to apprise them of their actions.' Before long, the Committee for the Advancement of World-Wide Work Among Colored Seventh-day Adventists, which advocated for equal rights in the church, was formed."

After many discussions and meetings between black leaders and GC officers, members of the 1944 Spring Meeting of GC Executive Committee voted, "We recommend:

1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the union conference committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.
2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.
3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.
4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences (*Actions of the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee*, April 10–16, 1944, pp. 15, 16).

Over the next two-and-a-half years, seven Regional Conferences were established, including the Allegheny Conference in December 1944, which later became the Allegheny East and Allegheny West conferences in the Columbia Union Conference. The Lake Region Conference in the Lake Union Conference was the first to begin functioning on January 1, 1945.

Above: In 1965 Columbia Union and Allegheny Conference administrators gather in front of the headquarters in Pennsylvania. Right: The inaugural Regional Conference presidents pose together in 1946.



¹ Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950, Charles W. Lewis and Lucy Spence, 1899.

² Greta Martin, "BYARD," *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, December 17, 1943, 6.

³ Naomi R. Allen, "Memories of My Grandmother, Lucille Byrd (sic)," *North American Informant*, August 1987, 5.

⁴ 1910 US Federal Census, Manhattan Ward 12, New York, New York; 1920 US Federal Census, Manhattan Assembly District 21, New York, New York.

⁵ New York Marriage Certificate, No: 22482, September 23, 1928.

⁶ Allen, 5.

⁷ James H. Byard to G.E. Peters, September 28, 1943, 1. General Conference Archives, Box: 10991, Folder: "Colored Situation."

⁸ See Minutes of the Washington Sanitarium Board Meeting, "Colored Out-Patient Business," August 29, 1935, General Conference Archives, Box: "Washington Sanitarium Board Minutes 1913 to 1956," Book: "Washington Sanitarium January 1, 1932 to Jan 1949;"

"Explain Why Negro Patients Not Admitted," January 6, 1937, General Conference Archives, Box: "Washington Sanitarium Board Minutes 1913 to 1956," Book: "Washington Sanitarium January 1, 1932 to Jan 1949."

⁹ James H. Byard to G.E. Peters, September 28, 1943, 1. General Conference Archives, General Conference Archives, Box: 10991, Folder: "Colored Situation."

¹⁰ Robert A. Hare to J.L. McElheny (sic) and W.E. Nelson, et al., November 15, 1943, 1. General Conference Archives, General Conference Archives, Box: 10991, Folder: "Colored Situation."

¹¹ Robert A. Hare to W.E. Nelson, April 6, 1944, 1. General Conference Archives, General Conference Archives, Box: 10991, Folder: "Colored Situation."

¹² W.E. Nelson to R.A. Hare, April 9, 1944, 1. General Conference Archives, General Conference Archives, Box: 10991, Folder: "Colored Situation."

¹³ Lucy Byard, Certificate of Death, Vital Records Division, Department of Health, District of Columbia.

Aiding & Abiding

75 years after Lucy Byard, Regional Conferences maintain focus on the marginalized

By LaTasha Hewitt and Visitor Staff

Six months after the death of Lucille “Lucy” Byard, Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders voted to establish Regional Conferences (see sidebar on page 13). When the doors of the first few opened early in 1945, they were organized with 16,000 members of 230 congregations yielding \$511,000 in annual tithes. At the end of 2017, membership in the nine total Regional Conferences included a reported 318,000 members of 1,215 congregations with \$183 million in annual tithes.

Born out of a need for inclusion, their leaders say that 75 years later, Regional Conferences continue to give voice to people who otherwise might not be heard and evangelize people who otherwise may not be reached.

“Through Byard’s memory, we’re reminded to advocate for the marginalized and the oppressed in embodying the biblical basis for conscience and justice—the same backdrop on which Regional Conferences were formed,” believes Edward Woods III,



Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Lake Region Conference, headquartered in Chicago, and chairperson of the Conscience and Justice Council, which declared October 30, 2018, as Lucille Byard Day.

Historically centered on evangelizing the black American population, most now comprise a diverse membership of Africans, Asians, Caribbeans, Caucasians, Haitians, Hispanics, Indians and others.

Above: Allegheny East Conference’s Mizpah church in Philadelphia provides a weekly grocery distribution, clothing and shoe ministries and a garden for community members (some pictured).

Allegheny East Conference’s Miracle City church in Baltimore hosts an annual community baby shower that supports pregnant and new mothers in the community—distributing free food, diapers, strollers and clothing to registered attendees.



PHOTOS BY DAVID TURNER, MELISSA ANDREWS, BRYANT SMITH



Allegheny East Conference's North Philadelphia church hosts "Avenues of the Soul," a free vision and dental clinic for community members in underserved parts of the community.

Below: Allegheny West Conference's Temple Emmanuel church in Youngstown, Ohio, partners with Carter House, a rehabilitation center addressing the opioid epidemic.

"As our vision statement suggests, we are committed to spreading the gospel 'ta ethnae' ('to all people groups'), and welcome all who have a desire to know more about Christ," says Henry J. Fordham III, president of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), headquartered in Pine Forge, Pa.

A Focus on Service

In addition to championing diversity and inclusivity in the church, leaders highlight a strong focus on service to underserved communities as a major reason for their necessity and growth. Today the Columbia Union Conference's two Regional Conferences, Allegheny East and Allegheny West, which minister throughout the union's eight-state territory, make up a third of its 150,000 total members.

"The growth is a testament of what God is doing through our ministries," says William T. Cox Sr., president of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC), based in Columbus, Ohio.

Like all Regional Conferences, they early established and intentionally maintain a presence in large metropolitan areas within the union, including Baltimore, Cleveland, Columbus, Newark, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Strong emphasis is placed on building relationships by meeting the immediate needs of the community, says Jerome Hurst, pastor of AWC's Southeast church in Cleveland, and director of the conference's Adventist Community Services department. "We are not reaching out just to heal an individual, but to empower them to go back to their communities and serve."

To that end, Southeast hosts "Project Pride," a community-based initiative where members are trained to meet the needs of those who have experienced trauma from life-changing events. Members also operate a community garden and share the produce with local residents, host a job-readiness program and promote voter registration awareness.

In Baltimore, AEC's Miracle City church intentionally plans events to reach the underserved in their neighborhood. After worship they often go out to serve the community, doing laundry, cleaning up neighborhoods and providing other ministries. They also host an annual community baby shower and baby blessing to support pregnant and new mothers with free food, diapers, strollers and clothing.

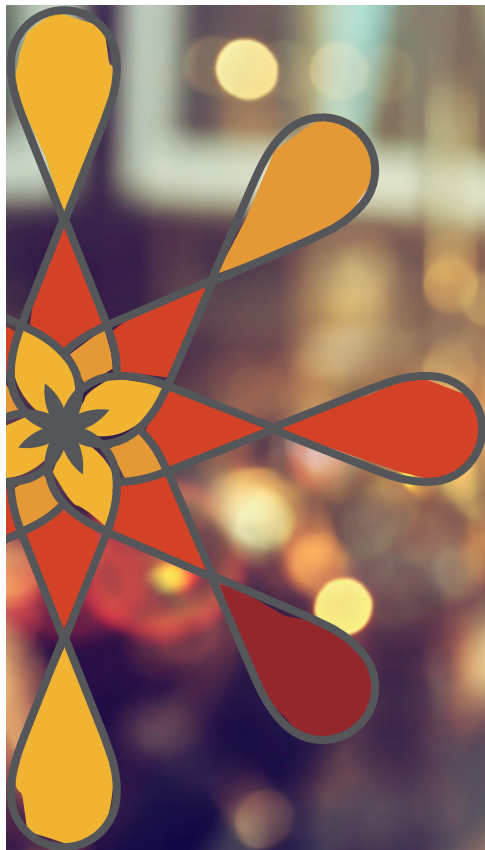
After the 2015 death of Baltimore resident Freddy Gray, Berea Temple, another AEC church, located just blocks from where much of the unrest occurred, became a hub for service, as members offered food, supplies, care packages and prayer to those impacted.

In Youngstown, Ohio, AWC's Temple Emmanuel partners with Carter House, a rehabilitation center addressing the opioid epidemic. In Columbus, AWC's Hilltop church members provided a safe environment for prostitutes to get cleaned up and reconnect with family, at an 80 percent success rate.

In Philadelphia, AEC's Mizpah church hosts a weekly grocery distribution, organizes clothing and shoes giveaways and runs a garden that benefits community members.

AEC's North Philadelphia church hosts "Avenues of the Soul," a free vision and dental clinic for community members in underserved parts of the community. "It is our goal to be intentional about reaching the community," says Pastor Marquis Johns. "Instead of merely asking God to bless what we were doing, we decided to do what He blesses."





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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Vice President for Finance Honored

The planning committee of the 39th Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Conference (PELC) recently recognized Lawrance E. Martin, Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) vice president for finance, for his contribution to the regional work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each year the

committee selects individuals they feel have made a major impact in fortifying the mission of the Church. Held at the Oakwood University church (Ala.), Jesse Wilson, PELC coordinator, shares that Martin's name was a quick and unanimous decision.

Martin has served in AEC's Treasury Department for close to 40 years, operating as assistant treasurer, undertreasurer, conference treasurer and currently vice president for finance and chief finance officer. He previously served as the assistant treasurer of the Lake Region Conference (Ill.). He is also noted for his contribution to the formation of the regional conference retirement fund program, where he once served as chairman. "It is an honor to be recognized, but all I can say is 'God is good!'" Martin declared.



Lawrance E. Martin (pictured, third from left), Allegheny East Conference vice president for finance, accepts an Achievement Award at the Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Conference.

Calvary Connects With Community Over Chess

The Prison Ministries team at Calvary church in Newport News, Va., partnered with its youth mentoring ministry to play chess at the Newport News Juvenile Detention Center this past fall. The activity was part of the "Play Chess, Change Lives" initiative, an interactive outreach program founded by Don Roberts of WAVY TV, an NBC affiliate in Newport News. The program is designed to engage young men and women in critical thinking. "Our hope is for the young residents to use the skills learned from the game to make better life choices," shares Rudy Ortega, elder and outreach coordinator at Calvary.

