


VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 • VOLUME 125 • ISSUE 5



Ruth-Ann Thompson
is a drive-by
prayer warrior

**Pandemic Pushes Churches to
Minister Outside the Box**

Addressing the Racism Virus



While the COVID-19 virus continues to cause concern, I'm thankful we are finally addressing the racism virus that has infected America for hundreds of years. For many, this topic causes profound sadness, weariness, frustration and anger. For others, thinking about, talking about or dealing with racism is more frightening than facing COVID-19. And some may still be processing the issue, trying to figure out their role and response to it. But the time for sitting on the fence is over.

James 2:9 cautions that "if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as offenders" (AMP). Partiality translates to showing favoritism or prejudice. God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Gen. 1:26, NIV). Every person of every race was created in God's image. *Every. One.*

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

Can we all agree that a basic responsibility of claiming Christianity is to reflect the character of Christ? As we look at His life and example, it is clear that Christ's character is not consistent with racism. He didn't ignore it. No doubt He prayed about it, but He did not pray it away. He acted. He called it out whenever He saw it. He went out of His way to be inclusive, breaking down racial barriers. He lived love, showed us how to be antiracists and called us to love our neighbors as ourselves.



Like Christ, Seventh-day Adventist Christians have an irrefutable duty to be antiracist—to act against racism. Prayer is powerful and can move mountains, but prayer without action is not enough. We have to recognize it, call it out, eradicate it from our churches, organizations and communities, and live love.

Nelson Mandela said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love."

Renée Battle-Brooks serves as executive director of the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission in Maryland, and chairs the Columbia Union Conference task force on race, equity and inclusion. The daughter of missionary parents, she and her husband, Mark, are members of Potomac Conference's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

About the Cover: Ruth-Ann Thompson was photographed in Columbus, Ohio, by Simon Tao.

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The *Visitor* is a publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 64,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area and 81,000 online. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Printed at Pacific Press® Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

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Volume 125 ■ Issue 5

HELP VICTOR GET UNSTUCK

Get an adult to post a photo of you finding Victor in this issue, tag the *Visitor* on social media and we'll send you a magnet from LivingWell in Silver Spring, Md.



5 Things You Should Know
(columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things)

1 At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Columbia Union Conference leadership expected a 40 percent drop in tithe for the January–May 2020 quarter. “God has turned it around and has been gracious,” says Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union treasurer, who reported only about a 4.5 percent drop in tithe at a recent Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting.

2 Executive Committee members approved \$1.4 million in COVID-19 stimulus funds to be sent to the union’s conferences and Washington Adventist University to balance the drop in tithe and to help support education, as the pandemic may continue to economically impact members. The North American Division also gave \$600,000 for distribution within the union.

3 Columbia Union teachers and students—some in physical classrooms and others virtually—are starting the school year strong and will continue to follow government regulations to ensure safety and a robust learning environment.

4 This spring and summer, one student from each of the Columbia Union Conference academies received the Caring Heart Award from Columbia Union’s Office of Education. Those honored demonstrated a commitment to service and witnessing.

5 The New Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists is now online. With 2,100 articles and 3,200 photos, encyclopedia.adventist.org launched. The free resource will be regularly revised with additional photographs, video audio recordings and at least another 6,000 articles.—*Seventh-day Adventist Church Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research*

LEVEL UP ■ Regina Callion, a member of Allegheny West Conference’s Alpha and Omega church in Warren, Ohio, and CEO of ReMar, says that since the coronavirus pandemic hit, she has seen a 40 percent increase in people interested in furthering their nursing skills through her company’s training. “I wrote *First Shift* to be a truthful inside look into the world of nursing and what it feels like the first two years entering into the profession.”



REMEMBERING WALTER PEARSON
Walter L. Pearson, Jr., started his career in ministry as the pastor of Allegheny West Conference’s Glenville church in Cleveland. He served in churches throughout the Columbia Union Conference and beyond. In 1998 he became the speaker/director for *Breath of Life*, serving there for 12 years. Pearson passed away June 7.



BRYANT NAMED NAD PRESIDENT
G. Alexander Bryant was recently elected as the North American Division (NAD) president. Bryant served as executive secretary of the NAD and associate secretary of the General Conference for the past 12 years, and has also served as a conference president, local pastor and more.

ALLEGHENY WEST LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Marvin C. Brown III, executive secretary for the Allegheny West Conference for the past seven years, was elected as the new conference president. “He is a good listener. He’s



passionate about the mission, soul winning and also knows the conference, as he’s worked there for decades,” says Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president. ■ William T. Cox Sr., former president, will serve as executive director for the Regional Conference Retirement Plan Board. The committee also voted Joel Johnson as the new executive vice president of the conference. He was most recently the pastor of The Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio.

ILLUSTRATION BY JIM STARR

Where are We? Racism in the Church

While recent racial incidents may be easy to ignore, or explain away by some, their impact, combined with memories of historic cases of racism, still reverberate in the church.

“We can’t pretend that there aren’t issues in the church,” says Renée Battle-Brooks, executive director of the Prince George’s County Human Relations Commission in Maryland. She serves as the chair of the recently formed Columbia Union Task Force on Racism in the Church. The task force was formed to help conference presidents gain better understanding among all the races to study disparities and issues.

These issues are exemplified when a white pastor denounced the work of white supremacists in a sermon, and members, in support of the Ku Klux Klan, stood up in the midst of the service in 2017. These issues also show when a black pastor became the lead pastor of a large, influential church, and a member chose to leave, accusing the pastor of preaching false teachings, but later saying they voted for President Obama and tried to give a “black senior pastor” a chance—two real examples from the Columbia Union the last 12 years.



Adventists support the Charlottesville, Va., community following a white supremacist rally.

The church has faced internal racial issues over the years. What many don’t know is the participation in the abolitionist movement by the early church pioneers. Joseph Bates founded a local abolitionist society. John Byington, the first General Conference president, hosted an Underground Railroad station at his Upstate New York farm.

In *Testimonies to the Church*, Ellen White even actively advocated disobeying the federal Fugitive Slave Law that required people to deliver slaves back to their masters.

Though issues still exist, there has also been progress, such as greater levels of diversity and representation in church leadership, on church governing boards and in more diverse congregations.

BUT WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

There are a growing number of Adventists working to advocate for social justice and healing. In June, following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others at the hands of police, several groups met to pray, grieve and call for justice.

Noah Washington, the associate pastor of Allegheny East Conference’s Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., was one of the organizers of the Community Prayer Vigil in June at Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.). The event provided “an opportunity for people to emote, as well as to come together and pray for our country, pray for the families of the victims and pray for our country and police and policing ... and to get direction as to what God is saying during this time,” he says.

MOVING FORWARD

Tiffany Llewellyn, the founder of Adventists for Social Justice and a Maryland-based clinical social



Lucy Byard (center) was rejected from the Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park, Md., in 1943 because she was African American.

worker who focuses on communities of color and low socioeconomic status, believes the church must show accountability. This requires owning the past and present, she says.

That means listening, adds Battle-Brooks, who views reconciliation in terms of a relationship. “You have to be willing to listen to the other side, and even if you don’t agree ... allow the other side to air the hurt,” she says.

The task force, seeking God’s will to help in this issue, presented their initial findings at the July Executive Committee meeting. They also shared how local churches can build relationships with organizations to help restoration in their communities. The task force will present a full report at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.

This is a moment where the church—which is made up of people—can do great good, she adds.

“There is need for us all to be inclusive, to evaluate how we do ministry and try to respect one another and honor each other as children of God, working together to advance mission and try to understand one another’s perspective,” adds Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president.

THE REST OF THE STORY: Read full content at columbiaunionvisitor.com/upfront.

5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

1 Al comienzo de la pandemia del coronavirus, los líderes de la Unión de Columbia esperaban una caída del diezmo del 40 por ciento para el período de enero a mayo del 2020. “Dios ha sido muy bueno y lo ha cambiado”, dice Emmanuel Asiedu, tesorero de la Unión de Columbia, quien en una reciente reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia reportó una caída del diezmo de solo un 4.5 por ciento.

2 Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo aprobaron \$1.4 millones en fondos de estímulo por el COVID-19 que se enviarán a las conferencias de la unión y a la Universidad Adventista de Washington para equilibrar la caída del diezmo y ayudar a apoyar la educación, ya que la pandemia puede continuar impactando económicamente a los miembros. La División Norteamericana también dio \$600,000 para distribuirlos dentro de la unión.

3 Los maestros y estudiantes de la Unión de Columbia, algunos en aulas físicas y otros virtualmente, están comenzando el año escolar con fuerza y seguirán las regulaciones gubernamentales para garantizar la seguridad y un ambiente de aprendizaje sólido.

4 G. Alexander Bryant fue elegido recientemente como el nuevo presidente de la División Norteamericana (NAD). Durante los últimos 12 años Bryant se desempeñó como secretario ejecutivo de la NAD y secretario asociado de la Conferencia General, y también se desempeñó como presidente de conferencia, pastor local, director juvenil, superintendente de educación y más durante su ministerio.

5 Este verano, Edgard y Elizabeth Huaytalla presentaron a su hija, Andrea, el Premio al Corazón Cariñoso durante la graduación socialmente distanciada de la Academia de Shenandoah Valley. Andrea es uno de los estudiantes de la Unión de Columbia que recibió el premio de la Oficina de Educación de la Unión de Columbia por demostrar un compromiso para servir y testificar.



Una vigilia de oración en comunidad en la Academia Adventista de Spencerville (Maryland) brindó la oportunidad de orar juntos por la sanación racial en la comunidad y el país, así como por la fuerza policial y por la manera en que se aplican las leyes.

PHOTO BY DAN WEBER/NAD COMMUNICATION

AYUDA A VICTOR A DESPEGARSE

Haz que un adulto publique una foto tuya encontrando a Victor en este número, etiqueta al *Visitor* en las redes sociales y te enviaremos un imán de LivingWell en Silver Spring, Maryland.



CAMBIOS DE LIDERAZGO EN ALLEGHENY WEST

Marvin C. Brown III, secretario ejecutivo de la Conferencia de Allegheny West durante los últimos siete años, fue elegido recientemente como el nuevo presidente de la conferencia. “Sabe escuchar. Le apasiona la misión, ganar almas y, ya que ha trabajado allí durante décadas, también conoce la conferencia”, dice Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia y presidente.

William T. Cox Sr., presidente durante los últimos siete años, servirá como director de retiro para las Conferencias Regionales. El Comité también votó a Joel Johnson como el nuevo vicepresidente ejecutivo de la conferencia. Recientemente fue pastor de la iglesia The Beacon of Hope en Columbus, Ohio.

¿DÓNDE ESTAMOS? RACISMO EN LA IGLESIA

Si bien algunos incidentes raciales recientes pueden ser fáciles de ignorar o explicar por algunos, su impacto, combinado con recuerdos de casos históricos de racismo, aún resuena en la iglesia.

“No podemos fingir que no hay problemas en la iglesia”, dice Renée Battle-Brooks, directora ejecutiva de la Comisión de Relaciones Humanas del Condado de Prince George’s en Maryland. Ella es la presidenta de la recientemente formada Fuerza de Trabajo de la Unión de Columbia sobre el racismo en la iglesia.

La Fuerza de Trabajo presentó sus hallazgos iniciales en una reunión reciente del Comité Ejecutivo.

Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

1 Au début de la pandémie de coronavirus, les dirigeants de l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia s'attendaient à une baisse de 40% de la dîme pour le trimestre janvier-mai 2020. « Dieu a renversé la situation et a été gracieux », déclare Emmanuel Asiedu, trésorier de l'Union de Columbia, qui a rapporté seulement une baisse d'environ 4,5% de la dîme lors d'une récente réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'Union de Columbia.

2 Les membres du Comité Exécutif ont approuvé 1,4 million de dollars de fonds de stimulation COVID-19 à envoyer aux fédérations de l'Union et à Washington Adventist University (l'Université Adventiste de Washington) pour équilibrer la baisse de la dîme et aider à soutenir l'éducation, car la pandémie peut continuer à avoir un impact économique sur les membres. La Division Nord-Américaine a également donné 600 000 dollars pour distribution au sein de l'union.

3 Les enseignants et les élèves de l'Union de Columbia—certains dans des salles de classe physiques et d'autres virtuellement—commencent l'année scolaire en force et continueront de suivre les réglementations gouvernementales pour assurer la sécurité et un environnement d'apprentissage solide.

4 G. Alexander Bryant a été récemment élu comme le nouveau président de la Division Nord-Américaine (NAD). Bryant a été secrétaire exécutif du NAD et secrétaire associé de la Conférence générale au cours des 12 dernières années, et a également été un président de fédération, un pasteur local, un directeur de jeunesse, surintendant de l'éducation et plus encore pendant son ministère.

5 Une veillée de prière communautaire à l'Académie Adventiste de Spencerville (Maryland) a été l'occasion de prier ensemble pour la guérison raciale dans la communauté et dans le pays, ainsi que pour la police et les services de police.



Reina et Maria Cardona, diplômées de la Takoma Academy de la Fédération de Potomac à Takoma Park, dans le Maryland, font partie des étudiants l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia qui ont reçu le Caring Heart Award du Bureau de l'Éducation de l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia pour avoir démontré leur engagement à servir et à témoigner.

AIDEZ VICTOR À SE DÉCOLLER

Publier une photo de vous trouvant Victor dans ce numéro, de taguer le Visitor sur les réseaux sociaux et nous vous enverrons un aimant de LivingWell à Silver Spring, dans le Maryland.



