

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

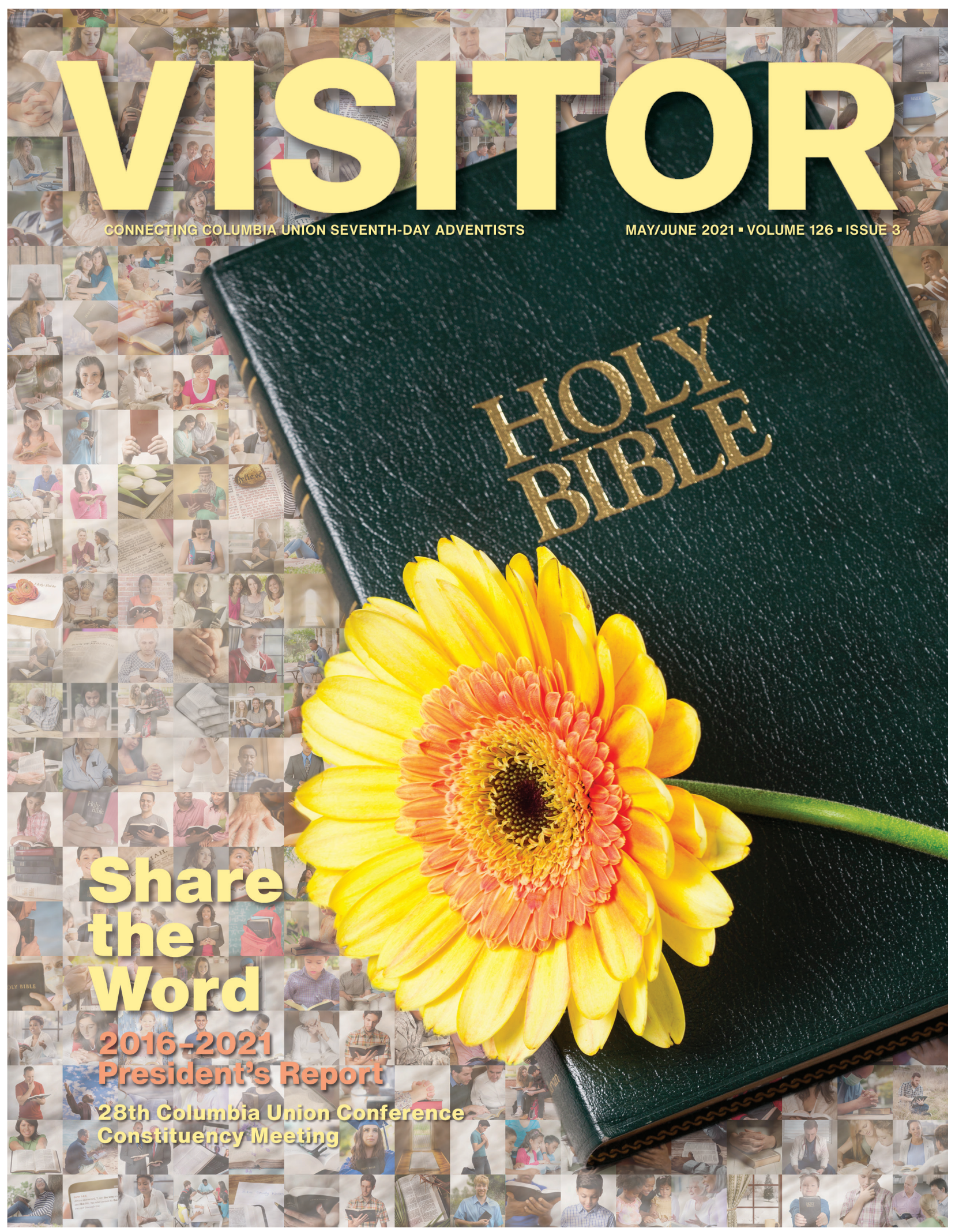
MAY/JUNE 2021 • VOLUME 126 • ISSUE 3

HOLY BIBLE

Share
the
Word

2016-2021
President's Report

28th Columbia Union Conference
Constituency Meeting



VISITOR

DEAR MEMBERS,

It's hard to believe that we've been living through a global pandemic for more than a year. Our hearts ache for the many lives lost and families impacted. Sadly, our world continues to witness the scourge of wars, terrorism, racial strife, economic stress and extreme weather.

While contemplating the news headlines of our day, I was reminded of Jesus' sermon on the Mount of Olives, where he spoke on one of the greatest prophetic messages. Found in Matthew 24, Jesus shared a twofold prophecy: the fall of Jerusalem and the end of the world.

He pulled back the curtain and revealed signs of His second coming: "For nation will rise against nation. ... There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (NKJV, v. 7). "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (v. 12).

Then Jesus pivoted to talk about you and me and our role in the story: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (v. 14).

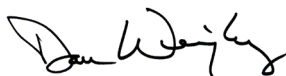
A PASSION FOR MISSION

Since the time I caught the passion for witnessing when I was a young adult leading a summer evangelism program, my life's work and mission has been to help fulfill Jesus' Great Commission. The message of Jesus in Matthew 24 that made an impact on me then is even more relevant today. Like you, I remain committed to Jesus' vision of taking this gospel to every nation and realizing the return of Jesus to this earth and an end to the pandemic of sin.

Five years ago, at the close of our constituency meeting, we introduced a theme inviting members and leaders to "Share the Light, Share the Hope." In this issue of the *Visitor*, we highlight some of the ways our team has come alongside our conferences, ministries, leaders and members who accepted this clarion call to *experience the mission*. I am encouraged to see the passion and zeal across our union—from young adult literature evangelists to seniors sewing masks for frontline workers to pastors using social media to spread the gospel. By working together—and despite the pandemic—we welcomed more than 22,000 new members into our family. *Praise the Lord!*

As we gather to celebrate God's blessings at the 28th Columbia Union Conference Constituency Meeting on May 22–23, our theme will be "Share the Word." This theme highlights our special emphasis on the Year of the Bible and our continued commitment to witness to the world that Jesus is coming soon.

Courage,



Dave Weigley, Ph.D., MBA
President

Celeste Ryan Blyden ■ Editor and Publisher
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The *Visitor* is a publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching nearly 65,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the Mid-Atlantic area and 75,000 online users. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

CONTACT ■ (410) 997-3414 ■ columbiaunionvisitor.com
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OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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

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CONFERENCES

ALLEGHENY EAST: Henry J. Fordham III, President; LaTasha Hewitt, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (610) 326-4610 ■ visitaec.com
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POTOMAC: Charles A. Tapp, President; Debra Anderson, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsdasda.org

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

KETTERING COLLEGE: Nate Brandstater, President; Lauren Brooks, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8601 ■ kc.edu
WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY: Weymouth Spence, President; Richard Castillo, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 891-4000 ■ wau.edu

HEALTHCARE NETWORKS

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Terry Forde, President & CEO; Costin Jordache, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (301) 315-3030 ■ adventisthealthcare.com
KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE: Fred Manchur, CEO; Christina Keresoma, *Visitor* Correspondent ■ Tel. (937) 395-8167 ■ ketteringhealth.org

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2016-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

The most crushing and difficult circumstances are the best opportunities for the Lord to glorify Himself. Mission is not and never will be in quarantine. ... Mission takes place whenever and wherever we are.—*Rubén Ramos*



579,665
Number of prayers offered by the WGTS PrayerWorks community in the last 5 years

3 Millions of dollars the Office of Ministries Development secured to fund 136 church plants and 67 innovative evangelism efforts in our conferences, through partnerships with the General Conference and North American Division

11.39%
Membership growth from 2016 (128,096) to 2020 (142,690)

22,439
NUMBER OF BAPTISMS AND PROFESSIONS OF FAITH DURING THE QUINQUENNium

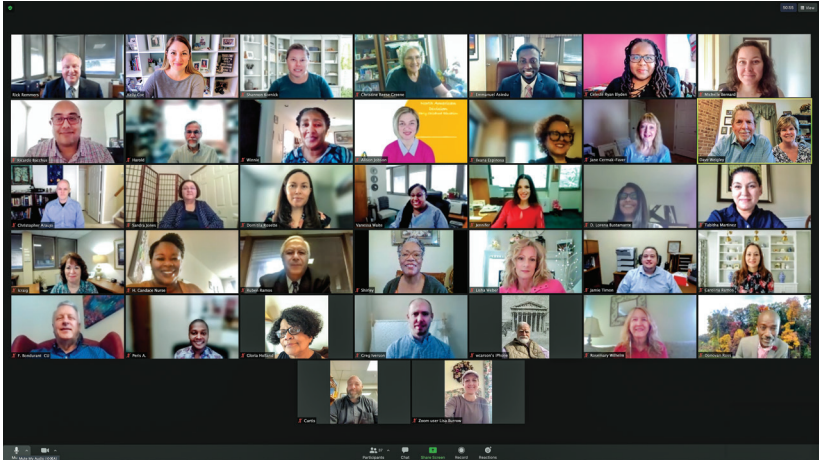
Unionwide Tithe Income
(in millions)



10,000
The number of Columbia Union Pathfinders who attended the Fearless (2016) and Chosen (2019) camporees

7,615
The number of students currently enrolled in our Union's 106 schools

\$8,000
Funds raised and donated from the Visitor magazine's 125th anniversary virtual 5K—a joint venture with the Columbia Union Revolving Fund—for conference Adventist Community Services departments to help families struggling in the pandemic



How Much Did We Zoom?
In the first year of the pandemic, Columbia Union staff spent
787,188 minutes in
1,035 Zoom meetings with
10,398 participants

Watch the constituency meeting May 22-23 at columbiaunionvisitor.com/2021constituency.

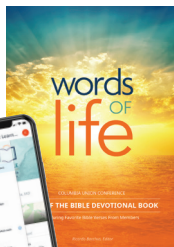
P R I O R I T I Z I N G T H E M I S S I O N

Our team focused on fulfilling the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by addressing six priorities voted by our Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee:

■ PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

We prepared for and designated 2021 as the Year of the Bible, a time of special emphasis on reading, studying and contemplating how God’s Word transforms lives and draws us closer to Jesus.

To aid members on this journey, we published a calendar and daily devotional book featuring testi-



monies from members, leaders and 81 students to 65,000 households across our union. We also partnered with Ohio-based Kettering Adventist HealthCare to produce a yearlong series of one-minute

video devotionals presented by Steve Carlson, chaplain of Kettering College.

■ EVANGELISM

We provided numerous opportunities for members to experience the mission of inviting people in their communities to follow Jesus, welcoming more than 22,000 new members into our union family.

Every conference participated in our 2016–2018 “Share the Light, Share the Hope” evangelism campaign, as well as our 2019–2020 emphasis on reaching the cities with Christ’s message of hope and wholeness. We partnered with Hispanic coordinators to host a series of evangelism events in 100 locations around the union where 7,000 members committed to lead small groups or work to lead five friends to Christ.

At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, churches across



Rosa Sanchez and Zenaida España Rangel were studying for baptism when the pandemic hit and they became seriously ill with the virus. The couple is pictured celebrating their baptism at Ohio Conference’s Vandalia Spanish church plant with Pastor Roger Melendez.

our union quickly pivoted to online-only worship and ramped up digital evangelism efforts. In many situations, this expanded viewership exponentially, as in the case of Hispanic pastors in the Pennsylvania Conference who hosted a Facebook Live series that brought more than 19,000 views and 678 shares.

■ EDUCATION

We fostered excellence in academic and spiritual development by investing in the more than 500 dedicated educators who serve our 106 schools.

To strengthen our schools, we invested in training, developing and mentoring educators. We also helped each conference send educators to the 2018 North American Division Teachers’ Convention in Chicago.

During the pandemic, all our pre-K through 12 schools remained operational through virtual, hybrid and in-person learning. We provided help, support and resources as schools navigated national, state and community COVID-19 reopening guidelines.

■ YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

We gave voice to the concerns and needs of our church’s youth and young adults, and engaged them in mission, ministry, evangelism and leadership opportunities.

We met with 300 young adults to talk about how to bridge communication and generation gaps that sometimes results in younger members leaving the church or becoming uninvolved. From this experience, we recognized how much they care about and want to participate in the cause of Christ in ways that speak to the needs of today's society.

We also funded several young adult-led initiatives and projects, including a second- and third-generation Hispanic church plant in Vineland, N.J.



293

The number of women engaged in our Adventist Women Leaders community, which mentors, supports and advocates for women in ministry and leadership.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We provided several opportunities for leaders to participate in educational events to focus biblically on mission, ministry, leadership and challenges.

Our 2019 Sola Scriptura Leadership Summit provided more than 170 leaders and executive committee members the

opportunity to hear world-renowned theologians and scholars discuss how Scripture informed our church's development, beliefs and organization.

The stark reality of the evil of race relations and unfair practices have touched a nerve for all of us. As a result, we hosted a leadership summit on "Deeper Understandings of Race Relations: A Biblical Perspective" that examined the history and impact of racism in the United States, emphasized biblical perspectives on race and humanity and instructed how to improve race relations.

Leaders on our team also spearheaded mentoring programs for school principals, treasurers and women in ministry.

SOCIAL RELEVANCE

We embraced opportunities to share Christ and promote healing when issues impacted our world and church.

In 2017, after a 32-year-old woman died while protesting at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., we joined with our conferences downtown to offer messages of support (pictured) and prayer for her family and the community. The next year, when a gunman entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, our conference and union leaders signed a prayer placard for the synagogue. In 2020, following the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others at the hands of police, we commissioned a task force to identify ways to address racism and promote restoration and healing.