Roberts shared encouraging words, Ortega followed with prayer and they and others then transformed the facility into a game room. Calvary members sat down at tables to play card games and chess with local residents and other attendees. "As you drew closer to each table, you could hear words of inspiration being exchanged, and witness smiles softening faces in the room, as generational gaps were closed and the love of Jesus touched hearts ... and all from a game of chess," says Ortega.

Following the event, Calvary's Prison Ministries team members partnered with the community service team to distribute more than 90 bags of groceries to their neighbors in the Newport News community.



The Calvary church Prison Ministries team gathers at a nearby juvenile detention center as part of a community outreach program.

Remnant Congregation Acquires Church Home

The Remnant church recently moved to a newly purchased church complex. This milestone comes after nine years of renting a facility on New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Md., for their worship services and ministry activities.

The new complex, located on 15121 McKnew Road in Burtonsville, Md., houses a 400-seat sanctuary, several class and meeting rooms, offices, a kitchen and a large fellowship hall/gymnasium. The property also includes a single-family home and a trailer house. The new premises meets the needs of the congregation and will help to expand their ministry and service.

“We are immensely thankful to God for His leading and mercies, as well as the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) and Columbia Union Conference leadership for their unwavering commitment and support in acquiring our own permanent church home,” says Sujjan John, senior pastor.

More than 400 attended the dedication and opening services. Henry J. Fordham III, president of AEC, preached for the Friday evening vespers, and Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union, spoke for



After nine years of renting a facility, Remnant church members now worship at a new church complex.

the Sabbath service. After the divine service, members and visitors enjoyed lunch, followed by a concert. The program ended with sundown worship and dinner.

Calvary School Experiences New Beginnings

The Calvary Adventist School (CAS) in Newport News, Va., has experienced a lot of “new beginnings” this school year.

Accepting a challenge from Allegheny East Conference’s Office of Education to start a robotics

STEM program, they successfully established two teams: Calvary Lighthouse, for second- and third-graders; and Calvary Beacons, for fourth- through eighth-graders. Both groups practice twice a week, constructing robotic pieces and writing code for their robot’s movements, as they prepare to participate in the April Mid-Atlantic Regional Robotics Tournament on the Pine Forge Academy (Pa.) campus.

CAS was also gifted three 3-D printer machines to start a Printing Club for the seventh- and eighth-graders. Students have created coasters, napkin holders and a host of other items during their club time, and during the school’s annual luncheon last year, they gifted these completed projects to their parents, students and visitors.

Furthermore, CAS recently purchased another school bus, completing their “school fleet.” They now have two school buses, one large church van and a minivan to transport students from various pickup stations in the Hampton Roads area. “Because of these buses, our students are now able to get to school on time for daily worship and back home at a decent time,” says Norma Jean Mann, lead teacher.



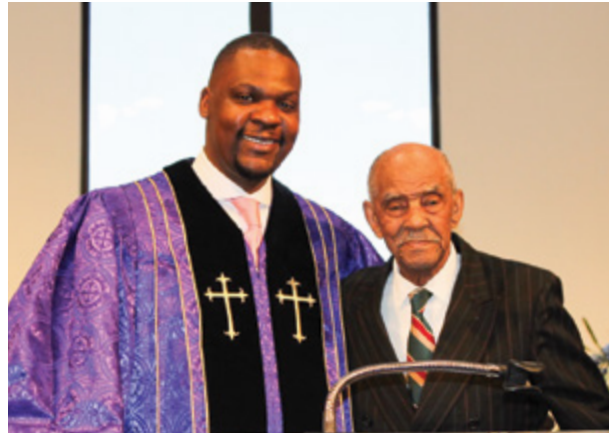
3-D Printing Club members Noah Singleton, Zakhee Ben Yisrael, Jhamal Nelson, Anaiah McCalla, Colby Dawes and Jalicia Fieldings display business card holders and nametags they created.

Town Celebrates 104-Year-Old Ethan Temple Member

The Jefferson Township Board of Trustees in Montgomery County, Ohio, recently celebrated the 104th birthday of Benjamin “Bennie” Grissom, a member of the Ethan Temple church in Clayton, Ohio. They also recognized him for fostering self-sustaining solutions beyond urban and rural community development in the township. U.S. Congressman Michael R. Turner joined the celebration and testified to what a remarkable milestone this was, and how many people aspire to reach this age, but few do so.

During his long life, Grissom witnessed the hardship of the Great Depression, lived through times of war and peace, watched an Ohio native plant an American flag on the moon, saw the dawn of the space age and the election of the first U.S. African-American president. For more than 60 years, he has been a faithful member of Ethan Temple, where he has served his congregation in various roles and capacities.

Grissom credits his longevity to strict adherence to the fifth commandment: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you” (Exod. 20:12, NKJV). He still gives two-dollar bills and sings “Happy Birthday” to church members and continues to drive his Ford F-150



Mackenzie Kambizi, pastor of the Ethan Temple church, celebrates member Benjamin “Bennie” Grissom’s 104th birthday and acknowledges his community work with the Jefferson Township Board of Trustees.

pickup truck to church every Sabbath. Ethan Temple members say they are blessed to call him their friend and a friend of God.—Mackenzie Kambizi

Southeast Church Member Joins the Police Force

The Southeast church family in Cleveland recognized and prayed for one of their members who recently graduated from the 141st Cleveland Police Academy class and took the oath to serve as a Cleveland police officer.



Rodney Davis, Jr., graduated earlier this year following 26 weeks of intense training, as part of the Cleveland Police Academy regimen. As a platoon leader, he also won the Outstanding Leadership Award for his class. Officer Davis is one of 38 graduates who completed the crash investigation, criminal and traffic law, police tactics, firearms, physical fitness, self-defense and emergency vehicle operations courses.

“We thank God for those officers who risk their lives each day to serve our communities, and we are extremely proud to have one of our members make the decision to serve in this way,” says Jerome M. Hurst, senior pastor. “We lift Rodney up in prayer ... as he fulfills his oath to protect and serve the citizens of Ohio.”

Officer Rodney Davis, Jr., a member of the Southeast church, shakes hands with Frank G. Jackson, the mayor of Cleveland.



Shiloh Church Spreads the Warmth

With the cold weather this winter, Shiloh church members in Cincinnati began thinking about children's preparedness and how they could help. Under the leadership of member Sheila Hughes, Shiloh connected with two Cincinnati public schools: South Avondale Elementary School and Rockdale Academy Elementary School, located in the Avondale community.

In an effort to help keep the children in the community warm as they walk to and from school or wait for the bus, Shiloh members began donating hats and gloves, enough to fill two boxes for each school. Members who have done such efforts in the past dropped off items to both of the school's community resource coordinators, Ingrid Sandidge of South Avondale, and Beverly Davis of Rockdale. Both coordinators expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the church for being an organization they can always depend on for help during the winter season.

Hughes, who works as a nurse at an elementary school, sees many children who go without basic winter gear such as hats and gloves. "The question is often asked, 'If the church was removed from the community, would we be missed?' I hope Rockdale Academy Elementary and South Avondale Elementary can say 'Yes' because of this act of kindness," she says. "We are supposed to be the hands and feet of Jesus. And this may open up other opportunities for service/outreach."



Beverly Davis, the community resource coordinator for the South Avondale Elementary public school, displays gratitude for the two boxes of hats and gloves donated by Shiloh church members.

Ethnan Temple Opens Doors for Free Eye Exams



The Ethnan Temple church in Wilkinsburg, Pa., recently opened its doors for what has become its annual free vision screening event. Each year Terrible Snyder and Christian professionals from Mission Vision organizes and runs a mobile service that creates four screening stations at Ethnan Temple. Mission Vision endeavors to open the physical eyes of their beneficiaries, ensuring they can clearly see God's creation. Their mission statement is "to remove barriers that cause undiagnosed and untreated vision and hearing impairments among impoverished citizens in our community and around the world by advocating for those affected through medical services and education."

The service included screening for common vision problems, determining if the customers needed corrective lenses and fitting them for free glasses. At every turn, church leaders reminded the volunteers that the love of Jesus Christ was helping them help others.

Citizens of the community thanked the church and volunteers of Mission Vision for a service that many of them could not afford on their own. The majority of visitors were seniors with expired exams and some who had never before had an exam.

To learn more about Mission Vision, visit mission-vision.org.—*Stan Hood*

PHOTO BY TONY WEBSTER

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Eden Restored

Adam and Eve were literally the “perfect” young adult, newlywed couple. Their Creator served as the officiant at their wedding. A beautiful new Garden of Eden home was given to them, receiving the whole earth as a gift.

But what started out as wedded bliss soon had its nightmares. Following their sin in eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were evicted from their lovely home. Like most parents, they celebrated the births of their first children. They taught and trained them as best they could. Yet their hearts were broken to find one child murdered by the other in a fit of jealous rage and the other son living the life of a wanderer. Like so many couples down through the ages since then, they grappled with the great gulf between their early dreams and the later realities.

Of course, God has a better plan. Through the Holy Spirit, He is reaching out to each one in order to bring restoration and wholeness. The church has focused on this life stage with Young Adult Ministries and Family Life Ministries. The Chesapeake Conference has recognized the critical importance of these ministries and has made them a priority in their programming and outreach.

But what are ways that each of us can make a positive impact? Relationships are incredibly important. They can't be programmed on a large scale. Inviting one, or a few young adults home for a meal can provide a great opportunity to develop friendships. Create opportunities for mothers of young children to get together for fellowship with safe childcare options.

Together we can work to reclaim Eden's model. With God's blessing, our families and young adults can find renewed relationships in the body of Christ.



Rick Remmers
President

Atholton Guest Chooses Baptism After One Meeting

Although the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., concluded a Revelation Today prophecy seminar last fall, their evangelistic effort is still bearing fruit. Seminar attendee Krystal Moreland recently took her stand for Christ through baptism. Her story, however, is unique from others who participated in the meetings.



