

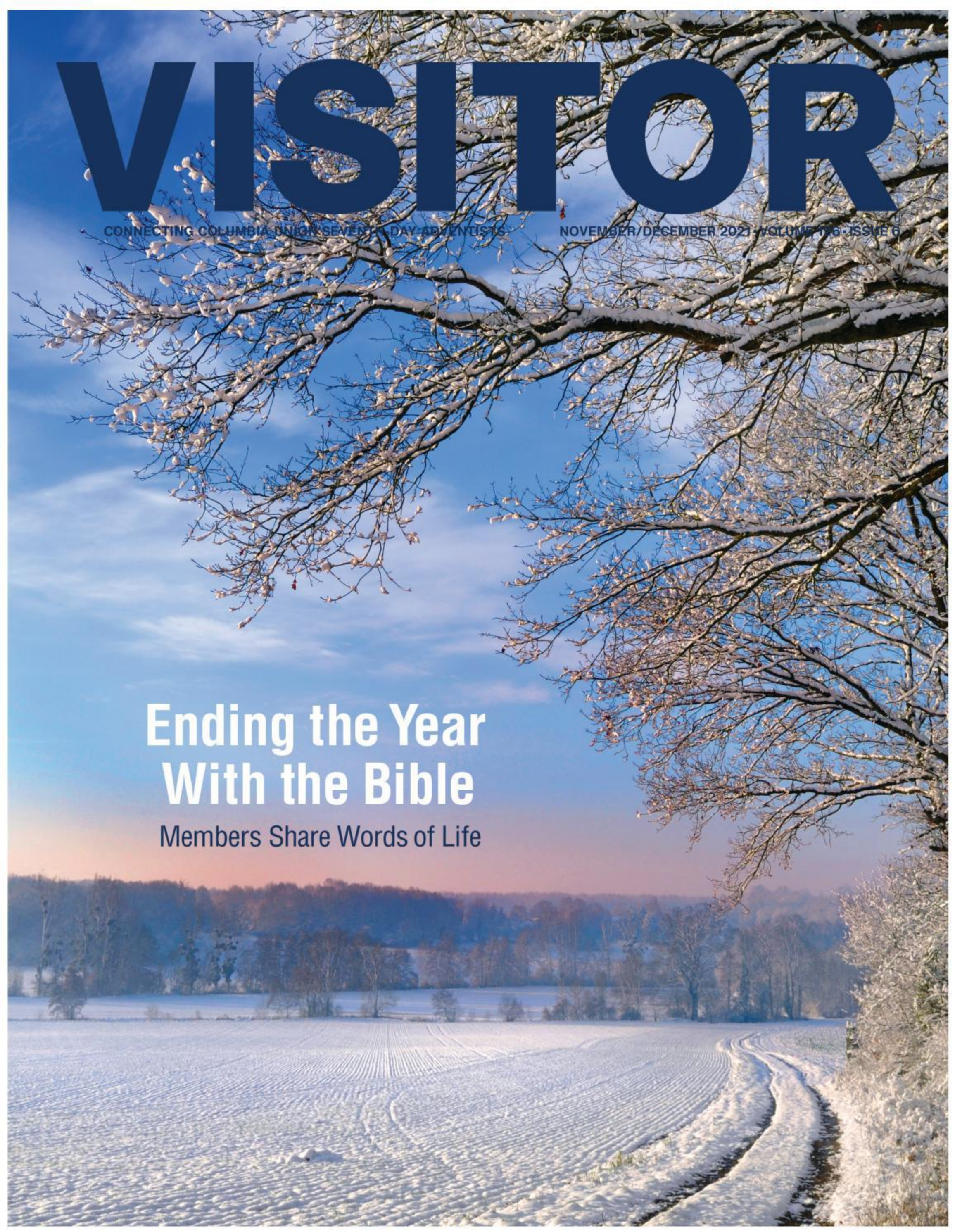
VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 VOLUME 136 ISSUE 6

Ending the Year With the Bible

Members Share Words of Life



Words Make a Difference



Words. What are they but letters placed into tiny groups with spaces on either side? One single word—war, peace, hate, love—can cause protests to unravel, turmoil to start or unity to materialize.