When the pandemic hit, we supported the efforts of conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) with funding and coordination, as they operated food pantries, provided basic necessities and distributed personal protective equipment to meet unprecedented community needs.



Members of Mountain View Conference's River City Pathfinder Club participate in the 2017 Columbia Union-level Pathfinder Bible Experience.

PHOTOS BY ERICKA MELENDEZ AND BRIAN TAGALOG

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

SECRETARIAT

Earlier this year, Rick Remmers joined our executive officer team as executive secretary. In this role, he serves as the union's official



record keeper of minutes and archives. Like his predecessor, Rob Vandeman, who led with distinction for

nine years, Remmers will support the mission by giving oversight to policy implementation, attending conference executive committees, serving as the Human Resources and Ministerial director, supporting as vice chair of our two health care boards and university committees, and chairing our WGTS media

ministry membership board.

Remmers joins our team at a critical moment when we, as a church, must grapple with the impact of a generation of pastors who will retire in the next few years, meet the needs of an increasingly diverse church family and adapt to ministry after the pandemic.

TREASURY

Elected in late 2017, Emmanuel Asiedu joined our executive officer team as treasurer, assuming the position from our undertreasurer Tabita



Martinez, who served as interim treasurer following Seth Bardu, who served for almost 12 years.

Asiedu considers treasury a resource center and has repeatedly advocated to return funds to conferences to support mission,

evangelism, education and other ministries. Before and during the pandemic, we allocated an extra \$4 million to our conferences and university.

In addition to managing tithes, offerings, budgets, payroll and furnishing financial reports, the treasury team provides accounting, payroll and auditing training for our conferences and schools. Asiedu gives oversight to the Columbia Union Revolving Fund and chairs several financial and audit committees for our health care networks and university.

His office also provides leadership mentoring to more than 20 treasury staff members from the union's conferences and academies. Seven of these mentees have become treasurers in conferences within our union and other unions in the North American Division. "I am also a product of this program, and can attest to how helpful it was to my transition to this role," Asiedu says.

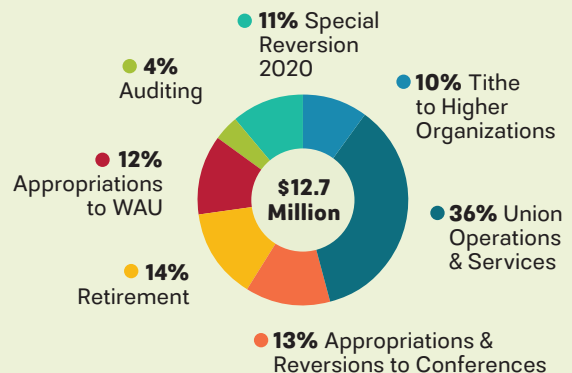
MEMBERSHIP BY CONFERENCE

As of December 31, 2020, there were 142,690 members worshipping in 847 churches and companies in the eight conferences that comprise the Columbia Union, recorded as follows:

Allegheny East: 32,215
Allegheny West: 11,027
Chesapeake: 16,526
Mountain View: 2,254
New Jersey: 17,521
Ohio: 12,565
Pennsylvania: 12,719
Potomac: 37,863

HOW TITHE WAS USED IN 2020

The Columbia Union retained 9% of the \$141.5 million received in tithe, allocated as follows:



■ ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

In 2019, we celebrated the grand opening of the new state-of-the-art Adventist HealthCare (AHC) White Oak Medical Center in Silver Spring, Md. That same year, Fort Washington Medical Center, a 37-bed hospital, became part of the AHC family, expanding our services to Prince George's County, Maryland. In 2020, we signed a three-year management agreement with Howard University to operate Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. AHC-appointed leaders plan to work with the university to build a new \$600-million hospital.

During the pandemic, Terry Forde, AHC president and CEO,

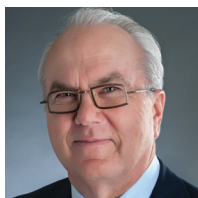


applauded his team as heroes for their commitment to extend God's care by testing and treating thousands of COVID-19 patients and providing vaccinations for health care employees, educators, essential workers and the community at large.

■ KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

We welcomed the opening of Troy Hospital, a 28-bed facility with a full-service emergency department; Springboro Health Center, a health center for seniors; and three on-demand care centers. The network also established three rural health clinics in Cedarville, Yellow Springs and Jamestown, Ohio. The Soin Medical Center opened a new tower to increase surgical and cardiac services.

To face the COVID-19 virus head-on, we established an Incident Command Center where



teams worked around-the-clock to manage the rapidly changing situation. "In this crisis,

we relied on God and each other and found a renewed purpose in our work to serve the community," says Fred Manchur, CEO.

■ WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Under the leadership of President Weymouth Spence,



Washington Adventist University (WAU) expanded service to students and constituents over the past five years, including the opening of the Gail S. & Bruce E. Boyer Health Professions and Wellness Center and launching new programs such as the Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy and the Master of Education in School Counseling. WAU enjoys an educational partnership with Adventist HealthCare that allows for training opportunities, student scholarships, preferred employment opportunities for graduates and an inaugural endowed nursing chair to address nursing shortages. WAU students and alumni were recruited in 2020 to serve as essential workers to provide acute care in nursing and other health professions.

As a part of Vision 2030: Distinctive Excellence in Student Success, the university will purchase the former Washington Adventist Hospital site with plans for development. The new Honors College provides a Model United Nations global-advocacy experience, as students prepare for leadership and service.

During the pandemic, WAU continued to serve its student population through hybrid and virtual classes, worship services, music performances and other relationship-rich events.

■ KETTERING COLLEGE

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017, Kettering College also graduated its first class

from the Occupational Doctoral Program in 2018 and began offering two admission start terms for the nursing program in 2020. When the pandemic began, they quickly converted to online education and held an online graduation service.

In line with their mission to educate students to make service a life calling and view health as harmony with God in body, mind and spirit, the health sciences college recently implemented a new Spiritual Masterplan, guided by four pillars: leadership, service, faith and scholarship. "These pillars provide the why behind everything we do," says President Nate Brandstater.



■ WGTS

Soon after celebrating 60 years of ministry, WGTS 91.9, led by Kevin Krueger, president



and general manager, purchased its license from WAU and moved into new office

space, outfitted to support the needs of this growing media ministry that reaches half a million listeners each week. The enthusiastic team hosts concerts, worship services, a vital prayer ministry and many on-air and in-person events designed to invite listeners "to take one step closer to Christ."

During the pandemic, following their Night of Hope event, more than 100 people signed up for online Bible studies with morning show host Jerry Woods and Mike Speegle, lead pastor of Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Beyond these ministry efforts, the team engages the community through outreach projects.

MINISTRIES AND SERVICES

EDUCATION

To help union educators grow and minister effectively, Donovan Ross, vice president for



Education, and his team partnered with the Bainum Family Foundation to offer a two-year

coaching program for school principals; engaged new academy principals, conference superintendents and associates in a two-year mentoring and training program; supported educators in obtaining required North American Division certifications and endorsements; and sponsored administrators who participated in the 2021 Association of Seventh-day Adventist School Administrators Virtual Conference. They also supported the expansion of Lake Nelson Adventist Academy in Piscataway, N.J., to a full senior academy and the following elementary schools to

junior academies: Northern Ohio Adventist Academy in Sheffield Lake; Parkersburg Academy, W.Va.; Vine Haven Adventist School, Vineland, N.J.; and Vienna Adventist Academy, Va.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Supporting the union and conference offices in person and virtually, Harold Greene, director,



and his team installed a new phone system in the union office in 2019, provided payroll and

accounting support throughout the union and modernized security controls for the computer network, helping to fend off cyberattacks. They also helped the union staff transition to working at home at the start of the pandemic, providing equipment, software and troubleshooting technical issues.

\$216
Total Columbia Union Revolving Fund assets in millions of dollars

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND (CURF)

Thanks to the leadership of director H. Candace Nurse and her team, many churches,



schools and ministries across the Columbia Union territory were able to obtain

cost-effective financing to support their ministry endeavors. Through a CURF loan, Potomac Conference's Seabrook church in Lanham, Md., is renovating their sanctuary, bathrooms and flooring throughout the facility.

During the last five years, CURF approved some 230 loans, totaling more than \$115 million, and celebrated the 153 organizations that paid off their loans. Now in their 52nd year of ministry, CURF has 291 active loans that are helping fund church and school construction and



Elisa Maragoto, principal, and Elayna Howard, vice principal, of New Jersey Conference's Lake Nelson Adventist Academy, participate in the Advancement of Christian Education Academy Leadership Coaching Initiative.

renovation plans in every conference of our union. During the pandemic, CURF made special efforts to accommodate churches with interest-only and deferment plans, enabling them to focus on immediate needs.

GENERAL COUNSEL

After 15 years of service on our leadership team, and a total of 44 for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Walter Carson, vice president and general



counsel, announced plans to retire May 31, 2021. We are grateful for the exemplary service his office provides, ensuring support for union entities and members, maintaining a proper legal structure in full compliance with all laws and government regulations, and counseling individual members seeking workplace religious accommodations.

During the past five years, Carson's team sought to educate and inspire church leaders and members on the importance of advocating for religious liberty. They also provided continuing education for Planned Giving and Trust Services personnel from three unions. Furthermore, they helped to navigate employee safety protocol during the pandemic.



U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black prays with union leaders and conference presidents during a meeting about the importance of advocating for faith in public life.

COMMUNICATION

In addition to creating our Year of the Bible devotional book,



calendar and video devotional series, Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for Strategic

Communication and Public Relations, and her team published the 116-page *Communication Handbook* with 20 contributing authors and produced a corresponding video training series; implemented and promoted the Adventist Church's new global identity system; developed and launched our new Columbia Union Conference app; and printed the *Visitor* six times per year. To engage new generations, the team created Victor, the

Visitor Mouse (Kids, can you spot him?), who shares Bible knowledge through fun activities, and also produced social media campaigns on Instagram, SnapChat and Twitter. During the pandemic, they started hosting *Visitor News Live* (pictured) on Facebook and YouTube to maintain connections with members and discuss Adventist perspectives on news and events.



MINISTRIES DEVELOPMENT

In addition to his work supporting our evangelism and church planting initiatives, Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development, coordinated the 2019 Transformational Evangelism Conference for 150 pastors and worked with a group of young adult leaders to



80

The number of local church leaders trained to use the new Children's Ministries Presenters Training curriculum from the North American Division

plan and host the 2016 Rise Up Young Adult Retreat for 300 participants. He also facilitated the

popular, annual Pathfinder Bible Experience that challenged local church Pathfinders to exercise their Bible knowledge skills. This program grew rapidly, from 18 teams advancing to the union level in 2016 to 54 advancing in 2019. His team also hosted "Fearless," our largest union-wide camporee, with more than 3,000 in attendance. In addition, some 7,000 union Pathfinders were among the 50,000 who gathered in Oshkosh, Wis., in 2019, for the North American Division's International Pathfinder Camporee.

MULTILINGUAL MINISTRIES

Seeking to inspire member participation in ministry through church planting, small groups and witnessing, Rubén Ramos, vice president for Multilingual Ministries, partnered with conference leaders to spearhead several initiatives. This included training members to be disciples, hosting a festival of evangelism, as well as hosting numerous local church events.



INFORME DEL PRESIDENTE: COMPARTE LA PALABRA

Hace cinco años, en nuestro último congreso constituyente, presentamos el tema de la Unión de Columbia para este quinquenio, "Comparta la luz, comparta la esperanza". A lo largo de este tiempo, los miembros compartieron la luz y la esperanza que encontramos en Jesús a través de sus palabras y acciones.

Buscando inspirar la participación de los miembros en el ministerio, a través de la plantación de iglesias, grupos pequeños y testificación, Rubén Ramos, vicepresidente de los Ministerios Multilingües de la unión, se asoció con los líderes de cada conferencia para encabezar varias iniciativas. Esto incluyó capacitar a los miembros para que fueran discípulos y organizar un festival de evangelismo y numerosos eventos de la iglesia local. La disposición de Ruby Galván (en la foto) de ser usada por el Espíritu Santo resultó en que seis personas entregaran sus vidas a Cristo.

En el 2018 y nuevamente en el 2020, Ramos y los coordinadores hispanos de la conferencia organizaron dos series de caravanas que visitaron un total de 100 ubicaciones. En cada evento, los líderes instaron a los miembros a alcanzar y orar por otros en su círculo de influencia. En total, 7,000 miembros hispanos se comprometieron a liderar grupos pequeños o a orar por cinco amigos y pedir que al menos uno decidiera por Cristo.

Ramos se regocija de que durante los últimos cinco años, nuestras iglesias multilingües (hispanas, haitianas, ghanesas, brasileñas y filipinas, etc.) hayan experimentado un crecimiento del 31.7 por ciento y hayan ayudado a plantar 115 congregaciones. "Alabamos a Dios porque la mayoría de los 13,954 miembros multilingües que fueron bautizados durante este quinquenio fueron llevados a Cristo por un amigo o un familiar", el dice.



El 22 y 23 de mayo, los delegados se reunirán una vez más en nuestro congreso constituyente, con el tema "Comparta la palabra", para celebrar el trabajo que el Señor ha logrado en nuestra unión durante los últimos cinco años, elegir a los líderes y votar sobre los estatutos y las modificaciones de la constitución propuestas.