D'ALLEGHENY WEST: NOUVEAU LEADERSHIP

Marvin C. Brown III, secrétaire exécutif de la Fédération d'Allegheny West depuis sept ans, a été récemment élu nouveau président de la Fédération.

William T. Cox Sr., président depuis sept ans, sera directeur de la Retraite pour les Fédérations Régionales. Le comité a également voté Joel Johnson (en photo) comme nouveau vice-président exécutif de la fédération. Il était plus récemment le pasteur de l'église Beacon of Hope.



OÙ SOMMES-NOUS?: LE RACISME DANS L'ÉGLISE

« Nous ne pouvons pas prétendre qu'il n'y a pas de problèmes dans l'église », déclare Renée Battle-Brooks, directrice exécutive de la Commission des Relations Humaines du Comté de Prince George's dans le Maryland. Elle préside le groupe de formé de l'Union Columbia sur le racisme dans l'Église.

Le groupe de travail a présenté ses premières conclusions lors d'une récente réunion du Comité exécutif. Ils ont partagé les méthodes sur comment les églises locales peuvent établir des relations avec des organisations pour aider à la restauration dans leurs communautés.

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We Don't Want 'NORMAL'

Pandemic Pushes Churches to Minister Outside the Box

By Michele Joseph

DRIVING ON SABBATH AFTERNOON to escape the house she'd been in all week, Ruth-Ann Thompson had a moment of inspiration. The Columbus, Ohio, resident realized she wasn't far from the home of fellow church members. She pulled over and sent them a text.

"I'm going to be pulling up in your driveway in about two minutes," she texted. "I'm going to pray for you and your family, and be gone."

When she pulled into the driveway, the family turned on their porch light, acknowledging her arrival.

Thompson called a friend in Huntsville, Ala., who was recovering from major surgery, and asked if she would join her in prayer.

Both woman had a revelation: they realized prayer ministry was still an option, even from home.

Thompson says, "This felt like worship to me—intentional prayer on behalf of someone else."

The former pastor's wife doesn't consider herself a prayer warrior, but her "drive-by" prayers, as she calls her stops, have been "beneficial for people who have been prayed for," as well as for herself.

"It has given me a sense of purpose," Thompson says.

Week after week she has prayed for neighbors, church members and random people on the street.

The pandemic has also taught her lessons. The first Sabbath her church—Allegheny West Conference's Ephesus church in Columbus—closed their building, Thompson realized just how restful Sabbath could be.

"I just slept," she says.



She understands that what she needs now, more than ever, and what we all may need, is not just another sermon, but fortification. During her personal devotions, she read 1 Kings 19, the story of the prophet Elijah who ran from Jezebel and was fed by an angel.

"The angel gave him something that was going to sustain him for the journey. Lord, that's what I need during this pandemic," she says.

She believes the prayers can help with that fortification, and plans to continue.

The shift in Thompson's time and reflections on Sabbath are mirrored around the Columbia Union Conference. As worship services have switched to online spaces or videoconferencing on platforms like Zoom, ministries are reaching a wider range of people.

"I think people are certainly more aware of their need and the needs of others," says Miranda Alvarez, a member of the L.E.G.I.T. church in Bethlehem, part of Pennsylvania Conference's Simple Church Network, who met via Zoom for several months. "Church members have been more intentional than ever about inviting friends and family too."

She adds, "I think it comes down to knowing where hope comes from when the world has failed us. Also, I'll add that I think people have been stripped of their distractions. Now that events are canceled and people are unemployed, there aren't as many things fighting for our time and attention on Sabbath."

It has also provided fertile ground for creativity.

OPPORTUNITY FOR REINVENTION

"Moments of crisis offer opportunities for reinvention," says Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union's vice president for Ministries Development. "This crisis, which threatened to interrupt and possibly derail mission, has actually provided fertile ground for how we can do church different and reach out to people differently. It has actually provided new birth for how we do ministry."

That couldn't be more true for Pastor Paolo Esposito and the members at Potomac Conference's Fredericksburg and Orange churches in Virginia. Esposito was installed as the district pastor on February 29 of this year. Two weeks later, the church buildings were closed. His usual plans of meeting with church leaders, assessing their needs and getting to know people immediately shifted to working on how to minister in their present situation.

It led to the Fredericksburg church hosting a drive-in theater experience, instead of offering their usual in-church Easter program. They erected a 50-foot screen and showed pre-recorded skits and songs created by the church's youth, Esposito says. A live host

During the coronavirus pandemic, Ruth-Ann Thompson has started a prayer ministry, and sees this as a time to "fortify ourselves."



Lukas and Jakob assist their mother, Keri Wagner, in live exercise sessions on the Fredericksburg's Facebook page, a ministry birthed during the coronavirus pandemic.

narrated the program from the sanctuary, and people tuned in on an FM station to hear the service as they watched the screen.

The program drew 60 cars with multiple occupants, Esposito says.

The church also offers a live fitness class Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays on its Facebook page, thanks to member Keri Wagner. Wagner, a physical therapist, creates workouts that beginners and experts can follow, and, by occasionally incorporating her sons, illustrates that exercise can be a family affair. The videos have drawn church members, friends, her clients from work and even her 84-year-old grandmother who lives in Texas, says Wagner. At each exercise event, she shares workout tips and Bible verses.

Wagner plans to continue the online workouts into the fall. "Even with opening up, that doesn't mean life is back to normal. ... People still don't feel safe going back to the gym," she says, adding that the ministry could carry on. Even if "you aren't talking about Christ, if you are acting like Christ ... people see beyond your words, and it can bring them to Christ as well," she adds.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY BONDS

Several churches have further turned their focus to community and connection needs. Pastor Diego Boquer coordinates the Chesapeake Conference's initiative at the Baltimore-White Marsh church in Maryland to deliver



Fredericksburg (Va.) church members watch a message from Pastor Paolo Esposito displayed on a 50-foot screen during a drive-in theater experience.

personal protective equipment (PPE) to Baltimore organizations and a local daycare. Church leaders are also intentionally reaching out to other members on a daily basis, making sure their needs are met. During this time, the church also progressively shifted to further meeting the needs of the community.

This “needs to continue after this quarantine. How it will look like, I don’t know, but we need to increase a sense of community in our church,” says Boquer, pastor of Baltimore-White Marsh.

Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church, already active in the local community, has amplified their efforts and has reached out to members and previous attendees by posting a general form on their website letting people know “we’re in this together, and we’re going to do what we can,” says Discipleship Pastor Jimmy Munoz. As a result, people have shared job connections and have found financial support for several families.

“We are not naive to the fact that there is a huge need that we are not equipped to take on,” he says. “We are encouraging our church to provide an offering that we can use to support the good work being organized by local organizations.”

DIGGING DEEPER DIGITALLY?

Pastor Steven Manoukian, pastor of Ohio Conference’s Athens, Zanesville and Newark churches, and former president of the Gulf Field of Seventh-day

Adventists, based about 50 minutes north of Dubai, now believes we need to understand we are not who we think we are.

“The West considers itself a very individualistic society ... but this pandemic has proven the exact opposite,” he says. “People want to interact; people want to socialize. They just can’t help themselves. ... So the question is, ‘How do we move this from the need for socializing to help it become an opportunity for evangelism in ministry?’”

Educated by the CORONAVIRUS

The school year has already begun for many students in the Columbia Union Conference. The previous school year taught many lessons as educators converted in-person lesson plans into material for online classes. Administrators are carrying many of them into the current school year—whether online or in person. Here are just a few of the lessons learned:

Digital Integration

“As a superintendent, I can say that this pandemic has helped us reach our objective for technology integration. The technology was always accessible to our teachers, but the pandemic forced every teacher to fully integrate it,” says Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, superintendent of schools for the New Jersey Conference.

Multiple Avenues to Reach Students

Students in Ohio have access to laptops and tablets through funding from the state’s Department of Education. But internet access became an issue in some places, as Ohio’s geography includes metropolitan and rural areas. A deal was brokered with Verizon to get 10 hot spots to help students at Spring Valley Academy, says Rick Bianco, superintendent of schools for the Ohio Conference.

More Zoom Meetings?

“Even for me as a superintendent, I would like to continue to meet with our principals via Zoom post COVID-19. During the pandemic, we [have been] able to meet very often without the cost of travel and the stress of the waste of time in traffic, not to mention being better stewards of the environment,” says Saint-Ulysse.

He says he hopes the church in the United States learns a valuable lesson during this time.

“I think one of the greatest lessons we can take is we need to move toward digital evangelism ... as one of the tools for ministry,” he adds.

Many Columbia Union Conference churches moved their ministries online to offer Bible studies, prayer meetings, evangelistic series and Sabbath School and church services online and on social media. Many will continue to provide at least some of these online services once the pandemic is over, and many are considering continuing to hold online board and prayer meetings as well. (For resources to expand your online ministry, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/onlinetools.)

Several ministries are trying to help in this regard. Among other initiatives, Adventist World Radio started offering cell phone evangelism training, the Seventh-day Adventist World Church launched a campaign to recruit digital missionaries and Pacific Press Publishing Association is moving more toward electronic publishing and exploring e-subscriptions to magazines.

BACK TO NORMAL?

Rubén Ramos, Columbia Union vice president for Multilingual Ministries, says ministry during the pandemic has changed in a “dramatic way.” He adds, “We have been using media for not only worship, but also for all the activities of the church, and also for evangelism. And I think it has been a blessing because for so long, we members have focused on what’s happening inside the building, between four walls.”

SEE YOU ONLINE?

Members around the union are saving time and gas by meeting virtually. Will your local church continue to hold church board and prayer meetings online, even after the pandemic ends? Let us know on facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor.

He continues, “We are reaching out to the friends sending links, doing Bible studies electronically through social media, and we are trying to encourage the members to be close to their friends using WhatsApp text, YouTube, Facebook, etc. ... It has been a blessing, and I hope that this way of doing ministry will never stop.”

Esposito also hopes his church and others will continue this outward facing form of sharing the gospel and will move forward to being more missional.

“One of my biggest fears is that we are so eager to get back to normal,” he says.

He believes small churches may be uniquely suited to this new normal just as small groups may be less intimidating to people than large gatherings.

Esposito adds, “We can see something new being birthed in our church. If we could have that moment of revelation, I think we can really come on the other side of this, not ready to go back to the way things were, but ready to be the church Jesus needs it to be.”

PHOTOS BY SIMON YAO, JASON MALONEY AND JILL MANOUKIAN



I think one of the greatest lessons we can take is we need to move toward **digital evangelism** as of one of the tools for ministry.

—Pastor Steven Manoukian



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Liberty Church Organizes March and Rally

As antiracist protests continue throughout the nation and worldwide, the Liberty church in Windsor Mill, Md., organized a peaceful demonstration supporting black lives.

Led by Pastor Mark McCleary, Liberty church and community members spilled into the streets of Windsor Mill on July 4. Maurice Taylor, Baltimore area ministerial leader for the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), also joined the marchers.

Demonstrators chanted, “No justice, no peace,” and, “I am my brother’s keeper,” as they marched from the Liberty church grounds, around neighboring roads and back to the church grounds. Neighbors stood in their yards and shouted in solidarity with the marchers, while others honked their car horns as they drove past the demonstration.

The Baltimore County Police Department provided security and directed traffic, while church leadership arranged for trash pick-up and supplied additional safety measures as the masses moved along. The Liberty and AEC Pathfinder drum corps played a major role in leading the procession, garnering the attention of curious bystanders.

Participants expressed the importance of standing up against racism and encouraging a spirit of love as they exemplified what it meant to forge a path of peace and equality for future generations. “Christ’s mission was to stand up for the oppressed and poor and bear their hurt and sorrows. I am redeemed to walk, talk, and, like Christ, stand for justice. That is why I’m



Mark McCleary, pastor of the Liberty church, peacefully protests against racism.

marching,” says Michelle Cox, a black church member and mother of two boys.

High school student Marcus Charles, who was part of the drum corps, also shared why marching was important to him: “As people of faith, our reason for actively taking this stand is perhaps best stated by member Edwin Juma, who helped lead the chants, ‘If not us, who? If not now, when?’”

A rally followed the march and featured church affiliates, the Baltimore County police and community civic members. Social distancing and masks were required. Attendees had the opportunity to register to vote and sign a petition for change. Members staffed health information stations at the rally to answer questions and provide the latest information on staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AEC Pathfinder Drum Corps leads the procession in a peaceful march organized by the Liberty church.



Metropolitan Church Leads Peaceful Protest

The men of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., recently led a march in Washington, D.C., to protest the death of George Floyd, a black man killed in May by the hands of police officers. Led by Pastor Trevor Kinlock, the initial group of 25 swelled to about 1,000, as hundreds of people joined them. The march became one of the largest in D.C., and garnered the attention of various news outlets such as CBS, CNN and FOX.

The group started at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAH) in Washington, D.C., and marched to the gates of the White House, where participants knelt quietly for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the same amount of time a police officer knelt on Floyd's neck.

Metropolitan member Susan Caleb Harris recalls what the experience was like for her: "After about three minutes of kneeling, I looked around at the crowd and noticed people adjusting themselves, trying to find a comfortable way to kneel. The discomfort served as a reminder that no one deserves what these people and their loved ones endured."