String several words together—it's a boy, you're a liar, thank you, don't talk to me—and friendships can end, new ones begin or cast-aways believe again. Words make a difference, and they can bring life or death.

This year, through our *Words of Life* Year of the Bible devotional book—written by pastors, administrators, students, educators and local church members—my heart was renewed, my soul refreshed, my mind stimulated. This amazing collection of *your* words, stories and testimonies pointed me and our nearly 100,000 print, online and app readers to Jesus—The Word of Life.

MY FAVORITE VERSE

The verse in the Bible that moves me the most is Psalm 46:1-2: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the



mountains fall into the heart of the sea" (NIV).

In 2012, Jina, my then-fiancée, and I took a trip to Niagara Falls. Adventurous—at the time—we decided to go on a mist tour at the bottom of the falls. Placing our blue rain ponchos on, we joined others on the boat. Out in the distance, we witnessed the beautiful backdrop. But as we slowly approached the cliff, the mist from the roaring falls—pouring down 600,000 gallons of water per second—overwhelmed us. It was so strong I could barely see Jina.

As fear set in, Psalm 46:1-2 flashed through my mind. *No need to fear, for God is near, I repeated, even if this mountain were to crumble.*

Suffice it to say, we successfully made it out and now joke that this experience is the reason why we are no longer daredevils.

God, thank You for the Bible—Your Words of Life. May we continue to read and claim Your promises long after this special year ends, and may we draw closer to You, showing Your goodness to all by how we live. Amen.

Ricardo Bacchus, the editor of the Words of Life devotional book, serves the Columbia Union Conference as the assistant director for communication and the Visitor's managing editor for print.

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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 readers. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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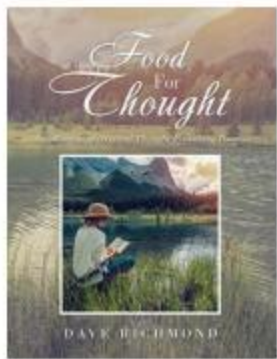
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Volume 126 ■ Issue 6



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dave Richmond, a member of the West End Simple Home church in Sciota, Pa., recently released a collection of original poems in the book *Food for Thought*. He captures recent events and issues through a biblical lens, offering

thought-provoking insights intended to guide readers to the Creator.—Michelle Greene

5 Things You Should Know

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things)

1 Wally Sackett has been named president of Ohio-based Kettering Health. Sackett will oversee the organization’s nine medical centers and operations. Sharlet Briggs has been selected as the new president of Kettering Medical Center—the first woman to lead the network’s flagship hospital.

2 Washington Adventist University (WAU) leaders recently renamed the Department of Religion to the Henry and Sharon Fordham Department of Religion. During the ceremony, WAU honored the legacy of the Fordhams’ ministry, hoping to inspire students to lead by their example.

3 “One of the most important things we do at the union is to help advance evangelism,” said Dave Weigley, union president, at the recent Columbia Union Executive Committee meeting. Presidents from the union’s eight conferences spotlighted the ways members are working to share the love of God through multiple methods.

4 Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington is working to assist Afghan and other refugee families who have recently settled in the Washington, D.C., area. Team members from the Chesapeake Conference Adventist Community Services also helped by providing emotional and spiritual support to evacuees as they arrived at Dulles International Airport (Va.).

5 Allegheny East Conference’s Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School and the First Church of Teaneck in New Jersey were both flooded in the wake of Hurricane Ida. The storm also caused damage to many homes throughout the region, spurring Adventist Community Services volunteers from the Allegheny East, Chesapeake and New Jersey conferences to action.

143,668

The official Columbia Union Conference membership, as of July 2021.



COLUMBIA UNION MOURNS CAROL WRIGHT

Carol (Lindsey) Wright, who served for 39 years in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, passed away September 9 after an extended battle with

dementia and Parkinson’s disease.

“She was a professional, full of poise and wisdom,” says Dave Weigley, union president. “She helped create an incredible culture of support and care in the Columbia Union office team.”