Vea la transmisión en vivo y los videos de informes en columbiaunionvisitor.com/2021constituency.

Ánimo,
Dave Weigley, Presidente, Unión de Columbia

760

Miembros capacitados en escuelas de discipulado, patrocinadas por la Oficina de los Ministerios Multilingües

In 2018 and again in 2020, Ramos and the conference Hispanic coordinators organized two series of caravans that visited a total of 100 locations around the union. At each event, leaders urged members to reach and pray for others in their circle of influence. In total, 7,000 Hispanic members committed to lead small groups or work to lead five friends to Christ.

Ramos rejoices that during the past five years, our multilingual churches (Hispanic, Haitian, Ghanaian, Brazilian, Filipino, etc.) have experienced a 31.7

thank you!

We are grateful to those who served as volunteer ministry coordinators during the 2016–2021 term: **Tamyra Horst**, Women’s Ministries; **Ann Reynolds**, Children’s Ministries; **Frank Bondurant**, Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Adventist Community Services; **Josant Barrientos**, Public Campus Ministries; **Carl Rodriguez**, Columbia Union Pathfinder Camporee; and **Sherilyn O’Ffill**, Pathfinder Bible Experience.

percent growth and helped to plant 115 congregations. “We praise God because most of the 13,954 multilingual members

who were baptized during this quinquennium were brought to Christ by a friend or a relative,” he says.

■ RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT: PARTAGER LA PAROLE



Au cours des cinq dernières années, la direction de l’Union de Fédérations de Columbia s’est concentrée sur le thème : « Partager la Lumière, Partager l’Espoir » à travers l’initiative de l’Année de la Bible, évangélisation, éducation, service communautaire, ministère des Eclaireurs (Kedrine Meus au Camporée International 2019), et d’autres actes sur l’amour.

baptême, portant l’adhésion à 4.950 membres dans 30 églises, beaucoup d’entre eux sont des Haïtiens.

Malgré la pandémie de Covid-19, les tensions raciales et politiques, les congrégations dans tout le territoire de l’union ont continué à exercer leur ministère (Un membre de l’église métropolitaine, Evelyn Jahi, est photographié ici, en train de distribuer de la nourriture.) et le nombre de membres s’élève maintenant à 142.690, ce qui représente une augmentation de 11,39 sur les cinq dernières années. Nos écoles sont également restées fortes, pivotant vers offrir une éducation en ligne ou hybride après que la pandémie eu fermé ses portes physiques pendant un certain temps.

Les dirigeants de l’union ont également continué de se concentrer sur la guérison des tensions raciales grâce à des séminaires éducatifs et en créant un groupe de travail pour examiner les prochaines étapes.

Les 22 et 23 mai, les délégués se réuniront à nouveau pour notre réunion de circonscription, sur le thème « Partagez la Parole », pour célébrer le travail que le Seigneur a accompli au cours des cinq dernières années, pour élire la direction de l’union et voter les modifications proposées des statuts et les changements dans la loi mère.

Regardez la diffusion en direct et des reportages vidéos sur columbiaunionvisitor.com/2021constituency.

Courage,
Dave Weigley, Président, l’Union de Fédérations de Columbia



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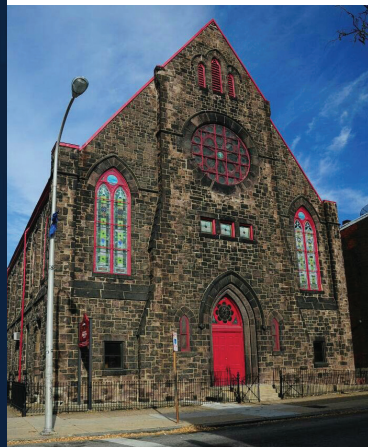
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Ebenezer Church Celebrates 110 Years of Ministry

The Ebenezer church in Philadelphia is celebrating 110 years of ministry this year, and members plan to celebrate all year long. When considering the year's theme, church leaders reached out to former members, friends and the community. "There's No Place Like Home" seemed to capture the sentiments of those involved. Wanting to also consider the future, they added the subtitle: "Honoring Our Past and Shaping Tomorrow."



The original 16 members of the Ebenezer congregation came from an integrated group formed by the East Pennsylvania Conference in 1908. In 1911, this group formed the first black Seventh-day Adventist Church in the area. Many new converts were added to the congregation through successful evangelism. This growth led to the 1930 purchase of the church's permanent location at the corner of 15th and Christian streets.

The anniversary activities celebrated Ebenezer's legacy of leadership. Several former members have gone on to serve the Adventist church in various capacities, including Henry J. Fordham III, current Allegheny East Conference president.

Many ministries in the Philadelphia area began at Ebenezer, including the Larchwood School, a Pathfinder club, the Ushers' Federation, the Missionary Volunteer Federation and the down payment for the Pine Forge Academy property and grounds. Also, all other area churches in Philadelphia sprouted out of Ebenezer.

The 110th anniversary celebration gave the church the opportunity to implement a new approach to neighborhood ministry: to reach the Southwest Center City Philadelphia community through financial and ministry support.

"I am humbled and honored by the privilege to serve God and be a part of the history of the 110th yearlong celebration of Ebenezer church," says Carlos McConico, pastor. "I believe legacy is planting seeds in a garden that you will never get to see fully grow. Only in eternity will we realize the full scope of Ebenezer's work here on earth."

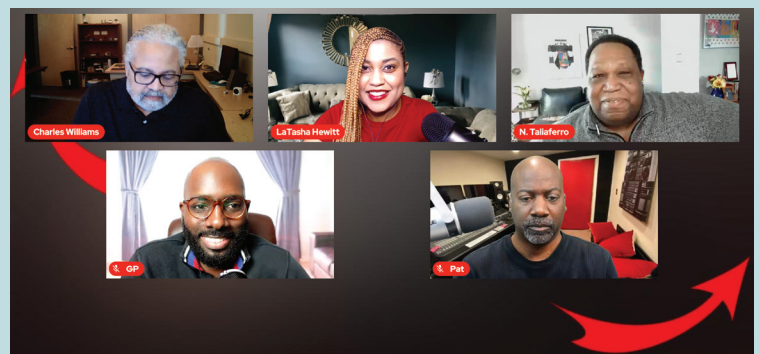
Conference Launches First Podcast

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently launched its first podcast, *The UpSet*. The goal of the podcast is to provide conversation about current topics from a Christian perspective, emphasizing the importance of respecting differing opinions. Topics range from politics and social networks to the stock market and church life.

Hosts include (pictured, top row) Charles Williams, AEC media director; LaTasha Hewitt, AEC communication director; William "Nick" Taliaferro, pastor of the West Philadelphia church; (bottom row) Geston Pierre, assistant pastor of Church of the Oranges in New Jersey; and Patrick Graham, AEC youth director.

"We really wanted to create a fun and light space where we encourage dialogue—controversial or otherwise," says Hewitt. "I believe our personalities and life experiences offer varied opinions. The goal is never to be right, but to understand other viewpoints."

In the future, special guests will weigh in on different subjects, keeping the dialogue versatile and fresh. The podcast airs every Sunday at 6 p.m., on AEC's Facebook page (facebook.com/IamAEC) and YouTube Channel (AEC Media Ministries), and is also available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts and Stitcher.



Mount Sinai Church Creates Life Groups

To counter pandemic social distancing measures, the Mount Sinai church in Trenton, N.J., wanted to create a space for people to stay connected while being physically apart. After much prayer and planning, the church decided to create a Life Groups ministry. The virtual groups meet weekly to discuss and study various topics designed to allow members to connect to their community, support one another and “do life together.”

The groups, designed for anyone interested in or outside of the church, only require access to Zoom, an open heart and a willingness to engage. They meet every Thursday on an eight-week cycle. Offerings include groups for newly married couples, men, millennials and women who want to take health to the next level.

The Total Health group is one of the most recent additions to the life group offerings. Focusing on all aspects of health, it is led by Life Groups coordinator Rochelle Guthrie and the church’s health and wellness team. They focus on several aspects of health, from nutrition and cooking demonstrations to spiritual health and the fruits of the Spirit. The group also deals with behavioral, physical and mental health.

“This virtual space has served as a platform for learning, laughing and engaging with one another in a time when we physically cannot gather,” says Corey Johnson, pastor.

Mount Sinai plans to open its summer group registrations in May. For more information, visit themountsda.org/groups.



The Mount Sinai church offers virtual groups to “do life together.”

Former Conference Treasurer Passes Away



After serving the Allegheny East Conference for 44 years, Bennie W. Mann, Sr., passes to his rest.

Bennie W. Mann, Sr., former conference treasurer, recently passed away at his home in Pine Forge, Pa. In 1967, Mann began his career with the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) as the business manager of Pine Forge Academy (PFA). He was then invited to serve as the assistant treasurer of AEC in 1973 before being voted as treasurer in 1978. He served as treasurer until his retirement in 1996, having amassed more than 44 years of church employment.

Mann was the project manager for the \$2 million renovation of Wagner Hall at PFA and the project manager for the construction of the Jessie R. Wagner Adventist Elementary School in Pine Forge. He also served as treasurer for AEC’s 50 Plus Association, as well as chair of the finance committee at the Pine Forge church, where he was a member.

Many members expressed their sympathy and condolences on AEC’s Facebook page, some sharing fond memories. “I appreciated his treasury knowledge and encouragement that he shared with me over the years,” posted Everette Moore, treasurer and communication director of the Campostella Heights church in Norfolk, Va. “My deepest condolences to his family.”

Beacon of Hope Ministers to the Philippines

While attending a monthly staff meeting, Surlina Asamoa (pictured), a member of the Beacon of Hope church in Columbus, Ohio, learned of an opportunity to share books with people affected by a recent typhoon in the Philippines.

“My co-worker showed us photos of the aftermath,” says Asamoa, “and there was so much devastation. She asked if we would be interested in donating some books. The people weren’t asking for food, clothing or money—just books.”

Asamoa presented the book drive idea to her Primary Sabbath School class. “I asked if they would be interested in a mission project to send some books to kids and adults,” she says. Asamoa thought shipping the books to the Philippines would be expensive, but she found an organization in Columbus that ships cargo to the Philippines for only 100 dollars a crate.

Asamoa now began the task of collecting donations. “I didn’t know how many books we were going to collect just from our little Sabbath school class, but Pastor C. Shaun Arthur announced the book drive to the entire congregation.” Asamoa later posted the book drive on Facebook, and a member from the Central church in Columbus reached out, offering to donate a collection of books.

“I didn’t expect to have members from our church, as well as neighboring churches willing to donate,” says Asamoa. As church members contacted her, she drove from house to house collecting books. She received so many that she began running out of room at home. With so many books ready to be packed and shipped, Asamoa soon encountered a problem.



“When my colleague saw how many books we had collected, she realized she couldn’t send them to her little village because the only form of transportation are bicycles. At this point, we had already collected more than 1,000 books,” she says. Fortunately, some of her friends in the Philippines had access to trucks and agreed to collect the books and also set up distribution centers at local clinics. Among the books collected were children’s, educational and Christian books.

Knowing there is a large Adventist presence in the Philippines, Asamoa also sent books by Ellen White, such as *The Great Controversy*, *The Desire of Ages* and *Steps to Christ*.

Organizing community initiatives can be challenging in this era of social distancing. Still, Asamoa and her Primary class have demonstrated that a simple idea coupled with a community effort can yield great rewards. “I think this has helped our congregation as a whole. It’s helped us see that ministry is definitely beyond walls, and even beyond borders. Our kids feel a sense of accomplishment knowing that they did something that helped someone else. One little girl donated her backpack filled with books, saying, ‘I want some little girl to have my backpack.’ I believe they saw it as an opportunity to reach other kids—kids that they don’t even know.”

The Sabbath School class plans to continue its focus on mission. They are about to launch another giving project to an orphanage in Ethiopia that needs sweaters. Asamoa believes that when youth are actively involved in mission and service, the gospel becomes more of a reality to them.



Ethnan Temple Holds Prayer Motorcade, Giveaway

The Ethnan Temple church in Wilkesburg, Pa., and the Wilkesburg Sanctuary Project for Peace recently arranged a Prayer Motorcade through the



Jerome Hurst, pastor of the Ethnan Temple church, leads a worship service in the community prior to a coat giveaway.

community. Organizers described it as an interfaith prayer vigil for peace, healing, justice and unity, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., and other civil rights leaders, including the late John Lewis.

Wilkesburg Mayor Marita Garrett gave the opening remarks, challenging attendees to continue working together as they strive to make Wilkesburg the type of community King stood for.

The motorcade, consisting of more than 50 cars, made four stops, at which time a clergy member would offer prayer and youth from the Wilkesburg community would read quotes from King.

Ethnan Temple members later donated coats, hats, gloves and scarves to more than 100 children and also distributed bags of groceries to each family that came through the church.

“We were happy to participate in this celebration,” says Jerome Hurst, lead pastor. “It gave us another opportunity to fulfill our motto: ‘We Live, We Love, We Serve.’”

Gospel Message Continues at Victory Church

After filling out an interest card, Cierra Wood recently accepted an invitation to attend the Victory church in Delaware, Ohio, with her five sons. When she heard the Sabbath message, she promptly decided to make a change in her life.