The first meeting Moreland attended was the final meeting of the seminar, which explored the work of the Holy Spirit and the teaching of the unpardonable sin. At the end of the message, John Rengifo, associate pastor, made a call to be baptized. Surprisingly, after only one presentation, Moreland came forward.

Rengifo shares, “I have never seen this before, where someone attends the last night of a meeting and makes a commitment.”

Moreland, however, was no stranger to Atholton. A few months before the seminar began, she and her husband, Gordon, recently started attending worship services. Although she had some exposure to Adventism at a young age, over the years she became disconnected from the doctrines and the Church.

After taking her stand, she met weekly for Bible studies, and in early January, in front of her relatives, guests and new church family, she sealed her decision for Jesus in the waters of baptism (pictured, with Rengifo), and exclaimed, “I feel really great!” regarding her new walk in Christ.

Frederick Partnership Makes Impact

The Frederick (Md.) church became an epicenter of outreach and mentorship as they recently partnered with the Takoma Park-based Washington Adventist University (WAU) Religion Department to involve students in their Discovering Jesus evangelistic series.

“I have always wanted to find a way to get college students to come to my church as ministry interns,” shares Morgan Kochenower, lead pastor of Frederick. “This field school evangelism class was a great opportunity to make that dream a reality.”

The partnership provided an opportunity for five WAU religion majors (pictured, with Frederick pastoral staff and members) to spend five weekends serving in the evangelistic series meetings, attending classes and getting involved in local church ministry. Each student took a turn preaching in the early service on Sabbath morning. On Sabbath afternoons, students paired up with local church elders for visitation and followed up with seminar attendees.

Frederick pastoral staff rotated as class teachers, enabling students to get diverse perspectives on



ministry. Sessions covered the fundamentals of evangelism and tips on preparing a church for evangelistic outreach. “We are excited as the students helped set a positive tone in the meetings that we will be able to carry into our follow-up activities with the Frederick community,” says Kochenower.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Even the Little Things Matter to God

When I became an Adventist several years ago, one element of the church struck me as really strange: prayer. Little did I know how much prayer would impact my life over the next 20 years.

A few years ago, my pastor/husband and I were transferred to our third district in the Mountain View Conference. I began looking online for houses, but we couldn't agree on many of them. We made a trip to our new district, got in touch with a realtor and sent him our list of about 15 homes. He scheduled a four-hour time slot for us.

That morning, I woke up at 5 a.m. and fell to my knees. I began praising God, telling Him that I trusted

Him, but also asking Him to intercede in our hunt for a new house. It seemed impossible to find something in four hours. I finally said, "Lord, please find a house that my husband and I both would love, and can you do it today?"

As our realtor took us from house to house, none of them seemed right. Finally the realtor said, "I think you two would like to be more out in the country near the mountains." We looked at each other and said, "Yes!" One of the houses we came to was one I had looked at online. The realtor tried to open the lock box several times, but it wouldn't work. He said, "I'm sorry, but I just can't get in this for another hour."

Having only an hour left, I was a little disappointed and began to lose hope. Then the realtor told us about another house around the corner. As we drove around the corner, we liked the neighborhood. We saw the two-car garage, which my husband wanted, the paved driveway, which I wanted, and we both thought this just might work. As we walked through the house, I noticed that every room was painted exactly to match my décor! I couldn't believe it.

On a side note, one of my favorite hobbies is coloring with wooden pencils. Not long ago, I noticed my pencils were getting dull, and the new sharpener I bought only made them worse. Finally I said, "I need an old-fashioned pencil sharpener!" That day, as we toured the house, we opened the door to another room, and there was the very pencil sharpener I was looking for.

When I pray, one of my favorite scriptures I repeat is 2 Peter 1:4. God has given us "exceedingly great and precious promises" (NKJV). I know that God had prepared this perfect house for us. He cares about everything in our lives, the big and small, even the stress of moving. He had heard me plead with Him, and answered my prayer at just the right time. Be sure to spend time with God, claiming His promises today.



Elaine Buchanan
*Prayer Ministries
Coordinator*

The Mountain View Conference Prayer Line is open for praises and intercession Monday mornings at 7 a.m. and each evening at 7 p.m. To join, dial 1 (605) 475-4834, code 708693#.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COGHLAN

The Power of Prayer Changes Us

Prayer is powerful. I'm sure if you asked most anyone, they would agree with this statement. But how many truly understand the power of prayer and take time daily to plead with God? How many truly claim His promises and persevere in prayer?

My friend and prayer partner, Kathryn Styer, a member of the Romney (W.Va.) church, shares the following testimony: "It's easy to take on the burden to convert our loved ones; to think, 'If only I say and do just the right things, they'll get it.' I spent many years in this state of mind. Then I started to pray. I put all my hopes and dreams for my husband into prayer and solicited the prayer of others.

"For years God simply asked me to love my husband unconditionally and move forward with God in my own life—that I could do. When the change started to happen in his life, I can only describe it as a miracle. A strong longing grew in his heart to know truth and that search led him to God. The Holy Spirit spoke straight to his mind. I knew without a doubt that the changes I saw were not my work in the least, but the work of God Himself. My husband has a Savior, and it's not me.



Today we attend church with our girls and have a heart to serve together as a family. Prayer works because it opens the avenue for the Holy Spirit to do the work."

When we feel helpless we can know that our greatest work is prayer. Hearts are not changed by our words; they are changed by the Holy Spirit. Let's continue to persevere and make prayer the most important thing we do!—*Jessica Manantan*

PRAY BIG

Mountain View Prayer Conference

Three different opportunities and locations across WV to participate in the prayer conference. Attend one or all three!

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Friday, March 29th at 6:00 PM
437 Drummond St. Morgantown, WV

Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 AM
622 Kanawha Blvd W. Charleston, WV

Sunday, March 31st at 10:00 AM
1122 Brushy Fork Rd. Buckhannon, WV



Speakers - Rick & Cindy Mercer

You will be blessed as you listen to the testimony of Rick and Cindy Mercer. They will take you from a marriage once destined to be destroyed and then share how they found purpose in their pain. The Mercers' greatest passion is sharing the powerful tool of prayer. They will share with you how to gain victory and break the bond that Satan has on our families. Rick Mercer is a pastor serving in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. Cindy has worked with Prayer and Women's Ministries for years and works per diem as a Registered Nurse along with working beside her husband in full time ministry.

NEWS NEW JERSEY

GPS Caravan for Life

In the New Jersey Conference, we try to mobilize our state by listening to the echo of the order Jesus gave to His disciples: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20, ESV).

We believe that the most effective way to make disciples is through small groups. This year the North American Division (NAD) launched GPS Caravan for Life, also known as “Small Healthy Groups for Life,” an initiative whose goal is to reach and teach 15,000 active leaders, who will, in turn, minister in their communities.

Under the leadership of Tony Anobile, vice president of the NAD Multilingual Ministries, and Rubén Ramos, vice president of the Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union, we have adopted this initiative and have joined forces with the pastors and churches in our territory to train 500 committed leaders to carry out this honorable task. This caravan covered the four regions of New Jersey, as pastor and instructor, Alejandro Bullón, led us to action through his vast experience in evangelism and outreach.

Our goal was to instruct 500 small group leaders in our field, and by the grace of the Lord, at the end of the GPS Caravan for Life, 534 leaders accepted the commitment to present Jesus in their small, healthy groups.

We praise God for the response of our leaders, and we join their salvific dynamic. In our conference, we talk and breathe GPS Caravan for Life; that is why we are “connected” in sharing the hope that Jesus is coming soon!



Carlos J. Torres
*Personal Ministries
Director*

Caravana de GPS por la Vida

En la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey, movilizamos nuestro estado al escuchar el eco del imperativo dado por Jesús a sus discípulos: “Id, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y Espíritu Santo; enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado; y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo” (Mat. 28:19–20, RVR).

Creemos que la forma más efectiva de hacer discípulos es a través de grupos pequeños. Este año, la División de América del Norte (NAD) lanzó Caravana de GPS por la Vida! Que es: “Grupos pequeños saludables para la vida”, una iniciativa cuyo objetivo es alcanzar y enseñar a 15,000 líderes activos, entonces quien pastorearía en sus comunidades.

Bajo la dirección de Tony Anobile, vicepresidente de Ministerios Multilingües de la NAD y Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente de los Ministerios Multilingües para la Unión de Columbia, hemos adoptado esta iniciativa y hemos unido fuerzas con los pastores e iglesias en nuestro territorio para capacitar a 500 líderes comprometidos para llevar a cabo esta honorable tarea. Esta caravana tuvo cuatro estaciones que cubrieron cada región en Nueva Jersey. El pastor e instructor, Alejandro Bullón, nos llevó a la acción, a través de su vasta experiencia en evangelismo.

Nuestro objetivo era instruir a 500 líderes de grupos pequeños en nuestro campo, y por la gracia del Señor, al final de la Caravana de GPS por la Vida, 534 líderes aceptaron el compromiso de presentar a Jesús en sus grupos pequeños y saludables.

Alabamos a Dios por la respuesta de nuestros líderes y nos unimos a su dinámica salvífica. En nuestra conferencia, hablamos y respiramos Caravana de GPS por la Vida; ¡Es por eso que estamos “conectados” al compartir la esperanza de que Jesús vendrá pronto!
—Carlos J. Torres



Youth, Teens Choose to Shine

New Jersey Conference youth leaders recently gathered for this year's annual youth/teen convention, themed "Chosen to Shine." Organized by the Youth Ministries Department, directors and leaders from different parts of the state urged attendees to "get connected" to the Source in order to shine. They were trained in their specific areas of Youth Ministries. More than 700 leaders and teens met at the conference's Tranquil Valley Retreat Center, where they enjoyed 40 new remodeled rooms, a great addition to the camp.