Wright retired as undertreasurer at the Columbia Union, where she worked in the Treasury Department from 1989–2017.

ALLEGHENY EAST APPOINTS PRESIDENT, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

On September 26, members of the Allegheny East Conference Executive Committee appointed Pete Palmer (right) as president and Marcellus Robinson as vice president for administration.



Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, says that the committee reached this decision after a careful, prayerful process. He made special note of Palmer and Robinson’s dedicated and experienced spiritual leadership, and added, “I appeal to Allegheny East members to be like Aaron and Hur, and lift up the hands of our leaders, so we can continue to heal and focus on the Great Commission.”



Read more on page 13 of the *Allegheny East Exposé* newsletter.

UpFront

UNION APPOINTS DEPARTMENT LEADERS FOR 2021-26

Columbia Union Executive Committee members recently voted to return and/or promote appointees in the Communication, Education, Information Technology and Treasury departments.

Kelly Butler Coe was promoted from associate director to director of Communication Services. Coe has served at the Columbia Union since 2000, principally as brand identity manager, art director and graphic designer.

Celeste Ryan Blyden, union vice president for Strategic Communication, will continue to provide oversight to the department and serve as editor and publisher of the *Visitor* magazine.

Reappointments

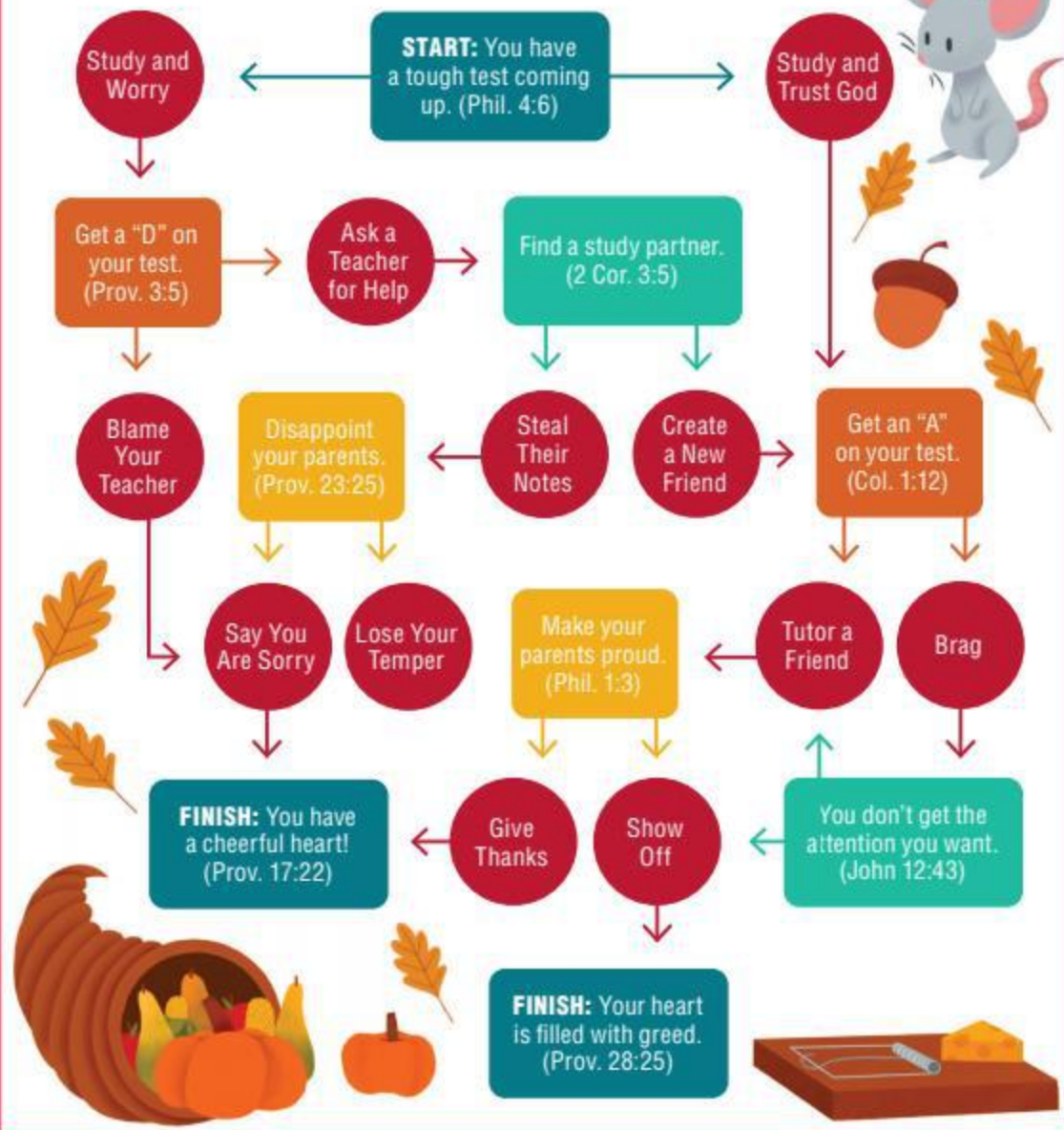
In Information Technology Services, Harold Greene, who has served as director for the past 19 years, was reappointed, and Greg Iverson was reappointed as associate director.