“She was so impressed with the truth, that she gave her life to God. One of her other sons was baptized too!” shares Robert Whitner, pastor. “She faithfully brought her children to the Friday night children’s Bible study, where the entire family participated. At the end of the lessons, we made an appeal, and three of her sons decided to join. One was baptized, one joined by profession of faith, and, by God’s grace, one has made the commitment to be baptized in the near future.”

Shortly after Wood’s baptism, she invited her mother, Laurie Shortridge, to attend services. After completing two sets of Bible studies, Shortridge followed Wood’s family, joining the church by profession of faith.

The Victory church hosts a Training Light Bearers

workshop to equip both longstanding and newly baptized members to share the gospel with others. Both women are now actively involved, reaching out to others and sharing the gospel message.

Emphasizing the work the Lord is doing at Victory church, Whitner quotes, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost’ (Matt. 28:19, KJV).”





CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS



THE Gathering

EMPOWERED TO SHARE

Chesapeake Conference
Virtual Camp Meeting
June 15–19, 2021

We Are Not Alone in Our Mission

It must have been unnerving for the disciples to hear Jesus say to them just before His return to heaven, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19, NIV). Talk about a monumental task of unimaginable proportion! How could just 11 men, limited by ancient means of travel and communication, begin to wrap their minds around the logistics and strategy required to accomplish this immense global mission? You might think they would have sighed in despair, until they heard what Jesus said next: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20, NIV). If there had been *any* sighing at all during Jesus’ Great Commission pronouncement, it was most likely a sigh of relief.

Jesus assured them that they would not be alone in their task. He, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, would empower and equip them to spread the gospel far and wide. And the exciting proof of that fulfilled promise is described in Acts 2. Today, as then, it is by the personal empowerment of the Holy Spirit that we may serve Him and spread the good news of salvation. Join us during Chesapeake’s Virtual Camp Meeting, themed “Empowered to Share,” as we’ll learn together how we might render greater service to Him.



Jerry Lutz
President

Camp Meeting Featured Speaker



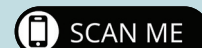
Carlton Byrd, D.Min., is currently the senior pastor of the Oakwood University church on the campus of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., and the speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Broadcast. In his 26 years of pastoral leadership in the

states of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and Georgia, Byrd has constructed and renovated churches and schools, baptized more than 20,000 persons and served on numerous denominational and community boards. Since his appointment as speaker/director of Breath of Life, four new Breath of Life churches have been planted and started across the United States. A very active participant in the community, Byrd founded the Berean Outreach Ministry Center in Atlanta, Ga., which housed a food pantry, clothes closet, barber shop, hair salon and fitness center. Byrd is also the author of three books: *Contemporary Evangelism for the 21st Century*; *Free: Revisiting God’s Plan for Oppressed*

People; and *Gone: A Healing Word for a Hurting World*. Byrd is happily married to his wife of 22 years, Danielle (Mounter), and they are proud parents of three daughters, Christyn, Caileigh and Carissa.

Scan to Watch

The Gathering 2021 Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting experience will be held virtually, featuring on-location broadcasts throughout the conference. To view a complete program schedule and access seminars, evening worships, children’s/youth/young adult programs and resources, please scan the QR code or visit ccosda.org/campmeeting.



Camp Meeting Seminars



“How Discipleship Happens at Home,” by Claudio Consuegra, D.Min., and Pamela Consuegra, Ph.D.

Jesus called us to “go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19, NIV). Since 1874, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been sending missionaries to more than 200 countries around the world. Many members have forgotten that “there is no missionary field more important than” their home (Ellen White, *Adventist Home*, p. 35). The seminar will look at three specific areas where Christians can be the best disciples and disciple-makers at home.

The Consuegras currently serve as the Family Ministries directors for the North American Division. Claudio was born in Colombia, South America, while Pamela grew up in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. Claudio has a background as a pastor, conference departmental director and administrator. In addition, he volunteers in his community as a law enforcement and hospice chaplain. Pamela has a background in Adventist education, having served as a teacher, academy principal and superintendent of schools. Pamela holds a Ph.D. in Leadership from Andrews University (Mich.) and Claudio holds a D.Min. in Family Ministries, also from Andrews University.



“Sabbath School Alive!” by Ramón Canals, D.Min.

Sabbath School is one of the most important institutions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, says Canals. It is designed for the whole family to acquire knowledge of the Word of God and learn to live according to Bible truths. If rightly conducted, Sabbath School can bring

life to the church, just as the heart brings lifesaving blood to the body, Canals adds. This seminar presents the fundamental principles that make Sabbath School come alive. Learn ideas and resources to strengthen your Sabbath School and transform it into a disciple-making force that will *grow the church*.

Canals is the director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department at the General Conference (Md.). Previously, he was vice president of the North Pacific Union Conference (Wash.) and also served as an evangelist, evangelism coordinator and ministerial and Hispanic Ministries director. Canals holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Andrews University. His mission is to encourage, energize, empower and equip disciples for the mission of saving souls.

“Creation’s Rescue Mission,” by Gary Wagner, D.Min.

This seminar examines creation through faith, science and current events. What do these perspectives tell us about where we are in preparation for Jesus to return? How much longer can the world last?



Wagner recently retired from pastoral ministry after 40 years of service. He has served in nine countries as pastor, school principal, ADRA director and mission president. Wagner is endorsed by the North American Division as chaplain for public universities, and he spends part of his retirement working in Vietnam and Cambodia as regional director for Gospel Outreach.



“Last Day Events,” by Cornell Preda

The goal of these lessons is to emphasize the mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the world and how this understanding can be useful to local congregations.

Preda is the pastor of the St. Johnsbury district in Vermont, and he serves the Bordoville church in West Enosburg. He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) and Andrews University (Mich.), and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Missional Church at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.).

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Conference President Announces Move

Mike Hewitt has accepted a call from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference to serve as vice president of administration. Hewitt joined the Mountain View Conference (MVC) in 2016 as executive secretary and ministerial director. After Larry Boggess, former president, retired in 2017, Hewitt was elected conference president.

Along with the role of president and ministerial director, Hewitt added the responsibility of MVC superintendent of education in 2020. His wife, Brittan, served at the conference office as treasury assistant and Women's Ministries director.

Prior to his service in MVC, Hewitt pastored two districts in the Potomac Conference that included the North Valley, New River Valley, Lynchburg and Appomattox churches.

"Elder Mike Hewitt will be greatly missed as a leader here in the Mountain View Conference. I have worked with him since 2016 and have appreciated our time together, discussing and shaping ministry and dealing with challenges and opportunities," says Victor Zill, MVC secretary/treasurer. "Elder Hewitt has demonstrated time and again his commitment to God and is always looking for the best way to accomplish the mission and assist our churches and schools. I also have worked closely with Brittan Hewitt as my assistant and have greatly appreciated her help and dedication. I wish the Hewitt



Conference President Mike Hewitt, pictured with his wife, Brittan, daughter, Jewell, and son, Levi, accepts a call to serve as vice president of administration for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

family all the best as they transition to new ministry opportunities."

Hewitt shares, "Serving as your president has been both an honor and a rich blessing to me and my family. You have truly become our family. Even though we will be separated from you, we have the assurance that we will be reunited in heaven."

Attend Conference's Summer and Wellness Camps

What better place to spend part of your summer than at Valley Vista in Huttonsville, W.Va.! Do you know of a young person looking for a memorable experience? There are many summer camp options! Does your health need a tune-up or makeover? Consider attending the 13-day, life-changing wellness camp! Be sure to register to reserve your place.

"Divine Navigation" Summer Camps

Lifeguard Camp: June 6–11
Teen Camp: June 27–July 4
Junior Camp: July 4–11
Adventure Camp: July 11–18
Family Campout: July 18–21

For more information, visit vvscamp.com, or contact Jason Johnson, camp director, at (517) 416-2418.

Wellness Camp: July 25–August 6

Includes two series of lab work, plant-based meals, walks, cooking demonstrations, health coaching, massage, health education classes and an on-site medical director.

Payment by July 5: attendee (\$895); spouse (\$695); camp alumni (\$645)

Payment July 6–July 16: attendee (\$995); spouse (\$795); camp alumni (\$745)

Register and pay online at wellnessmountainview.com, or call (304) 422-4581. Please note that plans/dates may be altered depending on the developments of the pandemic.

Conference to Host Camp Meeting 2021

Themed “Lift up the Trumpet,” Mountain View Conference’s (MVC) in-person camp meeting will be held June 11–19. Church members and guests are invited to experience the beauty of Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., strengthen their relationship with God and spend time in fellowship with others.

Last year, MVC tried a new format made up of morning and evening meetings with time in between for fellowship and activities. Having received positive feedback, they will retain that general schedule again this year.

Though COVID-19 is still present in MVC’s territory, the importance of spending meaningful time together as a church family remains vital. Precautions will be taken and vaccines are becoming more available. Like last year, guests will be responsible for their own meals, as MVC does not have adequate cafeteria space with current regulations. Plan on having a wonderful experience this year. Stay tuned for updates.

FIRST WEEKEND SPEAKER



Richie Halversen is a pastor, evangelist, church planter and author. His passion for Jesus and people is palpable. After years of battling drug addiction, he now dedicates his life to leading others to Christ and helping them discover a new life of freedom in Him. He serves as senior pastor

of the Bowman Hills church in Cleveland, Tenn. He has been married to his partner in ministry, Brittney, for more than 23 years, and they have four children: Kaleb, Hayley, Tristen and Taylor.

FIRST WEEKEND TRAINING

Sabbath at 3 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

It Is Written’s SOS (Successful Online Soulwinning) training series will teach members and their churches how to continue to reach out to a world in crisis.

WEEKDAY SPEAKER

8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



Christian Martin, born in Argentina and raised in the mission field, was called to ministry at the age of 16. Having a passionate love for Christ, Martin began his ministry as a youth pastor in Battle Creek, Mich. One of his favorite hobbies is long-distance running.

He and his wife, Heidi, are the happy parents of

two children, Elijah and Moriah. Martin is currently serving as lead pastor of the Living Hope church in Haymarket, Va.

SECOND WEEKEND SPEAKER



Dave Weigley serves as president of the Columbia Union Conference. Elected in 2006, Weigley leads the union that is comprised of eight conferences, including Mountain View Conference. Weigley has worn many hats prior to becoming president, serving

the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor, evangelist, conference communication director, ministerial director, stewardship director and executive secretary. Weigley has vision, drive and result-oriented leadership, making an indelible mark in his various leadership positions.

SECOND WEEKEND CONCERT



Matt and Josie Minikus have been involved in music since they were children. They became full-time “musicianaries” in 2010 and present music using a reverent, contemporary-folk blend of vocals, guitar, piano and a variety of other instruments.

Their prayer is that through their music and personal story they can help others peer a little deeper into the unfathomable love of God—a love they have personally encountered.

news

NEW JERSEY

A Digital Mission in the Midst of the Pandemic

At the New Jersey Conference (NJC), we are mobilized as we hear the echo of God's call to the prophet Isaiah: "Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me'" (Isa. 6:8, NLT).

It is a privilege to be called by God to preach His message of salvation in these solemn days prior to the second coming of Jesus. That is why we have joined the General Conference's "I Will Go" mission initiative.

In New Jersey, we have embraced this initiative, slightly altering its name to "I Will Go, Sharing Hope." We have joined forces with different ministries, pastors and churches in our territory, as we have launched a challenge to train five digital missionaries per church to continue carrying the message of the gospel to non-believers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that one of the most effective ways to make disciples today is through digital missionaries incorporated into already established small groups.

President Jorge Aguero has produced "Encounters of Faith and Hope," a series of Bible studies that our digital missionaries and small groups are using to study the Bible with friends. As we prepare for upcoming outreach events, such as one that will be conducted virtually in May, our goal is for each digital missionary, lay preacher, and small group to take part in the "I Will Go, Sharing Hope" challenge. By God's grace, there are already more than 600 leaders who have accepted this challenge to present Jesus in their small groups and centers of influence.

We praise God for the response of our leaders, as we know that "time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work" (Ellen White, *Christian Service*, p. 72.) In our conference, the echo is heard, "I Will Go, Sharing Hope," for Jesus is coming soon!



Carlos J. Torres
Personal Ministries
Director

Una Misión Digital en Medio de la Pandemia

En la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey (NJC), nos movilizamos al escuchar el eco del llamado dado por Dios al profeta Isaías. "Enseguida oí la voz de Dios que decía: «¿A quién voy a enviar? ¿Quién será mi mensajero?» Yo respondí: «Envíame a mí, yo seré tu mensajero»". (Isaías 6:8, TLA).

Es un privilegio ser llamado por Dios para predicar su mensaje de salvación en estos días solemnes antes de la segunda venida de Jesús. Por eso nos hemos unido a la iniciativa de misión de la Asociación General titulada: "I Will Go", "Yo iré".

En Nueva Jersey, hemos adoptado esta iniciativa, modificando levemente su nombre a "Iré, compartiendo la esperanza". Hemos unido fuerzas con diferentes ministerios, pastores e iglesias en nuestro territorio, ya que hemos lanzado un desafío para capacitar a cinco misioneros digitales por iglesia para continuar llevando el mensaje del evangelio a los no creyentes en medio de la pandemia de COVID-19.

Creemos que una de las formas más efectivas de hacer discípulos hoy en día es a través de misioneros digitales incorporados a los Grupos Pequeños.

