

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MARCH/APRIL 2021 • VOLUME 126 • ISSUE 2

## For the Beauty of the Earth

Why caring for the Earth still matters



Join naturalist  
John Henri Rorabeck  
on a virtual Sabbath hike

## Make Me a Steward



In what can be seen by many as a faith-destroying time, stories of answered prayer and God’s love continue to shield me, protect my faith and remind me that God still exists and is bigger than life itself.

Like many grateful believers before me—in the Bible and beyond Scripture—I am impressed to tangibly give back and praise God, not just for my life, but the lives and world around me.

On a recent morning walk, I listened to a bird sing and watched a beautiful sunrise touch the horizon, warming the earth after a cold night. It brought to mind the words and tune of the hymn, “This Is My Father’s World.” As I walked along, I realized that one of the best ways I could “pay God’s blessings forward” was to accept the responsibility He gave humanity in the Garden of Eden. That charge, recorded in Genesis 1:26, was to “have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (ESV).

It is disheartening to see the world God so tenderly created slowly die, as humans carelessly or intentionally lay ruin to it. And while, yes, one could argue we are only travelers passing through, if you were a guest at someone’s house, would you leave it in an awful state?

The Lord never relieved us of our creation charge. Perhaps humans were His grand finale, but He also took time to lovingly and intelligently create animals, land masses and trees. And when He was finished for the day, He admitted, “It was good.”

Earth Day, April 22, grants us the opportunity to consider how we care for our Father’s world. Though the problems we face may seem beyond repair, each of us can make conscious choices that bring positive change. One way to make an impact is by taking the *Visitor’s* #2021greenerchallenge, highlighted on page 11.

I invite you to accept the challenge to be good stewards of the earth. May our prayer each day be, “Creator Lord, how should I treat the gifts You asked me to protect?”

*Jenevieve “Jenna” Lettsome is a junior at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., majoring in Music Pre-Law and Honors Interdisciplinary Studies. Lettsome helped plan this issue during her Visitor internship last fall.*

**About the Cover:** Brad Barnwell photographed John Henri Rorabeck in Ellicott City, Md.

# VISITOR

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Volume 126 ■ Issue 2

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

**1** The Columbia Union Conference recently sent COVID-19 relief checks, totaling \$360,000, to each of its eight conferences, as well as Washington Adventist University. The union received the funds from the North American Division, and, at a recent President’s Council meeting, decided to allocate the funds to the entities. This was the second distribution of relief funds since the pandemic started.

**2** Union President Dave Weigley recently received the Association of Adventist Women’s 2020 Champion of Justice Award for the many ways he and the union have supported and encouraged women in pastoral ministry and leadership. In his acceptance speech, he said, “We need to avoid putting a glass ceiling over women who have been called by God.”

**3** The General Conference Session has been rescheduled to June 6–11, 2022, due to travel restrictions and ongoing challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the second time in the last year that members of the Executive Committee of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church have voted to postpone the quinquennial governing meeting. In 2022, an in-person streamlined event will be held in Indianapolis.

**4** National delays in mail delivery resulted in a late delivery of many 2021 *Columbia Union Calendars* and *Year of the Bible Words of Life* devotional books. Extra copies of both are still available. Call Pacific Press at (800) 447-7377. The devotional book costs \$5, plus shipping. The calendar is free; shipping fees apply.

It’s also easy to digitally participate in the union’s Year of the Bible emphasis. Download the Columbia Union Conference app to follow the Bible reading plan, read daily devotionals, watch inspiring video devotionals and read the union’s latest news.

**5** In February, union leaders hosted “Deeper Understandings of Race Relations—a Biblical Perspective.” Union Executive Committee members, as well as conference and entity leaders, gathered virtually to dig deeper into the Scriptures and explore the church’s racial history, realities and challenges. Participants learned how to promote unity and create opportunities for cross-cultural/ racial ministry, as well as ways to sharpen outreach of the gospel to all people.

### FORMER MOUNTAIN VIEW PRESIDENT PASSES

On December 16, 2020, Larry Boggess, former president of the Mountain View Conference (MVC), passed away. Boggess retired as the MVC president in 2017. He and his wife, Jo’an, then moved to their country home in Ohio to live near family.

“Elder Boggess was a wonderful friend and a dedicated worker for Jesus,” shares Mike Hewitt, MVC president.



“My heart is sad now, but I know we will see him again very soon when Jesus returns in power and glory.”  
—Valerie Morikone



### TALK IT OUT

**When you’re processing negative emotions by yourself, you look at them through a magnifying glass of loneliness, and all of them become bigger. Break the magnifying glass by connecting to other people. Talk to friends, family, a pastor or a counselor.**

*Nestor Bruno is the director of Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s Ministry Care Line.*

### WHERE DO ADVENTISTS STAND?

Join us on **Visitor News Live (VNL)** for a look at where Adventists stand on today’s issues and events. Where do we fit in? What is our role? What should our response be? How can we be part of the solution? Watch VNL on [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).

**March 12, 7:30 p.m.** ■ How can we be change agents for social justice?

**April 16, 8 p.m.** ■ Why does caring for the Earth still matter?



ILLUSTRATION BY JIM STARR

# UpFront



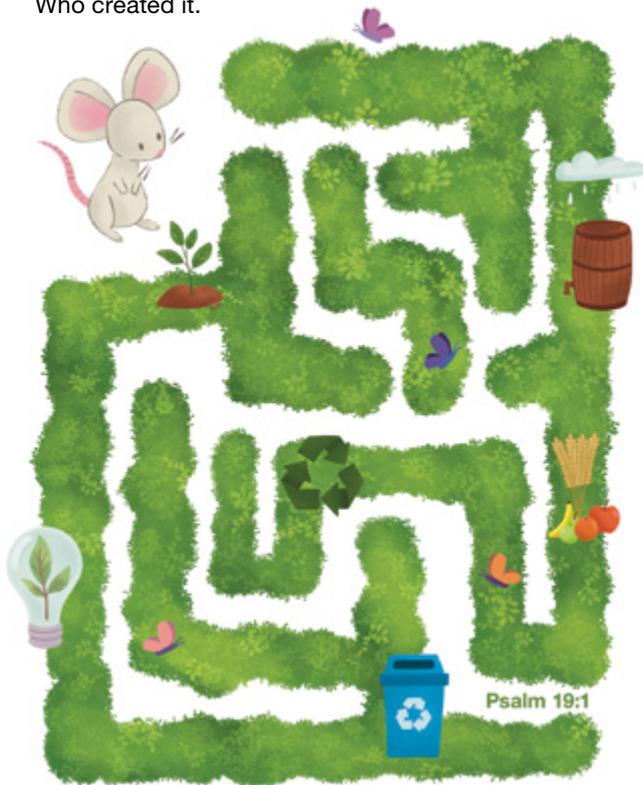
We appeal to our Columbia Union Conference family to band together and pray for our country at this critical time, especially in the weeks ahead, as we move toward a leadership transition. May God place His protecting hand upon our nation and bring reconciliation and healing to our land.

—President Dave Weigley in a statement following the storming of the U.S. Capitol in January

**MAY 22-23**  
**COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE**  
**CONSTITUENCY MEETING**  
Look for a preview and reports in the May/June 2021 *Visitor*.

## Victor's Cubbyhole

Hey kids! In this puzzle, help Victor the *Visitor* mouse learn about ways to care for the earth, and find out Who created it.



## CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP



The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected Jerry Lutz to serve as president during a special meeting chaired by Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president. Lutz accepted the call, filling the vacancy left by Rick Remmers, who was recently elected to serve as the union's executive secretary.

"Chesapeake has chosen a seasoned and experienced leader," says Weigley. "Over the years as senior pastor, and most recently as conference administrator, Lutz has demonstrated his ability to effectively execute the mission of the church. He will make a great contribution in advancing

Adventist education, evangelism and more. I look forward to seeing the Chesapeake Conference continue to grow under his leadership."

Andre Hastick was also recently elected into Chesapeake Conference leadership as executive secretary. Hastick fills the vacancy left by Lutz.

In 2017, Hastick was elected by the conference's executive committee to serve as communication director, and then voted as assistant to the president for communication in 2020.



"With his excellent leadership skills and pastoral experience, he will be a great addition to our administrative team and a blessing to the members of Chesapeake," says Lutz.—*Chesapeake Conference Staff*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA WILLETT

“Righteousness in the Old Testament is weighted toward justice or social action, not vertical worship; it is lateral, it is social. It has to do with how you treat people.”

—Calvin Rock, retired Seventh-day Adventist Church administrator and author, and keynote speaker for the virtual Columbia Union Conference Day of Spiritual Emphasis

**THE REST OF THE STORY:** Read full content at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/upfront](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/upfront).

**LA CONFERENCIA DE CHESAPEAKE ELIGE NUEVO LIDERAZGO**



El Comité Ejecutivo de la Conferencia de Chesapeake eligió recientemente a Jerry Lutz como presidente de la Conferencia de Chesapeake durante una reunión especial presidida por Dave Weigley, presidente de la unión de Columbia. Lutz (en la foto con su esposa, Janet) aceptó el llamado y llenó la vacante dejada por Rick Remmers, quien recientemente fue elegido para servir como secretario ejecutivo de la unión.

“Chesapeake ha elegido a un líder conocedor y experimentado”, dice Weigley. “A lo largo de los años, como pastor principal, y más recientemente, como administrador de la conferencia, Lutz ha demostrado su capacidad para ejecutar eficazmente la misión de la iglesia.

Andre Hastick también fue elegido recientemente para el liderazgo de Chesapeake como secretario ejecutivo. Hastick llena la vacante dejada por Lutz. Hastick sirvió como pastor en la conferencia del 2011 al 2017. En el 2017, fue elegido por el comité ejecutivo de la conferencia para servir como director de comunicación, y después, en el 2020, fue votado como asistente del presidente en comunicación. “Con sus excelentes habilidades de liderazgo y experiencia pastoral, será una gran adición a nuestro equipo administrativo y una bendición para los miembros de Chesapeake”, dice Lutz. —*Personal de la Conferencia de Chesapeake*

**5 Cosas Que Debes Saber**

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

- 1** La Unión de Columbia envió recientemente cheques de ayuda por el COVID-19 a cada una de sus ocho conferencias, así como a la Universidad Adventista de Washington, dando un total de \$360,000. La unión recibió los fondos de la División Norteamericana y, en una reunión reciente el Consejo del Presidente, decidió asignar los fondos a las entidades. Esta fue la segunda distribución de fondos de ayuda desde que comenzó la pandemia.
- 2** El Presidente de la Unión, Dave Weigley, recibió recientemente el Premio Campeón de Justicia 2020 de la Asociación de Mujeres Adventistas por las muchas formas en que él y la unión han apoyado y alentado a las mujeres en el ministerio y el liderazgo pastoral.
- 3** Debido a las restricciones de viaje y los desafíos actuales derivados de la pandemia del COVID-19, la Sesión de la Conferencia General se ha reprogramado para el 6 al 11 de junio del 2022. Esta es la segunda vez en el último año que los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día global han votado para posponer la reunión de gobierno quinquenal. En el 2022, se llevará a cabo un evento simplificado en persona en Indianápolis.
- 4** Los retrasos nacionales en la entrega del correo resultaron en una entrega tardía de muchos de los *Calendarios de la Unión de Columbia 2021* y de los libros devocionales del Año de la Biblia *Palabras de vida*. Aún se encuentran disponibles copias adicionales de ambos. Llame a Pacific Press al (800) 447-7377. El libro devocional cuesta \$5, más el envío. El calendario es gratuito, pero los miembros deben pagar los gastos de envío. También estamos facilitando la participación digital en el énfasis del Año de la Biblia de la unión. Descargue la aplicación Columbia Union Conference para seguir el plan de lectura de la Biblia, leer devocionales diarios, ver devocionales inspiradores en video y leer las últimas noticias de la unión.
- 5** En febrero, los líderes de la unión organizaron “Comprensiones Más Profundas de las Relaciones Raciales—Una Perspectiva Bíblica”. Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión, así como los líderes de entidades y conferencias, se reunieron virtualmente para profundizar en las Escrituras y explorar la historia, las realidades y los desafíos raciales de la iglesia. Los participantes aprendieron formas de promover la unidad, crear oportunidades para el ministerio intercultural/racial y formas de agudizar el alcance del evangelio a todas las personas.

**FALLECE EXPRESIDENTE DE MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
 El 16 de diciembre del 2020 falleció Larry Boggess, expresidente de la Conferencia de Mountain View (MVC). Boggess se retiró como presidente de MVC en el 2017. Luego él y su esposa, Jo’an, se mudaron a su casa de campo en Ohio para vivir cerca de su familia. “Boggess fue un amigo maravilloso y un trabajador dedicado a Jesús”, comparte Mike Hewitt, presidente de MVC. “Mi corazón está triste ahora, pero sé que lo volveremos a ver muy pronto cuando Jesús regrese con poder y gloria”.—*Valerie Morikone*

# Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

## 5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

**1** L'Union des Fédérations de Columbia a récemment envoyé des chèques de secours COVID-19, totalisant 360 000 dollars, à chacune de ses huit fédérations, ainsi qu'à l'Université Adventiste de Washington (Washington Adventist University). L'Union a reçu les fonds de la Division Nord-Américaine et, lors d'une récente réunion du Concile présidentiel, a décidé d'allouer les fonds aux entités. Il s'agissait de la deuxième distribution de fonds de secours depuis le début de la pandémie.