In front of the White House, Kinlock read the names of more than 120 black men and women who have been killed due to police violence. After a few speeches, the group headed back to the NMAAH, where several members from the Men's Ministries



Members of the Men's Ministries group from the Metropolitan church march in Washington, D.C., in a peaceful demonstration against racial inequality and police brutality.

group gave speeches affirming the value of black lives. In his speech, Kinlock reminded listeners that faith must not be restricted to religious spaces, and encouraged people of faith to stand up for racial justice and deconstruct racism in all areas of society. He closed with prayer for divine help and healing.



Sunshine Ministry Brings Joy to Senior Members

The First Church of Coatesville in Pennsylvania recently organized a "Sunshine Ministry," to bring joy to their senior members. The ministry group visits seniors



at their doorstep, providing socially distanced fellowship, singing, prayer and encouraging words.

About 20 Coatesville members recently delivered baskets to seniors filled with brightly-colored snacks, a sunflower and a yard sign, reminding them that they were missed and loved.

The team visited 12 seniors, including a member who has been in a rehab facility for weeks. Although they weren't allowed inside, they offered encouragement outside of her window.

"It really warmed my heart to be able to serve in this way," says Jacqueline Alleyne, member and organizer. I believe we were equally—if not more—blessed by the visits than those we visited."

Senior Shirley Ward, a neighbor to Coatesville church member Minnie McNeil, receives a cheerful basket from the Sunshine Ministry team.

Conference Welcomes New President and VP

William T. Cox Sr. (below), has served as president of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) since 2012. Adding to his ministry career of 41 years, which included a period of time as the pastor of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, Cox recently accepted a call to serve as the executive director for the Regional Conference Retirement Plan Board. He succeeds



Joseph McCoy, who is retiring at the end of the year. Cox will assume his new role in early October 2020.

"I am blessed and honored to have served this constituency; I am thankful for the support of my team," Cox stated. Having led AWC through challenging times, as well as a period of the conference's most substantial

tithe increase, Cox reflected on one of his firmly held principles: "My statement of belief, which has been a staple in terms of my walk with God, has been 'when you do what God has asked you to do, He will make Himself personally responsible for your success.'"

Members of the AWC Executive and Selection Committee, chaired by Columbia Union President Dave Weigley, voted Marvin C. Brown III (right) as interim AWC president, serving out the remainder of this presidency term until the constituency session in 2021. "He is a good



listener. He's passionate about mission and soul-winning, and also knows the conference," said Weigley.

Brown has served as executive vice president and stewardship director for the AWC for the past seven years, where he strengthened relationships within the constituency and renewed the emphasis on stewardship throughout the territory. Brown is married to Grace, his wife of 35 years, and is father to two grown sons, Marvin and Marsalis.

"I have a great appreciation for the people of AWC. I began my ministry here, and I'm so thankful that God has given me this wonderful opportunity to serve in a different capacity," Brown commented. Speaking with conference personnel at a meeting following his nomination, he revealed that his focus in the coming months would be leading the members and churches of the conference into a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ, to servanthood and to prayer.



The selection committee also voted Joel Johnson as the new AWC executive vice president. Johnson has served as youth director, campground superintendent, and, most recently, the pastor of The Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio.

Johnson spent 19 years of his ministry at Pine Forge Academy (Pa.), wearing many hats: boy's dean, chairman of the Religion Department, religion instructor, academy chaplain and founder of the PFA Creative Arts Drama Ministry. Johnson has been married to Alicia for 41 years. They have four sons: Joel II, Auldwin, Erik and Kyel.



Connection Community Serves as Safe Haven

Young adults are becoming more absent from churches. Finding creative ways to minister to this age-group is a well-known challenge, not only in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but within other denominations as well.

The Connection Community church plant was founded a year ago in Columbus, Ohio, after thoughtful planning with Allegheny West Conference (AWC) leadership. At the church, pastors John Coaxum (below) and Max Gomez (right) lead a small group, “Doing Life



Together.” They intend to engage the young adult community in authentic and effective ways.

Over the past year, the church plant has connected with both Adventist and non-member young adults who are at the top of their occupations and have a significant influence on society.

This army of young adults is enthusiastic about reckless service, relevant worship and relational community.

Over the past year, Coaxum and Gomez have assisted more than 1,000 people in the surrounding neighborhood through service events and giveaways. They

train their young adults to be Bible workers and disciple-makers, and they bring their non-member circle of friends to a church they consider to be a safe haven.

Through this multicultural connected community, many have been won who had “given up” on the Church. Gomez says, “Through a non-biased approach to ministry, we have found that they are frustrated with the institutionalism that may often hinder the church, and are ready to take up the mantle to redefine church in a way that connects them back to God and their community.”



Women’s Ministries Stays Connected During Pandemic



According to Shirley Benton, the Allegheny West Conference Women’s Ministries director, the number one need in the Church right now is connectedness. This is especially true for women. However, with social distancing and the rules that are in place, staying in contact with one another has become more of a challenge.

Benton says, “As sisters in Christ, we need to support one another in whatever ways we can. Continuing to show each other care and love by calling and sending cards can go a long way in helping someone feel appreciated. During this time, I have visited many of our Women’s Ministries members. I have stood outside at a distance with them on their porch while I’m down on the steps. Although these physically distant visits are less than ideal, it’s essential to maintain safety

while doing what we can to keep our connection.”

During the pandemic, the Women’s Ministries Department has taken time to evaluate what the most significant needs are and how they can be met. They’ve taken food and supplies to families, and fulfilled other requests, all within safe social distancing guidelines.

“These last few months have demonstrated that showing that we love each other, putting aside our differences and concentrating on what is most important in our lives has been one of our greatest needs,” Benton says. “I also love that some of the younger women have become more involved in community service, reaching out to the senior women in particular. We should be reminded that our senior sisters, especially those who live alone, need our touch as often as possible, especially during this time. I’m proud of the women of our conference who are rising to the occasion, staying in touch and reaching out while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and His second coming.”



CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS

‘I Will Give You Rest’

These are five life-saving words. When each day seems to bring a heavy weight of chaos, conflict and uncertainty, these simple words of Jesus have a great impact: “I will give you rest.” He prefaces these words with an open invitation: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden” (Matt. 11:28, NKJV).

These words are given by the One who spoke and created the world. The One whose voice called out, “Peace, be still,” and the storm stopped and the waves were calmed. This same Jesus is the guarantor of our rest. He is willing and able to provide rest as a free gift, without reservation.

We have a heavy burden of care because an unseen virus may bring illness or death to our dear family members. We may be weary because of racial prejudices that do not align with our worth as a child of God. Job losses and financial uncertainties have become an unwelcome way of life.

In this environment, Jesus promises rest. Spiritual rest to free us from doubt and guilt, replaced with reassurance of the salvation He freely gives. Emotional rest to set our minds at peace amid turmoil. In fact, when addressing this promise in *The Desire of Ages*, Ellen White shares this gem: “In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our Heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet” (p. 330).

So enjoy some rest. Not because the world around you has calmed down, but because the promise of Jesus remains certain: “I will give you rest.”



Rick Remmers
President

Chesapeake Schools Prioritize Safety for New Year

With challenges presented by COVID-19, the Chesapeake Conference Education Department and local schools educators quickly adopted new strategies and technologies to provide continued quality education for students this fall.

Chesapeake schools created task force teams, reviewed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and consulted with local governmental and health agencies to create plans for the safe reopening of schools. Additionally, parent surveys provided feedback that helped schools to create unique plans to meet the needs of their communities.

While many schools face uncertainties about enrollment for this academic year, the educational landscape surrounding the Mt. Aetna Adventist School in Hagerstown, Md., provided an unexpected boost, attracting new families to the school from the community.

“In Washington County (Md.), there are actually 15 private schools to choose from. When public schools made the decision to not be in-person, somehow word of mouth got out that we would instruct in-person and our class sizes would be small,” says Rod Kerbs II, Mt. Aetna principal. “Because of this, we’re looking at the highest enrollment that Mt. Aetna school has ever seen.”

The range of reopening plans span from online instruction to in-person instruction, with many offering

a hybrid option for families, allowing students to learn online and in person each week.

“Our schools are prepared to offer high quality Seventh-day Adventist education to the young people of our conference,” says Janesta Walker, superintendent of schools.



Janesta Walker, superintendent of schools for Chesapeake; Tissiana Bowerman, head principal of Spencerville Adventist Academy; Rod Kerbs II, principal of Mt. Aetna Adventist School; and Miya Kim, principal of Atholton Adventist Academy, discuss school reopening strategies and plans.

ACS Directs ADRA Donation to White Oak Medical Center

Recently the Adventist Community Services (ACS) of Chesapeake received a donation of protective personal equipment (PPE) supplies from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), exceeding \$442K in value. ADRA, in partnership with ACS, delivered more than 20 pallets of essential medical supplies and protective gear to health care workers at Adventist HealthCare (AHC) White Oak Medical Center in Silver Spring, Md., which has served patients affected by COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

“We appreciate the shipments of personal protective equipment over the last couple months, as Adventist HealthCare continues to extend God’s care to COVID-19 patients in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region,” says Terry Forde, president and CEO of AHC.

“Our community depends on reliable, caring health care workers, especially in this situation. Always having the PPE to do our work safely allows us to focus on our patients,” adds Beverly DeSouza, a respiratory therapist at White Oak Medical Center.

“As a global humanitarian workforce, frontline work is essential in any crisis we do to aid those in need. Medical teams are among that network, and we are grateful to our partners, like Adventist Community Services, to help ensure hospitals in the United States are well-equipped as they serve



Ignacio Goya, Chesapeake ACS director, speaks about the collective positive impact of the ACS/ADRA/Adventist HealthCare partnership.

so many affected by this pandemic,” says Michael Kruger, president of ADRA.

“We are grateful to ADRA and Adventist Community Services for their donations of medical supplies,” says Anthony Stahl, president of the White Oak Medical Center. “Supplies like gowns, masks and gloves help us continue to protect our health care workers, care for the sick and meet the other health care needs of our community.”

As part of a broader COVID-19 related response, ADRA has also committed \$150,000 to provide food to thousands of vulnerable families through ACS food pantries across the U.S., with \$10,000 being donated to Chesapeake.

“ADRA has networks that ACS does not, and ACS has other networks that are also key and important to serving in this area,” says Ignacio Goya, ACS director for Chesapeake. “In partnering together, you can build a beautiful unity that is complimentary and helps one another to build something that is going to have even further reach and impact. Through this partnership, we offer something more meaningful for the community whom we serve in the name of Jesus, united as one.”



Anthony Stahl, president of Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, expresses gratitude for the timeliness of PPE donations received from ADRA/ACS.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

The Church Has Left the Building

Perhaps some think of “the church” as simply the building where they worship. That term has taken on new meaning as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. A building is not necessary for ministry to take place. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has found new and innovative ways to worship and reach out to others through phone calls, Zoom meetings and social media.

The Spanish-speaking members in Mountain View Conference’s territory have had many different needs. Local pastors and members have purchased groceries and offered financial assistance for those who have lost jobs. Volunteers have also taken them grocery shopping and have served as translators at doctor’s appointments.

The Moorefield (W.Va.) Spanish company has been very active in their community. As a result of the Holy Spirit’s influence and their commitment to serve, many people now know about the Adventist church in town. Some follow Sabbath morning online services and afternoon Q & A sessions with Pastor Heroes Sical and other church members. Viewers are getting answers to the questions and doubts they have about the Bible, God and church. Members from Women’s Ministries and Men’s Ministries are helping and inviting them to small groups.

Moorefield church recently celebrated a baptism, with more scheduled to come, as online Bible studies continue. Members agree that it seems as if the church



At this year’s Hispanic camp meeting, Heroes Sical (in black robe), pastor of the Moorefield Spanish company, celebrates the baptisms of Walter Pop Coc (left of him), Kimberly Daniele Zelaya Castro and Damaris Maritza Mucu Maquin, along with Bible worker Guadalupe Castro.

has come to life! Moorefield Bible worker Guadalupe Castro says, “The church building is closed, but we don’t need a building to function as a church.”

It is true that the church building is closed, but the church has stayed open, and we know that God’s Church will be protected until He returns. The world has changed, but the mission remains the same, and the Church has to adapt to fulfill the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20, NKJV).
—Walter Cardenas, Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Guadalupe Castro serves as the Bible worker for the Moorefield Spanish company.



New Women's Ministries Director Shares Her Story

Get to know Brittan Hewitt, the new Women's Ministries director for the Mountain View Conference:

I grew up in Roanoke, Va. My parents divorced when I was very young, and I lived with my mom most of the time. My mom and stepdad were both in law enforcement, and my dad was a firefighter. My grandfather and mom made sure I knew about Jesus and went to church. I went to a Christian school until eighth grade, then attended public school.

In my later teens, I worked at a daycare, did medical transcription for a year or two, then went on to be a 911 dispatcher at the Roanoke County Police Department (Va.). After seven years, I went to work for the Norfolk Southern Railroad Police (NSR) as a police communications officer. After taking a stand for the Sabbath while working for NSR, I was blessed to find an at-home job doing medical transcription until just a year or two ago, when I started working at the Mountain View Conference office.

I went through a hard experience during my teens and twenties that helped me realize it was time to turn back to Jesus. When I took a stand for the Sabbath while working for NSR, I was pregnant with my daughter, and I was put on unpaid suspension. It was a very stressful time, but it was a time for growth and learning to let go and let God!