Guest speaker Meshach Soli, a pastor from the Southern California Conference, shared his powerful testimony about how God does not choose you by your appearance but by His grace. "He wants to use you to share His story through you, so that others can follow," he preached.

The conference administrators encouraged the youth to continue to lead and impact a generation that has a special call to complete the mission by preaching the gospel to their own generation. Dayana Lopez-Silva, a member of the Wayne church, thanks the pastors and coordinators for putting this wonderful event together. "It was truly a blessing to be there



Meshach Soli, a pastor from the Southern California Conference, speaks to more than 700 leaders and young people during the "Chosen to Shine" youth/teen convention.

and be filled with the Holy Spirit through the powerful messages," she says. One visitor was also moved and said that after attending many Christian events, this was the first time he felt impressed to give his life to God.—*Eliasib Fajardo*

Seed Falls on Good Soil at Hammonton Church

When Jesus speaks about the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13, He compares the difference between where the seeds land and the difficulties each face. Only one of the seeds, however, sprang up quickly (verse 5). When it comes to the crop-bearing seeds, which landed on good soil, Jesus does not mention how long it took for them to yield their crops. Armando Pereyra's story is a reminder of



the seeds that landed on good soil and yielded crops.

Pereyra did not grow up in the Adventist church but was aware of the gospel. Having made difficult and even life-risking decisions in his youth, the planted seed lay dormant until the right time to flourish. Through a series of Bible studies from an Adventist friend and a discussion with a church pastor, Pereyra recognized the Adventist message as a distinct and biblical one. Pereyra eventually settled in Hammonton, where he began looking for the nearest Adventist church. The fruition of this seed finally bore fruit last summer when he surrendered his life to Jesus.

Today Pereyra is a deacon at the Hammonton Spanish church and has shared several testimonies encouraging both members and visitors to not lose hope in the Lord.

In the parable, Jesus was not focusing on the time but rather the location of the seed.

Pereyra's heart was fertile for the seed he received; it just took a matter of time before he showed evidence of his receptivity.—*Carlos De La Cruz*

Adventist Robotics League Comes to Ohio

The Adventist Robotics League (ARL), themed “Into Orbit,” is coming to the Ohio Conference March 17 at Kettering College for a STEM-focused event. This outing will showcase more than 60 young people in grades 5–8 in areas such as robot design, programming, cooperation, collaboration, project design, professionalism and more.

ARL is a part of the FIRST LEGO® League (FLL), a world-renowned organization that has made it a priority to introduce students to the wonderful world of robotics. The various categories are FIRST LEGO League Jr. (grades 1–4); FIRST LEGO League (grades 5–8); and FIRST Tech Challenge (grades 9–12). This program was not only developed to help foster a growing love for STEM, but to also help develop 21st century skills such as creativity and flexibility—two of FLL’s many core values.

The Ohio Conference is proud to be working alongside Kettering College in sponsoring this event where young people get to show off their skills and

also demonstrate how God’s creative hand impacts them on a daily basis. This event will be livestreamed through the Ohio Conference Education Department’s Facebook page.—*Richard Bianco*



‘Growing Young Adventists’ Speaker to Visit Ohio

Growing Young Adventists (GYA) is a learning journey for local churches and their leaders to help build faith communities that will not only survive but thrive in the years ahead. This initiative is an intergenerational movement which nurtures relationship building and cultural transformation that embraces young people and benefits all generations in the Adventist church.

Benjamin Lundquist, Young Adult Ministries director



for the Oregon Conference, is a GYA-certified speaker and will address young adults in Ohio during the “Immersion” weekend at Camp Mohaven in Danville, April 19–21. Lundquist works with local churches and organizations toward adopting and adapting GYA into their culture “to make young adults a part of the DNA at the local church in all aspects, from church planning to the church board,” shares Edward Marton, Ohio Conference Youth Ministries director. “He is passionate about inspiring young adults to become growing followers of Jesus and effective leaders for His cause.”

Immersion attendees and visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the GYA program and understand what it looks like at the local church level. Lundquist will address both young adults and local church leaders on Saturday night and provide an opportunity to *listen* to young adults firsthand about why they are not presently involved in the church and how that can change. “We want to inspire and immerse young adults in the local church at a grassroots level,” says Marton.

To register for Immersion and for more details, visit ohiosdayouth.org/events/immersion.

Second-Generation Church Organizes

After two-and-a-half years, the Revive Seventh-day Adventist group in Cleveland was officially organized last fall as the Revive Mission church. Approximately 40 members attended the ceremony, held at the First Cleveland Spanish church—the group’s “mother” or home church.

“This is the first second-generation church in Ohio, a new way to keep our young people safe and active in the church, and at the same time a marvelous new way to attract other young people to the feet of Jesus,” says Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Ohio Conference. Winston Simpson, pastor of Revive, adds, “We welcome this unique church that was born to conquer the heart of this city, which is the youth.”

Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator for the Ohio Conference, relays the organizational vow of the Revive Mission church, to which all members agreed.



Conference Presents Workshop for Communicators

Recognizing many local church and school communicators are stretched thin and wear multiple hats, the Ohio Conference recently presented a workshop titled, “How to be an Effective Local Church Communicator.” Heidi Shoemaker, the Ohio Conference communication director, designed and presented the training, held at the Columbus Eastwood church. Thirty-five local church and school

communicators from across the state attended.

Topics included a job description for local communication leaders; crisis management; how to use the Google suite for churches; websites; best practices for social media; identity guidelines; and copyright Q & A—the most popular presentation of the day. Jennifer Gray Woods, associate general counsel for the General Conference (Md.), joined the workshop for an hour via Zoom to explain areas where local church leaders often (unintentionally) violate copyright laws.

After the workshop, participants completed a survey to gauge its effectiveness and aid in the development of another. Ninety-two percent of the respondents said they would recommend the workshop to a friend or colleague. One attendee shared the most helpful part of the training was “learning how to communicate without using copyrighted materials without permission from original writers, including songs printed in [the Adventist] hymnal, unless before 1923.”

Each registered guest received a copy of *Crisis Boot Camp*, authored by Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president of Strategic Communication and Public Relations for the Columbia Union Conference, along with a copy of the newly developed *Columbia Union Conference Communication Handbook*. Visit ohioadventist.org for information on the next workshop.



About 35 local church and school communicators attend the “How to be an Effective Local Church Communicator” workshop.

Pennsylvania Pen

Camp Meeting to Explore Prophecy

Did you know that the first Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting was held in 1868 at a maple grove in Wright, Mich., a small community northwest of Grand Rapids? Organizers set up two tents, each 60 feet in diameter. One was filled with straw for campers and the other used as a meeting place.

Fires built in earth-filled boxes elevated on posts provided light for the camp, while log fires on the outskirts of camp warmed the chilly attendees. Children were not forgotten at this first camp meeting! James White gathered them together, taught them, talked with them and gave each one a small book of stories. More than 2,000 gathered to hear speakers James and Ellen White, Joseph Bates, J. N. Andrews, J. H. Waggoner, I. D. Van Horn, R. J. Lawrence, R. F. Andrews, C. O. Taylor, N. Fuller and John Matteson.

Camp meeting has been an important part of the Adventist church ever since. Many plan and look forward to it all year long. It's a time to reconnect with friends, enjoy great music and hear inspiring speakers.

This year's Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting will be held at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., June 7–15. Join us this year as we explore how Bible prophecy intersects with our lives today. Some of our featured speakers include:

Mark Finley (pictured), author, speaker and

evangelist, who serves as assistant to the president of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church and director of the Evangelism Training Center in Haymarket, Va., June 7–10.

John Bradshaw (below),



director and speaker for It Is Written ministries, June 11–15.

Mark Anthony (below), a vegan celebrity chef who has appeared on 3ABN, NBC and CBS, and has authored

numerous cookbooks. He will present a daily seminar and cooking demonstration, June 10–14.

John Earnhardt, evangelist and pastor of the Upward Adventist church in Flat Rock, N.C. He will be the morning devotional speaker and seminar presenter, June 10–14.

To learn more, download an application and/or register for lodging at paconference.org/camp-meeting. You can also watch for updates and information on our Facebook page.



Conference Celebrates Historic Number of Baptisms

Mandy Reibsome, baptized by Mike Sady, pastor of the Shamokin Mission (Pa.) Group, was just one of the 639 people who joined a Pennsylvania Conference church in 2018. This is the second highest number of baptisms in conference history—just eight less than in 1980 which saw nearly 650 people committing their lives to Christ. God also blessed 2018 with the highest tithes in the conference's history.

“We have been committed to praying for the work in Pennsylvania,” states Gary Gibbs, president. “Churches are uniting together to fulfill the mission through initiatives like Faith for Family. As a result of our total member involvement, God is blessing in powerful ways.”



Alumni Invited to Weekend

Alumni and former staff are invited to join Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., for Alumni Weekend, April 26–28. Minervino Labrador ('84) who currently serves as president of the Upper Columbia Conference (Wash.), will be the worship speaker. Honor classes include all years ending in 4s and 9s (including a 50th reunion for the class of 1969), along with all Philadelphia Academy alumni. All alumni are welcome to attend.

The weekend includes:

6:30 p.m. – Friday Welcome and Refreshments

7:30 p.m. – Friday Vespers, led by Philadelphia Academy and Class of 1999

9:45 a.m. – Sabbath School, led by the classes of 1989 and 2009

11:30 a.m. – Worship Service, led by the Class of 1994

6:30 p.m. – Sabbath Vespers, led by the Class of 1979

9 p.m. – Saturday night, BMA students vs alumni basketball game and women's volleyball game

9 a.m. – Sunday, alumni business meeting, fun activities including a 3K run, softball, sand volleyball, food



The Class of 1968 celebrate their 50th anniversary at the 2018 Alumni Weekend.

Go to bma.us/alumni for more information and the complete weekend schedule.

From Children's Ministries to Children's Ministers

Something incredible is happening at the Grace Outlet (GO) church in Reading. Church leaders have shifted their focus from ministering to children to equipping children to minister. As a result, "Kids Jam" launched last summer.