**2** Le président de l'Union Dave Weigley a récemment reçu le prix Champion de la justice 2020 de l'Association des Femmes Adventistes pour les nombreuses façons dont lui et l'Union ont soutenu et encouragé les femmes dans le ministère pastoral et le leadership.

**3** La Session de la Conférence Générale a été reportée du 6 au 11 juin 2022 en raison des restrictions de voyage et des défis persistants liés à la pandémie du COVID-19. C'est la deuxième fois au cours de l'année dernière que les membres du Comité Exécutif de l'Église Mondiale des Adventistes du Septième Jour a voté de reporter la réunion quinquennale de gouvernance. En 2022, l'évènement aura lieu à Indianapolis avec un nombre réduit de personnes.

**4** Les retards nationaux dans la livraison du courrier ont entraîné une livraison tardive de nombreux calendriers de l'Union de Columbia 2021 et de livres de dévotion Année de la Bible Words of Life. Des exemplaires supplémentaires des deux sont toujours disponibles. Appelez Pacific Press au (800) 447-7377. Le livre de dévotion coûte 5 dollars, plus les frais d'expédition. Le calendrier est gratuit, mais les membres doivent payer les frais d'expédition.

Nous facilitons également la participation numérique avec une emphase sur l'Année de la Bible de l'Union. Téléchargez l'application Columbia Union Conference pour suivre le plan de lecture de la Bible, lire les dévotions quotidiennes, regarder des vidéos de dévotion inspirantes et lire les dernières nouvelles de l'Union.

**5** En février dernier, les dirigeants de l'Union ont organisé « Compréhension approfondie des relations raciales—une Perspective Biblique ». Les membres du Comité Exécutif de l'Union, ainsi que les dirigeants des Fédérations et des entités, se sont réunis virtuellement pour approfondir les Écritures et explorer l'histoire raciale, les réalités et les défis de l'Église. Les participants ont appris les moyens de promouvoir l'unité, de créer des opportunités de ministère interculturel / racial et de renforcer la diffusion de l'Évangile auprès de tous.

### Décès d'un Ancien Président de Mountain View

Larry Boggess, ancien président de la Fédération de Mountain View (MVC), est décédé. Boggess a pris sa retraite en tant que président du MVC en 2017. Lui et sa femme, Jo'an, ont ensuite déménagé dans leur maison de campagne dans l'Ohio pour vivre près de leur famille.

« Frère Boggess était un ami merveilleux et un travailleur dévoué pour Jésus », raconte Mike Hewitt, président du MVC. « Mon cœur est triste maintenant, mais je sais que nous le reverrons très bientôt lorsque Jésus reviendra en puissance et en gloire. »—*Valerie Morikone*

### ÉLECTION D'UNE NOUVELLE ÉQUIPE À LA TÊTE DE LA FÉDÉRATION DE CHESAPEAKE

Le Comité Exécutif de la Fédération de Chesapeake a récemment élu Jerry Lutz président de la Fédération de Chesapeake lors d'une réunion spéciale présidée par Dave Weigley, président de l'Union. Lutz a accepté l'appel, remplissant le poste laissé par l'ancien président de Chesapeake, Rick Remmers, qui a été récemment élu pour servir de secrétaire exécutif de l'Union.

« Chesapeake a choisi un leader chevronné et expérimenté », déclare Weigley. « Au fil des ans en tant que pasteur titulaire, et plus récemment en tant qu'administrateur de la fédération, Lutz a démontré sa capacité à exécuter efficacement la mission de l'église. Il apportera une grande contribution à l'avancement de l'éducation adventiste, de l'évangélisation et plus encore. »



André Hastick a également été récemment élu à la direction de Chesapeake en tant que secrétaire exécutif. Hastick comble le poste laissé par Lutz.

Hastick a été pasteur de la fédération de 2011 à 2017. En 2017, il a été élu par le comité exécutif de la fédération de Chesapeake pour servir comme directeur de communication, puis voté aussi comme assistant du président pour la communication en 2020.—*Personnel de la Fédération de Chesapeake*



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Dr. Carlton P. Byrd,  
Speaker

# The Awakening

*This NBC Television special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), features an Easter message from Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry, and Special Musical Guests: Pastor Donnie McClurkin, and the Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio, along with actress, Crystal Day.*



Jeremy Winston Chorale of Ohio

**Watch on NBC on April 4, 2021**

For a list of stations and times, call **256.929.6460** or visit [breathoflife.tv](http://breathoflife.tv)



# For the Beauty of the Earth

Jenevieve Lettsome &  
V. Michelle Bernard

Going on Sabbath walks and appreciating nature—God’s second book—are longstanding elements of Seventh-day Adventist culture. Should this appreciation impact the way members care for the environment? And can it bring them closer to God?

Adventism, [in its early years], was more outdoorsy because the culture back then was more connected with the [nature] around them,” says John Henri Rorabeck, a naturalist and educator. “[But] Ellen White and her contemporaries were [also] really pushing the boundaries and really leading.”

The Adventist health message, which includes getting lots of fresh air and sunshine and spending time in nature, was counterculture in a time when the sick and invalid were kept in dark and musty rooms, something that would be unthinkable today, he says.

While elements of this view remain in Adventist culture, Rorabeck laments that the conversations about eco-responsibility happening in the church now are about five or 10 years behind most scientists and nature lovers.



*“How we treat creation shows what we think of the Creator. How we act toward nature shows our true nature.”* 

"We really need to be leading the way in caring for the rest of the planet, and showing them how we can really make a difference in sustainability and in health by getting outside," adds Rorabeck, a member of Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md. There have been many studies that show that "spending time in nature, [in fresh air and sunshine], even viewing pictures of nature or listening to sounds of nature, can positively impact people's health," he says.

Even spiritual health. "Connecting with the creation that God has made clearly brings us back to Who made us. ... The more we connect with what God has made straight from the source, the more we're going to get to know God."

Rorabeck, who studied religion and adventure-based youth leadership, finds cultivating an appreciation for creation is important. "As an educator, I'm able to, quoting Ellen White, 'impress upon their minds the fact that if God cares so much for the trees and flowers, He will care much more for the creatures formed in His image'" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 223).

If you want to take care of this earth, learn how to live in it with minimal impact, Rorabeck continues. Turn off the sink while brushing your teeth. Turn off the lights after you leave a room. Stay on the hiking trails. Don't litter, and clean your recycling before you sort it. These are ways to take care of the world in which we live.

He adds, "How we treat creation shows what we think of the Creator. How we act toward nature shows our true nature."

## DEVELOPING HABITS FOR THE FUTURE

Schools around the Columbia Union Conference are also striving to teach students about caring for the earth, using various activities such as installing solar panels and planting gardens.

Mountain View Conference's Highland Adventist School in Elkins, W.Va., recently received a rain barrel from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) Division of Water and Waste Management to help provide water for their greenhouse growing program.

Besides being a water source and a learning opportunity for students, WVDEP notes that the barrel helps eliminate non-point pollution caused by melting snow or rain runoff that might pick up and carry away pollutants that would eventually end up back in the various water sources.

Principal Cheryl Jacko says, "I live and work in 'coal country.' Issues surrounding environmental stewardship have very real consequences for the families, communities and economies I serve. Solutions are not easy or simplistic. I believe our global responsibility regarding care of the earth is to continue to find safer, cleaner ways to generate power, provide transportation, care for refuse, etc. ... I have no direct influence over the global and national decision-making regarding caring for our environment, but I *can* teach

## Take a Hike

Follow @columbiaunionvisitor on Instagram and Facebook and "join" several Sabbath hikes in April with naturalist John Henri Rorabeck, as he leads us through God's nature to find hidden seasonal treasures and glimpses of God's love!

Throughout the month, we'll also share more ways to make nature fun, including readers' favorite "Sabbath walk spots" on all our social media channels and at [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com).

my students to make a difference in their sphere. So we promote and teach recycling, composting, reusing and reducing consumerism."

Besides having a USDA-certified organic farm that provides fresh produce and grains to community members through several food stands, Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) started conserving more energy seven years ago by simply converting 20 acres of lawn into hay fields. Prior to this, the school was spending \$10,000 a year on fertilizer and spraying for dandelions.

The school, located in Hamburg, has saved approximately 234-man hours in mowing time, 478 gallons of diesel (at approximately \$1,200) and reduced wear and tear on machines, reports Ruben Olm, Enrollment and Development director, who adds that sale of the hay has averaged about \$10,000 per year.

The school has also started a recycling program for paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, metal and food waste. "It is our goal that by learning and doing these things at BMA, our students will develop habits that will make them good environmental and fiscal stewards of the blessings that God gives them in the future," says Olm.

## PERSONALLY REAPING THE BENEFITS

Caring for the earth has other benefits too.

Keiva Davis, a member of Potomac Conference's Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., first began following a whole-foods, plant-based diet more closely after spending time with her sister's family, who ate that way. "Eating whole foods was so amazingly satisfying that I decided to continue this lifestyle," she says.

Already a vegan since college, she changed her previously highly refined and processed vegan diet to a more health-conscious one. But, like many other working adults who live busy lives, Davis had to learn how to prepare her meals for the entire week. It was a challenge at first, but she eventually figured out how to prepare extra portions and store them in small containers in the freezer so she would have more diversity of meals during the work week.



Davis (pictured) reports she has already begun to experience the many benefits of having a whole foods plant-based diet: her acne cleared up, she lost 20 pounds and her knee pain has disappeared, among other things.

From a financial point of view, she found that purchasing more whole foods and unprocessed groceries reduced her food budget. She also says that a plant-based diet benefits the planet through a more efficient use of resources, in terms of harvesting plants directly for human consumption rather than using plants to feed animals that will later be processed as food for human consumption.

#### A CALL FOR EARTH STEWARDS

Oliver Hemmings, a professor at Washington Adventist University's Religion Department, shares that Psalm 8 (and the Genesis account of creation), "offer praise for making humanity a little lower than God and then giving them dominion over all the works of God's hands. To be made in God's image is to love and care as God loves and cares for creation."

She adds that sin marred creation and that the curse in Genesis 3:14–19 is a description of what happens as a result of human transgression. "Instead of being stewards and caretakers over each other in the created order, humanity has resorted to the "survival of the fittest" mode of existence. ... In short, the current environmental crisis is symptomatic of the sin culture—the culture of domination. ... We live in competition among ourselves and with the rest of creation, pillaging, plundering, exploiting and oppressing each other, as we vie for domination, as though we are no better than the beasts of the wild."

But Hemmings says, "The earth has been given to us to care for, not for us to mess up and then evacuate. If we do not care for this awesome gift of God to us, how can we be good stewards in heaven?"

# Take the GREENER EARTH CHALLENGE



Celebrate Earth Day, April 22, by making small changes that can help make a long-term impact on the health of our planet. Take our April challenge by making one of the changes (or inserting your own ideas) each week. • Inspire your friends to do the same by posting your progress with #2021greenerchallenge on social media, and challenge them to post their ideas and progress too. Let's learn from each other!

## 1 ELIMINATE FOOD WASTE

A national study found that Americans throw out up to 40 percent of the food they buy. Try to plan meals, shop only for what you need, eat leftovers or use leftovers in a new dish. You'll also get the bonus of saving money!



**CHALLENGE:** Use browning bananas in a banana bread or smoothie • Take and follow a shopping list on your next grocery store trip • Freeze leftovers

## 2 REDUCE YOUR TRAVEL FOOTPRINT

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions comes from the transportation sector. Take public transportation, walk or bike to work, if possible, or consider using a ride-sharing app to save gas. Why not also consider a closer vacation destination to cut down on fuel consumption?



**CHALLENGE:** Plan your shopping trips so you visit nearby stores on the same trip • Plan a creative staycation

## 3 EAT MORE PLANT-BASED FOODS

A United Nations Climate Change Report found that an “estimated 23 percent of greenhouse gas emissions stem from agriculture, livestock and the [resources used] to raise them.” Help cut these numbers down by replacing meat products with plant-based ones. Adventist Health Studies indicate you may also receive significant health benefits too!

**CHALLENGE:** Swap out meat for beans in one dish this week • Try one of the many new plant-based burgers now widely available • Try a new plant-based recipe! (We've found many tasty options at [vibrantlife.com/recipes](http://vibrantlife.com/recipes).) • Check out a local farmer's market

## 4 GET THRIFTY

A Quantis Study found that the foot and apparel industry contributed 8.1 percent of pollution produced globally. Help lower this number by purchasing quality items that will last beyond the season and buying gently used clothes (and other household goods) to decrease production. Shopping at second-hand shops often helps support local charities.



**CHALLENGE:** Clear the clutter in your closet and donate clothes to Adventist Community Services or another local charity • Plan a clothing swap with friends • Repurpose old jeans or T-shirts into a bag or keepsake blanket

## 5 POWER DOWN

The average American household spends \$115.49 per month on electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration says that residential energy usage accounts for up to 21 percent of total primary energy consumption and about 20 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. Installing better insulation or energy-efficient windows, appliances and LED lights can cut down on energy consumption and costs. Unplugging appliances after use and turning off lights can also save energy and lower bills.