I met my husband, Mike, while working as a dispatcher at the police department. He was a police officer, and we worked midnight shift together.

I have two children. My oldest is Jewell, 13, and will be entering ninth grade this year at Parkersburg Academy (W.Va.). She is a kind soul who stands up for what is right. She loves art, her cat, Ginger, and playing computer games. My youngest is Levi, 7, and he will be entering second grade at Parkersburg. He is a sweet, loving guy. He loves his cat, Bandit, LEGOs and playing games on his iPad.

For my devotional time, I journal and use the YouVersion app on my phone. That's my go-to. For recreation, I enjoy swimming, outdoor walks and going



Brittan Hewitt, pictured with her husband, Mike, is the new Women's Ministries director for the Mountain View Conference.

RV camping with Mike and the kids.

If it weren't for COVID-19 restrictions, the conference would've held its annual women's retreat. Instead, we are offering online sessions for young ladies ages 18–21, since some may feel that women's retreats aren't focused toward their age-group.

In these uncertain times, I would encourage all women—and men—to continue focusing on Jesus. It is so easy to get wrapped up in other things, lose focus and live in fear of what is going on around us. Spend time with Jesus each day, and give everything over to Him. Stay strong, and be a help to those in your church and community. Don't forget the young ladies in your churches; they are exposed to so many distractions in their world. Be a listening ear, and pray with them. Let's keep sharing the love of Jesus each day, everywhere we go. You never know who needs to see a smile or hear a kind word!

Pottinger Retires, Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

Leonel Pottinger, the ministerial director for the New Jersey Conference (NJC), recently retired after nearly 50 years of selfless ministry.

Pottinger began his career in Central America. During his 27 years there, he served in many countries and in a variety of capacities. He pastored districts in Nicaragua, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica before becoming president of the South-Central Costa Rica Conference in 1989. Under his able administration, the work grew in a remarkable way in membership and finance. In 1994 the Central America Union invited Pottinger to be the Family Life, Stewardship and Evangelism director.

In 1997 Pottinger received an invitation to preach an evangelistic campaign in Newark, N.J. The conference president attended one of his meetings and was impressed to invite him to join their pastoral team.

The family relocated from Costa Rica to New Jersey, where Pottinger pastored the Hackensack, Elizabeth English, Elizabeth Spanish and Newark churches.

In 2007 he was elected to serve in the NJC office as the director for Stewardship, Prison Ministries, Personal Ministries and Ministerial. During this time, he also served as pastor of the Burlington and Rockaway churches, and interim pastor of several other churches.

Throughout Pottinger's ministry, he has always inspired members to total fidelity to God. This was reflected in increased tithes and offerings and membership growth.

His passion for winning souls compelled him to conduct evangelistic campaigns in Central, North and South America, the Caribbean, India, Rwanda and



New Jersey Conference's Ministerial Director Leonel Pottinger (pictured with his wife, Miriam) retires after nearly 50 years of ministry.

Palau. Throughout his years of ministry, he had the joy of leading thousands of people to the foot of the cross through baptism.

In addition to his ministerial role, Pottinger pastored the Wayne, Hackensack and Jersey City Heights churches. He and his wife, Miriam, are looking forward to a happy retirement. They are blessed with two grown children, Shari (Treva) Osborn and Leonel, Jr., and two grandsons, Luke and Zeke.

PHOTO BY SHAWN KOH

Marantha French Hires New Associate Pastor



Peggy Filossaint, the new associate pastor for the Marantha French church in Newark, is a New Jersey native. A graduate of Garden State Academy and Bowie State University (Md.), she earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Accounting.

Filossaint worked as an accountant for 16 years before starting her own accounting business in Hagerstown, Md. Three years later, God called her into ministry.

In August 2019, she enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), where she is currently pursuing her master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. In November 2019, she was ordained as an elder at The Grace Place (Ind.).

Filossaint recognizes God has called her for such a time as this during the current crisis, and she has accepted the call, knowing that God will never leave her nor forsake her.

New Pastors Lead Multiple Churches

When Gabriel Morales was a child, his parents, Francisco and Maria, took him and his three sisters to both the La Victoria and Perth Amboy Spanish churches.

As a teen, he joined the Edison Spanish church, where he eventually became an AY leader under the tutelage of pastors Mario Thorp, currently the executive secretary of the New Jersey Conference, and Laffit Cortes, former conference youth director. When he was 18, he began his studies at the Adventist University of The Plata in Argentina. Soon after, he transferred to the Antillean Adventist University in Puerto Rico, where he worked as an associate pastor for the university church, under the leadership of Abiezer Rodriguez.

In May 2016, he completed his Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Theology, and enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), where he also served as the administrative pastor for One Place Fellowship. He completed his Master of Divinity in May 2019. He is an avid reader, a devoted youth and young adult minister and is passionate about bridging the gap between faith and everyday life.

Morales now serves the Wayne, Hackensack and Jersey City Heights church district.

Steven Fonseca Ortiz, the new lead pastor of the Princeton and West Long Branch Spanish churches, is a passionate and charismatic young man. His biggest passion is sharing Jesus' true, loving character with



Steven Fonseca Ortiz, alongside his wife, Linda, is the new lead pastor of the Princeton and West Long Branch Spanish churches.



Gabriel Morales is the new district pastor for the Wayne, Hackensack and Jersey City Heights churches.

those whom are skeptical, while creating intergenerational Adventist communities where people of all backgrounds, ages and races can feel welcome and safe to continue to grow in Christ.

Fonseca is originally from Costa Rica. He studied Diplomacy and International Relations before accepting God's call to ministry. During his first year of ministry, God led him to create the first Adventist-organized ministry on the campus of the National University of Costa Rica. Since then, youth and young adults have been his main focus.

The Washington Conference invited him to join them as the part-time Hispanic youth coordinator in 2015, a position he held for two years. In 2017 he became the full-time youth pastor for the North Cascade church (Wash.), a relatively large community where God successfully led for the last three years.

Fonseca believes that leadership can be summed up in one word: service. He has been able to serve with the help of God and his wife, Linda, who he met in Washington while she was a Bible worker and youth coordinator for the Hispanic Ministries.

They are grateful and excited to have such a culturally diverse district, and are ready and committed to serve and guide this community into the vision in which God has prepared.

Ministry Continues Despite Pandemic Restrictions

During the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Conference leadership recognized one thing: Ministry does not stop. Woven into their COVID-19 “Ministry Action Plan” are words of encouragement: “Worship is a way of life and has not, and will not, be canceled. Ministry does not stop because we cannot worship together in a building. Ministry can and will continue because of you.”

Pastors, teachers, church members and students quickly adapted to virtual worship and classes, finding innovative ways to remain connected and share Jesus with others. Pastors met weekly via Zoom, sharing what was working within their regions and seeking guidance for difficult circumstances. Innovation and perseverance flourished across churches and schools during quarantine.

Countless Bible studies, small group studies and Sabbath Schools continued via video conference and teleconference. The Ohio Conference Hispanic Ministries Department conducted multiple online evangelism campaigns. God’s work continued in earnest across the state, with members and leaders engaged at all levels of ministry, most lasting long after the state of Ohio began to reopen.

“Almost daily I receive inspirational stories about churches in the Ohio Conference that are moving the mission of the Church forward in our new reality. Some remain active in the newly discovered sanctuaries of live streaming and social media worship platforms, while others have returned to simplified live worship services and experiment with air hugs and elbow



bumps as new ways to greet members and guests,” shares Bob Cundiff, Ohio Conference president.

Cundiff continues, “Did you know that during the pandemic, the Ohio Conference has had 75 baptisms? It’s true! These outreach events have largely been conducted virtually and have opened a world of new possibilities for how we can build God’s kingdom remotely. I’ve said all along that we will emerge from COVID-19 different than we entered, and part of that different will be a new appreciation for digital evangelism.”

One such story occurred in the Middletown church. After completing her Bible studies with District Pastor Fred Shoemaker, Jody Kelly chose to be baptized on Independence Day in the Little Miami River (pictured). What made Kelly’s baptism even more special was the presence of her grandmother, Middletown church matriarch Mildred Hall, who has known and shared the love of Christ with generations of people, including her.

Later, Allison Singhoffe’s baptism took place in the Beaver creek church. “It’s been a while that this special day has been in the making,” says Pastor Delthony Gordon. “God has brought the timing together just right.”

Seventeen baptisms took place during the “Discovering the Power of God’s Word” virtual Hispanic Ministries evangelistic campaign, presented from the First Hispanic Church of Columbus in Westerville. Additional campaigns are being planned statewide.

Cundiff encourages pastors and church leaders to continue utilizing and growing their new digital platforms: “The pandemic has pushed our society further into the digital world. Let’s see what God can do with a group of Spirit-led believers when they unleash their pent-up energy to share the gospel with Ohio!”



Lail Fuentes, pastor of the First Hispanic church, presents a virtual series, resulting in 17 baptisms.

Seeds of Christ's Love Sown at Summer Camp

All effective ministries are relational and have a foundation of mentoring and discipleship. Summer camp is one of the most effective ministries in reaching children, youth and young adults—an effective way for churches to grow young. Summer camp is where children, youth, young adults and adults come together for the purpose of drawing closer to Jesus through nature activities. At summer camp, one can see an intergenerational ministry of mentoring and discipleship.

At the Tween Camp in 2016, Matthew Taulbee and Zachary Macomber were two amazing counselors at Camp Mohaven in Danville. They ran daily activities, shared the love of Jesus through Scripture, music, skits and genuine care for their campers. The six campers in their cabin saw Christ in Taulbee and Macomber, and longed to be like them when they grew older. That is exactly what happened, as five out of six campers worked at Camp Mohaven in 2020—held in a COVID-19 compliant “bubble,” per state guidelines.

Charles Ames was a counselor, canoe director and lifeguard. He loves being at Camp Mohaven, impacting the lives of campers for Jesus. Andrew Jones worked for Mohaven manager Carrie Brown, ensuring all campers had a beautiful, functional camp to learn about Jesus. Joshua Fahey was a counselor and lifeguard who made sure campers were safe in the pool, while helping campers learn more about Jesus. Mark Ames, the younger brother of Charles, was a lifeguard and a staff-in-training. His hard work and enthusiasm was contagious and a great witness for campers. As sports director and counselor, Jed Williamson’s love for sports and praising and living for Christ are powerful examples that there are young adults who love Jesus and live joyful lives.

This is why summer camp ministry is so effective. Young adult counselors are mentored to share Jesus through the gifts God has given them. They use those gifts to touch the lives of campers. Campers see Jesus when their counselors sing enthusiastically, pray with them, have cabin devotions or lead out in activities. These young campers look up to their young adult counselors and make decisions to follow Jesus.

During that summer in 2016, counselors Taulbee and Macomber touched the lives of those five young men. And this summer, these five touched the lives of



In 2016, (back row) Matthew Taulbee, Charles Ames, Andrew Jones, Joshua Fahey, Zachary Macomber, (front row) Mark Ames, Logen Bailey and Jed Williamson learn about Jesus together.



In 2020, counselors (back row) Charles Ames, Andrew Jones, Joshua Fahey, (front row) Mark Ames and Jed Williamson make a difference in the lives of campers.

many campers for Christ. The seeds of Christ’s love they sow will truly bear fruit. Ohio Conference staff can’t wait to see how many campers will follow in their footsteps working at Camp Mohaven, touching the lives of new generations of campers.—Edward Marton, Youth Director

Pennsylvania Pen

A Year to Remember

This year has been a year to remember, beginning with the presidential impeachment trials and political party lines being drawn. Next came the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation, border closings and the resulting economic crisis around the world. George Floyd's death brought intense attention to the fight for racial justice—all this happening in an election year.

Society has changed. The events of 2020 have changed how we do things and how we think. But one thing remains the same: Jesus' call for us to go and share the gospel.

This was to be the year we simultaneously held 120 evangelistic series across our state. It was the biggest evangelistic initiative we had ever planned in Pennsylvania. The changes in our world altered our plans, but God has done something even bigger.

We adapted and changed the way we do evangelism in just a few weeks. One hundred percent of our churches and pastors were engaged in online evangelism, connecting with hundreds and thousands of interested persons and are continuing to build relationships and study the Bible with people. While most of our evangelistic meetings are moving to the spring, 20 will take place this fall.

Please continue to pray for and support our ongoing bold attempt to "Reach Everyone, Everywhere" within our Pennsylvania borders.

This year will go down as a monumental year. And who knows what 2021 will hold? Life as we know it may never be the same, but one thing is sure: Jesus is coming again. Now, more than ever, our church needs "Total Member Involvement," proclaiming to all of our friends, family, neighbors and co-workers that Jesus saves.



Tim Bailey
Ministerial Director

Invitations Lead to Baptisms in Church Network

The Simple Way, a Pittsburgh house church network, is not your typical church. Instead of a building, members meet in homes. There are currently three church groups meeting in Carnegie, Carrick and Ingram. They work together to share the gospel with family and friends in their neighborhoods and at work. Members are intentional in praying and looking for opportunities to connect with and invite people to join them.

These simple invitations to worship and study together are changing lives. Just ask Tom, Crystal, Randy, Rick and Karen, who were all recently baptized at The Simple Way. Tom's neighbors, Paul and Jessica Spradley, invited him to join them when they began their home church in Carrick. He began attending and also joined a weekly men's group. Crystal also received an invitation from the Spradleys, and, not only accepted their invitation to come to the gathering, but invited her sister too.