In Education, Ileana Espinosa was reappointed as associate director for elementary education; Alison Jobson, as associate director for early childhood education; and Jacqueline Messenger, as associate director for secondary education.

In Treasury, Tabita Martinez was reappointed as undertreasurer; Jane Cermak-Faver, as associate treasurer; and H. Candace Nurse, who serves as secretary/treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, as associate treasurer.

All of the leaders bring a special set of great skills to their departments, each advancing mission in very important ways, says Rick Remmers, union executive secretary.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GRATEFUL • Kids, Victor the *Visitor* mouse needs to develop good habits. What gratitude traits can you help him find in these verses? Remember, even if you make a wrong decision, you can try again to find your way.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DIANA WILLETT



Kelly Butler Coe, Harold Greene, Greg Iverson, Ileana Espinosa, Alison Jobson; (second row) Jacqueline Messenger, Tabita Martinez, Jane Cermak-Faver and H. Candace Nurse were recently appointed.

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



LA UNION DE COLUMBIA LLORA A CAROL WRIGHT

Carol (Lindsey) Wright, quien sirvió durante 39 años en la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, falleció el 9 de septiembre, después de una batalla prolongada contra la demencia y la enfermedad de Parkinson.

Wright se jubiló como tesorera en la Unión de Columbia, donde trabajó en el Departamento de Tesorería desde 1989 hasta el 2017.

Antes de unirse al Departamento de Tesorería en 1989, se desempeñó en la Universidad de Oakwood, la Asociación General de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día y la Asociación Oeste de Allegheny. En el 2013, fue reconocida como una de las Personas de Honor Destacadas de la unión. —Benjamin Baker contribuyó al informe de este artículo.

ALLEGHENY EAST NOMBRA A DOS LÍDERES NUEVOS

El 26 de septiembre, los miembros del comité ejecutivo de la conferencia Este de Allegheny (AEC) nombraron a Pete Palmer como presidente y a Marcellus Robinson como vicepresidente de administración.

Palmer se desempeñó como vicepresidente de administración desde el 2018 y ocupa el cargo que ocupaba Henry J. Fordham III, quien falleció este verano. Robinson, quien anteriormente se desempeñó como vicepresidente de la