**CHALLENGE:** Unplug your washer and dryer when not using them (then compare electricity bills later) • Lower your thermostat a degree or two in the winter and raise it during the summer months • Shorten your shower by two minutes each day

English | Spanish | Portuguese | French | Tagalog | Afrikaans | Ukrainian | Russian | Bahasa | Mongolian | Tamil  
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## Remembering Justin Stanley

*Shelton Justin Stanley, a member of the Edmondson Heights church in Baltimore, was tragically killed at the end of 2020, leaving his family, friends and church members to grieve his death. Church members reflect on the life he lived and the impact he had on so many:*

“He was a motivator who ministered with passion to our children. With his many hats, he brought a level of continuity, consistency and dedication to get the job done.”—Patrick Graham, Allegheny East Conference Youth and Children’s Ministries Director

“Justin understood the importance of giving of your talents and gifts and paying it forward. He consistently mentored youth at the schools where he taught, as well as my children: Jordan, Joshua and Jalen. He became a trusted advisor, a true friend, someone I could always count on and depend on. He was our family.”—John F. Sivels, Edmondson Heights Pathfinder Club Co-Director



“Mr. Justin was a fun Pathfinder leader, mentor and friend. When he took us camping, he taught the girls how to put up a tent, he cooked great food and he protected us. He taught us how to make communion bread, perform a song in sign language and help with Pathfinder honors. He also encouraged me to do a sermonette for the youth Week of Prayer. Mr. Justin, our mentor, encouraged us to do our best.”—Rayna Ellison, Edmondson Heights Pathfinder

“Justin served as treasurer, a deacon, Youth Ministries leader, young adult mentor and church service coordinator. If something needed to be done, Justin was always willing to help, whether it was to act in a play, preach a sermon or sing a song. He was a good friend and had a way of making you feel better and laugh if you were feeling down. He will greatly be missed.”—Darlene Jones, Edmondson Heights Church Member



## Hispanic Ministries Baptizes More Than 200

Through one virtual appeal, Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Hispanic Ministries team baptized 214 people in six separate locations in one single weekend. In normal circumstances, AEC’s Hispanic congregations—consisting of 32 congregations and eight church plants—would worship together in one location for Fellowship Day. Due to the pandemic, however, they proceeded with a virtual joint service.

More than 8,000 viewers from across the AEC territory tuned in to the livestreamed service. Around midday, Ramon Escalante, AEC’s Hispanic Ministries

coordinator, made an appeal to the viewers. “I shared with them that now was the moment to accept Christ, that He is waiting for them,” says Escalante.

Responding to the call, hundreds drove to six baptismal sites: two in Philadelphia, two in Delaware, one in Maryland and one in Virginia. The baptisms were conducted simultaneously at 3 p.m.

“We were so happy with how God blessed that we have decided to come together every month for a joint service instead of just once a year,” shares Escalante.

## Glenridge Members Bring Joy to Surrounding Area

Recognizing wintertime would be difficult for many in their community, the Glenridge church in District Heights, Md., recently conducted its first ever drive-thru community giveaway. Spearheaded by Pastor Wayne Hosten, more than 40 members and volunteers from various churches ministered to more than 400 families.

After a week of sorting and packaging by a faithful crew, cars starting lining up at 7:30 a.m., two hours prior to the giveaway.

From their vehicles, drivers-by chose from an array of items such as microwaves, vacuums, bikes, toys, air fryers, furniture, electronics and new clothing. The Glenridge Eagles Pathfinder Club registered the attendees, providing the church with valuable contact information to further grow relationships.

Many community members expressed gratitude for the giveaway. Glenridge members, including Donett Cole, also received a blessing: "Today was a dream come true. We helped a lot of people!" she says.

Hosten shares, "We connected with our community



*A volunteer places a toy in a car to bring joy to a child.*

in a new way, brought joy to families and exemplified a Christlike ministry."

## Capitol Hill Member Featured in Netflix Docuseries



Zina Johnson, choir director at the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently participated in the gospel musical Netflix docuseries, *Voices of Fire*. The series, produced by recording artist Pharrell Williams, follows his uncle, Ezekiel Williams, and a team of gospel leaders

as they travel to Hampton Roads, Va., in search of talented singers to build a world class gospel choir.

Thousands auditioned for the opportunity to be selected, but only 75 people were chosen. When Johnson heard about the opportunity, she asked God if this was something He wanted her to pursue. "God clearly spoke to me, and He said yes, so I was confident that it was something I should do," says Johnson.

Yet the process came with its challenges, from discovering water damage just as she was on her way to the live audition to injuring her ankle. "In those moments, I heard God distinctly say to me, 'It's going to be difficult, but not impossible,'" Johnson recalls.

Johnson witnessed God's leading hand at the audition, when the person before her selected the same song she had prepared to sing. In that moment, she felt God moving her in another direction, as He impressed her to sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." Her rendition secured her a spot in the next round of the competition. "I knew that was God because I had not practiced that song at all before singing it that day," she shares.

Johnson, who has served as a choral and music director for several churches, and has sung at several events and engagements, believes that, for her whole life, God has been preparing her for this experience. "I didn't realize it then," states Johnson, "but I can see how all of the experiences I've had throughout the years was preparing me for this process."

Johnson released her first single, "O, Holy Night," at the end of 2020, available on Apple Music and Amazon Music.

## Pathfinders Raise Funds for World Vision Project

Last year, the Central Crusaders Pathfinder Club of Columbus, Ohio, decided to help an international family with a donation of an animal through the World Vision gift catalog. An animal, such as a goat or chicken, provides milk or eggs that can be used to nourish the family, or even sold to help with household finances.

The group's goal was to raise \$200. At each weekly Pathfinder meeting, they collected spare change. By March 2020, they had made \$12. Then the coronavirus pandemic hit, and they were forced to suspend in-person meetings. When meetings resumed via video conference in November, the \$200 goal seemed to be out of reach.

By mid-December, however, they had collected more than \$600. Encouraged, they solicited even more donations, this time from their local congregation—Central church. The contributions were enough to purchase a set of goats and two chickens each for seven families.

The Crusaders also continued their service to the community. Their drum corps played for several senior



citizens' birthdays and for the frontline workers at the Ohio State University Hospital.

"Despite changes to their regular routine," lead counselor Patricia Fountain says, "these Pathfinders strive to be servants of God by being friends to all people."

## Central Ohio Pastors Meet With Columbus Police Chief

Three pastors from the Central Ohio region of the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) recently met with Columbus Police Chief Thomas Quinlan. The meeting, organized by C. Shaun Arthur, pastor of the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, centered on discussing newly instituted police reforms, in light of the shootings of Andre Hill and Casey Goodson Jr. by local law enforcement. Keith Goodman, senior pastor of the Ephesus church in Columbus, and Ndubuisi Nwade,

associate pastor at Ephesus, also joined the meeting.

"Having the opportunity to [pray and] discuss ways of helping to curb the violence we are seeing was very important for us," says Arthur. "As pastors, we were able to share the thoughts and feelings of members of our community."

Arthur continues, "The use of modern technology to aid in the reduction of paperwork, along with reporting incidents and crimes more efficiently, is worth considering and would prove beneficial [to getting the bad actors off the streets]."

Goodman adds, "It is good to know that our police chief is trying to do his part to hire well, to create a healthy culture and to hold those accountable, who, by their actions, don't embrace it."



*Ndubuisi Nwade, associate pastor of the Ephesus church; Thomas Quinlan, Columbus chief police; C. Shaun Arthur, pastor of the Beacon of Hope church; and Keith Goodman, senior pastor of the Ephesus church, gather to discuss how to bridge the gap between police officers and the community.*



## Prayer Ministries Department Hosts Prayer-a-Thon

The annual Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Prayer-a-Thon, hosted by the Prayer Ministries Department, was first held three years ago. Every first Sunday of the year, prayer warriors representing every church across the conference, come together for 18 hours to pray for the new year and give thanks to God for His blessings through the previous one.

Violet Cox, AWC Prayer Ministries coordinator, shares how the idea was born:

The idea began at my home church, Grace Community in Euclid, Ohio, where we often receive calls from members who are desperate for prayer. We began praying for individuals with addictions, suicidal thoughts, mental illnesses, etc. The entire Grace Community church became involved in a 24-hour "Prayer-a-Thon" prayer chain. Many personal victories were won as prayers were answered! I later discovered that many other individuals across the conference were in desperate need of prayer. So I thought if we can do this in one church, why not conference-wide? The



Prayer-a-Thon is conducted through a conference call line. People participate from all over the country, even the world! Regardless of where they are from, I believe that the callers all have one thing in common: faith in the power of prayer.

**ALLEGHENY WEST**

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## Arms of Love

When my sons, Austin and Jaren, were little, they had two places of comfort and love that they readily chose. Without hesitation, they found rest in the caring and loving arms of their daddy and mommy. I still cherish the days when they would place their heads close to our hearts. It was a special place of rest and peace, initiated by God's love.

All children need to be loved as God loves them. Not just our own children in our homes, churches and schools, but our neighbors' children, the strangers' children, the children that are disenfranchised and marginalized. Children know if we really care about them. They can see and feel love in our eyes, words, tone of voice and by our actions. They are keenly aware when individuals try to cover up non-Christlike actions with clichés and putting rules above loving people. They formulate decisions by how we treat them in the present, informing whether they should choose to trust us in the future. How we represent Christ will help the children in our communities to determine if they will choose to identify our homes, churches and schools as centers of criticism or of God's love and peace.

Austin and Jaren are now young adults. Their voices and actions, along with many others, are making a difference by loving others as Christ loves us unconditionally. John 13:35 says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV). What about you? Can God use your arms to embrace all children with His love?



**Renee Humphreys**  
*Associate Superintendent  
of Schools*

## Jerry Lutz Elected President

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee recently elected Jerry Lutz to the position of Chesapeake Conference president. The executive committee convened virtually for the special session, chaired by Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president. Lutz accepted the call, filling the vacancy left by former Chesapeake president, Rick Remmers, who was recently elected to serve as executive secretary for the Columbia Union.

"Chesapeake has chosen a seasoned and experienced leader," says Weigley. "Over the years as senior pastor, and most recently as conference administrator, Elder Lutz has demonstrated his ability to effectively execute the mission of the church. He will make a great contribution in advancing Adventist education, evangelism and more. I look forward to seeing the Chesapeake Conference continue to grow under his leadership."

Lutz arrived to Chesapeake in 1996 when he accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. In 2014, he was elected by the conference's executive committee to serve as executive secretary.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation for the confidence the executive committee has placed in me, by first considering me for this position, and then by extending to me this invitation to be the president of Chesapeake Conference," says Lutz. "It is truly a humbling experience. It is only by the grace of God that

I am here today, and it is by His grace that we, together, have been called to advance the mission and ministry in our conference."

Lutz and his wife, Janet, met while attending graduate school at Andrews University (Mich.). Janet is the Physician Relations coordinator at the Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center in Maryland. The couple has one adult son, Jarrod, who is head of the English Department at Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md). Jarrod's wife, April, is the vice principal and history teacher at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md. Jarrod and April have two children, Oliver and Hazel.



## Andre Hastick Elected Executive Secretary

Recently, the Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee elected Andre Hastick to the position of executive secretary. Hastick accepted the call, filling the vacancy left by Jerry Lutz, who was recently elected to serve as conference president.

“I am very pleased with the executive committee’s decision to invite Elder Hastick to be our conference executive secretary,” says Lutz. “With his excellent leadership skills and pastoral experience, he will be a great addition to our administrative team and a blessing to the members of Chesapeake.”

Hastick began his ministry in Chesapeake in 2011 when he accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Aberdeen (Md.) church. Two years later, he served as pastor of the Reisterstown and South Carroll churches, both located in Maryland. In 2017, he was elected by the conference’s executive committee to serve as communication director, and then voted as assistant to the president for communication in 2020.

“I am truly thankful to the Lord for His leading in my life, and humbled that the executive committee has chosen me to assist in advancing the mission of our conference through this role,” says Hastick. “It will be an honor to support the presidential leadership of

Elder Lutz, while partnering with our entire Chesapeake family in the churches and schools throughout the conference.”

Before attending seminary, Hastick and his wife, Heather, met at Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md.

Heather is a preschool teacher who has served as an Adventist educator for 14 years. The couple has three daughters: Brianna, Ashlyn and Aubrey.

“A hallmark of the Chesapeake Conference is its emphasis on mission,” says Hastick. “I believe the Lord has strategically positioned our conference to make an eternal impact in the lives of countless souls in our communities. There is no limit to what God can do as we work together in anticipation of the soon return of Jesus.”



## Glenn Dale Group Becomes a Company

Recently, the Glenn Dale Spanish group officially transitioned to company status. During a special service, the group prayed and worshipped together to commemorate the occasion. Jerry Lutz, conference president, delivered a sermon to the congregation, emphasizing the importance of continued mission and outreach in the church community.