Rick has rarely missed church since being invited by Robbie, who leads the Narcotics Anonymous group at the Carnegie location, where the two met. Rick began praying that God would bring him a life partner. He met Karen in his apartment building and invited her to church. She soon joined a Bible study with Rick and made her own decision for baptism.

Randy attended a health screening at Carnegie where he met John Kent (pictured baptizing Tom), lead pastor at The Simple Way, who invited him to church. "He joined us that very day," shares Kent. "Over the nearly two years since, he has faithfully attended and grown so much. He loves our simple conversational approach to the weekly Sabbath service. A year ago, he began Bible studies. Time and time again, he has said to me, 'I don't know where I would be without our church. I never knew how much God wanted to be such an important part of my life.'"



Pray, Plan, Plant and Baptize

“Believing in the Lord was one thing; getting to know Him though has been life-changing,” shares Amanda Stevens. “I am not the same person that I was even three months ago. I have yielded my life fully to Jesus. And I love Him. I love reading the Bible and doing Bible studies. I love being around other believers and seeing His light shining through them. And I love that the Lord has provided me with a church family.”

Stevens was recently baptized along with Kathleen Amadio after studying with Leah Crosby, the conference’s assistant church planting director. Crosby is planting a church in the Media, Pa., community—an area with a large population and without a Seventh-day Adventist Church presence. She moved into the area in 2019, and is persistently looking for opportunities to build relationships with people.

She met Stevens at her apartment complex. The two chatted. Crosby offered her Bible studies, and the two began studying together. Eventually, Stevens began attending both the small group meetings on Sabbath and a mid-week Bible study Crosby leads at the local library.

Amadio learned about Crosby’s group through her sister right after the stay-at-home orders were issued as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She immediately accepted an invitation to join the Sabbath worship service through Zoom and expressed an interest



Leah Crosby, the conference’s assistant church planting director, baptizes Kathleen Amadio—a new church member who learned about Jesus through Zoom.

Pray, Plan, Plant is one of Pennsylvania Conference’s eight strategic initiatives for 2018–2023. Here is a summary of this initiative:

New churches are planted to win unreached people in unentered areas. Church plants intentionally target a geographic area with the message of the gospel, creating small groups that provide ongoing Bible study, teaching and encouraging new believers. Planting new churches is a proven way to reach more people and grow God’s kingdom.

in being baptized during one of the discussions.

“A couple weeks later, we talked over the phone about her interest in baptism and set up a time to begin baptismal studies together,” Crosby says. “Kathleen was very dedicated—making multiple appointments with me per week to prepare for her baptism. It was beautiful to me to see her eagerness to study God’s Word and prepare as best as possible for her baptism.”

The two women are the first baptisms of this new church plant group, and both are already sharing their faith with others. Stevens assists Crosby in giving Bible studies to others and is not afraid to share the truths that have changed her life. Amadio invited her siblings to attend her baptism and was surprised when all who lived locally attended. One individual has even attended the mid-week Bible study with her.

“Amanda and Kathleen’s baptisms are a great example of why we plant new churches,” states Gary Gibbs, conference president. “These are two women who otherwise may not have been reached for Jesus. Starting new congregations in areas that have no churches allows us to connect with people in new places and in new ways.”



Continuing Constants in Continual Change

One word has dominated my life over the past six months—change. My calendar, worship experience, work-flow, events and vacations all look significantly different. I've had to shift my focus and how I navigate. We move through life differently now.

For all of us, this list of change continues to grow. We have become, maybe out of necessity, more adaptable and open to shifting how we function. However, several constants remain. As a body of believers, our mission must not change—our methods must.

We are still called to “go, make disciples” in this painful time of adjustment and heightened racial and political tensions. Now is the time for transformational change in how we engage and minister in our communities. This calls for more than shifting our church services online. We must ask if our current outreach and relationships make an impact and difference. Are we engaging with young people; caring for and treating people equally; reaching out to those in need; deepening our own love for God and helping others do the same? Are we completing His mission?

In *Acts of the Apostles*, Ellen White reminds us that “the church is the repository of the grace of Christ; and through the church will be made manifest ... the final and full display of the love of God” (p. 9). Let us remain constant in our mission as believers and welcome transformational change in our methods.



Bill Miller
President

More Than 20,000 Fed During Pandemic

In 2010, Gavin Simpson, now a member of the Harrisonburg (Va.) church, embarked on a life-changing journey of faith as a missionary. Over the last decade, through Eleventh-Hour Laborers, a nonprofit ministering to the less reached regions of the world, he has worked in India, Nepal, Myanmar, and, most recently, Cuba. “We work in-person with the local churches,” he explains. “We train Bible workers and members to do effective community evangelism and outreach. Our Bible workers in Cuba baptized more than 300 individuals last year.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Simpson received emails regarding the lack of food in India, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Benin, Togo, Liberia and Pakistan. “During mission trips, I developed a network with farmers in various cities. I began tapping into these contacts as stores were closed.” Farmers delivered food to churches, and church leaders distributed them to members and neighbors. The ministry has helped feed more than 20,000 people in nine countries.

“This initiative is exceptional because funds are from lay people,” explains Simpson. “Our overseas contacts help coordinate the purchases and delivery of food. Some of our project missionaries work in the interior of countries and travel with food—mainly on motorcycles

(pictured) and on foot—for days to reach people. Food is distributed to all who have needs, regardless of background.”

Simpson adds, “Many who had been praying for relief have seen how God has miraculously brought food to them. In countries where Muslims persecute Christians, the Muslims have been humbled by how the same Christians have brought food to feed them.”

For more information on this ministry, visit pcsda.org/mission_overseas.



Prayer Vigil Stretches Miles to Minneapolis

When crises occur, it's often a natural response for people to come together to help. As America reeled from the public death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, an idea stretching from Maryland to Minneapolis began to form.

Long-time civil rights activists and event organizers Yolanda Banfield, Bill Ellis and Rocky Twyman say they wanted to evoke a moment for positive change in local communities and a sense of unity versus division.

A Virtual Freedom Ride was born, featuring a 1,106-mile-long journey beginning in Potomac Conference's Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, with stops in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus (Ohio), Detroit, Chicago and ending in Minneapolis.

Every night for one week, members of the interfaith community, civic activists and local politicians in cities along the way hosted virtual gatherings, sharing words of encouragement and a call to action and prayer for healing in their community and the nation.

The first night included devotions and prayers from church and political leaders, including Dan Jackson, former North American Division president. That evening, Daniel Xisto, associate pastor for the Takoma Park (Md.) church, gave a powerful charge on the collective responsibility in rising against the evil that ensnares the nation.

"When we join in the sacred work of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, and when we smash the chains of injustice, when we set free those who are oppressed ... when we do all that, our God says light will break forth like the dawn, and it is then that the Almighty says our healing will appear quickly," said Xisto.

Along the route at the virtual stop in Pittsburgh, Jerome Hurst, pastor of Allegheny West Conference's

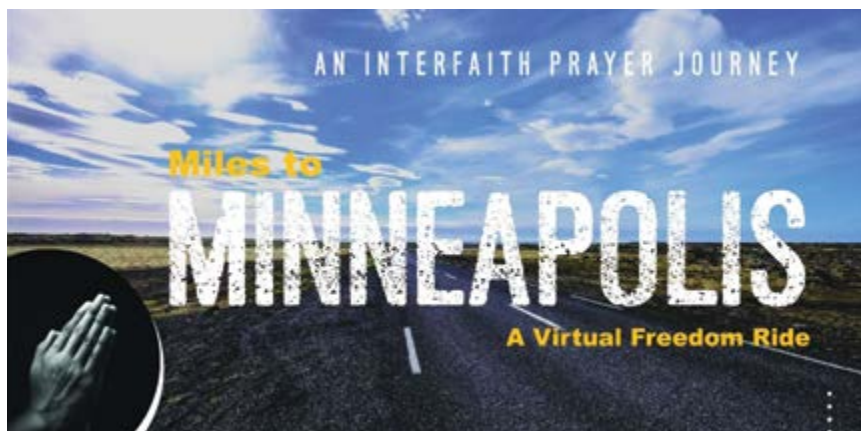


Dan Jackson, the former president of the North America Division; Daniel Xisto, the associate pastor for the Takoma Park (Md.) church; and other church and political leaders gather on the first night of the Miles to Minneapolis virtual prayer journey.

Ethnan Temple church in Pittsburgh, reminded listeners about the responsibility each share as believers. "As Christians, we are commanded to advocate for the rights of others," he said. "It's critical that the church's voice is the loudest among an upheaval of outrage. The appalling silence of the church is sometimes why the community boils over."

Shonetel Brown, county council representative for District 9 in Cleveland, offered a prayer of engagement as the virtual caravan continued to Ohio. At the final stop in Minneapolis, Darnisha Thomas, associate pastor of the Southview church (Minn.), shared active steps in place to keep the momentum of partnership with interfaith, community and business leaders moving in a direction to create positive environments within culture and society.

Miles to Minneapolis organizers say this won't be their last venture into the social justice arena. Twyman says a physical pilgrimage to Minneapolis is a strong possibility.

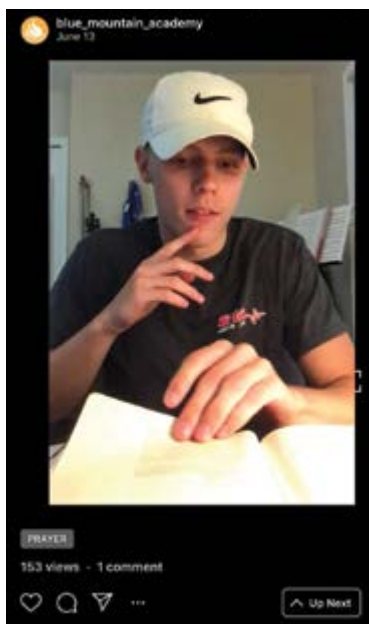




Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

Students Live Out Prayer Life

“[This year] has been a memorable year for the family of Blue Mountain Academy,” says Sanghae Kim, Bible teacher and pastor of the Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) church. “Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the school closed as it was finishing a Week of Prayer. God blessed even that moment with six students getting baptized. And our spiritual revival has not stopped. Henrique Da Silva, a senior at BMA, and other leaders, started a prayer initiative each day at 9 p.m., calling for prayer for God’s protection and guidance. ... Each Wednesday a group of students meet with me online to study *The Great Controversy* and to pray together.”



Jared Chandler (pictured), a Class of 2020 graduate says, “We need to learn more about prayer.” After spending the spring praying online each evening, Chandler suggested students and staff study and go deeper in prayer.

“We decided to read the book, *Prayer*, by Ellen G. White. Each evening at 9 p.m., a student or staff member summarizes a chapter and then prays. We are experiencing the power of prayer together.”

BMA members take one of the 32 chapters, record themselves summarizing it and close with prayer. The videos are later shared on BMA’s Facebook and Instagram pages. “Even if this doesn’t impact lots of people online, we have noticed the students are learning and growing in their understanding of prayer,” shares Esther Hernandez, BMA’s marketing and communication coordinator, who posts the videos.

Yihang Gao and Wenfei Yu, both 2020 seniors, were not raised in Christian homes and never understood why others prayed “in Jesus’ name.” After reading chapter 20, they share: “We finally understand why we need to pray in Jesus’ name and the meaning behind it To pray in Jesus’ name is a reminder to love Him also, to become like Him, to accept Him into our lives To pray in Jesus’ name can also bring us power and confidence ... and reminds us that He is always with us.”

Kim adds, “God has answered many prayers, and we believe He will continue to answer. Join us in praying and being a part of this spiritual revival!”

Academy Updates Look

“They shall all be taught of God,” found in John 6:45 (NIV), is the motto Blue Mountain Academy’s (BMA) founders chose. For more than 60 years, this motto has guided our actions and has led us to constantly strengthen our identity to continue to transmit an image that reflects the core values of our education, mission and scope.

This spring BMA launched a new website and updated its logo. This new unified presentation of our visual identity with a more contemporary look seeks to keep the proposal fresh, and, at the same time, approach our audience clearly and intentionally with our current strong values and strengths.

The same motto of the past is refocused, using the prism of a new visual identity to increase the possibilities of reaching all young people of the world, thus transmitting our message in a powerful way—committed to Adventist education that transforms the present and prepares us for heaven.—*Burney Culpepper, Principal*



Can We Afford a Seventh-day Adventist Education?

As I talk with parents and students about obtaining a Seventh-day Adventist education, an issue that often arises is how can they afford the investment and make it a reality. As an alumnus of Adventist education from elementary through graduate school, I understand this can be a challenge for families every year.

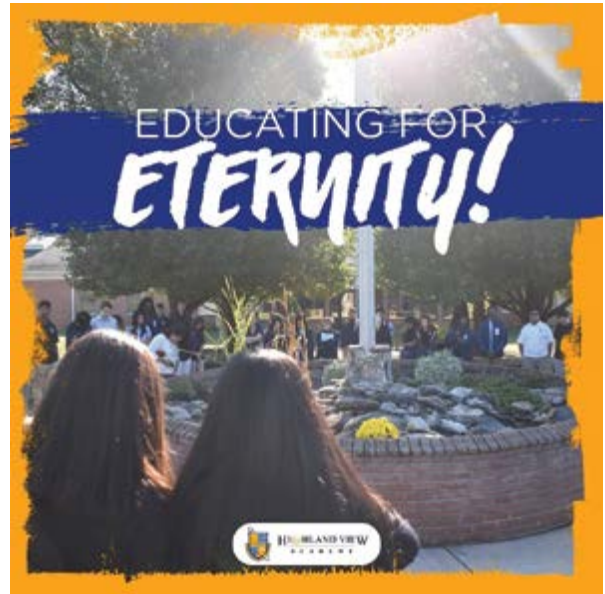
Below is a guide to assist in planning for a Seventh-day Adventist high school education.