Kids Jam invites children into ministry during the worship service. Kids lead the singing and preaching, play instruments with the worship teams and run the

livestream cameras and presentations. Children are also inviting their friends to church.

Kids Jam doesn't end after Sabbath morning. In the afternoon, the kids sing, preach and mingle with residents at a local nursing facility. Even the shyest of children are stepping out of their comfort zones and visiting with residents—making an effort to greet each one. Afterward, the group heads to a local park where they play games that continue to build on the object lessons they've been learning all day.

"Kids Jam has helped me feel like I'm a part of the church," shares 12-year-old Kaleigh Horst. "I watched Adelle Hall read a poem during the first Kids Jam service, and decided I wanted to do it too."

This shift in focus has encouraged six children, Tyler and Kaylea Newman, Mason and Kaleigh Horst, Deacon Hall, and Ethan Bradley to take the next step in their walk with God in which they decided to be baptized last summer.

"Kids Jam is fun day to celebrate our kids, their unique talents and learn about Jesus' love in a tangible way," states Kelly Hall, GO's Children's and Family Ministries director. "We utilize their gifts and talents ... to worship Jesus in a way that they understand."



Mason Horst (left) and Deacon Hall run the slides/presentations for the worship service.

Potomac People

Camp Blue Ridge Welcomes New Directors

Camp Blue Ridge, Potomac Conference's retreat center located in Montebello, Va., recently welcomed Ray and Jannette Queen as their new camp directors. The Queens have served in camp ministries with the Florida Conference for 19 years—four years at Pine Lake Retreat Center and 15 at Camp Kulaqua.

"We are passionate about connecting children and families with God and His nature," says Ray. "We are both service leadership-minded and love anything that takes us closer to nature and God. Our intention is to use summer camp, which, in my opinion, is the best youth evangelistic tool that our church has, to build upon this cornerstone that was set many years ago to grow our church. We are excited to see what God has in store!"

The Queens say their vision for Camp Blue Ridge is to create an atmosphere that allows the Holy Spirit to reach every person who enters its gates. Some of their three-year goals are to make the camp structurally sound and expound upon the natural beauty the mountains offer.

"We are pleased to have Ray and Jannette join our



team," says Bill Miller, president. "As we spoke and prayed together, it's obvious they have a real commitment to camp ministries and our youth, and a desire to create an environment to connect with Jesus. Our administration is grateful for the addition of these members to the Potomac team."

Cousins Ordained Into Gospel Ministry

Claypole "CJ" Cousins, Jr., the associate pastor of the Vienna (Va.) church, recently celebrated his ordination into the gospel ministry together with administrators, members, friends and family. "I am in awe of God's faithful love for me, revealed in the grace of Christ," said Cousins. "I want to respond to this love

by dedicating my life to preaching and teaching the gospel, making disciples and equipping as many as possible to be disciple-makers as well." Cousins says by the Spirit's anointing, these core passions led him into full-time pastoral ministry.

Prior to pastoral ministry, Cousins attained a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida International University, and later a master's degree in human resource management from Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University. Upon surrendering to the call to become a pastor, he went on to achieve a Master of Divinity degree, with an emphasis in Church Growth and Evangelism, from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.).

In the fall of 2013, Cousins and his wife, Deedre, accepted a call to the Potomac Conference to serve as the associate pastor at the Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md. After three-and-a-half years, Cousins was called to serve as associate pastor for Younger Generations at the Vienna church, where he continues to shepherd.



Potomac People

837 Commit to Home Church Evangelism

A total of 837 Potomac Conference home church Hispanic leaders have committed to take part in a nationwide week of evangelism, scheduled next month. GPS por la Vida (healthy small groups) training sessions took place last fall to prepare for the upcoming campaign. Organizers explained the 2019 North American Division (NAD), Columbia Union and Potomac Conference plan, and provided material that helped train and motivate small group leaders.

“The mission of the Potomac Conference is to ‘Grow Healthy, Disciple-Making Churches,’” says Jose Esposito, Hispanic Ministries director. “In order for this to be concrete, leaders must have a spiritual lifestyle, not only by going to church once a week, but by having a connection on an everyday basis like the primitive church did. This is why home church ministry is so important.”

These training sessions attracted nearly 2,000 field coordinators, pastors and small group leaders, under the direction of Esposito; Rubén Ramos, vice president of Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union; Alejandro Bullón, evangelist and international lecturer; and Tony Anobile, vice president of Cultural Ministries for NAD.

Of those who attended, 837 church members committed to work with administration to help grow and plant additional home churches within the Potomac territory. “If at least 800 people open their homes to the home church ministry and have an average of five people attend each week, that would spark an unprecedented growth of some 4,000 people,” explains Esposito. “Imagine the souls won for Christ and the personal relationships developed with the Savior!”

The number and prominence of home church



International lecturer Alejandro Bullón speaks at a training session attended by field coordinators, pastors and small group leaders.

ministries continues to grow. Approximately 530 home groups currently meet every week throughout the conference for Bible studies and fellowship. A typical home church consists of approximately 8–10 people.

Esposito says he has been encouraging the development of home churches for more than 22 years. “There is no such joy as that which comes from talking about Jesus,” says Esposito. “Jesus produces physical, mental and spiritual health. If you would like to have a home church or small group, but you don’t know how or you are in need of materials, contact Potomac’s Hispanic Ministries office at (301) 899-0012. Get involved, no matter what language you speak or what cultural background you are—Jesus speaks to everyone, and He has no accent.”



Nearly 2,000 leaders attend training seminars for effective small group and home church ministries.

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Specialist, Tiffany Doss

STEM Program Keeps Benefiting Students, Community

Several years ago, Ophelia Barizo had a vision for Highland View Academy to become a certified STEM school. The program began with an increased focus on a STEM curriculum, including the development of new elective courses, such as robotics and computer programming. The high school STEM certification program formally began in 2015, with the first students graduating with their certificates in 2016. So far, eight students have completed a STEM certification, and seven more students are on track to graduate with certificates this spring.

In addition to taking a variety of STEM core classes and electives, students in the STEM program complete an internship. Senior Jessie Lee completed her internship at the InnovaBio-MD laboratory at the Hagerstown Community College (Md.). Lee says she enjoyed the internship because “the main focus was experimentation.” Senior Katie Seeders completed her internship with Camp Invention, a STEM summer program for kids, working as a counselor for kindergarten and first-grade students. Seeders shares, “The experience taught me a lot about being a leader. I liked it so much that I went back a second year.”

A key aspect of the STEM program at HVA is the outreach programs provided by STEM students



Mt. Aetna students Brayden and Leia Stefan, fifth- and third-graders, respectively, build structures using Jenx toys.

and teachers that benefit the surrounding community, which include STEM after-school programs for elementary students and STEM lectures by various experts for adults. The most exciting STEM outreach program each year, however, is the annual STEMfest. This year’s fourth annual STEMfest was the largest so far, with more than 600 people visiting more than 30 booths from local and federal STEM organizations. STEM students guided attendees at booths that offered hands-on challenges and activities, such as robotics, chemistry experiments and a wide variety of STEM toys.

Attendees learned more about STEM in two breakout sessions. Kelly McCarthy, communication program manager of the American Geophysical Union (D.C.), shared her experience on expeditions to the Antarctic and the Arctic. Kit Esquela of e-Nable, a nonprofit that makes 3-D printed hands for underserved populations, talked about the global work of the organization.

“It is important for our schools to have STEM outreach and STEM community events to show how important STEM is to our country’s economy, national security and its future,” says Barizo.



Asher Smith, a first-grader at Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md., interacts with the Chaos Wrangler that illustrates physics in action.



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Author of Your Story, My Story

Everyone has a story to tell—and the question posed to me and the rest of the high school students who attended the Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) high school retreat was a great one: “Who will be the author of *your* story?” This question tugged at the hearts of the students as they enjoyed the annual retreat, held this year in mid-January at the Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center (Pa.). We experienced an exciting weekend filled with Bible teaching, praise and worship, Spirit-lead devotionals and tons of fun activities!

This year’s guest speakers, Julián Anderson-Martín, clinical therapist and director of the Rose Above the Thorn Counseling Center (Mich.), and Martin Forbes, pastor of the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway, N.J., focused on the personal and interpersonal aspects of teenage life. Both speakers had a unique approach to connecting with the students and sparked critical thinking points. Anderson-Martín reassured his audience that whatever internal or external struggles they might currently be facing, their story is not done. Forbes spoke to the students about the life-altering power of God, especially in cases of broken families or a messy past. He used the story of Joseph to educate the teens about God’s ability to rescue us from the “pits” and “wells” of life, using his remarkable childhood story to connect to them. Students were challenged to decide



During the academy's high school retreat, Martin Forbes, pastor of the Lake Nelson church, speaks to the students about the life-altering power of God.

who would author their life story? Would they write their own stories? Would they hand their stories to God and let Him be the author of the greatest novel ever written? It was a challenge we won't soon forget.

The time together at the retreat helped nurture the spiritual environment and engaged our hearts and minds. Senior Allyson Osorio shares, “The retreat was truly a blessing to attend, and I felt deeply moved by the words of the speakers.” Diogo Santos, also a senior, adds, “The retreat refreshed my mind, renewed my relationship with God and helped in the preparation for my future for manhood.”

In between the volleyball, basketball, soccer and table tennis, the two speakers presented separate talks with the young men and women. This was most beneficial as they answered questions and provided uplifting guidance and advice to the students. “I enjoyed both the spiritual and social aspects of the trip,” shares freshman Sheeba Mathanbabu. “This [annual] retreat gives students an opportunity to reconnect with the Author of their story,” says Elaine Lopez, high school teacher and counselor. This year we will remember a spirit-filled retreat, where we came closer to God and experienced godly fellowship with one another. —Vanessa Guerrero ('19)



Seniors Kimani Andrews, Alisha Placensia and Allyson Osorio pray together as they rededicate themselves to God.