“I have been working with Glenn Dale for one year now, but we have been limited by COVID-19,” says Luis Humberto Orjuela, pastor of the Glenn Dale, Bowie, Laurel and Washington-Spencerville Spanish congregations. “The hard work was done by the Holy Spirit and the teamwork of the members, and we praise the Lord for what has been accomplished.”

The original church plant group consisted of three families who saw a need in the Glenn Dale Hispanic community and wanted to serve. After gaining 25 committed individuals who gathered weekly in a rented church building, the group was ready for company status.

The company hopes to continue garnering members so they can reach church status and to be able



to provide for a church plant to continue spreading the gospel to the community, says Orjuela.

“Becoming a company is very exciting, as it is a sign of becoming a living and prosperous congregation,” says Orlando Rosales, Hispanic Ministries director for Chesapeake. “May God continue to use our brothers and sisters to reach souls for the kingdom of heaven.”

# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Former Conference President Passes Away

Mountain View Conference (MVC) constituents and friends were saddened to learn that Larry Boggess, 80, passed away December 16, 2020. Boggess retired as MVC president in 2017, and he and his wife, Jo'an, moved to Ohio to live near family.

In 1989, former MVC President Randy Murphy invited Boggess to pastor the Beckley (W.Va.) church. Over the next decade, Boggess pastored several other MVC churches.

"I met Larry as we were registering for classes at Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) for the 1959–1960 school year," states Murphy. We both worked delivering milk in glass bottles, and I never forgot Larry, nor he me. When my wife, Marty, delivered our first son, we named him Larry."

In 2002, Boggess was elected executive secretary, and in 2006 he became conference president, a position he held for almost 12 years. He also served as superintendent of education for several years.

"Elder Boggess was a wonderful friend and a dedicated worker for Jesus," shares Mike Hewitt, MVC president. "It was an honor and a privilege to work alongside Elder Boggess as executive secretary from December 2016 into 2017. My heart is sad now, but I know we will see him again very soon when Jesus returns in power and glory."

Victor Zill, MVC executive secretary/treasurer, adds, "Elder Boggess and I worked closely together for 16 years, and I have many fond memories of him. He was always an optimist with a smile on his face and had a passion for ministry. His loss is deeply felt by the many people he ministered to over his lifetime."

Known as an enthusiastic leader, Boggess spearheaded Reach Appalachia in 2013–14, resulting in baptisms and increased lay member involvement in Bible studies. Boggess organized other events such as ShareHim Boot Camps, Missionary Bible Worker trainings, New Member retreats and more, all held at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va.

Prior to serving the MVC, Boggess served as a pastor in the Chesapeake Conference; held various sales and leadership titles with Loma Linda Foods; was the assistant publishing secretary for the Oklahoma Conference; the publishing director in the Texico and Texas conferences; and the manager of the Illinois Conference Adventist Book Center.



*Larry Boggess, former president of Mountain View Conference, recently passed to his rest.*

"I first met Larry when he was the Oklahoma Conference assistant director in the Publishing Department," recalls Naomi Tricomi, pastoral assistant of the Weirton/Wheeling church district. "He is the one who invited me to come to MVC in 2014 to be a Bible worker. It was just supposed to be for one year! Well, I'm still here."

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, shares, "Larry was friendly, approachable and loved people. His greatest passion was evangelism and bringing people to Jesus."

Boggess is survived by Jo'an, his wife of 60 years; children Chris Boggess, Tim Boggess and Amanda Cox; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and brothers Dan, Bob, Richard and Ben Boggess. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters Joann and Janet Boggess.

## Valley View Members Scatter 'Leaves of Autumn'

*"This is a work that should be done. The end is near. Already much time has been lost. ... Scatter [books] like the leaves of autumn" (Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 72).*

One night in late 1999, Delphia Davis, a member of the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., had a dream. "I saw a prophetic clock in the sky. The clock's hands pointed almost to midnight. I heard a voice telling me, 'I have a work for you to do,'" she remembers.

"At first," Davis shares, "I didn't know what that work was, but soon the Lord led me into literature ministry." Davis later transferred to the Valley View church and met member Judy Johnson. Johnson joined Davis' ministry in 2015, and the two went door-to-door around Princeton and Bluefield, W.Va., and into Virginia, mostly distributing *The Great Controversy*.

The two women began visiting several homes on Wednesdays and Sabbath afternoons. Soon Priska Volpe, a fellow church member, joined them.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit last year. The ladies realized door-to-door ministry was no longer possible, so they started convening in large parking lot areas. As a result, they were able to reach more people in a shorter amount of time. In fact, during the last seven months of 2020, they distributed more than 6,000 pieces of literature.

One day, Davis gave a book to a woman in one of the parking lots. The woman related she was familiar with Seventh-day Adventists. The next morning, the woman randomly ran into Philip Wright, Valley View's first elder, and they began to talk. He then invited her to church, where she now faithfully attends each Sabbath.

Last summer, Davis gave a book to a woman who was a new Christian. Davis then began giving Bible studies through the mail with her and her family. "I received a lovely note from this woman that they are all so appreciative of having me as a Christian mentor and they are enjoying the Bible lessons so much," Davis reports.

Recently, while distributing books, Johnson met a woman named Leslie, who was so impressed by the experience that she posted a picture of *The Great Controversy* on social media. Johnson later discovered that Leslie is a woman of influence in the



*Priska Volpe, Judy Johnson and Delphia Davis make a difference in their community by distributing literature to many passers-by.*

Bluefield, Va., area, and prays that many are blessed because of this encounter.

On another occasion, Volpe met a pastor from the Churches of Christ who accepted a copy of *The Great Controversy*. He was so excited to hear of the work the women were doing, that he stopped and prayed for their ministry.

"One thing we do prior to handing out any literature is to pray," shares Volpe. "We pray again as we finish for the day, praising the Lord for giving us success, for the Holy Spirit to bless each person that we met and thanking Him for giving us the courage to share the literature."

Through the church's prayers and financial support, Valley View has received many divine appointments and confirmations that people are reading the material.

"With everything happening in society, people are very receptive to spiritual literature and gladly receive the materials and prayers, as many are separated from family and not able to go to church," says James Volpe, pastor of the Valley View/Beckley church district. "Davis, Johnson and Volpe encourage anyone who has a burden for souls to share literature with others."

# NEWS NEW JERSEY

## ‘Jesus Paid It All, All to Him I Owe’

Sacrifice. It’s an old-fashioned word, and sometimes it becomes an old-fashioned concept. Our modern world bombards us with ways to spend our time and money on ourselves. Getting more and having more consumes more of our time and energy. But God calls us to surrender to Him, sacrifice our wants and put Him first.

Why would God ask us to sacrifice? If He truly loves us, wouldn’t He want us to have everything we want? More instead of less? There is only one answer to these questions. It’s found in the words of the beloved old hymn, “Jesus Paid It All.” The magnitude of the sacrifice made by the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost can never be measured. As we think about the tremendous sacrifice that was made for us, our response can only be to surrender more completely and to sacrifice everything we have.

Contemplating this great sacrifice is life-changing. As we spend time each day thinking about what was given to and for each of us, we will be changed, happy to sacrifice anything we have so that we can draw closer to God.

The most amazing part of God’s plan is that we have nothing without His gifts. But when we give ourselves to Him, He gives us so much more. As we sacrifice our time and money to Him, He will give us more than we can imagine. Our joy will be abundant, our lives transformed and our hopes fulfilled. Sacrificing all to Him allows Him to give us more and more. Let’s commit to sacrificing all to the God who loves us more than we can imagine and who is anxiously waiting to give us everything we desire.



**Karen L. Senecal**  
*Treasurer*

## ‘Jesús lo Pagó Todo, Todo a él se lo Debo’

Sacrificio. Es una palabra pasada de moda y, a veces, se convierte en un concepto anticuado. Nuestro mundo moderno nos bombardea con formas de gastar nuestro tiempo y dinero en nosotros mismos. Obtener más y tener más consume más tiempo y energía. Pero Dios nos llama a entregarnos a Él, sacrificar nuestras necesidades y ponerlo a Él en primer lugar.

¿Por qué Dios nos pediría sacrificios? Si realmente nos ama, ¿no querría que tuviéramos todo lo que queremos? ¿Más en lugar de menos? Solo hay una respuesta a estas preguntas. Se encuentra en las palabras del amado himno antiguo, “Jesús lo pagó todo”. La magnitud del sacrificio hecho por el Padre, el Hijo y el Espíritu Santo nunca se puede medir. Al pensar en el tremendo sacrificio que Él hizo por nosotros, nuestra respuesta solo puede ser rendirnos completamente y sacrificar todo lo que tenemos.

Contemplar este gran sacrificio cambia la vida. A medida que pasemos tiempo cada día pensando en lo que se nos dio y para cada uno de nosotros, seremos transformados, felices de sacrificar cualquier cosa que tengamos para acercarnos más a Dios.

La parte más asombrosa del plan de Dios es que no tenemos nada sin Sus dones. Pero cuando nos entregamos a Él, Él nos da mucho más. Si le sacrificamos nuestro tiempo y dinero, Él nos dará más de lo que podemos imaginar. Nuestro gozo será abundante, nuestras vidas serán transformadas y nuestras esperanzas se cumplirán. Sacrificarlo todo a Él le permite darnos más y más. Comprometámonos a sacrificarlo todo al Dios que nos ama más de lo que podemos imaginar y que espera ansiosamente darnos todo lo que deseamos.—*Karen L. Senecal*

## Carrillo Joins Conference, Pastoring Four Churches



Jonathan Carrillo joins the New Jersey Conference as the new pastor of the Camden Spanish, Pine Hill Spanish, Gibbsboro Spanish company and Mt. Holly Spanish churches.

Carrillo received his bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Montemorelos (Mexico). He served as chaplain at the University of Navojoa and associate pastor in the Alamos church and the Central church of Navojoa before moving to pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

He recently completed his M.Div. at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.). He loves to dedicate his free time to writing. He also loves nature and tries to escape to the outdoors whenever possible.

## 'His Plans Are Greater Than Ours'

"Nothing is too small for God," says Gabriela Martinez, 22, a member of the Trenton Spanish church. She tells herself this whenever she encounters hardship. "It's a reminder of how big God's blessings are and how His plans are greater than ours!"

Martinez, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipient, has been facing constant challenges her entire life. From completing high school to deciding which college to choose and if she'd have funds to pay her way, she struggled with numerous roadblocks. There are limits to what DACA recipients can qualify for, and she didn't know what the future held.

Little did she know God had amazing plans for her, just like He has for each one of us. Martinez knew her worries, doubts and questions would be answered, and the right college would be waiting for her. Martinez graduated from high school four years ago, and now attends college. She has witnessed God's blessings and how far He has helped her through her academic career.

Martinez is beyond grateful for the opportunity God has given her to study in this country. "Every time we are hit with a difficult situation, we need to remind ourselves that God put us here for a reason and gave us the path of victory," she says. "No man is greater than God; He is the only One who decides what our paths should be."



Martinez is reminded of how, in His great mercy, God freed the Israelites from the Egyptians. "Even now, in this current generation, God still has mercy on His people, no matter what color, immigration status or background. He loves us all and wants nothing but the best for us," she says. "Nothing is too small for God, for we have a Savior who sacrificed His life for us. So let us worship the One who will always love us unconditionally and who never hesitates to give us the victory over our battles."

Scan code to read articles  
from New Jersey News (and  
other news) in Spanish.



## Ohio Pathfinders Hold Virtual Camporee

More than 300 Ohio Conference Pathfinders across the state recently joined together from their homes for the conference's first ever virtual camporee.

Presenting on the theme, "Stand True," Todd Casey, Pennsylvania Conference's youth director, focused on the life of Barnabas in the early church. Pathfinders learned that part of standing true is encouraging and supporting one another.

Later, the Pathfinders had the opportunity to earn three honors: tole painting, card making and coral reef. Volunteers, including area Pathfinder coordinators Karen Johnson and Jeni Kessler (pictured), packed and shipped supplies for the honor classes ahead of the camporee so each family could complete them remotely. The Pathfinders also got the opportunity to participate in a virtual escape room, based on the life



of Barnabas. This activity helped them discover how to be a disciple of Jesus today by standing true for their Savior.—Youth Director Edward Marton

## Presidents Collaborate On Bible Reading Challenge

Constituents of the Allegheny West and Ohio conferences joined hands in January as they accepted the challenge to read their entire Bibles in just 31 days!

This collaborative project began months earlier when Ohio Conference President Bob Cundiff (pictured, right) and Allegheny West Conference President Marvin Brown (left) began to dream of ways to strengthen the ties between the two conferences.

Bob Cundiff comments, "Marvin and I get along really well, and we know that our constituents can too.

This project is an opportunity for us to do something meaningful together that signals the beginning of a new and closer relationship. This is the first of what we hope will be many collaborative projects in which we will work together to build God's kingdom in our overlapping territories."

The two presidents first met at a luncheon shortly after the killing of George Floyd, where they came together for worship, prayer and a dialogue about race. Cundiff states, "At a time when so many were contributing negatively to this dialogue about racism in America, we wanted to add something positive to the conversation."