5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

- 1** Wally Sackett ha sido nombrado presidente de Kettering Health, con sede en Ohio. Sharlet Briggs ha sido seleccionada como la nueva presidenta de Kettering Medical Center, la primera mujer en dirigir el primer hospital de la red.
- 2** Los líderes de la Universidad Adventista de Washington (WAU) recientemente renombraron su Departamento de Religión como Departamento de Religión Henry y Sharon Fordham. Durante la ceremonia, WAU honró el legado del ministerio de los Fordham, con la esperanza de inspirar a los estudiantes a liderar con su ejemplo.
- 3** “Una de las cosas más importantes que hacemos en la unión es ayudar a promover la evangelización”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente de la unión, en la reciente reunión del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia. Los presidentes de las ocho conferencias de la unión destacaron las muchas formas en que los miembros están trabajando para compartir el amor de Dios a través de métodos tradicionales e innovadores.
- 4** Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia votaron recientemente para regresar y / o promover a los nombrados en los departamentos de Comunicación, Educación, Tecnología de la Información y Tesorería.
- 5** Ubicadas en el mismo campus, la Escuela Adventista Wilbert F. Mays de la Conferencia Este de Allegheny y la Primera Iglesia de Teaneck en Nueva Jersey se inundaron a raíz del huracán Ida. La tormenta también causó daños a muchos hogares en toda la región, lo que llevó a la acción a voluntarios del Servicio Comunitario Adventista de las conferencias de Allegheny Este, Chesapeake y Nueva Jersey.

función administrativa, se ha desempeñado como director de administración / filantropía y donaciones planificadas de AEC desde el 2018.

LOS ADVENTISTAS AYUDAN A LOS AFGANOS A REASENTARSE

Los Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas del Área Metropolitana de Washington están trabajando para ayudar a las familias afganas y de otros refugiados que se han establecido recientemente en el área de Washington, D.C. Para ayudar con esta transición, los voluntarios están recolectando y distribuyendo artículos de cuidado personal y otras necesidades. Los miembros

del equipo de los Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas de la Conferencia de Chesapeake también ayudaron brindando apoyo emocional y espiritual a los evacuados cuando llegaban al Aeropuerto Internacional de Dulles (Va.).



Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

5 Choses à Savoir

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses)

1 Wally Sackett a été nommée présidente de Kettering Health, basé à Ohio. Dans ce rôle, Sackett supervisera les neufs centres médicaux et opérations de l'organisation. Sharlet Briggs a été choisie comme nouvelle présidente du Kettering Medical Center, la première femme à diriger l'hôpital phare du réseau.

2 Les dirigeants de l'Université Adventiste de Washington (WAU) ont récemment rebaptisé son Département de Religion qui est devenu : Le Département de Religion Henry et Sharon Fordham. Au cours de la cérémonie, WAU a honoré l'héritage du ministère des Fordham, dans l'espoir d'inspirer les étudiants à suivre leur exemple. Regardez la cérémonie sur columbiaunionvisitor.com/religiondeptrename.

3 « L'une des choses les plus importantes que nous faisons au niveau de l'union, c'est d'aider à faire avancer l'évangélisation », a déclaré Dave Weigley, président de l'union, lors de la récente réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'Union de Columbia. Les présidents des huit fédérations de l'union ont mis en lumière les nombreuses façons dont les membres travaillent pour partager l'amour de Dieu à travers des méthodes traditionnelles et innovantes.

4 Situées sur le même campus, l'école adventiste Wilbert F. Mays de la Fédération Allegheny East et la première église de Teaneck dans le New Jersey ont toutes deux été inondées à la suite de l'ouragan Ida. La tempête a également causé des dommages à de nombreuses maisons dans toute la région, incitant les bénévoles du Service communautaire adventiste des fédérations Allegheny East, Chesapeake et New Jersey à passer à l'action.

5 Quelques heures après le récent tremblement de terre de magnitude 7,2 qui a frappé Haïti, l'Agence Adventiste de Développement et de Secours (ADRA) a déployé une équipe pour accéder aux zones affectées et aider les personnes touchées par la catastrophe. Les membres de l'Union de Columbia ont aussi apporté leur assistance. L'église New Hope de la Fédération de Chesapeake a collecté quelque 100 000 \$ pour fournir 300 000 repas aux personnes dans les zones touchées.

ALLEGHENY EAST NOMME DEUX NOUVEAUX DIRIGEANTS

Le dimanche 26 septembre, les membres du Comité Exécutif de la Fédération Allegheny East (AEC) ont nommé Pete Palmer comme président, et Marcellus Robinson comme vice-président pour l'administration.

Pasteur Palmer était vice-président de l'administration depuis 2018 et occupe le poste de Henry J. Fordham III, décédé cet été. Pasteur Robinson, qui occupait auparavant le poste

de vice-président pour l'administration, est directeur de l'Intendance/Philanthropie et des dons planifiés au niveau de l'AEC depuis 2018.