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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.*

Math Counts in More Ways Than One

The Pine Forge Academy (PFA) Mathematics Department, led by O'Shayne Rankine, has been making significant strides to improve the culture of mathematics in the school. With the addition of Courtney Brown in 2017, they both have worked to design and implement a demanding and academically sound curriculum that endeavors to prepare students for the rigors of college.

A year ago, the department hosted its first ever ACT (American College Testing) Mathematics Camp. Students were able to practice, review and learn a wide variety of mathematical concepts, ranging from pre-algebra and intermediate algebra to coordinate and plane geometry and trigonometry. The camp was such a success, the department planned another math camp on "Pi Day." They hosted a third math camp last fall which included the entire student body.

Following the last camp, the majority of juniors and seniors took the ACT in December, and the results were tremendous. The highest score possible is a 36, and for the first time, a junior from PFA, Shemaiah Hoppie, scored 31 on the mathematics section, placing her nationally in the 95th percentile out of 2 million students. Others scored in the high 20s, classifying them well over the national average. Junior Grace Williamson, who received a score of 26, states, "The



Mathematics teacher O'Shayne Rankine (center) teaches junior Nana Ossei-Wusu (left) and two other Pine Forge Academy students a numerical concept.

camp played a very big role in getting me prepared for the ACT, it also raised my awareness about mathematics and college. ... I'm extremely excited about taking calculus next year."

With this increase in the ACT mathematics scores, the department moves on to phase two of its enrichment plan. For students to qualify for college level pre-calculus or calculus, they must have a mathematics ACT score greater than 22. For the 2019-20 school year, the department plans to register all eligible students for pre-calculus at Andrews University (Mich.) Students will receive dual credit, contributing to their Pine Forge Academy GPA on the 5.0 scale, while also receiving college credits transferable to the university or college of their choosing.

The department continues to grow and has established an environment in which academic precision is of vital importance. It has garnered the full support of the school's stakeholders. The department also plans to institute intramural mathematics competitions, enter two national competitions and facilitate more mathematics field trips. The department also plans to host another Mathematics Camp in March.



Senior Arrin Washington works on an ACT problem-solving question.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Academy Plans 75th Anniversary Celebration

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) is excited to celebrate 75 years of Adventist education this year! Beginning as a one-room school in 1943, the school has grown to more than 400 students in grades pre-K through 12th grade. The celebration will take place during Alumni Weekend, May 10–11. The first senior graduating class of 1999 will be honored, as well as the classes of 2009 and 2014. All who attended Spencerville Junior Academy (SJA) from 1943–1998, as well as those who attended and graduated from SAA from 1999–2019, are encouraged to attend. Special events planned include a walk through the original SJA auditorium Friday evening—the first tour since the new school opened in 2011. Spencerville church, located in Silver Spring, Md., will host the Sabbath church service. For more information, visit the Spencerville Adventist Academy Alumni page on Facebook.

STEM Career Day Provides Hands-On Experience

SAA recently held its first STEM Career Day. The event emphasized the importance of STEM to our country's workforce, health, economy and national security. Several prestigious guest speakers from various STEM professions shared about their careers. Students then walked through an exhibition area with booths highlighting specific STEM fields.

There were three rooms set aside for hands-on STEM challenges, including engineering, construction, Arduino programming, robotics, circuit building and a wheelchair challenge, sponsored by Adventist HealthCare. The students saw a wide variety of STEM career options, from fire, computer and electrical



SAA alumni Rachel Mack ('12), currently a physician assistant, and Brandon Injety ('12), an engineer, display information boards highlighting their professions.



Students solve tangram puzzles on Osmos, unique gaming accessories for iPads that enable digital and physical play simultaneously.

engineers to physicians, physician assistants, occupational therapists and health care.

“The vision for the day was to create a greater awareness and interest in STEM-related careers with more hands-on experiences for our students,” says Ellenor Paul-O’Neil, high school vice principal. “Our STEM coordinator, Ophelia Barizo, did a great job pulling together all the resources and making the day a success.”

A STEM Expo will take place at SAA on Sunday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will give students, families and the general public even more opportunities for hands-on STEM challenges.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY^{ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

New Teachers Join Our Faculty

This jubilee year has been big for us already, with the completion of the Worship and Performing Arts Center, the Science Lab renovation and our successful gala. Our enrollment tops 400 for the first time in 17 years. We're kicking off a strategic planning process to map out how to serve our students even better in their academic and spiritual development. We're also strategizing how to accommodate continued



New teachers Andrew Reed and Santhosh Jangam join the Spring Valley Academy faculty in spring 2019.

enrollment growth as it relates to staffing, program and facility. To prepare for this exciting process, our committee includes staff, parents and board members.

In addition to the exciting year, I am happy to announce our new math instructor, Santhosh Jangam, began teaching second semester. He has a master's degree in mathematics, an Advanced Placement certification and 20 years of teaching experience in India and the Bahamas. Jangam lives and breathes his craft of teaching math. With his qualifications and experience, the sky is the limit for the STEM area in our high school program. Jangam is accompanied by his wife, Shalini, and their two daughters, Sasha (5) and Ellen (4).

Andrew Reed also joins us as our interim computer teacher for the remainder of the school year. Reed just finished his studies at Union College (Neb.) as a certified teacher with endorsements in math and computer technology. We are fortunate to find an instructor with his qualifications and youthful energy to fill this position mid-year.

Please continue to pray that God's will for our school will come into focus as we work together.

—Darren Wilkins

Senior Named Commended Student

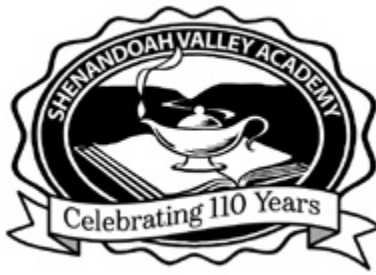
Principal Darren Wilkins recently announced senior Otto Keppke was named a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Wilkins shares, "We hope this recognition will help broaden Otto's educational opportunities and encourage him as he continues in his pursuit of academic success," shares Wilkins. "We are very proud of him and the hard work that led to this accomplishment!"

Keppke is the son of Axel and Ana Keppke of Centerville, Ohio.



Otto Keppke has been recognized as a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Living Their Faith

As a freshman at Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), I thought that after graduating I'd attend college and then medical school. However, my experience memorizing bones in a formaldehyde-scented Biology 2 dissection lab led me to change those plans. Instead, I decided to become a psychologist. And just like that, I changed my career choice based on one class when I was 15 years old. While my career has fit me well, looking back, it was a terrible way to choose my life's work.

Realizing the need for a better career-planning process, I decided to specialize in career development. Fast-forward several decades, and I had the opportunity to co-found the GHRoW Foundation (ghrow.org) with my three closest SVA friends, Byron Greenberg, Scott Handel and Tony Williams. For more than 25 years, GHRoW has provided scholarships for SVA students. Recently through GHRoW, my wife, Barbara Suddarth, also a psychologist and career counselor, and I had the opportunity to offer career counseling for SVA seniors. This included administering the Strong Interest Inventory and career counseling services to each senior at no cost, with the understanding that they and their parents may follow-up with us throughout their time at SVA.

The importance of this service is not about what we are doing, but what we are *learning*. Barbara and I have conducted this assessment for adults, high school- and college-aged students hundreds of times. Results generally show a wide variety of interests across a large spectrum of career options. This is normal and expected. However, what we have seen in the vast majority of SVA seniors, in addition to the diversity of interests we would expect, is the significant presence of "Religion & Spirituality" as a major interest theme. You would be correct to point out that this might be expected at a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school. However, it is not religious indoctrination that seems to be occurring at SVA. What we hear from students is a genuine, heartfelt *spirituality*. Students are developing a personal relationship with God! When I recently asked a student what he liked about SVA, he immediately offered that students seem to "really live their faith." He also enjoys dorm life, classes and his friends—all important to the boarding school experience—but when an academy boarding



Students at SVA develop a personal relationship with God and live out their faith in classrooms, throughout campus and through various ministry and service opportunities in the local community and beyond.

school student mentions that his classmates "live their faith," how much better does it get?

As a proud SVA alumnus with fond memories, it is heartwarming to know that many years later my school continues to offer a fine academic experience, paralleled with spiritual, social and emotional growth opportunities for students today. This is what my wife and I have experienced through our counseling interactions with SVA seniors. God is present at SVA today, and students are experiencing Him in deep and meaningful ways.—*David Reile ('82)*

Upcoming SVA Events

March 10	Preview Day for Prospective Students
April 19–21	Alumni Weekend
May 11	Spring Music Weekend
May 24–26	Graduation

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

www.ta.edu **TATODAY**

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Students Dive Into Community Service By Giving Back

Hurricanes were particularly destructive in the U.S. last year. Places such as Texas, Puerto Rico and some of the U.S. Virgin Islands experienced overwhelming devastation. So Takoma Academy (TA) sprang into action.

TA families collected more than 1,700 toiletry items for hurricane survivors in an initiative appropriately called the “Fall Survive and Thrive Drive.” Shari Loveday, TA’s chaplain, also organized a mission trip to an immigrant community in Houston for students to not only see the impact of the items they collected but to also help survivors physically rebuild.

“We had no idea that this year we would need to bring the drive back,” Loveday shares. “But we have realized our Survive and Thrive Drive is an integral part of our school’s commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus.” Now, the drive has become TA’s annual fall project.

TA included a local component to the drive as well. They partnered with Adventist Community Services Greater Washington Area to donate food to Montgomery County families experiencing hunger. TA collected enough food to feed 26 families for Thanksgiving, enabling them to spend the holiday in their own homes rather than standing in line at a shelter or food program.

In addition to food donations, parents, students, faculty and staff donated more than 700 toiletry items for hurricane survivors in Florida. From toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine hygiene products to soap, detergent, shampoo and conditioner, TA sought to



Juniors Rochelle Rubin and Kayleigh Smith smile as they volunteer at A Wider Circle.

provide those who had lost so much with the things often taken for granted.