Since that day, the relationship between the two administrations has steadily grown. Both presidents envision a future that may include other collaborative projects such as joint pastors' meetings, teachers' meetings, evangelistic efforts and perhaps even weekend convocations or camp meetings.

More than 500 people signed up for the Presidents' January Bible Reading Challenge. Participants received a daily e-mail from one of the presidents with a note of encouragement and the reading assignment for the day.

Brown says, "The reading challenge was a fantastic way to launch the Columbia Union's Year of the Bible theme in each of our territories."



## Stereo Adventista Broadcasts Bible for 31 Days

This past January, the Hispanic churches of Ohio joined the Ohio Conference Presidents' Bible Challenge to read the entire Bible in 31 days, using their own Spanish-language challenge: "Sanctified by His Word!"

Peter Simpson, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, shared with the members, "What a challenge from our conference president! Let's mobilize every Hispanic member toward the reading of the Holy Scriptures in 31 days!"

Members across the state rallied around this cry and decided to use the Hispanic Ministries online radio station, Stereo Adventista, to collaboratively read the Bible together. Each day, the radio station broadcasted four hours of programming dedicated to reading the assigned chapters live on air. About 120 volunteers signed up to read on a rotating basis. Members of all ages jumped at the opportunity to volunteer their voices and time to broadcast the Word

of God—from pastors and their spouses to elders, young adults and even children.

The transmission took place in two segments—two hours in the morning and two more in the evening—so that listeners could easily hear the Word of God, no matter where they were. Individuals could also listen to the segments anytime via a podcast on the radio station's app.

"It's so much easier when we take this challenge together," says Simpson. "So many members I talk to around the state comment on how at first they didn't think they could read the Bible all the way through in just one month. But now they have accomplished this goal together through this radio program! May God continue to bless His people as we make 2021 the Year of the Bible."

For more information on Stereo Adventista, visit [stereoadventista.org](http://stereoadventista.org).



Ohio Conference's Hispanic church leaders and members (top row) Peter Simpson, Mason Reyes, Iveth Reyes, Alfredo Avila, (bottom row) Maria Barquero, Liliana Avila, Jaden Castillo and Anthony Infante volunteer their voices and time to broadcast the Word of God via the conference's Hispanic Ministries online radio station, Stereo Adventista.

# Pennsylvania Pen

## ‘I’ve Seen the Power of Prayer’

As we pray together, God promises to answer. Lives are changed, healing happens, people come to know God. Prayer is one of the most powerful things God’s people can do.

Recently, while I was leading worship at Reading Junior Academy (RJA), I was thinking about a meeting I was headed to afterward. I expected it to be a difficult appointment that wouldn’t end well. So I asked the students to pray for my meeting. They prayed for God to lead, and God heard their prayers and answered! The meeting went better than I could have ever imagined.

At worship the next week, I told the students how God had answered their prayers beyond my expectations. I invited them to join the “By My Spirit” prayer team, praying daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. RJA now has more than 45 students committed to praying each day, and almost 20 have asked for Bible studies to prepare for baptism.

Students in Pennsylvania Conference schools across the state have received a “How can I pray for you?” pin, as they commit to praying daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They are learning to pray for others.

First- and second-graders at the Harrisburg Adventist School have been taught that the sound of a siren means it’s time to stop and pray for first responders heading to an emergency. The Whitehall Christian School has a bulletin board dedicated to prayer requests, answers to prayer and thank you notes from people who have been prayed for in a special way.

One day I forgot I was wearing a “How can I pray for you?” pin when a woman stopped me at the grocery store and asked, “Would you really pray for me?” I prayed for her and her family right there in the aisle. Rarely has a person said no when I’ve offered to pray for them. They may not listen to sermons or come to church, but they welcome prayer.

Won’t you join my young friends and me as we pray daily for others and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? United together in prayer, we can fulfill our mission of reaching everyone, everywhere with a message of hope and redemption—and God will do even more amazing things!

“To those who wait humbly upon God ... is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train” (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 672).—*Shawn Shives, Assistant to the President*



*Students from the Mountain View Christian School in South Williamsport pray together.*

## Unite Together With Us in Prayer!

- Email your prayer requests to [prayer@paconference.org](mailto:prayer@paconference.org), submit them via [paconference.org/prayer-request](http://paconference.org/prayer-request) or leave them on our message line at (610) 374-8332.
- Join our prayer partners who are praying daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Register at [paconference.org/by-my-spirit](http://paconference.org/by-my-spirit) to receive monthly eblasts with requests, answers and more.
- Join our Together in Prayer Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/PaUnitedTogetherinPrayer](https://facebook.com/groups/PaUnitedTogetherinPrayer).
- Join Pastor Shawn Shives for livestreamed prayer, Wednesdays at 1:20 p.m. on [facebook.com/PennsylvaniaConference](https://facebook.com/PennsylvaniaConference).

## Conference Hires Church Regeneration Director

Stewart Lozensky recently joined the Pennsylvania Conference to serve as the church regeneration director, a newly created role to help plateaued and declining churches grow again and reach their communities with the gospel. Lozensky (pictured with his wife, Heidi) will partner with pastors and local congregations to develop customized regeneration plans and provide resources to help them achieve their vision.

“We created this position to answer one of the most-asked questions I receive around the conference: ‘What are we doing to help plateaued and small churches?’” shares Gary Gibbs, conference president. “Pastor Stewart is perfect to lead in this vital strategic initiative. He has 33 years of experience in growing declining and stagnating churches. We are committed to assist our wonderful pastors and members regenerate their churches through specialized training and prioritized resources for churches who enroll to be a regeneration church.”

Lozensky shares, “I’m looking forward to working



with pastors and church members to recapture the vision of the Adventist movement. It is exciting to watch people grow in Christ and to see churches fulfill the Great Commission.”

Pennsylvania Conference

# CAMP MEETING 2021

June 11-19, 2021 | Blue Mountain Academy, Hamburg, Pa.

**CARLTON BYRD**   **SHAWN BOONSTRA**   **DENIS FORTIN**   **VICKI GRIFFIN**   **YVES MONNIER**

For more information or to register for lodging go to  
[paconference.org/camp-meeting](http://paconference.org/camp-meeting)



## 'Gifts for Jesus' Members Donate All Year Long

Through their yearlong "Gifts for Jesus" ministry, members of the Smith Mountain Lake church in Moneta, Va., give financial donations that are placed on a mission tree designated for chosen projects. For more than 16 years, Gifts for Jesus has enjoyed much success.

Last year, the church chose three organizations for its gift-giving campaign: the Navajo Missions (Ariz.), Eyes for India and The People of Peru Project. Members collected baby items and a crib (pictured) for babies at the Navajo Missions. The Eyes for India organization received funds to help with eye exams, surgeries and glasses for the country's 15 million blind individuals. And, with Peru ranked as the country with the highest spread of COVID-19 per capita, donated funds by members to The People of Peru Project helped many individuals without income to buy food for their families.

This year, members have decided to maintain donations to these three organizations, allowing for gift-giving all year long instead of the traditional one Sabbath in December. "My prayer for 2021 is that we each extend a hand to share in the uplifting of humanity



and reflecting of God's love to those in need," shares Kathy Bried, a program participant.

While engaging in this ministry, members often reflect on Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (KJV).

## Dunlap Leads by Example, Takes COVID-19 Vaccine

In silence for almost three weeks, he contemplated his decision. Roy Dunlap serves as a deacon at the Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Md., and is the director of Environmental Services at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. In his role, Dunlap supervises the hospital staff members who are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing all things related to COVID-19.

When news that a vaccine would be available for frontline workers at the hospital, Dunlap had a decision to make. He needed to consider the implications of taking or not taking the vaccine. Given that the majority of his staff are people of color—93 percent African American and Latino, and 7 percent Asian—he anticipated some resistance to the injection.

The mortality rate for those in minority communities from COVID-19 is three times higher than that of Caucasians. That statistic weighed heavily on Dunlap as approximately a quarter of his staff got infected with the virus. Dunlap reflects, "One of our employees died from the virus, yet my staff were more fearful of taking the vaccine than of COVID-19 itself."

As a leader, Dunlap felt he needed to set an example for his team, and scheduled his appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. "I felt taking the vaccine was important to help calm some of the skepticism and mistrust among those in our community," he explains.

Dunlap was one of the first in the nation's capital to take the injection (pictured). To date, nearly 40 percent of his staff have taken the vaccine.



PHOTOS BY RHONDA POFF AND HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL STAFF

## Conference to Host Virtual Quinquennial Meeting

On March 14, 2021, the Potomac Conference Corporation will be the first conference in the Columbia Union Conference to virtually host a full constituency meeting. Like many organizations that have had to adjust their official meeting protocols, after much prayer and deliberation, Potomac made the decision to proceed with the virtual option. The conference's executive committee later approved the request from the conference administration.

For almost a year, federal, state and local guidelines concerning COVID-19 have driven conference officials to recalculate how they do business. Camp Meeting, town hall gatherings and several executive committee meetings have gone virtual in an effort to consider the health and safety of members throughout the conference territory.

"There is nothing that can take the place of meeting in person," says Bill Miller, president. "However, because of the uncertainty of the time we live in and the need to maintain the utmost safety, we must find ways to move the mission and the conference's business forward. Going virtual will allow us to do this in a way that will not sacrifice the integrity of the process."

The virtual meeting will be hosted at the North American Division (NAD) headquarters (pictured) in Columbia, Md. The NAD information technology team will provide the technical expertise needed to bring together all of the virtual meeting elements.

"We live in a new normal in which virtual meetings have become a common occurrence," says Jose Vazquez, vice president for administration. "The upcoming constituency meeting will be uncharted territory, yet I believe our team is up to the task of making sure it's conducted effectively and efficiently."

Due to the number of persons limited in the building,



the Potomac Conference staff will help facilitate the meeting from its office headquarters in Staunton, Va. The team will ensure all delegates are correctly identified and registered, have instructions on using the virtual voting function and provide guidance on participating in the live discussions. Delegate training, organizing and nominating committee members are also conducting their meetings virtually.

While the constituency meeting will focus on conducting conference business, it will, more importantly, focus on the theme, "The Power of Touch," reflecting on how Jesus' touch changes lives. Throughout the Bible, examples can be found of healing through the power of Jesus' touch: the man who was cured of leprosy, the blind man whose sight was restored and the woman who was miraculously healed.

"The prayer is for each Potomac member to be Christ's disciples and representatives and to continue bringing people into a relationship with the Savior," says Miller.

A promotional graphic for a virtual meeting. On the left, a hand is shown touching a line of white dominoes. The text "THE POWER OF TOUCH" is written in large, bold, green letters. Below it, in smaller blue text, is "THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION OF THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS". At the bottom, it says "Sunday, March 14, 2021 | Virtual Meeting". In the top right corner, there is a logo for the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-Day Adventists, which includes a tree and the text "Potomac Conference CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS" and "growing healthy, disciple-making churches". To the right of the main graphic is a vertical blue and green bar with a white logo of an open book with wings.

PHOTO BY PIETER DAMSTEEGT



Blue Mountain Academy

# COMMUNIQUE

## Students Celebrate Diversity in Chapel Series

Angola. United Arab Emirates. Bermuda. Brazil. South Korea. Mexico. Russia. United States. Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students bring a rich diversity to campus as they learn different perspectives and how to excel in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment, preparing them for the future in a diverse world. This year, staff and students are leading out in a special chapel series that highlights different people groups and offers the opportunity to celebrate and learn from one another. “The events are designed to reveal that though we may have different cultural backgrounds, we are all one in Christ,” states Esther Hernandez, director of the Marketing Department.

“Culture days are an opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness and similarities that we all share,” says Burney Culpepper, principal. “Because of our cultural diversity, we are perfectly positioned for these days to be very special.”

Each event includes cultural information, students sharing their experiences, activities and food. The series kicked off with a day focused on Latin America and South America, and included student speakers who shared from their own experiences and a flag parade featuring Brazil, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Mexico. Future chapels will highlight Europe, Asia, Africa and North America. The series will end with an international weekend celebrating all cultures.



Preparing Students To be **WORLD CHANGERS.**

Blue Mountain Academy

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**April 30 – May 1, 2021**

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**ALUMNI WEEKEND**

Together Apart

a **virtual event** you can't miss!

**April 23 – 25, 2021**

[www.bma.us/alumni-weekend](http://www.bma.us/alumni-weekend)

## Astronomy Class Witnesses God's Glory

One of the new class additions to the Highland View Academy (HVA) curriculum this school year is in the area of astronomy. The study of the starry host encourages HVA students to gaze at the night sky and consider how they fit in the universe designed by God.

Originated by HVA STEM teacher Kenji Nomura, the class was added as one of the STEM elective courses and is supported by a grant from the Toshiba America Foundation. The students have been able to research best methods of astronomical study, take photos of the stars through a large telescope and hold several outdoor star parties to encourage both school and community members to better understand how they fit in the universal plan.

"The astronomy class is a good mix between learning and acting. We learn about the discoveries of different astronomers, then we go out at night and view those same discoveries with our telescopes," states sophomore and STEM student Brandon Herd. "The class promotes discussion between each other about

the subject, allowing for long talks and debates. The talks and night classes are what make up the core of this class. The astronomy class is easily one of the best classes I've taken."