L'UNION NOMME DES CHEFS DE DÉPARTEMENT POUR 2021-2026

Les membres du Comité Exécutif de Columbia Union ont récemment voté en faveur du retour et/ou de la promotion des personnes nommées dans les départements Communication, de l'Education,

des Technologies de l'information et de la Trésorerie.

Kelly Butler Coe a été promu de directeur associé aux des services de communication.

Renouvellements

• Services de technologie de l'information : Harold Greene, qui a occupé le poste d'administrateur au cours des 19 dernières années, a été reconduit dans ses fonctions et Greg Iverson a été reconduit dans ses fonctions de directeur associé.

• Education : Ileana Espinosa a été reconduite dans ses fonctions de directrice associée pour l'enseignement primaire; Alison Jobson, en tant que directrice associée pour l'éducation de la petite enfance ; et Jacqueline Messenger, en tant que directrice associée pour l'enseignement secondaire.

• Trésorerie : Tabita Martinez a été reconduite en tant que sous-trésorière ; Jane Cermak-Faver, en tant que trésorière associée ; et H. Candace Nurse, qui sert en tant que secrétaire/trésorier de Columbia Union Revolving Fund, en tant que trésorier associé.

« Tous les dirigeants apportent un ensemble spécial de grandes compétences à leurs départements », déclare Rick Remmers, secrétaire exécutif de l'union.

L'UNION DE COLUMBIA PLEURE CAROL WRIGHT

Carol (Lindsey) Wright, qui a servi pendant 39 ans dans l'Église Adventiste du Septième jour, est décédée le 9 septembre, après une longue bataille contre la démence et la maladie de Parkinson.

Wright a pris sa retraite en tant que sous-trésorière à l'Union de Columbia, où elle a travaillé au département du Trésor de 1989 à 2017.

En 2013, elle a été reconnue comme l'une des personnalités d'honneur de l'union.

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Find out more about education within the Columbia Union Conference at columbiaunion.org/education.

Nurturing
a Lifelong
Encounter
with **Christ**

Ms. Williams

Violet

Jaylen

Amira

A collage of images. On the left, a woman with glasses and a pink shirt holds a tablet. On the right, three children are shown wearing large headphones, suggesting a music or audio program. The text 'Nurturing a Lifelong Encounter with Christ' is overlaid in the center. At the bottom, there is a name 'Ms. Williams' and icons for microphone, video, chat, and close.

What Is Your Favorite Bible Verse?

Compiled and Edited by Ricardo Bacchus

More than 365 church members, pastors, students and leaders answered this question in the *Words of Life* daily devotional book—one component of the 2021 Year of the Bible initiative. Authored by Columbia Union Conference members, writers poured out their hearts on paper, describing how God's Word has impacted their lives.

As you read a few of the extra, unpublished submissions the *Visitor* team received, may you find God's hope within the stories, His love within the promises and His forgiveness within the passages. For it is within the Bible—God's Love Letter—that our questions are answered, our anxieties eased and our characters transformed.

Blindfolded Faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1, NKJV).

Awhile back, my family went to the circus. I purchased tickets that put us right up front. As the show progressed, there was a knife-throwing clown act. Seeking volunteers from the audience, I was chosen to participate in this extravaganza.