El presidente de nuestra asociación ha producido "Encuentros de fe y esperanza", una serie de estudios bíblicos que nuestros misioneros digitales y grupos pequeños están utilizando para estudiar la Biblia con amigos. Todo esto en el marco de la preparación para las campañas que se avecinan, como uno que se llevará a cabo virtualmente en mayo, nuestro objetivo es que cada misionero digital, predicador laico y grupo pequeño participe en el desafío "Yo Iré, Compartiendo Esperanza". Por la gracia de Dios, ya son más de 600 líderes que han aceptado el compromiso de presentar a Jesús como el Salvador en sus Grupos Pequeños y en todos sus centros de influencia.

Alabamos a Dios por la respuesta de nuestros líderes, ya que sabemos que "El tiempo es corto y nuestras fuerzas deben organizarse para hacer una obra más amplia". (Ellen White, *Servicio Cristiano*, p. 72.) En nuestra conferencia, se escucha el eco, "Yo Iré, Compartiendo Esperanza", ¡porque Jesús viene pronto!—*Carlos J. Torres*

Jersey City Spanish Member Ensures Work Goes On

While tending to her father in the hospital, Reina Zapata-Mendez (pictured), a member of the Jersey City Spanish church and volunteer for the New Jersey Conference as the Master Guide state coordinator, heard the news that the coronavirus had reached the United States via a cruise ship docked not too far from the hospital. Zapata-Mendez, and the rest of the world, could not imagine the whirlwind that was about to hit in the upcoming weeks.

As time passed, news reports talked about how the viral cases were increasing in the New York and New Jersey areas. Posters started going up, alerting people to handwash and disinfect surfaces. Zapata-Mendez's job working at an airport did not make things easier. As people continued to enter the U.S. from other countries, co-workers were concerned about the level of contamination they may be unknowingly exposed to. Zapata-Mendez's father's care center was soon closed to visitors.

As the world began to "shut down," pastors and church leaders scrambled to get their services online. The focus turned to bringing their congregations together via livestream. The conference needed virtual Children's Ministries leaders, and Zapata-Mendez felt like she had to do something to honor everything her parents instilled in her as a young child. After putting together a team of willing Master Guides from around the New Jersey Conference, the online Children's Sabbath School via Zoom was put into motion.

With other instructors, Zapata-Mendez ran a four-room children's Sabbath School ministry in the morning and a five-room club ministry in the



Reina Zapata-Mendez's parents, Raúl and Evangelina Zapata, celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2019.

afternoon, teaching Discovery, Adventurer and Pathfinder awards and honors, as well as Staff Leadership Training, including Master Guide candidate training.

Not long after she began the online Sabbath School ministry, Zapata-Mendez's parents both passed away. With funeral services being limited to just 10 people during the shutdown, Zapata-Mendez held a virtual wake service on Zoom. Without missing a beat, the Zoom classes continued for the children. People often wondered what gave Zapata-Mendez the strength to go on.

"Knowing full well that the message was ingrained in me as a young child, day in and day out, it is my responsibility to share this experience with them," she says. "I know with *certainty* that God is coming soon, if not in my lifetime, in theirs (referring to children today), for as the signs are coming true, signs that I have learned at home through Sabbath School and at church through club ministries, it is more important now than ever that they, too, have this message ingrained in them."



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



Thanking Our Educators

While 2020 is in our rearview mirror, its aftershock will linger in our collective memories for lifetime. We've seen everything from COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd to bitter politics, personal anxiety and fear felt by millions across the country. Through it all, our Seventh-day Adventist educators have shown strength and conviction, helping families and students move forward in their spiritual and educational pursuits.

Teachers all across our conference, union and world have led the way in going above and beyond the call of duty. Many times this has meant working 60, 70 or even 80 hours a week, instructing, grading and crafting plans for virtual and in-person environments. Teachers have driven hundreds of miles to visit students' homes—dropping off items to assist in learning, baking bread and providing other food items for families, making care packages and so much more.

Through it all, our teachers have asked for nothing in return. They do this out of love for their students, love for their vocation and love for their God. This is why we are asking for your help across the Ohio Conference and Columbia Union. We'd love for you to send a letter of appreciation to the educators at the Adventist schools near you, letting them know how much you appreciate their work and efforts.

Please scan the QR code or visit ohioadventist.org/connect/school to view a list of Adventist schools in the Ohio Conference. Wherever you live within the Columbia Union, reach out and share your appreciation to the educators in your students' lives.



I know, without a shadow of a doubt, that each and every one of our educators will greatly appreciate your kind gesture. We're not out of the woods yet, so this little appreciation of love can be just the jolt of energy our teachers need to make it through the remainder of this school year and into next year. Thank you in advance, and may God continue to richly bless His children—both young and old!



Richard Bianco
*Education
Superintendent*

Ordination Ceremony Recognizes Beavercreek Pastor

Members of the Beavercreek church, Ohio Conference executives and fellow pastors from across the state recently gathered for a special ordination service recognizing God's ministry call on Delthony L. Gordon's life.

Throughout his ministry in the Seventh-day



Adventist Church, Gordon has served as a teacher, guidance counselor, evangelist, lay pastor, academy chaplain and full-time pastor. He has served in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Oklahoma and now at the Ohio Conference as the senior pastor of Beavercreek.

The service featured members, mentors and fellow colleagues relating words of affirmation and encouragement for their pastor. During the service, conference President Bob Cundiff shared these words: "Never lose sight of our mission, of having an everlasting gospel to preach to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. ... I welcome you on behalf of Jesus Christ—who called you, anointed you and filled you with His Holy Spirit!"

President Bob Cundiff (standing) and other church leaders pray over the life and ministry of Delthony L. Gordon (center), senior pastor of the Beavercreek church.

Love Makes a Difference, Leaves a Legacy

Robert “Bob” E. Scovil wasn’t interested in talking “religion” but in seeing how it was lived.

Born January 17, 1927, Bob was a World War II veteran, businessman and leader in his local community. He was a family man too—devoted to his wife, Cecilia, and son, Steve. Though Bob loved so many things during his 93 years—his family, country and hometown of Dayton—he had a hard time warming up to church.

He used to say, “As a child, I had all the church I needed.” Yet, because of his love for Cecilia, he drove her to church weekly, waited in the car and drove her back home.

After Cecilia passed away, Bob’s health deteriorated, so he moved in with Steve and his wife, Charla. One day, Charla invited Bob to her church—the Beaver creek church—to watch her practice a piano and organ duet. To her surprise, Bob agreed to go. At the end of the trip, tears slid down his face as he recounted how his wife had also played the organ for church. After that experience, as Charla left for church each week, Bob would ask, “Say a prayer for me, please.”

Recently, Bob, Charla and Steve all experienced a period of serious health issues. Members from the Beaver creek church and several other local churches took up the ministry task of caring for the family. The kind members took a genuine interest in Bob, and he looked forward to their visits.

After that season of ministry and recovery,



Charla and Steve Scovil present a check from Bob Scovil’s estate, flanked by Planned Giving Director Harry Straub (left) and Ohio Conference President Bob Cundiff.

Bob accepted an invitation to attend church with Charla and Steve—but only “on special occasions.” Whenever he attended, he was greeted warmly and was included in social events. Rather than just talking “religion,” he experienced it “in action” through the relationships he had built with the caring church members. Love had made a difference in Bob’s heart. The day before he passed, Bob held Charla and Steve’s hands as they sang a hymn together.

Prior to his passing, Bob, along with Steve and Charla, reached out to the Ohio Conference Planned Giving Department to see how they could continue to bless the ministry at Beaver creek and other ministries across the conference that are dedicated to sharing Christ’s kindness and love with others. Love made a difference in Bob’s life, and it will continue for generations to come.

Planned Giving departments across the Columbia Union are intended for these kind of conversations and stories. Church members are provided estate planning, wills and trust services—free of charge. For more information, contact Harry Straub, director of the conference’s Planned Giving Department, at hstraub@ohioadventist.org.

Steve (left) and Charla Scovil devoted their lives to helping Bob Scovil physically and spiritually.

Pennsylvania Pen

Let Young People Slay Lions and Bears

Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, recently challenged leaders to give young people opportunities within our churches to, referring to David, “slay lions and bears” to prepare them for the future—because their “Goliath” is coming. In other words, give them responsibilities to serve the church now to prepare them for leadership in the future.

When I was young, people gave me the opportunity to “slay lions and bears” and grow as a leader. These responsibilities prepared me for God’s future for my life. For instance, when I was 13, my local pastor invited me to preach at my home church. This experience sparked a desire to serve in full-time ministry. This opportunity was my training ground—my opportunity to “slay” my lion.

Our young people are eager to work for God and their church if given the opportunity. What better way to train our young people now than by giving them opportunities within the safe environment of their local church to serve and grow in Christ?

The time is now to put our youth to work within our churches. Failing to do so deprives our young people of “slaying lions and bears” and learning the needed skills and confidence to “slay Goliaths” later in life. Every young person in our churches is loved, chosen and called by God. They are a powerful force for good. Join me in engaging and discipling young people to love and serve God in ways that will change their lives and prepare them for what God has called them to do.



Todd Casey
Youth Director

Harrisburg Eben-Ezer Hispanic Connects Community Kids

This year, the Harrisburg Eben-Ezer Hispanic church opened their Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs to children in their community. Church members made lists of friends and families in the community who had children. Pathfinder Director Carlos Mosquette and his team contacted people on the list, inviting them to register their kids for Pathfinders and Adventurers.

Ten of the 19 young people inducted into this year’s clubs is a result of intentionally connecting with friends and family. Adhering to local COVID-19 restrictions, church attendance reached its capacity at their recent Pathfinder and Adventurer induction service. Pastor Pedro Alberteris reports that 60 percent of the attendees were from the community.

“We had more guests for this service than we do for our evangelistic meetings,” Alberteris shares. “One of the most sustainable ways to reach the community and grow God’s kingdom during this pandemic is through Pathfinders and Adventurers. The children need a place to belong and grow.”

Conference Youth Director Todd Casey adds, “Club ministries such as Pathfinders is an excellent

evangelistic tool that is often overlooked by many. It is one of the truest forms of friendship evangelism. What child wouldn’t want to go on a campout with their friends? What makes this campout different, however, is that while there, they will not only explore the great outdoors but also learn more about a friend named Jesus.”



I Really Love Camp!

Summer camp has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. When you are little, camp is about having fun doing activities, making friends and singing camp songs. As you grow older, camp and the lessons you learn from worships become even more meaningful. On the last night of camp, songs like “Someday” make for the most special time because we come to understand that someday all of us will be in heaven together.

When I was 10 years old, I was baptized in the lake at Laurel Lake Summer Camp in Rossiter. I didn’t choose to be baptized because I wanted to please my parents or because they forced me to, but because I felt very close to God. I had taken Bible studies at school the year before camp, and I chose to get baptized at one of the most special places to me—a place where I always feel so close to God.

Now at age 14, I pray that every child gets a chance to attend summer camp so they can experience an amazing time with God while enjoying the activities, worships and creating lifelong friendships.

To learn more and register for this summer’s camp, visit laurellakesummercamp.org.—*Katie Rae Miller*



Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting 2021

HOPE WINS

Join us June 11-19, 2021 at
Blue Mountain Academy, Hamburg, Pa.
Learn more at paconference.org/camp-meeting

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Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 ■ paconference.org ■ President, Gary Gibbs ■ Communication Director, Tamyra Horst



PotomacPeople

growing healthy,
disciple-making churches

Conference Holds Constituency, Elects New President

The Potomac Conference recently held its third quinquennial constituency session. Due to pandemic restrictions, the meeting convened in a virtual setting where constituents discussed and voted on important conference business decisions and also welcomed new faces to the administrative team.

During the meeting, Charles A. Tapp, the longtime senior pastor of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., accepted the position as conference president. "Let me begin by saying that as I assume this position and look at the daunting tasks ahead, I do so with a sense of respect, reverence and humility," said Tapp. "However, I also do so with a sense of confidence and assurance. Not confidence in me or my abilities, but confidence in a God that has led me in my life and in the nearly 40 years of my ministry as a pastor, educator, administrator and broadcaster.

"Secondly, I'd like to thank my predecessor for his tremendous 15 years of leadership and his leading in the understanding of how to grow passionate disciples of Jesus Christ and for his great leadership of financial stability."

As Bill Miller, conference president for nearly 15 years, steps away from his longstanding post, he expressed gratitude to the constituents in his president's report: "Thank you to all of you for the many successful years of bringing precious souls into the kingdom and the work in growing healthy,



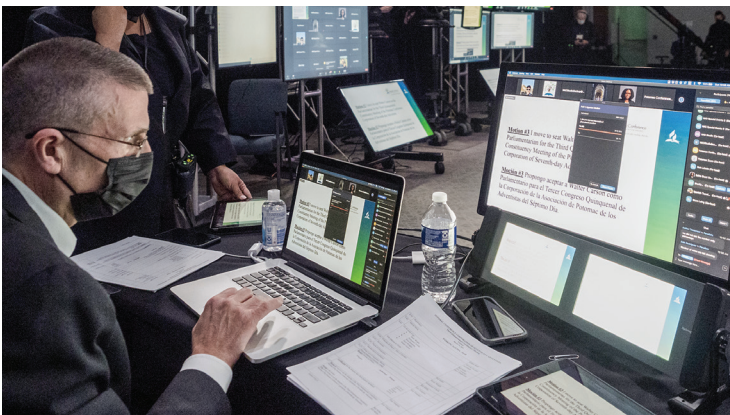
Left to right: Rick Labate, vice president for Pastoral Ministries; Dave VandeVere, vice president for finance; Charles A. Tapp, conference president; Jose Vazquez, vice president for administration; and Steve Laing, vice president for education, comprise the new conference administrative team.

disciple-making churches. The greatest resource we have is God, and He has given us each other to be about His business and fulfilling His mission. Be strong and immovable and always be enthusiastic for the Lord. Thank you for the privilege of service."