*A recent eclipse.*



*The starry host and a shooting star.*



*The Earth's moon as seen through a telescope.*



# the LEGACY

## OUR JOURNEY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

### My Journey With God

*Juan Cueto, Class of 2021 chaplain and Student Association sports coordinator, is a senior at Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA). Read how God has led him up to this point in his life:*

When I arrived to the United States in 2016 at the age of 12, I didn't know what to expect in terms of education. I attended a public school in New Jersey, and, after eighth grade, my mom gave me the option of going to a public high school or to LNAA. I didn't think there was a difference, but I wanted to try something



*Juan Cueto helps fellow senior Amy Colon with an assignment.*

new since I had already tried public school and didn't learn how to speak, write or read English.

When I started my journey at LNAA, something felt different. Students actually wanted to help, and teachers wanted to assist me in learning English. In less than two years, I was able to speak and read English—a total miracle!

LNAA is more than just a regular school; it is like a home where my fellow classmates are like brothers and sisters to me. It has helped me to grow mentally, and, most importantly, spiritually.

I am now a senior, and I'm starting to choose what

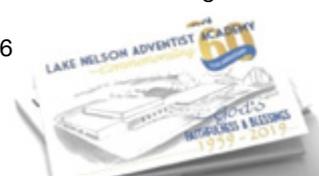
career I want to pursue. As a competitive person, I wanted to be a professional soccer player, but now that I have decided that I want to give my life to Christ my Savior, I want to study theology and become a pastor to help others and bring the good news to the world. I used to think, *When I grow up I want to be like Cristiano Ronaldo*, but now I'm like, *I want to be like Pastor Sterling—my school chaplain.*

I have learned that God works in mysterious ways. No one can truly understand Him. But if we give our hearts and minds to Him, we'll see that not everything in this world is black and white. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, there is Someone who loves you no matter what. Trust in Him, and you'll see what He has in store for you.

### Commemorative Journal Celebrates 60 Years

LNAA is pleased to unveil its commemorative journal—a compilation of photographs, factoids and recollections from past students and staff. This memento—a gift or keepsake—is filled with evidence of God's faithfulness and blessings.

Order a journal by calling (732) 981-0626 or visiting the website, [lakenelsonadventist-academy.org](http://lakenelsonadventist-academy.org).



# PFA POST



Visit us online at [PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG](http://PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG). *Excellence is no accident.*

## Academy Keeps Spirits High

School started with high hopes and bubbling excitement as students and staff reunited on the campus that has become a second home to so many. It soon became apparent, however, that the anticipated dip in morale would be monumental.

With the stress of a steadily raging pandemic and continued political discourse in the country, the students' and staff focus was continuously tried.

To combat this, members of the United Student Movement (USM), the dormitory deans, the Spiritual Life committee and the Guidance Department began packing the schedule with more activities to relieve student stress. The goal to maintain as normal a year as possible became most important.

The result was a semester full of activity beginning with the 14 Days of Spiritual Enrichment program, highlighting the year's P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens) theme. Guest speakers Lola Moore Johnston, senior pastor of Potomac Conference's Woodbridge (Va.) church, shared a virtual message with the Kimbrough Hall female residents, and Robert Mann ('95), the supervisor at Science and Engineering Services (Md.), did the same with the Handy Hall male residents.

Due to the pandemic, the annual Columbia Union SALT Conference was canceled, so the USM quickly assembled a Leadership Conference where student leaders met together with their sponsors, Kohren Joseph and O'Shayne Rankine, for a bonding weekend.



*Bryson Blair ('24) makes his way around the skating rink during one of the academy's off-campus trips.*



*Ministry in Motion members Bria Bernard ('21), Camille Stepney ('21), Andrea Gibbons ('21) and Zipporah Leonce ('22) appear in an outdoor video.*

The administration added more mental health days to the school schedule, including additional rest time and stress relief seminars. They planned outdoor activities, including basketball, volleyball, relay races, kite flying, Sabbath nature walks, outdoor theatres and a vespers bonfire.

Another way Pine Forge Academy (PFA) students traditionally manage stress is through their music ministry. Sharing the message of God's love and care through song is a long-standing hallmark of the school. Under Jarrett Roseborough, musical director, the choir produced an outdoor video featuring PFA's "Ministry in Motion" praise dancers.

As temperatures dropped and the school remained COVID-free, more activities and gatherings moved indoors. Meeting together for church services in the gymnasium was a definite morale booster for everyone. This allowed for a successful Parent Weekend, where parents and students participated in and presented the divine worship service via Zoom.

Other indoor activities included old-fashioned socials, basketball and volleyball tournaments, fashion shows, Holiday Spirit Week, the 2021 Senior Class Presentation, the annual Thanksgiving dinner and off-campus trips to a roller skating rink and a corn maze.

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](http://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

## Students Participate in International Symposium

Late January, a group of seniors from Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), along with other selected students from the Chesapeake Conference, participated virtually in The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) symposium, held in the Netherlands. SAA representatives Angela Coppock (1), Bela Fuentes (2), Darysa Naranjo-Gregory (3), Heather Hernandez (4), Luke Smith (5) and Abby Shim (6) attended this international experience.

The Capital Model United Nations (CAPITALMUN) conference, sponsored by the Honors College at Washington Adventist University (WAU), handpicked these SAA student scholars to attend the THIMUN symposium.

Similar to CAPITALMUN, but from an international perspective, THIMUN allows hundreds of students to meet, debate and resolve real global issues faced by the United Nations. This year's team from Chesapeake represented the nation of Ukraine and required extensive preparation before attending the session.

According to C. Jonathan Scriven, director of CAPITALMUN, the vision of the program is to continue hosting and expanding the regional CAPITALMUN program at WAU, while selecting students from that symposium to attend the THIMUN in person in 2022.

Participant Shim shares, "Preparing for THIMUN was really engaging and exciting! Since it's the first time any Adventist school has been represented, we definitely felt a little nervous. The topics were interesting to research, especially since they were so relevant and current. I was eager to see the scale of the event as well as debate our resolutions."

Hernandez adds, "I'm very honored to be a part of THIMUN. It was incredibly fun and was nice to connect with other students from different schools."

Marty Cooksey, SAA History teacher and sponsor, says, "We have excellent scholars here at Spencerville and throughout the Chesapeake Conference who demonstrate their shared abilities in critical-thinking skills. The environment of the Model United Nations projects, created and hosted by Dr. Scriven and the Washington Adventist University Honors College, provides each with a unique opportunity in creative, collective problem-solving, working with real, current,

United Nations challenges. I am very proud of our young minds, and look forward to their continued participation, both regionally and on the international stage in the Model United Nations programs."



# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

# CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

### Entrepreneurship Class Enters Shark Tank Contest

This year, Spring Valley Academy (SVA) introduced a new high school course exploring the world of entrepreneurship. Students learned how to hire, fire, sell, explore the market, read financial statements, create a business plan, give an elevator pitch and ask for funding. The capstone project was a Shark Tank contest in which each student presented their own business plan to a group of local business leaders requesting an “investment” in their company. The students delivered and staged their presentations using props such as cupcakes, prepared meals, lawn mowers, clothing and other items.

Senior Anigue Gruia shares, “Being a part of Shark Tank was one of the best ‘real-life’ learning experiences I’ve ever had. I am going into business myself, and competing in this competition has taught me worlds of information that I otherwise would not have access to. It was truly indescribable and so much fun!”

The “sharks” included Rick Bianco, superintendent of schools for the Ohio Conference; Ken Chaij, executive director of Oncology Services for the Kettering Adventist HealthCare Network; Aaron Koles, sales director of UKG Inc.; Krista Mainess, executive director of Helping Our Families, Inc.; and Kathy Burns, SVA instructor/registrar and designated school official.

Thanks to a local donor, the top three winners of the contest received cash prizes: 1st Place: Senior Anigue Gruia—\$500, as well as a \$1,000 scholarship from the Ohio Conference; 2nd Place: Senior Rachel Breakie—\$250; and 3rd Place: Junior Connor O’Geare—\$100.

“I truly enjoyed exploring the world of entrepreneurship with the class and am very proud of all of them!” says Burns. “I am thankful for our judges, donors and all those who helped make this class project a success!”



*Top to bottom: As part of their Entrepreneurship Class, students Anigue Gruia ('21), Rachel Breakie ('21) and Connor O'Geare ('22) present their business plans during a Shark Tank contest.*

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Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam



# IMPACT Shenandoah

*Serve God - Value Knowledge - Accept a Life of Service*

## Tradition Reimagined: A Candlelight Journey

The Candlelight Concert is a treasured Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) tradition, a gift from the Music Department to the community. This year, programming had to change because of health precautions. “As executive orders tightened in November, God led the way to join the Music Department efforts with the New Market campus church’s annual Journey to Bethlehem production and moving the combined outreach presentation online,” shares Daniel Biaggi, music director.

With time and resources short, God worked through students and church members to share the beautiful story of Jesus. Led by Biaggi; strings and orchestra director Kelly Wiedemann ('03); and program director Darlene Anderson, the entire production had to be prerecorded, and filming began immediately. Actors committed to long periods of filming and musicians to late nights to achieve the best takes.

“In the past, music groups would have had at least two more weeks to prepare their music. Students and directors learned to adapt quickly to changing situations,” says musician and choir member Emily White ('21).

“The students who rose to the occasion left me in awe. We learned to be adaptable, patient and persevering. Audio and video recording at this level is all new for us! The students were professional and focused as we all learned together,” shares Wiedemann.

The students and directors deeply felt the potential impact of telling the story of Jesus through this new



*Strings players Joseph Pelote ('24), Ellie Anderson ('23) and Anisa Phillip ('24) perform during the annual Candlelight Concert.*

method. “God’s blessings and presence were felt in serious moments when students were tired, restarting a piece for the umpteenth time, and also in moments when they played their best and burst into relieved laughter after the cut-off,” says Wiedemann. “In general, the pandemic resulted in a greater appreciation of the time we have in school together and for the power in music ministry. Being a part of it has brought immense comfort to teachers and students alike, and we are humbled by the impact the program has had on more than 4,000 viewers on the SVA and church YouTube channels.”

The premiere finally arrived, and students gathered with their families to watch the results. “Some of us were able to watch on a big screen ‘drive-in’ in the church parking lot, along with neighbors from the community. As the event began, a lot of us texted back and forth, excited to see the final cut,” shares White.

“God provided resources to make the project a reality through people from SVA, the church, the community, from God’s people here in the United States and abroad,” Biaggi testifies. “The opportunity to be used by the Holy Spirit has been a blessing to everyone who participated in this wonderful ministry. We pray that all who view this telling of the greatest story ever told—of Jesus’ truth and grace—will be drawn into a deeper relationship with Him as Savior and Friend.”



*Christopher Reyes ('23) bows his head in prayer.*

# www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## Students Affirm One Another Through Words

Takoma Academy students, as well as many around the world, suffered great loss in 2020. Recently, students came together on a Zoom call and submitted words of affirmation in the group chat:

“Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath, smile and start again.”—*Gabriel Morency* ('22)

“Pain is temporary.”—*Lia Watson* ('23)

“You are beautiful and loved!”—*Naomi Jones* ('22)

“When you are feeling down, remember the story of Job. God may be bringing you through a trial in order to set you up for His blessings.”—*Ethan Morency* ('22)

“You are wanted and loved just the way you are.”  
—*Janelle Morency* ('22)

“God loves you.”—*Rafael Samuels* ('23)

“There is calm after the storm.”—*Kris Francis* ('23)

“For the person who suffered a loss, just checking on you and praying God takes extra special care of you today.”—*Inioluwa Jobi* ('22)

“You are enough.”—*Blair Dyer* ('23)

“Don't rush the healing process. Be patient with yourself and God.”—*Elli'ette Hicks* ('21)

“Everything takes time.”—*Jenelle Bryant* ('23)

“God will always be with you.”—*Melissa Orellana* ('22)

“When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry, your Lifeguard walks on water.”—*Amarachi Bockarie* ('24)

“God hears you at all times.”—*Carlise Shaw* ('22)

“Just breathe.”—*Dance Ollennu Prescott Burgess* ('22)

“Remember God has a plan for you, and, even when you feel isolated, He is there.”—*Mysha Miller* ('24)

“Your mistakes don't define you!”—*Amoré Burge* ('24)

“It is always OK to take naps. It is just another way to recharge.”—*Zenovia Graham* ('21)

“Sometimes sleep does the trick.”—*Ayanna McInnis* ('22)

“Never forget you're not alone.”—*Karla Rosette* ('24)

“Today might be tough, but tomorrow is on the horizon.”—*Jaydon Mabena* ('21)

“Don't worry, God has you.”—*Andrew Bethea* ('21)

“You are amazing and strong!”—*Valerie Ganta* ('22)



Jaydon Mabena ('22), Valerie Ganta ('22), Naomi Jones ('22), Lia Watson ('23), Amoré Burge ('24) and Andrew Bethea ('21) display encouraging words of affirmation.