TA students and faculty also volunteered at A Wider Circle (Md.), an organization that provides necessities to families transitioning out of homeless situations or who are simply struggling to make ends meet. Students helped sort goods such as bedding, furniture, blankets and clothing, then moved those items to the warehouse floor and packaged them for families in need.

Loveday believes service extends far and wide, but that *community* service must take place near home. She asks, “How else will our neighbors feel the impact of Christ’s love?”



A Wider Circle representative prepares 90 TA students and 10 faculty members for community service.

Helping Families Through the Furlough

With a mission to be “Always Encouraging,” the WGTS staff began looking for ways to bring hope to families affected by the partial government shutdown. “In our listening area of the Nation’s Capital, it was clear that many people would be affected by this,” says general manager Kevin Krueger. During the more than three weeks that workers were furloughed, we went on air and into the community to help. On the air and on our website, we are offering resources from counselor Dwight Bain and financial counselor Chris Hogan as well as other articles that will help navigating income loss, saving for the future, and talking with children during this tough time.

We have also come together at events, offering free tickets to the women’s conference Dare to Be with Christian singer and women’s ministry leader Natalie Grant and to a “Forget Your Furlough” event with Christian comedian Nazareth and music with the Vertical Worship Band. On the day before this event, our team collected 800 pounds of food and shared it with families in need following the concert, with each family receiving two bags filled with pantry staples like pasta, beans and bread.

“We talk about being the hands and heart of Christ and we feel we are at our best when we’re bringing our community together to meet the needs of our neighbors. Our response will be ongoing as we serve the families of the DMV during their difficult moments,” says program director Brennan Wimbush.



To Togo With Love

Afternoon hosts and married couple Johnny and Stacey Stone can be found broadcasting regularly at community events when we conduct Hands and Heart projects in the DMV, like collecting cases of water for storm victims, or backpacks for area schoolchildren. Recently, they traveled to Togo, West Africa, to be the hands and heart of Jesus – to bring hope and to share Jesus. They visited with over 600 schoolchildren and Komi Tonton, who they assist monthly (see picture at right).

“What we do here in the DMV and what is happening in Togo work powerfully hand in hand to alter the course of a life so that God becomes the focus. He is the only one who can lead us to help in these circumstances,” says Johnny. “We are honored to be used by God in this way,” says Stacey. “Not only as sponsors for these children, but as ambassadors for God’s love in the eyes of the people of Togo.”



Making Positive Change

The start of a new year can be a trigger for the start of a new habit. One habit that might be on your list this year is to become a more positive person – by putting Jesus first in your life. We invite you to try our 30-day change by tuning in to WGTS 91.9. People have shared with us that listening to WGTS helps them feel encouraged and more connected to God with a more positive outlook on life – it helps them grow in Christ. Here’s what Tammie from Virginia shared with us after trying the 30-day change.

This morning’s commute was so nice. As each song’s message about Jesus spoke to my heart, my attitude became easier. When a big white truck moved right over to my lane and cut me off I didn’t have my usual reaction of anger. I thank God for that, and I thank you guys.

REFLECTIONS: MAKING CONNECTIONS



The February 2008 issue of the *Visitor* featured an interview of the new president of Columbia Union College titled "Making Connections: Why Weymouth Spence Came to CUC...and Why He Wants You There Too."

One question asked during this interview was where I would begin. The response recorded then is still the same now: to show my appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their kind offer and call to serve because it is a humbling experience. I indicated that my entire presidency would be based on making connections. It would start with my vertical connection with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and continue with a horizontal connection with students, faculty, staff, parents, churches, alumni and more.

Another question was, what will CUC look like in 5 to 10 years? I confidently responded that in 5 to 10 years we will have a much-improved infrastructure. Teachers will have the latest technology in the classroom and surveys will reveal that students are satisfied with their educational progress. Employers will also be pleased that our graduates have the necessary skill sets to enhance the workplace.

Using the ten guiding principles for excellence in education that were listed during the 2008 interview, the goal of preparing students for the joy of service in this world and the world to come continues with even greater focus and zeal.

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence, President

WAU WELCOMES NEW VP OF INTEGRATED MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Washington Adventist University welcomes Richard Castillo as the new Vice President of Integrated Marketing and Communications.

"I believe that Richard Castillo brings communication and marketing skills that will help integrate our departments and schools on campus," said President Weymouth Spence. "His experience will set us on the right trajectory to the 2030 Vision."

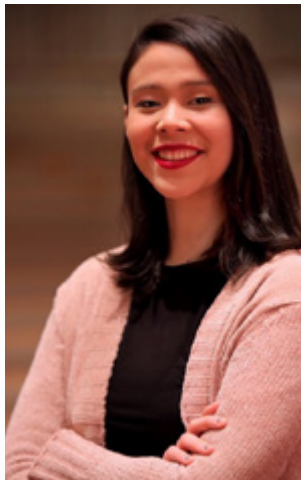
Before answering the call to full-time ministry as a Media Pastor at Sligo Church, and also previously as the Communication Director at the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Castillo gathered and honed his media knowledge in the corporate and private sectors. Clear Channel Radio (now IHeartRadio) was his training ground for almost a decade, where he expanded his knowledge of public relations, marketing, promotions, sales, large event planning, and web management.

Castillo managed a design and photography business for many years in Fort Smith, Ark, and Oklahoma City, Okla., helping companies and individuals expand their reach through branding and imaging. Castillo has extensive experience as a graphic designer, media production specialist, and even as a drone pilot.

In March 2015 Castillo brought his practical skills, experience, and love for ministry to Sligo Church as their Pastor for Media and Outreach. During the last four years, he has designed multiple websites, updated Sligo Church's branding, and expanded their social media reach. He has led the Sligo Media Team to expand and improve their streaming broadcast, and has also developed an innovative weekly outreach ministry called "Reset." His deep love of Jesus Christ and loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church has led Castillo to choose to apply his knowledge and experience to enhance the reach and growth of ministry within the church and expand the kingdom of God.



A LEADER ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM



Early in the spring semester, President Weymouth Spence announced Monica Chica as this year's Washington Adventist University Weinger Fellows Student Scholarship designee. Monica was selected for demonstrating excellence in the areas of spirituality, academics, civic service, leadership, and professionalism.

Born in San Salvador, El Salvador, Monica moved to the United States in 2012, at age 15, with her father and sister. For the first couple of years, the Chica family experienced many hardships. Her mother was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome and suffered from its effects which required extensive therapy and medications. Unfortunately, due to a lack of health insurance, the family decided to temporarily separate, leaving Monica's mother in El Salvador. It would take five years of diligent work to reunite the family, and in 2017 Monica's mother joined them in the U.S.

Monica soon discovered a new love in basketball, and it was through the sport that she achieved mastery of the English language. She joined the WAU community after being recruited to play basketball, however, she proved to many that there was more to her. She works as a teaching assistant for the Biology Department providing instructional support for the program's anatomy and physiology, chemistry and biology classes. In addition, Monica is a student leader for the First Year Experience program for WAU's incoming freshmen. She majors in biology with a minor in chemistry, but even with the rigors of basketball practice, games and course responsibilities she has earned a GPA of 3.80.

Through discipline and commitment, Monica proactively and effectively provides support to the new team members. As a leader, she helps them develop the winning skills necessary to be successful on and off the court.

One of Monica's greatest achievements was being elected to serve as President for the Graduating Class of 2019. After completing her undergraduate degree from WAU, she looks forward to expanding her commitment to excellence through a lifetime of service as a professional Child Life Specialist. In this capacity, Monica envisions employment in a hospital setting where she will combine her two passions of science and children.



Monica Chica proves she has what it takes to succeed both on and off the court.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Alumni and Parents Weekend
A Legacy of Student Success
April 11-14**

Honoring the classes of
1949, 1954, 1959, 1964,
1969, 1979, 1989, 1994,
1999, 2009

**Family Fun Festival
Sunday, April 14
Noon - 5 pm**

Save the Date

Spring Revival

March 24-30

Commencement Weekend

May 3-5

Plumb Line and Pendulum

A bricklayer or a stonemason will use a weight hanging from a string as a “plumb line” to help make the walls as straight as possible. The plumb line is governed by gravity, and it hangs straight down—strictly vertical.

In 1851, Jean Bernard Leon Foucault had the idea that a pendulum—essentially a plumb line on a massive scale—could be used to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. He showed that by suspending a very heavy weight on a cable that was fixed far enough away from the earth (about 75 yards), the weight would remain still while the earth rotated below.

That is why the Foucault Pendulums we see in museums seem to be moving when in reality they are staying quite still.

In the biblical book of Amos, God describes Himself as a plumb line and says, “Look what I’ve done. I’ve hung a plumb line in the midst of my people” (Amos 7:8). The plumb line He was referring to was Amos himself. God wanted Amos to be His agent who would be seen as that which doesn’t change in a world that is constantly in motion. And the steady, unswerving, stable force that doesn’t change when the world does is God’s love.

By accepting the mission of Adventist HealthCare, we each become plumb lines. Our vertical is our mission: “We extend God’s care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

It can be hard to be a plumb line, even more difficult to be a massive pendulum. It’s not easy to be a steady force for love in a world that is in constant motion. But that’s our calling. That’s our mission.



Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Our physical therapists are part of an expert team offering quality home care.

Adventist Home Health Honored Again for Quality Care

Adventist HealthCare Home Health has been recognized as one of the top performing home care agencies in the nation for quality care for the eighth consecutive year.

The HomeCare Elite award is a recognition of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. For 13 years, the HomeCare Elite accolade has focused a spotlight on the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified agencies and highlighted the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall.

“We are honored that Adventist Home Health has received this award for eight years in a row,” said Keith Ballenger, president of Adventist HealthCare Home Care Services. “We are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest quality of care that helps them remain in their homes and receive the support that they need and deserve.”

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

HomeCare Elite agencies are determined by a rigorous analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, best practices implementation, patient experience (HHCAHPS), quality consistency and improvements, and financial health.