Rick Labate, who has served as an associate for Pastoral Ministries for the past eight years, and served as a pastor within Potomac for 26 years prior, is now vice president for Pastoral Ministries. Dave VandeVere, Jose Vazquez and Steve Laing will continue serving in their posts as vice president for finance, vice president for administration and vice president for education, respectively.

While the meeting focused on what occurred from 2015–2019, administration focuses on God's calling to passionately continue His work. "As we move forward together, we will lean on the promises of Zechariah 4:6: 'Not by power or by might, but by the Holy Spirit,'" said Tapp. "As we move forward into uncharted waters, it is not by us that we will be a success; our success will be totally dependent on God and being attached to the Vine. May God bless the people of the Potomac Conference. As we move forward, we move forward together." —Tiffany Doss

PHOTOS BY TONY VENTOURIS



Due to pandemic restrictions, Potomac employees work to host the first-ever virtual constituency session via Zoom.

Conference Members Comfort Grieving Lawmaker

They are known as the Pandemic Comforters—a group of members from Washington, D.C., area churches, who embark on a mission to bring hope and healing. The unique work of this group is two-fold: to encourage politicians in a time of need and to offer prayers with them in bringing an end to the coronavirus and protecting our nation’s democracy.

Group members, including founder Rockefeller Twyman, a member of the Rockville (Md.) church, recently visited the home of Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, whose son, Thomas, took his own life.

Having worked as a volunteer on Raskin’s campaign, Twyman was able to connect with the lawmaker when his son passed away. Heartened by the group’s visit and genuine thoughtfulness, Raskin and his wife, Sarah Bloom Raskin, along with their two daughters, now call the Pandemic Comforters their spiritual advisers.

“He was in tears because he had just lost his son,” says Twyman. “Our visit was needed to bring



The Pandemic Comforters visit Rep. Jamie Raskin and his family (center) after the loss of their son.

just a little bit of joy in such a time of sorrow. As Christians, that’s what we’re supposed to do—go out and be a blessing to others.”

PHOTO BY LUDWIG T.

Wellness Wheel Turns at Sligo Church

During the pandemic, Women’s Ministries at Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., offered a way to regain balance in all areas of life, introducing the “Wellness Wheel”—a series of online presentations on creating balance. The series met bi-weekly on Sabbaths for four months via Zoom.

Donna Willis (1), M.D., MPH, spoke on “COVID-19: Heart, Body & Spirit,” offering ways to improve physical health and also clarification about the vaccine. The seminar “God with Us,” by Elizabeth Talbot (2), Ph.D., emphasized the incredible assurance of God’s abiding

presence. Digital strategist Jamie Domm (3) gave tips on how to strengthen relationships, build community and serve others in “Online with Christ in the ‘New Normal.’” In “Emotional Wellness,” Sligo member Lorette Gray (4), LCSW, provided guidance on managing the impact of COVID-19 on our emotions.

In “Wallets, Assets and Finances,” Hazel Marroquin (5), Sligo pastor for Children and Family Ministries, tackled financial health. Vocational wellness was addressed by Sligo member Fiona Peart (6), MSC, in “Bouncing Back after COVID-19.” In “Have Our Minds been Hijacked? Mental Health in the Era of Conspiracy Theories,” Olive Hemmings (7), Ph.D., Sligo member and religion professor at Washington Adventist University, as well as Carmen Lou (8) and other panel members, focused on intellectual wellness—keeping one’s mind active and faith strong.

Elizabeth Abel, Women’s Ministries leader, and Pranitha Fielder, Sligo’s pastoral liaison for Women’s Ministries, shares that many attendees were encouraged by the messages, and others enjoyed the clear explanation debunking fear over the vaccine. One attendee adds, “It served my heart and faith to be reminded I belong to the Great I Am.”

To view the series, visit sligowomensministry.org/wellness-wheel-2021.





THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

My Life-Changing Experience

Junior Matheus Gaulia shares what God has been doing in his life on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA):

BMA has drastically changed my life. When I arrived on campus as a freshman, I had my future planned out with ambitious goals and dreams. Three years later, God is changing those plans and showing me what He wants for my life.

Although I was baptized before coming to BMA, this school was the gateway to my true conversion. Today, I can joyfully proclaim that I'm a God-fearing, faithful Seventh-day Adventist. I now understand the mission God has for my life—to minister on His behalf and prepare others for His Son's soon coming. I love BMA because it was here that I fully surrendered my life to God. And He has faithfully and continually blessed me.

My journey here at BMA has been life-changing! I have developed a deep passion and love for biology and medicine, and I believe that God has encouraged me to develop the gifts He gave me in these areas. He has also encouraged me to pursue Bible training after graduation through Pennsylvania Conference's CORE evangelism program. It's my dream to become a medical missionary and use my talents for His service.



Life's a journey, full of dreams.
Have the best start in the best place!

Start here!



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HIGH SCHOOL - HAMBURG, PENNSYLVANIA USA


SCAN ME

The BMA Experience is published in the *Visitor* by the Blue Mountain Academy ■ 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526
Phone: (610) 562-2291 ■ Fax: (610) 562-8050 ■ bma.us ■ Principal, Burney Culpepper ■ Editor, Esther Hernandez

God Orchestrates Mongolia Reunion

Who could've imagined that three young people who all lived in Mongolia at one point in time would reunite, become friends and graduate together at Highland View Academy (HVA)?

Urnaa Uuaganbayar was born in the coldest capital city of the world—Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Her mom, Enhkbayar Mishigdorj, is one of the first Seventh-day Adventist converts in Mongolia and helped translate many of Ellen White's books from English to Mongolian at the Mongolia Mission field.

Uuaganbayar's journey took her from Mongolia to the Philippines to Brazil, before coming to HVA during her senior year in 2019–20. She is currently majoring in psychology at Southwestern Adventist University (Texas).

Bradley Banuag was born in the Philippines. He first met Uuaganbayar in 2002 when his parents, Dudley and Eunie, served at the Mongolia Mission. Bradley's family moved from Mongolia to Arizona to Hawaii, before moving to HVA in 2017, where Eunie serves as the school's business manager. Bradley is currently pursuing engineering at Andrews University (Mich.).

Gabriel Orellana was born in Bolivia. He first met Uuaganbayar when his parents, Josue and



Class of 2020 graduates Gabriel Orellana, Urnaa Uuaganbayar and Bradley Banuag providentially reunited at Highland View Academy after many years.

Eveling, served at ADRA Mongolia between 2011–15. Gabriel's family moved from Mongolia to Nepal, before arriving in Maryland in 2018, where Josue serves at the ADRA regional headquarters, located at the General Conference (Md.). Gabriel is currently studying biology at Andrews University (Mich.).

"This is a testament to how God brings together nations, tongues and peoples," says Eunie. "God can use a small school to bring together young people from diverse backgrounds to be trained and prepared for His service. HVA continues to be a testament of the diversity of the family of God."

As the Class of 2021 (pictured)—the new batch of future alumni—is ushered in, they also praise God for being able to witness for Him. This class includes a varied group of students representing Brazil, El Salvador, India, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines and the United States.



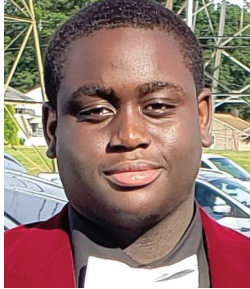


the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

My Academy Journey



Sophomore Joshua Raymond, who is a full-time virtual learner this school year, shares his journey at Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA):

LNAA is a relatively small school located in Piscataway. The sophomore class only has 15 students, including

myself, but, as a result, we are a truly connected community. Many of us have known and grown up with each other through the years at LNAA. We have seen our friends' struggles and triumphs and have loved, laughed, played, cried, hated, and felt the same pain with each other; we have always flourished and gotten through life together.

Connections: I don't only consider my class as family, but the staff as well. The staff at LNAA are actively connected and involved in the success of the students. Every single staff member is extremely invested and interested in us, and they honestly care about our success. Like many other students at LNAA, I have known these teachers for a while and still frequently see them in the hallways. Through the years, we have stopped and have had friendly conversations every so often.

Spiritual Focus: LNAA has given me something special—a passion for learning and a strong longing for a deeper focus on God and others. LNAA has taught me how to think, interact with others and witness. Unlike most schools, education is not our sole foundation; we are based around having a stronger and more intimate connection with Christ our Lord. In the secular schools I've been in, many students haven't appreciated or understood the idea of kindness toward others. But, at LNAA, we constantly focus and expound on what makes a good person and a good Christian.

Reflection: From the time I started attending LNAA, I have learned a lot, grown substantially and seen my friends grow and mature alongside me. Like all things, there are aspects that I wish were better,

but my overall experience at LNAA is a positive one. The transition from public school to private was a rough one. The public school environment was one that I had grown accustomed to, so having it taken away so rapidly made me want to return multiple times. But, as fate has it, I have not and will not go back, and I now know LNAA will be my home until the end of my high school journey. Above all, the best thing about LNAA is the family that has and will continue to support me through my years to come.

EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY

LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

REGISTRATION OPEN

FOR THE
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PFA POST



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

1971 Honor Class Mentors Class of 2021

This year, the Pine Forge Academy (PFA) Honor Class of 1971 wanted to connect with the graduating Class of 2021 in a direct and specific way prior to graduation weekend.

Through the collaboration of PFA's Career Readiness Program and the Alumni Association Student Enrichment Team, the two classes met via Zoom during a monthly Senior Night to spark new relationships, network and share ideas. The Class of 1971 members provided invaluable mentoring for the 2021 graduates, as several Senior Night meetings had Q&A sessions.

"It was interesting to learn what Pine Forge was like 50 years ago," remarks Brenda Johnson, Class of 2021 president. "Even with all the differences, in many ways it's the same. We were able to receive the 'big picture' about the different paths to success."

Larry Jackson ('71) says, "The thing that sticks out in my mind was the interest one of the students had in electrical engineering. It reminded me of the excitement I had for the field at that age."

Senior Night also offered opportunities for PFA students to network with students from other schools interested in similar fields of study. Joseph



Caleb Williams ('21) shared his horizontal networking experience with Ghedion Beyen, another high school senior who is pursuing a career in mechanical engineering. Beyen, who attends the Forest Park High School in Baltimore, as well as The Governor's School @ Innovation Park in Manassas, Va., has been featured on *The Today Show* and *NBC Nightly News*. CEO and founder of the Free and Accessible Technology Initiative, he was recently accepted into Harvard University (Mass.).

Beyen shared his application process with Williams, and the two young men discussed like-minded goals and dreams. Williams, who is pursuing a career in electrical engineering and has been accepted into Oakwood University (Ala.) and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, says about the meeting: "I learned that you have to take full advantage of all opportunities presented to you because there are people on different paths with various opportunities. If you take full advantage of the opportunities presented to you, and work hard within them, you can achieve any goal that you set your heart and mind to."

This year the Honor Class of 1971 began a tradition that will prayerfully last into the future and provide another arm to PFA's Christ-centered mission of preparing students for service to God and man.



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Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”
~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

CLASS OF 2021
CONGRATULATIONS!



Luis Alfaro



Kristin Antwan



DMarco Arteaga



Selene Bergmann



Symone Caruthers



Carson Chang



Elijah Chung



Angela Coppock



Sophia Couto



Nathan Dabney



Isabella Errico



Eden Essex



Megan Forde



Isabela Fuentes



Kendall Gatson



Heather Hernandez



Cheyenne Hyde



Brandon Jacques



Amanda Leitao



Ignacio Lizarraga



Charis McRoy



Cameron Ming



Elijah Moon



Darysa Naranjo



Sungbin Oh



Justin Omwenga



David Ovalle



Andrew Potts



Keith Price



Stefanie Rackley



Sophia Rivera



Declan Robinson



AnnElise Schroder



Zijian Shen



Abigail Shim



Lukas Smith



Caleb Thompson



Isabella Toscano



Alina Weber



Wufan Xue



Ingrid Yanes



Sophia Yapshing



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SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Stage Band's Long-Awaited Night Scores Big

Spring Valley Academy's (SVA) Stage Band spent the last part of 2019 and the first part of 2020 preparing for their Benny Goodman fundraising concert. Then, the pandemic hit.

Months passed until Donald Huff, SVA band director, finally received clearance for the concert. Staff and students made proper preparations, brought in equipment and obtained professional videographers for a "live recording session." Huff issued stern orders to the band: "Everyone, stay six feet apart, keep using hand sanitizer and stay healthy!" No one expected that he would be the one with the COVID-19 scare.

Not long before they were to perform, band members received an email stating Huff had COVID-19 symptoms and would be tested. Like the many days and weeks before, band members feared the concert would be postponed again. But soon, another email shared the good news that Huff was in the clear. Recording plans were back on, but one more challenge existed.

Max Shull (pictured), the band's first trumpet who graduated last year and is now at Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), couldn't make it for the recording. This meant the band would be without a trumpet soloist. Not wanting to risk further setbacks, Huff decided to record the band playing on one night and record a separate video of Shull to be dubbed in during final production.