## Praying Together for WGTS Listeners

“Would you help us pray for WGTS listeners?” This was the question then-Sligo church youth pastor Terry Johnsson had for several of the station’s volunteers and local church members. Johnsson was doing a weekly call-in show for teens in 2008. Following the show, he would pray with a dozen or so listeners who would call. After an on-air promotion, the number of calls reached 100, and that year during the station’s spring fundraiser, 500 listeners called for prayer in just six hours. Johnsson says, “That’s when I realized we should make prayer available all the time.”

Johnsson put together a team of volunteers, including Kristy Garza, Laila Mashny, Margot Chappell, Linda Valenca, Sandra DeVaux, Linda Fox, Joan Silver, Esther Zaiback, and Ray Zimmerman. For several years, this dedicated group took phone calls from listeners. One volunteer, Mashny, said, “It is heart-touching to see the answered prayers and praises. Prayers are wonders, like sending a message to God.”

It was personally a tough time for volunteer Garza because she was receiving treatment for brain cancer. Her son, Pete, recalls, “Praying for those requests was a therapeutic and healing exercise.” She would say to me, ‘Prayer unites us. We have the power of the Holy Spirit.’” She passed away just a few years later.

As the number of calls increased, Johnsson, now the WGTS chaplain, introduced an online platform on the WGTS website where listeners could submit their requests. The prayer team would gather each Wednesday for several hours to pray over the requests. Listeners were also able to view the requests and pray for other listeners, and, by 2018, listeners had prayed more than 1 million prayers for others. In addition, the WGTS staff would pray over requests each morning. It also became a tradition for WGTS staff, area pastors and members of the prayer team to be at concerts and other events to pray with people. And more recently, during the pandemic, afternoon host Stacey Stone hosts a daily live prayer time with listeners. And the WGTS staff continue to pray daily for listeners.

“When we talk about prayer, we use the phrase, ‘online, on the air and on the ground,’” says Kevin Krueger, general manager. “No matter the method, engaging the Washington, D.C., region in prayer has been a priority for WGTS. It is such a blessing and honor to pray daily for our listeners, and we are so thankful for the many volunteers and staff who have been a part of this prayer ministry.”



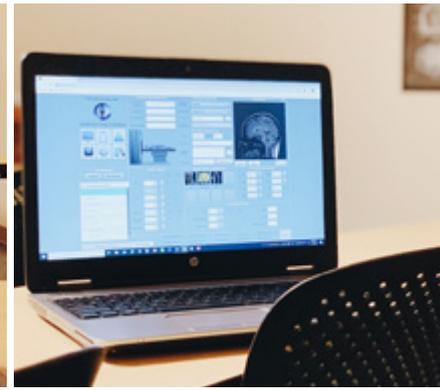
*Margot and Milton Chappell with former WGTS Chaplain Terry Johnsson. Long-time supporters of the station, Margot and Milton have prayed with hundreds of listeners over the years. Margot passed away in November 2020. Her bright smile and generous spirit are greatly missed.*



*Linda Valenca with Mandisa at a WGTS concert; Laila Mashny; and Kristy Garza. In addition to many others, these three women have faithfully prayed for thousands of WGTS listeners over the years.*



# KETTERING COLLEGE



*The Radiologic Sciences and Imaging program utilizes sophisticated simulation software to enhance students' virtual learning experiences.*



## Advanced Imaging Students Build Real-life Skills with Simulation-based Training

By Lauren Brooks

From detecting the early stages of cancer to diagnosing COVID-19 and pneumonia, advanced imaging techniques are playing a critical role in the future of health care. To meet the growing demand for skilled technologists, Kettering College's Advanced Imaging program is utilizing simulator software that gives students hands-on experience with today's medical imaging technology.

The sophisticated, online-based simulator software offers an immersive training platform, allowing students to practice scanning their skills anytime and anywhere there's a Wi-Fi connection. Kettering College is one of two institutions in Ohio, and the only college in Dayton, to use the innovative software.

Taryn Talbott, associate professor and clinical coordinator of Advanced Imaging at Kettering College, has utilized a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) simulator in her curriculum for the past four years.

"The MRI simulator is a huge asset because it helps students learn at their own pace and apply their knowledge in a relaxed environment,"

said Talbott. "We've seen a significant increase in students' confidence as they walk into their clinical rotations at local hospitals because they're already familiar with the technology."

Amanda Carmichael, who is pursuing her MRI certificate, says the opportunity for simulator training was one of the reasons she chose to attend Kettering College.

"The simulator is extremely similar to actual MRI scanners in the field, so I felt much more comfortable walking into my first day of clinicals at a Level I trauma center," she said.

The MRI and CT programs are part of many stand-alone certificate programs at Kettering College offered completely online and are also offered as part of the school's bachelor's degree completion in advanced imaging.

For more information, visit [kc.edu/advanced-imaging](https://www.kc.edu/advanced-imaging)



# VALUE PROPOSITION



WASHINGTON  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY



Washington Adventist University (WAU) has been an educational, inspirational, and spiritual resource for generations of students since 1904. From the beginning, this piece of property (so close to the halls of power in our country) has witnessed students who have become priceless to their families, communities, and even the world. Our name has changed, but the intention to prepare excellent servant leaders has not.

WAU continues to stand as the only Adventist University in the nation's capital. Our location doesn't only offer close access to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the North American Division; we also have access to immensely abundant career opportunities in the northeastern United States. We are dedicated to preparing our students for the 21st-century career field and a job market looking for well-rounded, moral, and conscientious leaders who can be trusted and loyal.

Access is a commodity that has always been valuable, and access is a commodity that WAU carries in abundance. Within minutes of our campus lies the center of power in the world. In a world hungry for social justice, our students have had the opportunities to be direct witnesses to history and even participate in peaceful marches. Our students have the chance to walk through the halls of the Capitol with the leadership of our nation.

WAU also sits squarely in the center of a region dominated in healthcare by Adventist HealthCare. The growing relationship WAU has with Adventist HealthCare continues to grow. Students within our programs have an opportunity to practice in real-world situations and quickly find themselves hired directly after graduation.

These opportunities become an added value to a campus that continues to offer quality higher education in a Christian environment with a heart for students who may not otherwise have access to higher education. Recently WAU moved from 79th to 22nd in social mobility in the northeast, offering students a chance to move out of poverty and grasp the dreams many of their families have had for generations. WAU will continue to support all of God's children.

WAU is proud of its historical legacies, but we continue to look forward and find ways that our future students can thrive and add immense value to the world around them. Our university will continue to drive on, knowing our calling and knowing that God is blessing in immeasurable ways. Engaging minds and transforming lives...

**THIS IS...** Washington Adventist University

**Weymouth Spence, President**



# PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED HIGH IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE...AND CONTINUES TO GROW!

Written by: Shannon Smith

College Factual recognized Washington Adventist University's Psychology Department as one of the nation's top 10% "Most Focused" programs in Psychology in 2019 and 2020. In 2021, it was ranked #8 Best Bachelor's in Counseling and #6 Most Affordable Bachelor's in Counseling by Bachelorsdegreecentral.org.

Washington Adventist University's Psychology Department is renowned for its illustrious and rich history, as well as its ever-progressing program structure. In 1961, WAU bore witness to its first bachelor's degree in psychology at, then, Columbia Union College (CUC) and the Psychology Department's creation in 1970 by Dr. John Cannon. By choosing an Adventist education, students learn how to integrate faith and science through various learning experiences taught by dedicated Christian psychologists and counselors.

The current department head, Dr. Grant Leitma, has been monumental in introducing a more extensive range of courses that the WAU Psychology Department has to offer. Students can choose to major in General Psychology or concentrated areas like Counseling Psychology as a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree. Students also have the additional opportunity to minor in Behavioral Science and Forensic Psychology, a field that combines both psychology and law in both civil and criminal legal areas.

As an undergraduate, psychology majors can expect to "...develop professional career skills in communication, research, effective writing, teamwork, emotional intelligence, counseling and have the opportunity to apply those skills to Practicum experience before

they graduate," Dr. Leitma stated. "This enhances their chance to gain acceptance to graduate school. It also provides a pathway for our undergraduates to enroll in our MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. Nationally, there is a very strong demand for counselors. Research studies inform us that one in five Americans suffers from a mental health problem – COVID has made this situation worse. All of our MA graduates are employed, and we have a 90% average passing rate on the National Counselor Exam for licensing purposes."

Beyond earning an undergraduate degree, the Psychology Department is proud to offer a new master's program – Master's in Education School Counseling. "We are excited about our newest program, the M.Ed. School Counseling degree program. It has brought many new graduate students to WAU," Dr. Leitma said. "It is fully approved and accredited by the Maryland Department of Education and Maryland Higher Education Commission. Many new graduate students are teachers who desire to make a career transition to the counseling profession. Mental health issues in public and private schools are a genuine concern for K-12 students to succeed academically and eventually graduate on time."



Dr. Grant Leitma is Chair of the Psychology Department at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland.

## Gratitude Dominoes

For most of us, the most interesting thing about a domino is not the little white dots on the front of the tiles (although I was always pretty excited to get double sixes!). It's how easily they stand up on the end, and how you can align them with each other in a line, like the boxcars on a train. And then, when you ever so gently give the one at the front the tiniest little tap, it falls over on the one behind it, creating a cascade of dominoes falling sequentially, each knocking down one or more until eventually they have all fallen over.

I'm not sure of the proper title for the clever folk who have mastered setting up great domino shows where thousands of domino tiles all fall perfectly and precisely. Their work depends on a very steady hand and a clear understanding of domino dynamics – which is basically this: it only takes one tile to get the whole thing going.

Which brings me to showing thanks. It doesn't take much – not much more than a gentle tap – for the first gratitude domino to fall and for gratitude to start skittering out across the landscape. It just takes someone (like you or me) to get it started and give the first tile a little nudge.

Even in the hardest years in our nation's history, we have been able to find so many things for which we can be grateful. We can still give the domino called "gratitude" a little nudge. And it doesn't take much more than that nudge to see the gratitude dominoes start to fall all over the place.

Gratitude gives rise to hope, and hope gives rise to healing, and our Mission is healing. In living our lives in grateful ways, we see our Mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing strengthened and affirmed.

As we continue to work in extraordinary and difficult circumstances, I pray that God will sustain and strengthen us. I thank God for each you – and I am grateful to be a part of the Adventist HealthCare family.

**Terry Forde**  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare



*Terry Forde, President and CEO, Adventist HealthCare (AHC); Yumi Hogan, Maryland's First Lady; and Eunmee Shim, President, AHC Fort Washington Medical Center & AHC Ambulatory Networks.*

## On the Front Lines

In October 2020, Adventist HealthCare broke ground on a five-story, 97,000 square foot medical office building at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. The medical destination will be home to a full range of specialty and preventative care services easily accessible from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

The new facility will complement Adventist HealthCare's newest acute care hospital, Fort Washington Medical Center, and its new primary care facility, which are both located a short drive from the Harbor.

Comprehensive services that will be available at the new facility include: an ambulatory surgery center offering orthopedic, ophthalmic, cardiovascular and general surgery; diagnostic imaging services; a cancer center offering breast, colorectal and prostate care; as well as a vascular clinic, catheterization lab, rehabilitation center and wound care treatment.

The expansion adds to the overall plan for modernization and growth of Fort Washington Medical Center. The plan includes substantial upgrades to the hospital's existing campus, IT infrastructure, and surgical services to culminate with a new facility.

"The investment is part of the commitment that Adventist HealthCare made when it acquired the community hospital in 2019," Adventist HealthCare President & CEO Terry Forde said. "Together, the facilities will provide the critical services that are essential to meeting the healthcare needs of patients we serve in southern Prince George's County."

# Living Our Mission to Extend God's Healing

## NEW IMAGING SERVICES

A new Adventist HealthCare Imaging office will be opening this spring to serve patients in Silver Spring, Maryland, by offering a range of imaging services, including 3D mammography, ultrasound and MRI. This site, along with the Imaging PET/CT center that opened last November in the Medical Pavilion on the campus of Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, continues our commitment to providing convenient services to our community members who need preventive or diagnostic imaging.

**"As a new dad,** I am always thinking of what measures I can take to protect my son ... But for me, getting the COVID vaccine was much more than just protecting my family. To me, it was about doing what I can to help protect those I work with and the community I work for. It was a way for me to continue living Adventist HealthCare's Mission of extending God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing – as well as playing a role in putting COVID behind us. I am extremely proud of the individuals that have worked tirelessly to get the world the protection needed and am proud to be a part of the process in moving forward."

– Daniel Lopez-Mendez, AHC Urgent Care

## ACS

Adventist HealthCare's Takoma Park campus that was previously home to Washington Adventist Hospital for over 110 years was converted to an Alternate Care Site (ACS) when COVID patient cases started to increase a year ago. Our ACS is one of three sites established to ensure Maryland has adequate hospital capacity for residents requiring medical attention for COVID-19.



## JOINT VENTURE WITH CORELIFE

Adventist HealthCare is partnering with CoreLife in a joint venture to provide broader wellness and weight management options to Maryland communities. The community of physicians and healthcare providers will work together with the team at CoreLife to create customized plans to help patients improve their health.

Each CoreLife center will feature a unique model that combines professionals in medicine, nutrition, exercise and behavior – all in a convenient and compassionate environment. Since last August, CoreLife centers have opened in Gaithersburg, Laurel and Germantown.