“I would like to congratulate the team at Adventist Home Health and thank them for their commitment to providing consistently high-quality care,” said Christine Lang, senior director for ABILITY Network. “During a time of increasing demands on home health professionals’ time and attention, these caregivers and leaders have demonstrated that they have prioritized their patients and created a solid foundation for serving their communities and partnering with other healthcare providers.”

Lourie Center Expands to Serve More Children and Families

The Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness has provided early childhood mental health and educational services to the community for more than 35 years. Thanks to its strong developmental programs, the organization has seen increased demand for its therapeutic services for children with social and emotional disabilities and their families.

However, the center's ability to serve children in need had been defined by the limited space at its Rockville, Maryland, location. That capacity began to change in the fall of 2018 when The Lourie Center received a \$500,000 donation from the Bainum Family Foundation to acquire 16,000 square feet of additional space at its current site.

Founded in 1968 by Stewart and Jane Bainum, the Foundation was established to help underserved children exit poverty through high-quality educational programs and services, especially faith-based education through its Seventh-day Adventist Initiative.

This will enable the center to create more classrooms, increasing the number of students who can enroll. The grant also helps expand the Parent-Child Clinical Services Program, which provides outpatient mental health services for families with young children.

Jimmy Venza, PhD, executive director of The Lourie Center, recalls having to place some families on long waiting lists during the 15 years he has worked at the center.

"We are thrilled to be able to grow our site and serve more children and families in the community," Dr. Venza said.

To learn about the Lourie Center's programs,

- Call 301-984-4444
- Visit LourieCenter.org



Carmen Feliz was so pleased with the help she and her son, Noah, received from The Lourie Center's Early Head Start program that she became an employee.

Lourie Center Selected to Grow Head Start Programs in Prince George's County

The expansion comes at just the right time, as The Lourie Center was selected by the Office of Head Start in September to provide Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start programs to more families in northern Prince George's County. The center has operated EHS programs in Montgomery and parts of Prince George's County for 20 years.

Now, after being awarded a five-year, \$14.9 million grant, The Lourie Center will be able to serve an additional 200 children and their families.

Carmen Feliz, administrative coordinator for the center's Parent-Child Outpatient Clinic, and her son, Noah, were enrolled in the EHS program from 2010–2012.

"The program helped me better support my son through parenting classes, socialization groups and connection to community resources," Carmen said.

She was so moved by The Lourie Center's work that she volunteered there and then started her full-time position in 2013.

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Contact Us

Sandra Jones
Columbia Union *Visitor*
5427 Twin Knolls Rd
Columbia, MD 21045
sjones@columbiaunion.net
(443) 259-9571

EMPLOYMENT

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

is seeking a law student for an eight- to 10-week paid summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for 1LS. Duties include legal research and other projects. Emphasis is on religious liberty and first amendment work. Must be an Adventist Church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicants' responsibility. Send resume, writing sample and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian, karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks a Director of Institutional Research and Planning. The director coordinates a comprehensive, university-wide program of data evaluation and analytics to support the evaluation of success in achieving the institutional mission, vision, values and goals. A master's degree is required, doctorate preferred, with course work in higher education, research and statistics, educational research, data analytics or related field. Applicants must evidence strong research, analytical, technical and evaluation skills; possess a solid grasp of issues and trends in higher education; and demonstrate competencies in oral and written communication and interpersonal relations. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information and to apply for the position, contact Robert

Young, Senior Vice President for Academic Administration, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter, at cshowalter@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For a full job description, please visit southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks dean for the School of Education and Psychology (SEP) who is responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is required. Full job description, southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks full-time teaching faculty for the Chemistry Department. Teaching responsibilities may be expected to include organic chemistry lectures and labs and chemistry for

nursing and allied health majors. A master's or doctoral degree (Ph.D. is strongly preferred) in organic chemistry (or a closely related field) is required, with demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a biblical foundation. Full job description, southern.edu/jobs.

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seeks full-time teaching faculty for the School of Music. This position will provide curricular oversight to and teach lower- and upper-division courses in area of primary expertise—either music history or music theory. Master's degree in Musicology, Music History or Music Theory required, doctorate preferred. Full job description, southern.edu/jobs.

UNION COLLEGE

invites applicants for a computing teaching position beginning fall of 2019. Qualified applicants will have a master's degree and excellent communication skills; also, be a committed member of the Adventist Church. A PhD and teaching/business experience desirable. Find more information at ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at Lisa.L.Forbes@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE

seeks Seventh-day Adventist, full-time nursing faculty member. Teaching and/or clinical experience in medical-surgical nursing and pathophysiology preferred. Additional information can be found at ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Send CV and references to Dr. Nicole Orian, nicole.orian@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE

invites applicants for a management teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will have a master's degree in a related field and should be a committed member of the Adventist Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa L. Forbes, Lisa.L.Forbes@ucollege.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST LIBRARIANS

invites all Adventist librarians and friends of libraries to attend the 39th annual conference in Silver Spring, Md., June 24–27. The conference will explore "Librarians Outside Libraries," with a special emphasis on what Adventist librarians are doing

professionally outside their offices, such as collaboration, teaching, research, mentorship and more. For more information about the conference, visit asdal.org/conferences.

SINGLE? WIDOWED?

DIVORCED? Meet compatible Adventists from the USA, ages 18–98. Each catalog provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized and lots more. Safe, confidential, effective and fun! Questions? Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. For an application and a current catalog, send \$25 to SDA Pen-Pals, P.O. Box 734, Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MANASSAS ADVENTIST PREPARATORY SCHOOL in Manassas, Va., will be celebrating 50 years of service to their community and church October 12. Festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please invite all former staff and alumni by sharing the event page on Facebook, facebook.com/events/319882628794471.

SAVE THE DATE: UCHEE PINES INSTITUTE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, June 23–29. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. For more information, visit ucleepines.org or call (877) UCHEEPINES.

LEGAL NOTICE

MOUNTAIN VIEW CONFERENCE QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

The first quinquennial session of the Mountain View Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 19, 2019, at Valley Vista Adventist Camp, 532 Valley Vista Lane, Becky's Creek Road, Huttonsville, WV 26273.

The purposes of the meeting are to elect the conference officers, conference committee, Board of Education, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term, as well as to transact other business as may properly come before the conference at that session.

A meeting of the Organizing Committee, described in Article IV, Section I, of the Bylaws, will convene at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 7, 2019, at the Parkersburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1901 Park Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26101. The purposes of this meeting are to select members of the Nominating Committee for the session and to nominate members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the ensuing term.

Michael Hewitt, *President*
Victor Zill, *Secretary*

OBITUARIES

STEBBINS, William A., born August 11, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minn.; died June 3, 2018, in Washington, D.C. He was a member of the New Market (Va.) church. He was an elementary school principal and teacher for the Minnesota, Southern

Sunset Calendar

	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Mar 29
Baltimore	5:58	6:05	7:12	7:19	7:26
Cincinnati	6:29	6:37	7:44	7:51	7:58
Cleveland	6:16	6:24	7:32	7:40	7:47
Columbus	6:22	6:30	7:38	7:45	7:52
Jersey City	5:46	5:54	7:02	7:09	7:17
Norfolk	5:58	6:05	7:11	7:18	7:24
Parkersburg	6:17	6:25	7:32	7:39	7:46
Philadelphia	5:51	5:59	7:06	7:14	7:21
Pittsburgh	6:10	6:18	7:25	7:33	7:40
Reading	5:54	6:02	7:09	7:17	7:24
Richmond	6:03	6:09	7:16	7:23	7:29
Roanoke	6:13	6:19	7:26	7:32	7:39
Toledo	6:23	6:32	7:40	7:47	7:55
Trenton	5:49	5:57	7:05	7:12	7:19
Wash., D.C.	6:00	6:07	7:14	7:21	7:28

New England and Potomac conferences. Bill enjoyed working on cars and helping others with their car problems. He was also an active member of the New Market church. Bill is survived by his wife, Shirley Mitchell Stebbins, of New Market; his daughters, Leslie Kilgore of Keene, Texas, Kelly Menhardt of New Market and Kimberley Velazquez of Harrisonburg, Va.; a brother, Robert Stebbins Jr. of Highland Park, Ill.; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

TOMS, Robert Lee Keith, born February 16, 1921, in Smithsburg, Md., a son of the late Albertus and Sadie Huyett Toms; died August 3, 2018, at his home in Elkins, W.Va. He was a member of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church. Robert was thrice married, first to Rose Catanese in 1952, who preceded him in death. In 1992 he married Emma Virginia Kinzer Jacko who preceded him in death in 2004. November 22, 2008, he married Felicitas "Fely" Deles. Robert had worked as a school teacher and was ordained into pastoral ministry in 1964. He was a district church pastor in Delaware, New Jersey, North Dakota and in Ontario and Quebec, Canada. He also worked for several years at

the Elkins church as a school teacher. He liked to read the Bible and memorize chapters. His hobbies were playing the guitar, harmonica and the Japanese harp. He is survived by his wife, Felicitas; his son, Robert Lee (Geraldine) Toms of Chatham, Ontario, Canada; stepchildren, Ray Jacko and Don (Cheryl) Jacko, both of Elkins; Kenneth (Romhelyn) Deles of Johannesburg, South Africa; Lusylen Deles (Lemuel) Labalan of the United Kingdom; Constela Mae (Pablo) Catolico-Mancilla of Toronto, Canada; and Racelle Deles of the Philippines; 16 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Also preceding him in death were two brothers, Harold and Stephen Toms; and one sister, Ruth Toms Gesler.

WOOD, Marjorie "Margie," born in Indiana, Pa., in 1940; died August 7, 2018, at the Indiana Regional Medical Center. She was a member of the Indiana church. Margie is survived by her husband, Lawrence M. Wood of Creekside, Pa.; her daughters, Brenda Castro of Indiana and Sandra Ashbaugh of Marion Center, Pa.; her son, Matthew Wood of Creekside; a brother, Paul Kessler of Home, Pa.; and a sister, Delores Henry of Indiana.

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