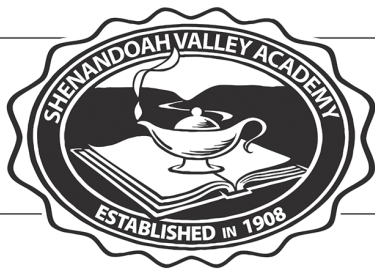
Finally the night arrived. The guys in tuxedos and the girls in swing dresses were ready to perform without further delay. The concert, based upon the Benny Goodman "Let's Dance" show that originally aired in the 1930s, started and ended with the song "Let's Dance," and included many other Goodman songs: "Moonglow"; "Bugle Call Boogie," featuring the trumpet quartet of trumpet teacher Chris Braun, junior Matthew Milks, freshman Sophia Schrodell and eighth-grader Zade Macintosh; and "And the Angels Sing," with SVA's new featured vocalist, eighth-grader Mia Cabansag.

"The 'A Tribute to Lionel' song was my favorite. I was able to try a new instrument—the vibraphone," says Ellie Sauser ('23). "Performing in front of the cameras with our videographer Sam Pomales was an exhilarating and memorable experience."

Airing nearly a year from its originally scheduled time, the band members listened to the concert as both audience and performers, experiencing the amazing camera angles and quality. Shull's solo went off without a hitch, and it was great to see how it all panned out. The band members agreed that they overcame the challenges the pandemic presented with quick thinking and hard work, while maintaining all necessary safety measures.

"Even though I prefer playing to a live audience," Sauser adds, "I believe that our Benny Goodman concert came pretty close!"

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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

Kneeling, I Breathed, ‘Oh God, Be Glorified!’

Standing in my office, I paused to acknowledge reality: We have COVID-19 on campus, and, by all appearances, it’s spreading.

As school nurse, I was exhausted and knew other faculty and staff were too. We had been working day and night to mitigate the five COVID-19 cases students brought to Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) following Christmas break. Each case required isolation, contact tracing, quarantining for possible exposure, symptom checks, calls, emails, contacting the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), scheduling COVID-19 tests and transportation—so many details. Now, within a day’s time, we had three new cases. Would we be forced to have a temporary shutdown?

I remembered our sudden school shutdown last spring break: students at home struggling to share internet access, often while caring for siblings. They lost so much, including saying goodbye to friends and teachers. More recently, a new student shared he is blessed to attend in-person school. At the start of September’s home leave, another student shared: “Remember after last home leave, we never came back.” I recalled a pediatrician talking about seeing suicidal children daily when pre-pandemic was a handful each month. With each thought, it came to me: *We need to be open to minister to students!* Dropping to my knees, I breathed, “Oh God, be glorified!”

The faculty and staff team, as well as the students,



Junior Hania Kantzer presents her Geometry City Design project.



Honors Physics teacher Vernon Hsu instructs seniors Emma Clark and Jason DeWitt.

worked hard. We quarantined, tested, delivered meals, cleaned, monitored for symptoms and followed mitigation protocols. It was a challenging time—it is a challenging school year. But we are committed because the result is worth it.

The VDH encouraged us, “You guys are doing a phenomenal job!” The virus did spread from the initial five to three other students. Then, we began receiving negative test results daily. With careful measures, we contained it with no further spread on campus! A new VDH epidemiologist assigned to SVA gasped as she heard the story: “Thank God! We wish this was happening with all schools.” Two weeks after receiving our first positive test results, students, parents, staff and the VDH were informed: “We currently have zero students quarantined, zero test results pending and zero students on the sick list.”

We planned ahead for an extended January leave to give everyone some rest. However, we were blessed to do it without the fear induced by an emergency shutdown. With God’s blessing, we have and will continue to fulfill the SVA mission to educate students as disciples of Jesus. Through the most recent challenge, God was glorified to students, to the VDH and in all of our hearts. We cannot be sure what the months ahead will bring, but we are on our knees praying, “Oh God, be glorified!”—*Darlene Anderson*

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Academy Welcomes New Art and Bible Teachers

Emily Lopez ('12), Takoma Academy's (TA) new art teacher, was born in Takoma Park, Md., at Washington Adventist Hospital. She began her Christian education at the John Nevins Andrews School, continuing at the Sligo Adventist School (now Takoma Academy Preparatory School) and finished high school at TA.

Lopez attended Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, Tenn. There, God led her to pursue a career in graphic design. At SAU, when she wasn't working on art projects, she often spent time in nature and exploring food spots in Chattanooga. After graduating in 2016, she moved home and began her creative career working at a local radio station in Washington, D.C. She served as the graphic designer and sales assistant for a few years before freelancing full time.

Lopez's life goal is to share her talents and inspire others to use their artistic gifts. In 2020, amid the global pandemic, God blessed her with the opportunity to pursue that goal when her alma mater invited her to teach art. Lopez states, "I have enjoyed witnessing my students pushing their artistic boundaries and becoming more confident in themselves as artists."

In her spare time, Lopez enjoys reading, hiking with her dog and spending time with family and friends. Some of her hobbies include DIY projects and watching documentaries.

Robert Machado was born in Manhattan, New York City to a Brazilian family. When he was five, his



family moved to Maryland. Machado attended both public and private schools, until he transferred to Spencerville Adventist Academy his junior year. While there, Machado fully committed his life to Jesus.

After graduating in 2008, the decision to follow Jesus led him to study theology at Washington Adventist University ('13) in Takoma Park, Md., where he served as chaplain, student dean, year-book editor and Religion Department secretary. He was also invited to become a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa fellowship. Machado pursued his Master of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich., where he served as chaplain and a Campus Ministries secretary, receiving the Service Leadership Award.

After his graduation in 2017, he served as a lay pastor at the Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md., working with the Brazilian community—specifically with youth. When he was invited to teach Bible at TA, he could not refuse.

"There is an amazing opportunity to change the world when we start empowering our youth for Jesus," Machado says. "So if I am given the opportunity to journey with young people and teach them the Jesus I know, how could I not want to be a part of that?"

In Machado's spare time, he continues to preach and teach all over the world. When he isn't ministering, you can find him in the kitchen, on the soccer field or walking his dogs.



TA Today is published in the *Visitor* by Takoma Academy ■ 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912
Phone: (301) 434-4700 ■ ta.edu ■ Principal, Carla Thrower ■ Editor, Salena Fitzgerald

Daily Messages Encourage Listeners

Over 1,200 WGTS listeners signed up to receive a daily encouraging message by email for 30 days. "We put together this series of short devotionals to help bring hope and joy to our listeners and to help them draw closer to Christ, which is our mission," says Brennan Wimbush, program director. One listener shared how it helped him: "Thank you for the powerful reminder that He is in control and surrendering to His will is what brings us closer to His very being every day."

The short messages included a Bible verse, a devotional thought and a link to an encouraging video. Our on-air hosts, including Jerry, Blanca, Becky, Johnny and Stacey shared about topics like coping with anxiety, trusting in God, and finding positive ways to connect with others. Some of the messages also featured Christian artists such as Colton Dixon, Micah Tyler, Hannah Kerr and Mandisa.

Listeners Sponsor Children and Bring Food

During the first three months of 2021, WGTS listeners have given generously to help children and families around the world and in the DMV. In February, WGTS listeners stepped forward to sponsor 720 children around the world during the station's annual "Days of Compassion" event. This Hands and Heart campaign is an opportunity to provide education, food, and medical care, along with the gospel message for children in 25 countries. This year's focus was on children in Kenya. While developing countries around the world have been dealing with COVID-19, Kenya is dealing with a famine in addition to the pandemic and has had a special need for additional sponsors.

In March, listeners donated to our ongoing Hands and Heart project "Operation: Fill the Pantry," bringing more than 1,600 pounds of food to help families in need in the DMV area. The food drives will continue in the month of April.

"We are grateful for the many listeners who give so generously to the Hands and Heart projects and show what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus," says general manager Kevin Krueger.



Morning show host Jerry Woods holds up a purse from his Compassion child in Boliva.



Words of Hope with Johnny and Stacey

Have you been lonely recently? This Words of Hope, filmed at a historic theater turned church in downtown D.C., offers encouragement from our afternoon hosts Johnny and Stacey Stone. Being lonely is a lack of connection with people, and can leave us feeling vulnerable. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, it says, "By yourself, you are unprotected; with a friend, you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope cannot be snapped." So here's some Words of Hope: In the midst of loneliness, remember that God is right there with you. He is the cord in your three-stranded rope. He will be there and surround you with His love. To view the full video, please scan the QR code or visit wgts919.com.



KETTERING COLLEGE

BOONSHOFT
CENTER FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



Kettering College's nursing program offers a combination of classroom curriculum and hands-on learning experiences.



Kettering College Nursing Grads Achieve Strong Pass Rate on Licensure Exam

By Lauren Brooks

Kettering College's Division of Nursing saw a rise in pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in 2020, surpassing both the statewide and national averages.

In 2020, Kettering College nursing graduates achieved an impressive 90.41% first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam, exceeding the Ohio average of 84.41% and the national average of 86.58%. Individuals must pass the NCLEX-RN exam to become licensed and practice as registered nurses.

"This high pass rate is a testament to the quality of the nursing program and strategic curriculum changes developed by our team of nursing faculty," said Paula Reams, dean of Nursing. "Our department is dedicated to educating highly skilled and caring nurses who meet the needs of today's health care landscape."

Kettering College's innovative 3-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program offers a combination of classroom curriculum and hands-on learning experiences. The program focuses on providing personal attention and whole-person support to students, so they can become whole-person care providers for the patients they serve.

The increase in pass rate is particularly notable considering disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including NCLEX-RN testing postponements and limited testing locations.

To ensure nursing students are well-prepared, Kettering College offers a rich array of clinical experiences within the hospitals of Kettering Adventist HealthCare, as well as other health care facilities within the community. Clinical experiences begin during the first nursing course.

"Kettering College's strong partnership with Kettering Adventist Health Care is a key factor in student outcomes," Reams explained. "Our students have a direct pipeline to Kettering Adventist HealthCare, and many are offered full-time jobs within the network upon graduating. It's a unique benefit for grads to start their careers right away in facilities that have the values, mission, and culture they're already familiar with."

To learn more about the Division of Nursing at Kettering College, visit kc.edu/nursing



MOVING FORWARD



The expanse of what we've all experienced in the last year can only be expressed as extraordinary and, in many cases, devastating. The world, our country, all of higher education, and Washington Adventist University have been affected in enormous and yet unseen ways. To put it simply, it has not been easy. The truth that confronts everyone now is the simple but complex idea that we must now move forward.

Cliché, as the sentiment may be, moving forward is not as simple as taking steps. Where do you go? How fast do you go? Do I have someone to lead me? Do we have what it takes to succeed?

Washington Adventist University has its roots firmly planted in the soil of Takoma Park, MD. The fact is that we were here before much or most of what you would consider greater Washington, D.C., and southern Maryland existed. Takoma Park was more farmstead than the high-priced liberalist paradise people perceive today. This land was blessed to glorify God through service, education, and the growth of young hearts and minds. We won't be so easily moved. We've survived many gales. We have bent, but we will not break.

We're now moving forward, knowing that God is not only blessing us but making a way for us. We've committed to opening our campus in the Fall of 2021. By God's grace and His grace alone, we will launch the next great WAU story in a post-pandemic world.

There is a significant difference between looking forward and moving forward. We now look forward across a landscape that has changed since the pandemic hit. Our visions for the future remain strong, but we must be flexible in the face of change and adversity. So we move forward, understanding that as we walk forward with God, our faith must be stronger and more resilient. Our efforts must include prayer at every turn. Our choices must be informed by the word of God, and His voice must guide us on the paths that we will follow as we take WAU into the next moment in its history.

Your prayers and generous financial support will always be appreciated. God's will for this land, for this university, has always been driven towards leading our students to become greater God-fearing, successful servants. We will continue to welcome all of God's children to this high ideal and make the best of His blessings.

THIS IS...WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY!



Weymouth Spence, President

Everything
is falling into
place!

**READY
FOR
YOU!**

A MOTHER'S STRENGTH

Lotara “Tara” Smith—a Washington Adventist University (WAU) alumna, a former member of the Acro-Airs team, and a dedicated mother—began her educational journey at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, MD. After completing her requirements at the community college, the Holy Spirit prompted her to continue her academic journey at WAU. In the beginning, she was anxious about returning to school full-time as she is also a single mother. Between work and family responsibilities, finding the time to focus on your studies can be extremely difficult for a single mother with a child to raise and provide for. However, God held her up each step of the way, introducing her to fantastic professors and advisors—such as Professor Alvin Fuentes—who served as constant sources of support.

Upon graduating from WAU in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Health Fitness Management, Tara immediately returned to the workforce. She served as a contractor for multiple different organizations such as corporate wellness, local and federal government organizations, and senior citizen communities. In each contract, she served as a health and wellness coordinator in various capacities.

Along the quest to grow and advance within the field of health promotion, the Holy Spirit prompted her to



Tara’s son, James, smiles as he places his mother’s cap on his head after the 2017 WAU Commencement Ceremonies.



return to school again. This time she was even more anxious because attending graduate school would be more intense than college. The statistics for single mothers earning advanced degrees are even lower than that of attaining an undergraduate degree. But she was determined. After multiple failed attempts, she regained momentum and matriculated into Walden University with the end goal of earning her master’s degree. As with WAU, she was not without support. This time, she received the support of Dr. Denise Hinds, who served as her mentor despite no longer being a student at WAU. Through the grace of God, she successfully completed her Master of Science in Health Education and Promotion on February 14, 2021.