## Care for Abuse Victims

Vania Baioni, a registered nurse with the Forensic Medical Unit (FMU) at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center, is helping nurses in Brazil launch a much-needed medical specialty. "I am passionate about forensic nursing and I am Brazilian, so it makes sense that I get involved with the group of Brazilian nurses that are working hard to have this specialty recognized there," said Vania.



Registered nurses Zenaide Cavalcante (left) and Vania Baioni working together.

Forensic nurses provide specialized assistance to victims of abuse, neglect and human trafficking. The nurses study, observe, evaluate, investigate and identify physical, psychological and social traumas that have occurred in battered or abused patients. In addition to medical training, forensic nurses know the legal system and are trained to collect evidence, testify in court and assist authorities.

In 2019, Vania invited the administrators of Brazil's Federal Board of Nurses, which sets policies and procedures for nurses throughout the country, to spend two weeks at our Rockville hospital to see how our FMU unit practices forensic nursing. And Vania continues to work with Zenaide Cavalcante, RN, the founder of Abeforense, the Brazilian Association of Forensic Nurses, to combat domestic and sexual violence, a public health issue that undermines the core of the society. As Vania said, "We keep pushing forward to give our patients justice, because that is the right thing to do!"

**"They invested so much of their time and energy into me. They went above and beyond their job – they treated me like family. I realized that if they can care that much about me, then I absolutely need to care that much about myself."**

Read L'Ornya Bowie's story on how she never thought she would need cardiac rehabilitation, much less during a pandemic, in the spring edition of *Adventist HealthCare & You at Issue.com/AdventistHealthCare*

# YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

## A Ray of Hope

By Christina Keresoma

Emotions ran high and spots filled up fast as Kettering Adventist HealthCare opened clinics for the community to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Kettering Adventist HealthCare has been working closely with local health departments and the Ohio Department of Health to make it easy for the community to receive the vaccine and make it widely available to people who qualified, in accordance with the guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health. Vaccination for people age 80 and above started on January 19, and the Ohio Department of Health continued to adjust guidelines each week to include more people, dropping the age guideline in five year increments.

"This vaccine brings hope of a return to normalcy, and we are grateful for the support of state and local partners as we take this next step and continue responding to the needs of our community," said Brenda Kuhn, chief clinical officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

During one of Governor DeWine's press conferences, Kettering Adventist HealthCare vaccinated two community members. Kevin Sharrett, MD, vaccinated Iola Cramer, 101, of Jamestown, while Thomas Brunsman, MD, vaccinated Alfred McDaniel, 98, of Xenia.

Another special moment came when 97-year-old Joe received his vaccine at one of the clinics. What made that moment extra special for Joe was that his grandson Zachary, a pharmacist with the network, administered the shot.

Tears were flowing as the elderly received their first dose of the vaccine. This shot has given them hope for a better tomorrow. Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, has been visiting the clinics daily. "It's been our privilege to partner with our state health leaders in getting



Iola Cramer, age 101, and Alfred McDaniel, age 98, were vaccinated during Governor DeWine's press conference.

these vaccines to our community members—especially those most vulnerable," Manchur said. "Throughout this pandemic, our entire focus has been to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need. These clinics provide us with the chance to be a light in what has been a very dark time, and I'm proud of our team for stepping up and serving selflessly."



Joe received his vaccine from Zachary, one of our pharmacists—and Joe's grandson.

2021 started with a feeling of hope because of the administering of the vaccine. Frontline workers were placed in Phase 1A due to the direct contact with COVID-19 patients. Phase 1B focused on the most vulnerable age group, bringing hope to a population who was quarantined from loved ones and friends. Many people may think the vaccine is from new research, but it was started during the SARS and H1N1 scare many years ago. "Millions of

people have received the vaccine. We're just not seeing serious side effects," says Jeffery Weinstein, MD, patient safety officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

Plans are being developed to continue opening new clinics as the phases progress and the number of available vaccines increases.



# THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19 Antibody Treatment Now Available

The COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment, Bamlanivimab, is being used for qualified patients at Kettering Adventist HealthCare.

The Food and Drug Administration gave emergency use authorization of the monoclonal antibody Bamlanivimab.

Patients may be eligible for the infusion treatment if they are suffering from moderate symptoms of COVID-19 including, but not limited to

- Fever
- Cough
- Chills
- Shortness of breath

Based on results in clinical trials, this treatment helps prevent hospital admission trips to the emergency department and reduce the risk of disease progression.

"This is another tool in our arsenal against COVID-19. By using Bamlanivimab, we hope to help more patients avoid

hospital stays," says Jeffrey Weinstein, MD, patient safety officer for Kettering Adventist HealthCare. "We will continue to seek the latest advancements to ensure that the people of southwest Ohio have access to the best possible care."



*Bamlanivimab is currently being administered at Kettering Medical Center and Fort Hamilton Hospital.*

## Blood for Life

Due to COVID-19, the need for blood donors has been as important as ever. Kettering Adventist HealthCare employees and providers have been stepping in to support this vital need. In January, Martin Jacobs, MD, of Kettering Medical Center completed his 200th lifetime blood donation! Dr. Jacobs began donating blood in memory of a college friend who passed away from a blood disease. He has been donating blood and platelets twice a month since 2013.



*Dr. Jacobs is a nuclear medicine physician for Kettering Medical Center.*



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## EMPLOYMENT

**STALLANT HEALTH**, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a family practice physician, as well as NP or PA to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com).

### OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVENTIST MESSAGE THERAPISTS:

Are you a licensed massage therapist who loves the Lord and wants to reach people through health and wellness? Antiox Integrated Wellness in Hagerstown, Md., is looking for Adventist massage therapists to join their team. To learn more, please email [info@antioxtreatments.com](mailto:info@antioxtreatments.com) or call (240) 420-1900.

**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](mailto:tda@topshamdentalarts.com).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is currently seeking teaching faculty in the following: School of Education and Psychology, Biology/Allied Health Department, School of Computing, School of Visual Art and Design, and School of Journalism and Communication. For a full list of job openings, summaries and qualifications, please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following salaried staff positions: Associate Director

of Catering Services—Food Services, Mental Health Coordinator—Student Success Center, and Director of Adult Degree Completion—Graduate and Professional Studies. For a full list of job openings, summaries and qualifications, please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**, School Counseling Program Coordinator and Professor. Oversee all aspects of the Counselor Education program. Responsibilities include managing the program to maintain accreditation standards with CACREP and the state, teaching graduate courses in the field of counseling and school counseling, providing academic advisement support to students in the program, responding to inquiries regarding the overall academic unit, participating in committees, maintaining an active research agenda as documented through publications and presentations, sitting on dissertation committees and other duties as assigned to the position. Visit [andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_2](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2).

## REAL ESTATE

**HOUSE/ACREAGE FOR SALE IN WEST VIRGINIA:** 3,300 sq. ft. home on 72+/- acres in Ritchie County. House has 3-4 BR, free gas, two central heating and air systems, four gas fireplaces and a 20x20 ft. sunroom on back of home. Small greenhouse, chicken coop, two attached garages and one detached garage. Out of flood plain, creek around back of property, Hughes River across street. Great hiking

trails nearby. Beautiful peaceful setting. \$275,000. Call Robert, (304) 966-3487.

## SERVICES

**ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING**, Adventist family-owned and -operated, provides specialized care for seniors in a family home-style setting. Delicious vegetarian food, activities, Friday night vespers and a shuttle to church Sabbath morning, just to name a few of the many options. Take a look at our newly updated website, [elternhausalf.com](http://elternhausalf.com). Elternhaus also offers a great work environment for Adventist caregivers, LPNs and RNs. Call Tim Mayer, (240) 286-3635.

**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](http://LNFBOOKS.com) for used books and your local ABC or TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

**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 beliefs uncompromised. Call Marcy Danté at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at [apexmoving.com/adventist](http://apexmoving.com/adventist).

**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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY**, Hamburg, Pa., Alumni Weekend 2021, will be held virtually, April 23-25. The business meeting will also be held virtually, Sunday, April 25 at 9 a.m., to discuss changes to the constitution and bylaws. Visit [bma.us/](http://bma.us/) alumni-weekend for more information, and remember we are called to unite.

**JOIN UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY** celebrating 100 years of ministry and service. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to celebrate God's goodness and leading at our centennial weekend, September 17-19. Visit our website for details and updates, [unionspringsacademy.org](http://unionspringsacademy.org).

## LEGAL NOTICES

### POTOMAC CONFERENCE CORPORATION THIRD QUINQUENNIAL MEETING

Legal notice is hereby given, that the Third Quinquennial Meeting of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held online/virtually and convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the corporation's 2015-2019 reports, elect executive officers, vice presidents and members of the Executive Committee and other board and committee members; consider recommendations for amendments and revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, as well as Board of Education, Shenandoah Valley Academy and Takoma Academy Bylaws; and to transact such other business as may come before the delegates.

The Organizing Committee will meet online/virtually on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. The Nominating Committee will meet online/virtually on Sunday, February 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.

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

### WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, INCORPORATED CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that a constituency meeting of Washington Adventist University, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under and by the virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland, will be held Friday, May 21, 2021, at 10 a.m., according to Article III, Section C.2, of the Washington Adventist University Bylaws. In light of COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will be virtual.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees, hear reports of officers and transact other business that may be necessary or proper to come before the constituency.

Weymouth Spence, *President*

# Bulletin Board

## COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 28th regular constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held May 22 and 23, 2021, by videoconference. Materials and login information will be provided to the delegates in advance of the meetings. The first meeting will convene at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, May 22. The second meeting will begin Sunday, May 23, at 9 a.m.

This 28th meeting of the constituency will be held for the purposes of receiving reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2020; the election of officers and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Dave E. Weigley, *President*  
Rick Remmers, *Secretary*

## COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Columbia Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, will be held Sunday,

May 23, 2021, by videoconference, in connection with the 28th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference. Materials and login information will be provided to the delegates in advance of the meeting.

The purposes of this meeting are to elect a board of trustees for the ensuing five-year period and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Delegates to the 28th constituency meeting of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are likewise delegates to the association meeting.

Dave E. Weigley, *President*  
Rick Remmers, *Secretary*

## OBITUARIES

**GRAHAM, William**, of Clymer, Pa., born June 9, 1933; died October 4, 2019. He was a member of the Indiana (Pa.) church. William is survived by a son, Troy (Toni) Graham; a daughter, Lori; numerous grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and nieces and nephews. William was predeceased by his wife and mother of his children, Louise (Kessler) Graham; and a son, Barney.



# 2021



## YEAR OF THE BIBLE

Columbia Union Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists

### Did you know that 2021 is the Year of the Bible?

Join us as we study, live and share Words of Life in the following 3 ways:



Calendar



Video  
Devotionals



Devotional  
Book

Learn more at  
[columbiaunionvisitor.com/yearofthebible](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/yearofthebible)

# Sunset Calendar

	Mar 5	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30
Baltimore	6:02	6:10	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:58
Cincinnati	6:34	6:41	7:48	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:16	8:23	8:29
Cleveland	6:21	6:29	7:37	7:45	7:52	8:00	8:07	8:15	8:23
Columbus	6:27	6:35	7:42	7:49	7:57	8:04	8:11	8:18	8:25
Jersey City	5:51	5:59	7:07	7:14	7:21	7:29	7:36	7:43	7:51
Norfolk	6:02	6:09	7:15	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:40	7:46	7:52
Parkersburg	6:22	6:29	7:36	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:04	8:11	8:18
Philadelphia	5:56	6:04	7:11	7:18	7:25	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:54
Pittsburgh	6:15	6:23	7:30	7:38	7:45	7:52	7:59	8:07	8:14
Reading	5:59	6:07	7:14	7:21	7:29	7:36	7:43	7:50	7:57
Richmond	6:07	6:14	7:20	7:27	7:33	7:39	7:46	7:52	7:58
Roanoke	6:17	6:24	7:30	7:36	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01	8:08
Toledo	6:29	6:37	7:45	7:52	8:00	8:08	8:15	8:23	8:31
Trenton	5:54	6:02	7:09	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52
Wash., D.C.	6:04	6:12	7:18	7:25	7:32	7:39	7:46	7:52	7:59

# Columbia Union Revolving Fund

## MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

### Washington Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Church

The joy, excitement, praises and hymns echoed the chambers of the new facility at 6080 Foreland Garth in Columbia, Md. It was a sight to see on that beautiful Sabbath morning of December 31, 2017, when the church entered its new facility. "At last the seven years of renting and wandering around without a place to call our own has come to an end today," said the first elder of the church, Ebenezer Asiem. Special gratitude goes to the leadership at the Chesapeake Conference for their support and direction throughout the process. Our dream wouldn't have come into reality without God and the loan from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF).

By providing loans for more than 2,000 projects to date, CURF has helped further the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all across the Columbia Union.

Learn more:

(866) 721-CURF | [columbiaunionrevolvingfund.org](http://columbiaunionrevolvingfund.org)

Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$185 million resource that makes ministry possible.

# CURF

*Helping Finance the Gospel Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*



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and build each other up.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