1. Prayer and commitment. The first step is for the whole family to pray and commit to the idea that a Seventh-day Adventist education is important to them. Families will not succeed unless they have this mindset. They value what they place importance on and commit to working on together. You are preparing your children for this life and for eternity to come.

2. Step forward in faith. Apply to the school, take action for your children, take a tour, talk with the school faculty and staff to see how a typical schedule or day looks like and bring questions to be answered.

3. Plan and fill out financial paperwork. For Highland View Academy, you can start the process by filling out a FACTS Tuition Assessment plan that will help you determine what help is available to you. Visit online.factsmgt.com/signin/3DB2P. Achievement-based scholarships for academics, leadership, music, sports and summer employment are available. Need-based scholarships like church matching (also known as 3-way scholarship for some schools), DeHaan Matching and Worthy Student scholarships are available. Discounts for multi-family members or prepayment plans are also typically offered. Be prepared to ask for the help that you need; you may be surprised at the ways God will miraculously provide.

4. Explore other avenues of scholarships or grants available to you. Do you work for a business that offers benefits that help with private school tuition? If you work in the Adventist system, you may have a subsidy scholarship available to you. Explore scholarships



with other groups: civic clubs, community foundations, corporate foundations, family foundations or cultural organizations that may be able to help in obtaining a Seventh-day Adventist education.

5. Follow up and report back. Once you apply for scholarships or financial aid from schools, foundations, family members or other areas, report back to them on how this has changed your life and your children's lives. People enjoy stories of changed lives and successful goals and plans, so reach out and say thank you to those who have helped you.

Highland View Academy wants to help parents achieve the goal of obtaining a Seventh-day Adventist education as we seek to prepare our children for this life and for eternity to come. Start the journey by going to our school website: hva-edu.com.
—Andrew S. Lay, Director of Advancement & Development/Alumni Coordinator



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

'The Valiant' Finish Strong

One year ago, the Class of 2020 had no idea what their senior year would look like. By March, it was clear this year would be very different. Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) joined schools around the country as they shut their doors and moved to remote learning platforms. The senior class, "The Valiant," hoped and prayed that plans for the closing events of their final year of high school would still continue. While they did not finish the school year on campus, the Lord blessed and provided a way to hold graduation exercises.

LNAA postponed graduation services until July to accommodate health guidelines. The consecration service was live-streamed via Zoom and YouTube.

This service is unique to LNAA. Each teacher takes the opportunity to bless a specific graduate. It displays the family-like atmosphere at LNAA. Sabbath's baccalaureate program was live-streamed via Lake Nelson church's streaming system. Elisa Maragoto, LNAA's principal, delivered the sermon, highlighting Moses and the process he went through in order to fulfill his God-given purpose.

The real miracle of graduation weekend was the commencement ceremony. Thanks to the generous



Graduate Tricia Biton, along with her classmates, march in to "Pomp and Circumstance."

help from the New Jersey Conference, the Tranquility Valley Retreat Center and many pastors and local members, as well as LNAA teachers, commencement services took place under a big white tent on LNAA's field. This allowed everyone to be together while still following social distancing guidelines and ensuring the safety of those present. Elaine Lopez, principal of the Tranquility Adventist School and former sponsor of the Class of 2020, provided the commencement address, encouraging the students in their walk with God and in preparation for the next steps in their lives.

Staff noted that "The Valiant" class was indeed valiant, embodying this year's school theme: "Be Strong and Courageous."

As the LNAA community looks forward to a new school year and the changes and uncertainties ahead, they are encouraged by the blessings God has provided: safety, health, success and provision. There are many unknowns, but what is known is that, as they cling to Christ, and as they take heed to Joshua's charge to "be strong and courageous," they will continue to see God's blessings in their lives and in their school, just as they witnessed His blessings for the seniors and graduation exercises, says Maragoto.



Class President and Valedictorian Samantha Szelest displays her diploma.

PHOTOS BY MARCOS SEFERLIS AND KEVIN WARE

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

PFA POST



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Virtual Week of Prayer Gives Tools to Fight Anxiety

It was Thursday, March 12. Students had just completed their third quarter mid-term exams when the mandate from the State of Pennsylvania closed all Berks County schools. Suddenly Pine Forge Academy (PFA) was in full swing of implementing COVID-19 safety precautions, and parents transported their children home from the boarding academy over the weekend.

The school calendar was adjusted, and the following week, originally slated to be the Spring Week of Prayer, became spring break. Teachers took that week to prepare for their uncertain, yet exciting journey into distance learning for the fourth quarter.

Fortunately, PFA students already used Google Classroom, and although things were different for academic learning, Principal H. Clifford Reynolds, III, felt it imperative that the students receive the planned spiritual blessing and encouragement so desperately needed during this time.

Dwayne Wilson, academy chaplain, and Pax Fordham ('20), the United Student Movement (USM) president, began planning an online Week of Prayer, featuring South Central Conference Youth Director Michael Polite, to be aired via Zoom and facilitated by the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Media Center. The services were live-streamed through PFA, USM and AEC social media outlets.

Over the course of the week, Polite's theme, "Under Pressure: How to Fight Against Anxiety," struck a strong chord with the 144 students, as the series received 882 views. A panel of students facilitated a Q & A session after each message, and, on most

nights, Anaeya Perry ('20), Brianna Hayden ('20) and Sh'Dai Forrester ('20) provided music.

Polite covered five topics:

- 1. Take a Breath**—When feeling anxious, go back to the fundamental element and take an intentional deep breath (Genesis 2:7).
- 2. Wait, Let's Pause**—Sabbath means rest. God made it for mankind. Use it to refresh your soul (Mark 2:27).
- 3. Brain Freeze**—Arrest the seven mental thieves: comparison, blaming, doomsday focusing, regret, fortune telling, mind reading and fairness (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- 4. Never Say Should**—Do what you want, not what you should! Grow the things you want in life with the empowering principle of reaping and sowing (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- 5. Time-Boggling**—Be anxious for nothing because God already knows the answers to all of the problems you will face in this life. He doesn't see time as we do (Psalm 139:16).

USM Religious Vice President Kalin Griffin ('21) says, "Pastor Polite's words did not fall onto rocky ground. They fell into my soul, and I use them in my daily life." Danyel Brewer ('22) sums up the week when she remarks, "I enjoyed these sermons because they were very relatable to me."



Panelists Michael Polite, youth director of the South-Central Conference, and students Akiyah Maxwell ('23), Erin Harrell ('20), Danyel Brewer ('22), Jahni Monticquee ('21) and Leonardo Laroque ('21) share words of wisdom during the virtual Week of Prayer.

Post is published in the *Visitor* by the Pine Forge Academy ■ P.O. Box 338, Pine Forge, PA 19548
Phone: (610) 326-5800 ■ Fax: (610) 326-5152 ■ pineforgeacademy.org ■ Principal, H. Clifford Reynolds, III ■ Editor, Tracey Jackson

Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Academy Holds Socially Distanced Graduation



Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) held an outdoor commencement service during the COVID-19 pandemic late July for both its eighth-grade and senior classes. Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md., located in a county where outdoor group gatherings of up to 250 people were allowed, graciously shared their lawn so that the Class of 2020 could have an in-person ceremony with their immediate families. The event was also livestreamed so that other relatives and friends could be a part of the celebration. "SAA is so proud of its graduates and grateful that, in this year of unusual circumstances, they could be honored for their achievements in a public way," says Head Principal Tissiana Bowerman.

School Welcomes New Staff Members

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) is pleased to welcome two new educators for the 2020–2021 school year. Laura Steinert joins SAA's high school teaching staff in the capacity of English teacher. Her name might sound familiar to SAA families because Steinert began her teaching career at SAA during the 1999–2000 school year.

She has been instructing at Beltsville Adventist School (Md.) as the middle school reading teacher for the past 11 years. Steinert has experience teaching a range of ages from third grade to collegiate level classes. She holds a master's degree in Education, and, most recently, furthered her training by attending reading workshop sessions at Teachers College, Columbia University.



"Teaching is all about connections and inspiration, with an occasional dash of unexpected playfulness," Steinert says. "I am excited to work with our high school students as they dig deep into classic

and modern literature this year." She and her husband, Owen, have three boys.

Myrna Biswas Nowrangi, the new high school STEM educator who is teaching biology, zoology and integrated STEM, most recently taught at Highland

View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. A national STEM-certified educator, she has 10 years of science teaching experience in higher education and secondary education.

"I believe every student is different, and not everyone learns the same way, which is why I like to customize learning for my students," Nowrangi says. She likes to use hands-on inquiry and open-ended exploration in her teaching, focusing on real-world issues and problems, and including engineering design processes.



Nowrangi has a master's degree in Micro/Molecular Biology from Andrews University (Mich.).

Nowrangi says, "My goal is to see students in my classroom grow in their faith and become more like Christ. As an educator, I came to realize teaching is my calling, while science is my passion. Someone once said that calling is bigger than passion. I agree with that statement completely." She and her husband, Vivek, have a deep love for God.

Head Principal Tissiana Bowerman says, "We welcome both of these teaching professionals to the SAA family, and are thankful for the expertise and dedication they bring in their respective fields."

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

New Beginnings at Our Academy

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) elementary students noticed a few new faces in their classrooms at the beginning of the 2020–21 school year.

Former fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, Emily Cowell, took the third- and fourth-grade position after the passing of former teacher Kimberly Orr, while Michele O’Geare moved from her first- and second-grade position to fill the ELL/reading specialist role vacated by Michelle Church.

Two new teachers, recent graduates of Union College (Neb.), have joined SVA staff. “They are both star prospects with glowing references and very exciting skill sets. The administration is confident they will bring youthful passion and the very latest methodologies to their students at SVA.”

Dani Arthur is an athlete, scholar and leader. She is a detailed planner and is fun but businesslike in the classroom. She has excellent management skills and is rigorous in terms of providing instruction for the basics and then pushing students to think critically. Her teaching acumen and interaction with students are well beyond her years. Arthur is excited about starting her career teaching a fifth- and sixth-grade combo class, her favorite range.

Ivy Arreguin discovered her love for teaching during a year’s mission service on the island of Chuuk in the South Pacific. Her travels and her family background give her an international flair. She is a fluent Spanish speaker and is excited about incorporating Spanish lessons into instruction with the young children. Arreguin, like Arthur, is a very meticulous planner. She is creative and engaging. She reads students well, noticing when they are confused, hurt, confident or tired. She exudes a lot of care and love for her students. The administration believes Arreguin will be a phenomenal addition to the first- and second-grade team.



Dani Arthur, Nick White and Ivy Arreguin—this year’s new Spring Valley Academy staff members—arrive with creativity and passion.

In addition to the two new teachers, Nick White steps into the IT director position vacated by Jim Johnson. White is an SVA alumnus who still has family in the area. He graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a degree in Computer Systems Administration in 2010. The university immediately hired him to be its Information Technology Audio Visual Technology supervisor.

By education and experience, White is fully qualified to fill the IT director role. Having walked the SVA halls as a student, he has built-in passion and loyalty to this school. The school could not find a more ideal person to carry on their technology support.—*Darren Wilkins*



IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God - Value Knowledge - Accept a Life of Service

Long-Awaited 2020 Commencement Inspires Graduates

Often the scene of athletic contests, Zirkle Gymnasium transformed into a house of worship for a properly masked and social-distanced Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) Class of 2020 commencement service.

"In these few precious moments that we have together before we go our separate ways, may we turn attention from ourselves long enough to see our Savior and gain strength and courage to stand for the right in the contests of life," Principal Don Short encouraged. He challenged graduates to, "rise above the world's mediocrity and choose excellent lives, not of timid decency or minimal reality, but of holy boldness in Christian service and self-sacrifice."

Gabrielle Patrick (pictured below) echoed this theme in her class president's address:

"We took this year and made the best out of it. We took our hardships and faced them head-on as a class. We faced our senior year with bravery and determination, although there were a few tears along the way. We went straight toward our hardships, and, with the



support of each other, our families, the faculty and staff of SVA and God, we made it.

"When we chose our class scripture at the beginning of this year, we did not realize how much God influenced our decision and how meaningful it would be. 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' (Josh. 1:9, NIV). As we go out and start this next part of our lives, we know we will have many successes and adventures. There will be storms and challenges along the way. We can choose our response. ... We can run from the storms, or we can press together, support each other and face challenges head-on. We do not have to be afraid or dismayed, because we have the confidence that God is with us wherever we go. He will guide us through the storms.

"Class of 2020, we will forever be a family, and no matter where we go or what we do, we will always be part of the SVA family. I am proud to be here with you all today because we made it together, not necessarily like we would have hoped, but we did it together! Life sends each and every one of us challenges. Let's choose our responses. Class of 2020, I challenge you to be strong and courageous in everything you do, and no matter where life takes you, know that God will always be with you!"



www.ta.edu **TATODAY**

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Seniors Recognized at Home and Drive-in Ceremony

Last school year wasn't ideal. The COVID-19 outbreak had parents, students, teachers and staff on edge. The combination of "senioritis" and distance learning enhanced the load of pressure on the Class of 2020. Math teacher D'Anyia Brezzell attacked this concern straight on: "With so much pressure on our seniors, I wanted to encourage them by handwriting each of them a personalized note and mailing it to their home."