Now, Tara continues in her role as a contractor for the Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services, where she serves as the Health & Wellness Initiative Coordinator for social services recipients. She is also an adjunct professor at the Baltimore City Community College. Next, Tara hopes to secure financing to return to school again. This time she hopes to earn her Ph.D. in Health Education & Promotion—a goal that would not have been considered without the encouragement of Dr. Alban Bacchus, a former professor in the HWPE Department. Her goal is to advance herself and provide better economic opportunities for her family and to serve as an example for other single mothers who have similar dreams—that being a single mother does not have to impede your wish for higher education. She credits her accomplishments to God, her family—especially her son—and her support network.

Fear Not!

In the book of Isaiah, a people who have been beset by a great calamity and circumstances are reassured of God's eternal care through these words:

*Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

– Isaiah 41:10, NKJV

The verse starts with: "Fear not" and immediately the reason for the command is explained: "I am with you." There is great strength in knowing that we are not alone. Awareness of God's presence in our lives enables us to develop discernment and understanding.

"Be not dismayed, for I am your God" is the next phrase. The word dismayed can also be translated "distressed" and means "looking around with worry or concern." When we know the great love of the One in whom we live and have life, there is relief from anxiety and dismay.

"I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you." In healthcare, we know the importance of being able to depend on our own internal strength, while cultivating strong connections with the external relationships and resources. This is precisely what God offers us – the divine initiative to strengthen our spirit and to help us.

"I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." In three words we sense power, integrity, justice and strength. We hold up our right hands when we pledge to be honest and truthful. But in this verse, God goes beyond the strengths that humans, even at their best, offer to one another. God brings the righteous right hand to the situation. Righteousness is a quality reserved for the divine; it is godly power and justice that is God's eternal purpose and commitment to us.

I am praying that as we seek to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental, and spiritual healing, our caregivers will know and be strengthened by God's presence. And I am praying that you also will know God as one who is with you and will uphold you – each and every day.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center's new patient tower would include updates to multiple service areas including the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Progressive Care Unit, Medical/Surgical units and cardiovascular interventional radiology.

Maryland Commission Reviews Shady Grove Tower Plans

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center took a crucial step forward in modernizing its Emergency Department and providing patients with all-private rooms when the hospital's Certificate of Need application to build a tower addition was docketed with the Maryland HealthCare Commission in February.

The filing, submitted in October 2020, outlines plans to construct a 150,352-square-foot, six-floor patient care tower and renovate 25,696 square feet of existing space. The tower will be located on what is now the surface parking lots outside of the Emergency Department, immediately east of the existing hospital and adjacent to its parking garage. Floors 1-4 will feature corridors connecting the tower to the existing hospital, which will also have renovations to the current spaces.

Upon its estimated completion in 2024, the project will give Shady Grove Medical Center all-private medical/surgical inpatient rooms; larger replacements for its Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department; and add a Clinical Decision Unit to help with the transfer of patients from the ED to inpatient care. The plan focuses on upgrades that will bring Shady Grove more state-of-the-art care spaces to enhance the quality, safety and efficiency of its operations.

"The changing needs of our patients and caregivers make this project essential to serve our community, now and in the future," said hospital President Dan Cochran.

Living Our Mission to Extend God's Healing



JOINT SURGERY HONORED

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center has been awarded The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for its quality standards in the surgical replacement of shoulder joints.

Shady Grove is the first in the D.C. region of Maryland to earn the certification, which is recognized nationwide as a symbol of exceptional care. The shoulder replacement program earned the Gold Seal after undergoing a rigorous on-site review of its infection prevention measures, leadership and medication management for shoulder replacement patients.

"Earning this certification is an amazing accomplishment," said Craig Miller, MD, Medical Director of the Total Joint Center of Excellence at Shady Grove Medical Center. "We were the first hospital in the Washington, D.C., region to perform computer navigated total shoulder replacements. Now we are the first in our area to be certified for total shoulder replacement by The Joint Commission. This recognition is seen as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to improvement and to meeting state-of-the-art performance standards."

Shady Grove also holds The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval® for total hip and knee replacement surgery. Board-certified orthopedic surgeons perform an average of 700 joint replacements a year at the hospital.



Our compassion shows in every care encounter.

Care Commitment

Adventist HealthCare has launched Worthix, a new survey tool that engages patients in a "dialogue" to better understand patient preferences in real time. This technology joins the suite of other processes gathering multi-sourced feedback to ensure that every person has a world-class patient experience.

Protecting our Community



Adventist HealthCare continues to support the region through Community Clinics! In the first quarter of 2021, Adventist HealthCare vaccinated over 50,000 community members! As part of its many efforts to support access throughout the state, Adventist HealthCare worked with longtime partner CASA de Maryland, Inc. and the Latino Health Initiative to expand vaccination efforts to reach residents in areas with lower vaccination rates and higher COVID-19 deaths tolls.



Celebrating 20 Years of Rehab Service

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation is celebrating its 20th anniversary! Formed in January 2001, Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation has grown to 97 inpatient beds in two locations, as well as seven outpatient clinics located in Rockville, Silver Spring, White Oak and Gaithersburg.

"Our absolute priorities have always been quality, core values and sense of Mission," stated Brent Reitz, President of Post-Acute Care Services. "We infuse them into everything we do, and they have made us who we are these 20 years later."

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation's commitment to provide the best outcomes can be seen in the development of a full spectrum of specialty services, including cancer/lymphedema, cardiovascular, occupational therapy, neurological, pelvic health, physical therapy, amputation, speech and language pathology and sports medicine. Experts at each location serve people of all ages and abilities to provide custom one-on-one care.

Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation is the first facility in a five-state area to become accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in all four specialty services programs for amputations, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke.

As a recent example of its ongoing commitment to convenient and comprehensive care, Adventist HealthCare Rehabilitation now provides on-site hemodialysis treatments to offer a single setting for continuous care and enable faster recovery times.

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Growing Our Business, Expanding Our Mission

By Fred Manchur, CEO

Despite the challenges we've faced in 2020, Kettering Adventist HealthCare has continued to grow these past five years. As we've added new facilities and expanded our community reach, we've continued to emphasize recruiting Adventist employees to ensure that our mission stays at the forefront of all we do.



We also partnered with Spring Valley Academy to help transport children from the Hispanic churches as well as refugee children to the school. Our summer extern and intern program of nurses and business students from our Adventist universities and colleges also create a desire for those externs and interns to come back and seek employment within our organization once they graduate.

This growth has had its effects—our churches and school are bursting at the seams. At Kettering Adventist Church, we recently completed a new children's wing that will be the ideal setting for our little ones to learn about Jesus. In addition, the enrollment at Spring Valley Academy continues to climb—we have nearly 500 students enrolled for the upcoming school year.



Kettering Adventist Church added a grand lobby, children's wing lobby, and eight classrooms on two floors as well as a large meeting room on the top floor.



Nursing students came from Adventist universities and colleges to participate in an extern and intern program with Kettering Adventist HealthCare during the summer of 2019.



There are 40 refugee students attending Spring Valley Academy.



Walter Sackett, president of Kettering Medical Center, leads children in song for patients.



THE NEWS

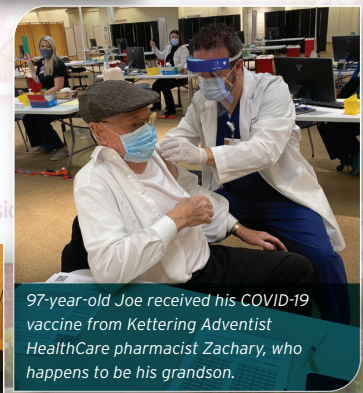
KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Together, Supporting Each Other

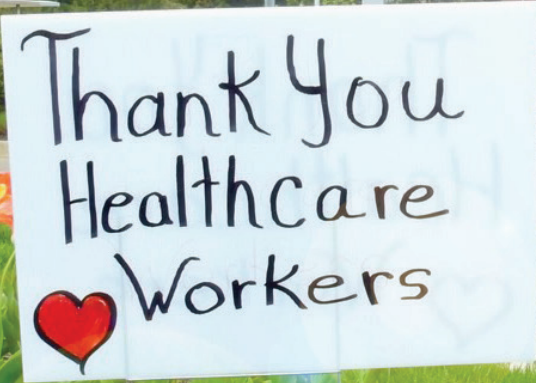
Like most health care organizations, Kettering Adventist HealthCare experienced more twists and turns in the last year than any in recent memory. From our immediate response at the outset of the pandemic to our ever-increasing vaccine clinics, God has been faithful and given our organization even more opportunities to extend His healing hand to our community. We thank our community and church family for all their prayers and support.



Kevin Sharrett, MD, administered the COVID-19 vaccine to Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine.



97-year-old Joe received his COVID-19 vaccine from Kettering Adventist HealthCare pharmacist Zachary, who happens to be his grandson.



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EMPLOYMENT

ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Adventist HealthCare is the first and largest provider of healthcare in Montgomery County, Maryland, serving the Washington, D.C., area since 1907.

Recently ranked as one of Forbes Best-in-State Employers in 2020. Find a career you'll love. Learn more about available opportunities and apply at:

AdventistHealthCare.com/Careers

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, seeking 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

BIBLE CLASSES FOR HOMESCHOOLERS: Live, accredited Bible classes for high school level homeschoolers in the Potomac Conference. Students will learn about the Bible from the Adventist perspective using the Encounter Bible Curriculum with a live instructor via secure Zoom sessions. Classes will meet multiple times each week. Students will receive a transcriptable high school credit upon completion. Visit rasda.org/connect.

THE AUTUMN OF OUR LIVES, the delightful life story of Pastor Jim Hoffer. With 150 pages and

over 100 pictures, adventure, mission stories, family history, humor and poetry. Details and ordering information at LostArkSeminar.com.

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS: High quality, 20-gauge steel. Includes picture of the second coming of Jesus in the head panel; picture of the 10 commandments on either side; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 below the head panel and the three angels' messages at the end of the casket. Under \$800. For more information, call our office: (865) 882-0773 or (865) 804-2388; email wilson658375@bellsouth.net; or visit 1844casketsforadventists.com.

TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO EVANGELIZE DURING COVID?

Consider sponsoring a Facebook lead generation ad campaign. Reach thousands ... it's easy. You don't have to have a Facebook page, enjoy or use social media or even be computer literate! Project Steps to Christ does all the work for you! Contact us at (800) 728-6872, or go to projectstc.org/Facebook-Evangelism.

SERVICES

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

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

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. Elternhaus also offers a great work environment for Adventist caregivers, LPNs and RNs. Call Tim Mayer, (240) 286-3635.

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

HEALTH WORRIES OR CHRONIC ALIMENTS?

Even serious problems can have simple, safe solutions. For 17 years, we have helped patients have less pain, more energy, easier work and better family time. Available nationwide, our discount laboratory testing and telemedicine program helps people seeking effective, natural options for headaches, TBI and cognitive decline, poor digestion and IBS, diabetes and heart challenges, asthma, allergies and autoimmune problems, hormone and mood imbalances, arthritis and musculoskeletal pain, and chronic issues like Lyme, etc. Experience our personalized, Adventist physician-directed, nutritional supplement and lifestyle plan today. For a free consultation, contact drcrolland@hotmail.com or (814) 734-5000 weekdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 unionspringsacademy.org for more details and updates.

LEGAL NOTICES

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*

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*

SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING REUNION

**HYBRID SERVICE –
IN PERSON & VIRTUAL**

- Parade of Nations
- Virtual International Luncheon



CHARLES A. TAPP
Potomac Conference President



AUGUST 7 2021

Sunset Calendar

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Baltimore	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37
Cincinnati	8:36	8:43	8:49	8:55	9:00	9:04	9:07	9:08
Cleveland	8:30	8:37	8:44	8:50	8:56	9:00	9:03	9:04
Columbus	8:32	8:39	8:45	8:51	8:56	9:00	9:03	9:05
Jersey City	7:58	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:32
Norfolk	7:59	8:05	8:10	8:16	8:20	8:24	8:27	8:28
Parkersburg	8:25	8:31	8:38	8:43	8:48	8:52	8:55	8:57
Philadelphia	8:01	8:07	8:14	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:21	8:28	8:34	8:40	8:46	8:50	8:53	8:54
Reading	8:04	8:11	8:18	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38
Richmond	8:05	8:11	8:17	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:35
Roanoke	8:14	8:20	8:26	8:31	8:36	8:40	8:43	8:44
Toledo	8:38	8:45	8:52	8:59	9:04	9:08	9:11	9:13
Trenton	8:00	8:06	8:13	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:33
Wash., D.C.	8:06	8:12	8:19	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:37

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Forbes
AMERICA'S
BEST-IN-STATE
EMPLOYERS

MARYLAND

2020

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Find a career you'll love with Adventist HealthCare, recently ranked as one of Forbes Top 20 Best-In-State Employers.

Serving our community since 1907, we are committed to offering high-quality care to patients by extending physical, mental and spiritual healing.

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supporting each other.

Helping our communities stay safe and well

At Kettering Adventist HealthCare, helping our communities stay safe and healthy is our top priority. We see our patient-centered approach as an opportunity to extend Christ's healing ministry. From emergency care to regular wellness visits, our patients can count on us to deliver exceptional, personalized care.

Learn more at
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