Carla Thrower, TA principal, and other staff members brainstormed what special thing they could do to make up for not having a Junior/Senior Banquet, class trip to the Bahamas, mission trip to Thailand or three-day graduation weekend.

In lieu of typical end-of-the-year events, the administration assigned a day for each senior to be honored. Each day Thrower drove to a student's home to present graduation regalia, including cords and medals. A parade of cars filled with faculty, staff, students and family members followed Thrower to celebrate the student.

Senior Mari Dortch says, "It made us very happy and grateful. We [were] a little emotional, but mostly excited to be able to do this with each other, though it [was] not under ideal circumstances."

The culminating event for the Class of 2020 was a drive-in graduation in July where students were



Senior Aneka Bussue tries on her cap and gown, with the help of her mother (right) and aunt (left).



honored on Takoma Academy's field with 20" x 30" senior photos, fanfare and regalia.

The school administration ensured that social distancing and appropriate protocols were maintained. Students listened to speeches from Sherina Moses, class president; Kristi Barnes, valedictorian; and commencement speaker Diane Wallace Booker, the executive director of U.S. Dream Academy. Various colleges and universities presented National Honor Students with recognition and scholarships.

Thrower says that even with school year challenges, "TA continues to work to support students in all their endeavors. God loves them, and so do we!"



Principal Carla Thrower visits Jaden Elliott at home to celebrate his Class of 2020 accomplishments.

Ministry Around the World: Swiss Listener Shares About WGTS

Much like books can stretch our imagination and transport us to new and exciting places, the radio signal of WGTS 91.9 has the ability to reach beyond our area and bring people from throughout the world into our listening family.

Meet WGTS 91.9 listener Christian Sollberger, a pastor of a Mennonite church in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. He discovered the station when his daughter attended her Swiss friend's wedding in Washington, D.C., and she started listening. "Since then, I tune into WGTS several times a week," says Sollberger, "especially as I pray when I'm jogging or hiking.

"As soon as I turn it on, the 'encouragement engine' is started," he says.

"I like the 'parfum,' or the 'atmosphere,' of the station. It is very authentic, with fun and deepness at the same time. I like the presence of the Word. Without being heavy and liturgic, the Word is much present and powerful.

I also like the music, the testimonies, which are short, encouraging, and powerful, and the people at the mic. I really feel the slogan 'always encouraging' incarnated and strongly focused by all the people working for WGTS."

A pastor of 23 years, Sollberger and his wife, Fabienne (pictured), along with many volunteers, church members, and friends, have recently transformed a national military arsenal building into a place of Christian hope and life in their community. They have four children and one grandchild, with another on the way.



"As soon as I turn it on, the 'encouragement engine' is started."

WGTS Receives Award for Best Christian Workplace

The Best Christian Workplaces Institute (BCWI) has recognized WGTS 91.9 as a "Certified Best Christian Workplace" for 2020. Earlier in the year, staff members took a 55-question survey to share their reflections on the workplace culture and environment. Based on those surveys, WGTS 91.9 was granted the distinction upon its first attempt.

The BCWI gives its certification to businesses based on overall engagement, as well as eight additional factors which include: "Fantastic Teams, Life-Giving Work, Outstanding Talent, Uplifting Growth, Rewarding Compensation, Inspirational Leadership, Sustainable Strategy, and Healthy Communication."

BCWI says it's their mission to "equip and inspire Christian leaders to build a flourishing workplace." Their goal is to make Christian workplaces the most effective workplaces in the world.

"It is such an honor for us all to serve the Nation's Capital and to work together as a focused and passionate team while doing so. The certification by BCWI is confirmation of what I am privileged to witness every day—a team that loves to serve," said WGTS 91.9 General Manager Kevin Krueger.



KETTERING COLLEGE



*Congratulations
to the
2020 graduates of
Kettering College!*



Kettering College Celebrates 2020 Graduates with Drive-Thru Graduation Ceremony

Kettering College held their summer commencement ceremony as a drive-thru ceremony to celebrate its 2020 graduates on Friday, July 10. Over 200 graduates from eight programs participated in the ceremony.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional commencement ceremony had to be canceled. The drive-thru graduation ceremony provided the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the graduates while adhering to CDC social distancing guidelines.

Graduates and their families arrived in their cars to drive through the ceremony. They were welcomed by festive music performed by members of the Spring Valley Academy band under the direction of Donald Huff. Graduates had the opportunity to get out of their cars and take pictures in front of a special Kettering College backdrop. They then moved to the stage, where their names were read off by one of the Kettering College academic deans. In addition to receiving their diplomas from Kettering College president, Nate Brandstater, graduates also received a gift from the Kettering College Alumni Association.

"The celebration of the achievements of our graduates is always one of the most important things we do," said President Brandstater. "This year our students have worked particularly hard, and we have all overcome immense challenges together. I was thrilled to be able to personally congratulate each one."

As the graduates and their families left, they also received ice cream to-go from local favorite, Graeter's Ice Cream. The ceremony was live streamed so friends and family members who were unable to attend could still tune in and celebrate their graduates' accomplishments.

Brandstater granted 26 Associate of Science degrees and 155 bachelor's degrees, including 94 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. Twenty-eight students graduated from the Occupational Therapy Doctoral program and 58 students graduated from the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.



WE ARE THE LIGHT



John Lewis is quoted saying, “You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone – any person or any force – dampen, dim, or diminish your light ... Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.”

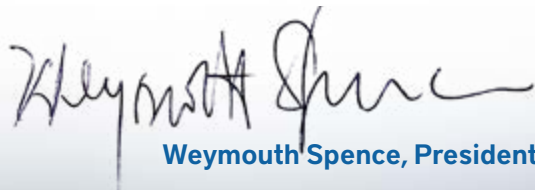
In this challenging moment in our history, I’m finding it more and more true that WAU must shine a light in our community. Our theme for our 2020 year is “Spirit Of Community.” This mindset permeates every aspect of what it means to be a meaningful institution in this challenged world. Our guiding light will always be Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As a university, we endeavor to exemplify our firm faith that this institution is blessed to make a difference beyond the textbook and classroom. Our solemn challenge is to strive for the growth and success of every one of God’s children who are entrusted to our care. Our campus community is a spectrum of color; thus, we must speak up against the injustices that exist in our world that affect the hearts and minds of those we care for. We must be intentional for each soul’s health and safety on our campus and within our influence.

The summer of 2020 was filled with the hope of bringing our students back to campus. We have looked forward to seeing the faces and feeling the buzz of energy that comes with our student’s presence. As we prepared and even published a full piece on our return to campus, the dominos began to fall toward the need to go entirely online. The frustration we all feel toward the disruption that COVID-19 has put into our lives is palpable. This pandemic has created an ongoing need to assess and re-assess every decision, every direction, and every directive we put in place.

What will never waiver is our absolute dedication to our students, faculty, and staff’s safety and security. We’ve felt our students’ frustration as they’ve had to endure the changes that come with unfulfilled plans and the shifts that come with going online. We mourn with them. We will continue to be firm in our resolve to be our very best for those who look to us to lead. We resolve ourselves to continually look to their physical health and their spiritual, social, and societal health as well.

Pray for Adventist Education today and pray for WAU as we move into this new year. Your support of WAU makes a difference, and we feel your prayers. We know God is leading and will guide our path.

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence, President

Spirit
OF COMMUNITY

GATEWAY TO SERVICE

PATRICK E. CRAREY



ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



The Association of Independent Institutions, named Patrick E. Crarey, II 2020 A.I.I. Athletic Director of the Year this week. Crarey, in his tenth year leading W.A.U. Athletics & Men's Basketball has added another milestone in his legacy. It's the first time in W.A.U. history that an award of this magnitude has been given to a WAU AD.

The conference noted, "In Crarey's 10th year in this leadership position, Washington Adventist made a successful transition from NCAA DII to NAIA affiliation, the Shock qualified for A.I.I. postseason tournament events in women's soccer, men's basketball and women's basketball. Crarey earned the A.I.I. Coach of the Year award this winter after the Takoma Park, MD based university had a Top-10 NAIA national ranking and No. 1 seeding in the 2020 A.I.I. Championship Tournament. The team had a 23-9 record and represented the conference in the NAIA National Championship."

Crarey has guided the men's basketball team to four national tournament appearances, one USCAA National Championship, and one A.I.I. Conference Championship, and has produced several professional players during his tenure.

Notable Hires During Crarey's Tenure

Alex J. Sandoval - Hired by Crarey in 2014 to lead the women's soccer program. In the 2016-2017 campaign, he led the squad to a 9-5-1 record and a berth to the USCAA National Championships. It was the program's first time back since 2013. Sandoval, known for his recruiting, has boosted the rosters for both the men's and women's teams. He is in his second season as the men's soccer head coach.

Ele Margelos - Hired by Crarey in 2018. Margelos, in her first two seasons, has guided the women's soccer program to two back-to-back A.I.I. Conference Tournaments the first time in program history.

Jerry McFarland - Hired by Crarey in 2018. McFarland has been a vital part of the Athletics Department. He ensures that all programs stay within budget guidelines, he manages student-professionals & game management and is a liaison for the business office.

Harry Thomas Jr. - Hired by Crarey in 2020. Coach Thomas as a staple in the D.C. Softball community, he brought a new connection for the softball program. The softball team was 1-1 before their season was brought to a halt due to the Pandemic.

Jered Lyons - Hired by Crarey in 2014 to lead the women's basketball program. Lyons has guided the squad to three consecutive winning seasons, five tournament appearances, and three semifinals. Coach Lyons led students on a mission trip to El Salvador. He is the longest-tenured and winningest coach in women's basketball program history.

Acro-Airs

Acro Airs - In Crarey's tenure, he has helped with two Acrofest (A gathering of Seventh-day Adventist Acrobat teams across the nation) in conjunction with Head Coach Ben Johnson. During Acrofest, countless meetings lead to this national event to ensure safety, logistics, and overall good experiences for the teams participating.

Coach Crarey

"I have been blessed to receive recognition throughout the years, but nothing can compare to this. This is the ultimate team award. This award is about all of our staff, coaches, and student-athletes. We work extremely hard to provide them with the best experience we possibly can. I am blessed to work at Washington Adventist University under the leadership of Dr. Spence. His support is what leads the way for our successes. Thank you to everyone at Washington Adventist University and the Association of Independent Institutions that made this possible I am truly honored and humbled."

That Nothing Be Lost

The New Testament account of how Jesus used a small boy's lunch to miraculously feed a multitude of more than 5,000 is a remarkable story and one that speaks of God's abundant care for every person, in even our mundane daily needs.

But look what happens next: "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost'" (John 6:12, KJV). Having graciously provided for their hunger, Jesus now invites His followers and all of the crowd to be part of the next part of the story.

"Gather up the fragments," He says. The leftovers, the crumbs, that which might otherwise be lost. Just when people were thinking of taking an after-lunch nap, Jesus has other ideas. "It's not the end of the story," He seems to be saying. "Your part is just beginning. Get up, and make sure that nothing is lost – that even the smallest fragments are saved."

As we reflect on the last seven months of living through a pandemic, the words of Jesus, spoken over the results of His miraculous intervention for a hungry multitude, suddenly take on new relevance and urgency: "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

The standard of divine love is that nothing be lost. Every life, every person, every situation, every need, every day, every time – this is what our Mission demands of us. I've said it before, and it bears repeating: This is our most sacred responsibility – that people trust us with their lives. Nothing – nothing – can set that aside. This is the foundation of healthcare. This is the foundation of our society. It is elemental.

God's love leaves no one outside of providential care. We have seen what happens when there is inequity in the access and delivery of healthcare. This is not the future we choose. There are those who would make some persons more expendable than others, who would allow privilege and position to determine our policies and our response. Our Mission is clear: "We extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing." There is no higher standard than the one that has been set through divine love and that Jesus was affirming when He insisted that "nothing be lost."

It is our highest privilege and responsibility to be fully engaged in extending God's care to those we serve. May our prayer be for clarity, strength and persistence in this task and calling – because the circumstances and our Mission insist on nothing less.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Adventist HealthCare employees participate in the Together We Pray event that included liturgy and prayer.

Affirming Equity

Adventist HealthCare Responds in the Aftermath of George Floyd's Death

In the weeks following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was killed by white police in Minneapolis, Minnesota, hundreds of protests broke out across the country. People spoke out against racial inequality and injustice – especially toward black Americans – as long suppressed tension erupted with calls for accountability and reform.

Adventist HealthCare leaders recognized a unique opportunity and responsibility to acknowledge and address the issues that were affecting our patients, caregivers and members of our communities.

In a show of solidarity against racial injustice, on June 5, 2020, every healthcare facility within the Adventist HealthCare network paused at noon for "Together We Pray," a time of reflection and prayer. The event, organized by Adventist HealthCare leaders and Spiritual Care team, provided a safe place for colleagues to come together, express their feelings and pray in unity.

Gathering with employees in lobbies and multipurpose rooms, hospital presidents shared personal thoughts about the challenging moment. "Today, we come together to pray for the healing of our nation," said Anthony Stahl, president of Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center. "We come together to pray for an end to racism and social injustice."

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Anita Jenkins, CEO of Adventist HealthCare-managed Howard University Hospital shared, "We have been able to see all around the United States time and time again – and this time it seems to be clearer – that there are real systems in place that target one or another above another." She concluded by affirming that, "we will continue to treat all people with the same dignity and respect who come through our doors at Howard."



Anita Jenkins, Howard University Hospital CEO

"One hundred and fifty seven years ago, Abraham Lincoln stood in a field just 63 miles from here and made a speech that started out in part saying the country was dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," shared Dan Cochran, president of Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center. "But we've seen throughout history since then many times, and real vividly in the past two weeks, that we have a lot of work to do. We all have a lot of work to do."

"Reaching out to people to show them support, standing with them together and making your position known, that is the most critical thing at this moment, because I feel like that for the first time, we may be able to change this country's history," said Eunmee Shim, president of Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center.

On June 16, Terry Forde, president and chief executive officer of Adventist HealthCare, released a memo to all employees reiterating our healthcare's system stance on racism, inclusion and diversity.

In the release, also signed by the senior leadership of Adventist HealthCare, Forde said, "We recognize the evil of racism that permeates our society's structures and

institutions, including how racial disparities that have always existed have been more clearly illuminated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We acknowledge the need for continued and renewed action to address racism, including engaging with and supporting marginalized communities, coaching and training leaders, and changing systems especially within our diverse organization with a Mission of service and healing."

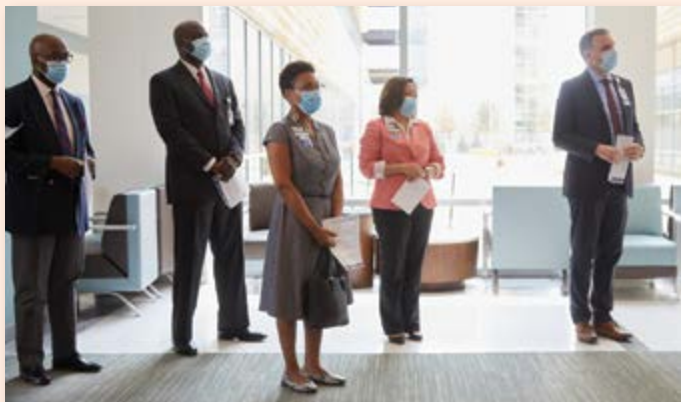
"The Adventist HealthCare family affirms that all people, including our team members across our system have the right to feel safe and protected," emphasized Forde. "We affirm that they have the right to be heard and to be engaged in constructive dialogue. And we affirm that our team members belong to and are cared for by our organization."

Marilyn Lynk serves as Adventist HealthCare executive director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. "Adventist HealthCare has long recognized and leveraged the racial and ethnic diversity of our workforce and the communities we serve," explains Lynk. She notes that over the last several weeks, she, along with other senior leaders, have held Listening Sessions with employees to understand what they have been experiencing and to have courageous conversations about race.

"These 60-75 minute sessions offer a safe space for our staff to listen and to learn from one another about what we are experiencing right now and its impact...and what meaningful action looks like," Lynk says.

"The feedback from these sessions, along with numerous conversations other leaders have been having with their teams, will help inform the strategic work of a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Steering Committee whose core purpose is to cultivate EDI in our programs, process and policies at Adventist HealthCare," she shares.

Adventist HealthCare leaders have stated that they will continue to acknowledge, affirm and act in the face of racial injustice. "We affirm the sanctity and value of human life," concludes Forde. "This is our cornerstone. As an organization with deep roots in a religious tradition that affirms each person as created in the image of God, we condemn any abuse – passive or active, attitudinal or physical – of any person. We are each and every one the children of God."



(L to R) Devon Bennett, Chief Nursing Officer, Adventist HealthCare (AHC) White Oak Medical Center (WOMC); Kevin Cargill, CFO, AHC WOMC; Marilyn Lynk, Executive Director, AHC Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Ann Roda, VP, AHC Mission Integration & Spiritual Care; and Anthony Stahl, President, AHC WOMC, lead the WOMC Together We Pray event.

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Teaching Kids About Cancer

By Cari Zahn



Kettering Cancer Care's CLIMB program is leading the way in creating kid-friendly activities for learning about cancer. The Children's Treehouse Foundation, which developed the program, asked to adopt two activities the Kettering Cancer Care team created to share with all organizations offering this program across the world.

CLIMB, which stands for Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery, offers support to children who have a parent with cancer. The six-week program includes a variety of hands-on activities.

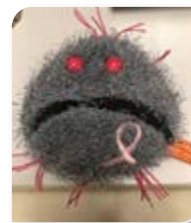
While the program gives a guide to running the group with pre-planned activities, the Kettering Cancer Care team decided to get creative and add their own spin on it.

"In week two, the feeling of the day is confusion," says DeAnn Gallatin, oncology social worker for Kettering Cancer Care. "That's typically the week we're teaching kids about cancer itself and its treatment."

The team uses a stuffed animal "chemo duck" named Victoria that has a port so kids can see what chemotherapy is and where it goes. Plush cells provide another visual, shaped like everything from white blood cells to lymphocytes.



For example, the breast cancer cell is hairy and gray, but it can be flipped to a healthy, cheerful-looking cell when unzipped.



"It's something they can touch and get the whole concept of chemo and radiation," says DeAnn.

Kids can then demonstrate what they've learned about cancer cells—and have a snack—with the next activity. With two sugar cookies, the kids use decoration to show an "angry, ugly" cancer cell and a healthy one to go with it.



Even though they leave with handfuls of sugar, the kids seem more interested in showing the finished product to their parents.

"It was interesting to watch them be able to verbalize the difference," DeAnn says. "The more hands-on activities, the better with this age group."

And those activities weren't just a hit with the kids. The director of the Children's Treehouse Foundation was impressed with the changes to the program and asked the team to film them for future training for programs from neighboring states to places like Ireland and Japan.

"Knowing people all over the world are going to be using these activities is really neat," DeAnn says. "I'd love to see people making those cookies."



THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

3D Mammography- One Layer at a Time

Grandview Medical Center welcomed new 3D digital mammography at its Kettering Breast Evaluation Center.

With the addition of 3D mammography at Grandview, all Kettering Breast Evaluation Centers are now 3D capable.

3D mammography allows doctors to take images from different angles, so the radiologist can look at breast tissue one layer at a time, making it easier to find abnormalities. This is especially helpful for women with dense breast tissue.

The machine also includes SensorySuite technology, which gives patients the opportunity to choose sights and sounds to create an ambiance of relaxation during the mammogram.



Network Medical Facility Opens in Piqua

The network opened its newest health care facility in August: Kettering Health Network Piqua. The 48,000-square-foot medical complex has a full-service, 24/7 emergency department that offers a range of imaging and testing services on a non-emergency basis. The facility also has a medical office building for primary care and specialty practices. It has created approximately 100 new jobs for registered nurses, respiratory therapists, imaging and lab technicians, and support staff.

“We are pleased to expand our services to Piqua,” says Fred Manchur, Kettering Adventist HealthCare CEO. “Kettering Adventist HealthCare has made a commitment to bring lifesaving services closer to where people live and work. Residents in and around Piqua have told us they’re excited to be able to access our unique type of whole person care in their community.”



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EMPLOYMENT

TOPSHAM DENTAL ARTS, located in picturesque coastal Maine, is seeking Christ-centered dentist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant. Please send résumé to Dr. Nichols at tda@topshamdentalarts.com.

STALLANT HEALTH, a Rural Health Clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for an optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Show your care and compassion as a registered nurse, and join the Adventist HealthCare family in Maryland. Bring your experience and passion to make a difference in the lives of our patients. For information and to apply: AdventistHealthCare.com/Careers

MISCELLANEOUS

CUT YOUR RISK OF DEVELOPING TYPE 2 DIABETES with the CDC PreventT2 Program, that teaches individuals how to cut risk in half. Are you at risk for prediabetes? Take this test to find out: cdc.gov/diabetes/risktest/index.html. To get more information about a Type 2 Diabetes program near you, email Marilyn Thorpe, preventdiabetes@bladensburgsda.org. Enrollment begins September 8 and the program October 19.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEGREES. Feed the world with

Agribusiness. Beautify the world with Environmental Landscape Design. Care for the creatures that share our world with Animal Science. Change the world with International Agriculture Development. See our new Agriculture Education Center at andrews.edu/agriculture; email: agriculture@andrews.edu; call: (269) 471-6006.

REAL ESTATE

TENNESSEE/GEORGIA REALTOR: Specializing in buying or selling affordable homes in the Collegedale, Chattanooga, N. Georgia or surrounding areas. Howard Karst, Realty Specialists of Ooltewah, (423) 238-7325, is your best partner for experienced professional service. Phone: (301) 332-8471, or email: tsrak@msn.com.

SERVICES

MOVE with an award-winning agency. Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for your relocation needs. Adventist believes uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING, Adventist family-owned and -operated, provides specialized care from independent to total-care residents in a family setting. Delicious vegetarian food, activities, Friday night vespers and a shuttle to church Sabbath morning, just to name a few of the many options. Visit us at elternhausalf.com. Elterhaus also offers a great

work environment for Adventist caregivers, LPNs and RNs. Call Tim Mayer, (240) 286-3635.

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!

MARYLAND ADVENTIST PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if needed, at Adventist hospitals. Offices in Laurel and Maple Lawn/Fulton. Call (301) 317-6800.

NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Call (800) 367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit LNFBOOKS.com for used books and your local ABC or TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST OPHTHALMOLOGIST, PAMELA D'SOUZA-DAVID, M.D., is a board-certified eye surgeon with additional fellowship training in glaucoma. She offers routine eye exams, as well as cataract and glaucoma evaluations and surgery. Her office is located in Laurel, Md., and she is accepting new patients. Call: (240) 917-2770 for appointments.

TRAVEL

ENJOY SOME PEACEFUL TIME IN NATURE: Cabin with loft available for rent on 130 acres in beautiful Southern West Virginia. Secluded, with all the comforts of home. Weekly and weekend rates available. For more information, call (304) 261-4069.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INDIANA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, October 9-10, will be conducted at the academy located

in Cicero, Ind. There will be a golf tournament Friday, October 9. For reservations, contact Bill Summit at IAgolfclassic@gmail.com, or call (317) 437-8104. The October 10 Sabbath services will be streamed via YouTube at Indiana Academy Alumni or on the alumni website at iaalumni.org. For questions about weekend events, contact Janet Schalk White at janet.white@earthlink.net.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE FOR POTOMAC CONFERENCE CORPORATION SESSION CHANGE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Third Quinquennial Meeting of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists has been POSTPONED until March 14, 2021.

William K. Miller, *President*
Jose L. Vazquez, *Secretary*

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION

A special constituency session of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 11, 2020. The subject will be a new Pennsylvania Conference office headquarters building on Blue Mountain Academy Campus. The meeting will be held by video-conference and teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Regular delegates and delegates at large for the 2018 regular constituency session will serve as delegates to this special session. Further information will be sent directly to delegates on how to connect to the session.

Gary Gibbs, *President*
William Peterson, *Executive Secretary*

OBITUARIES

REPINE, Hildore Elizabeth, of Indiana, Pa., born October 13, 1922; died November 9, 2019, at the Indiana Square Personal Care Home. She was a member of the Indiana (Pa.) church. She worked as a lab technician and enjoyed being a homemaker. Hildore is predeceased by her husband, David Ross Repine. She leaves behind two daughters: Carol Barry of Warfordsburg, Pa., and Susan Repine of Cherry Tree, Pa.

Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/obituary to download an obituary submission form.

Bulletin Board

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Sunset Calendar

	SEPT 4	SEPT 11	SEPT 18	SEPT 25	OCT 2	OCT 9	OCT 16	OCT 23	OCT 30
Baltimore	7:33	7:22	7:11	6:59	6:48	6:37	6:27	6:17	6:08
Cincinnati	8:05	7:54	7:42	7:31	7:20	7:09	6:58	6:49	6:40
Cleveland	7:55	7:44	7:32	7:19	7:08	6:56	6:45	6:34	6:25
Columbus	7:59	7:48	7:36	7:25	7:13	7:02	6:51	6:42	6:32
Jersey City	7:24	7:13	7:01	6:49	6:37	6:26	6:15	6:05	5:56
Norfolk	7:30	7:19	7:09	6:58	6:47	6:37	6:28	6:18	6:10
Parkersburg	7:53	7:42	7:30	7:19	7:08	6:57	6:46	6:37	6:28
Philadelphia	7:28	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:42	6:31	6:20	6:10	6:01
Pittsburgh	7:48	7:36	7:24	7:13	7:01	6:50	6:39	6:29	6:20
Reading	7:31	7:20	7:08	6:57	6:45	6:34	6:23	6:13	6:04
Richmond	7:35	7:24	7:14	7:03	6:52	6:42	6:32	6:23	6:14
Roanoke	7:45	7:34	7:23	7:13	7:02	6:52	6:42	6:33	6:25
Toledo	8:03	7:51	7:39	7:27	7:15	7:03	6:52	6:42	6:32
Trenton	7:27	7:15	7:04	6:52	6:40	6:29	6:18	6:08	5:59
Wash., D.C.	7:35	7:24	7:12	7:01	6:50	6:39	6:29	6:19	6:10

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