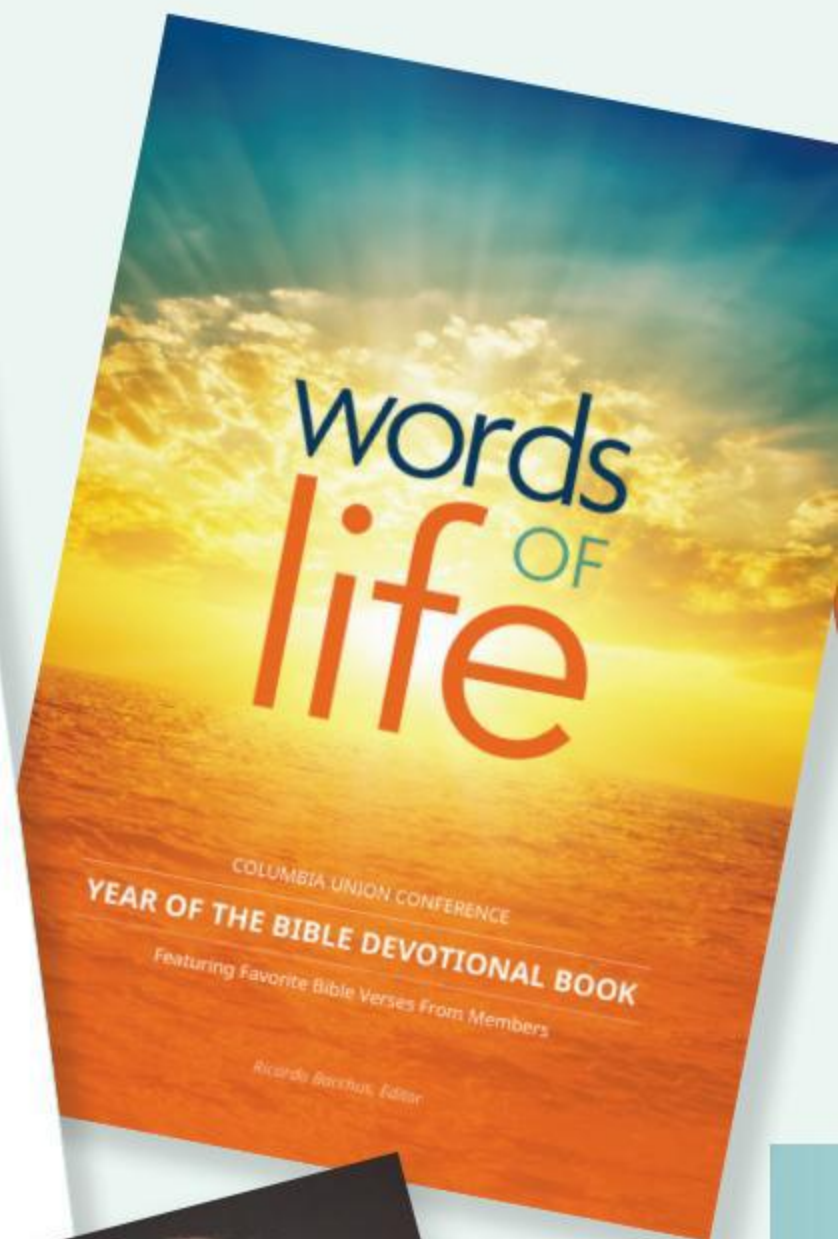
Placed in front of a plywood wall, a clown blindfolded me and gave me two balloons to hold. Across the ring was a knife-yielding clown who told me not to move.

As the drums rolled, my ears were greeted with the pop of one balloon and the thud of the knife as it sunk itself into the plywood. The clown that was by my side removed my blindfold. The dagger of death was only inches away from my right hand. Blindfolded again, the other balloon was decimated in similar fashion. Finally, the clown placed a balloon right between my legs. Thankfully, I returned safely to my seat with all my body parts intact.

What I didn't know at the time was that I was never in real danger. The knives that were doing their nerve-racking work were held firmly in the hands of the clown by my side. And so it is with God. Blindfolded by sin, it is only through faith in God that I know each knife that is flung in my direction is held firmly in His hands.

Lord, thank You for always holding me in the palm of Your hand. Amen.

Michael Stough II is the pastor of Ohio Conference's Delaware, New Carlisle and Springfield First churches in Ohio.





It Begins With Trust

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take” (Prov. 3:5-6, NLT).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart ...”

Do I know how to trust? I've asked myself this more times in the last several years than ever before. Having gone through a devastating divorce and slowly seeing how God has picked up the pieces of my heart, for the first time in my life I am learning the true meaning of trust.

“Do not depend on your own understanding ...”

What? I am a surgeon. I've gone to school and training for more than 14 years. I was trained to follow evidence-based medicine using a logic-based approach. How can I not lean on my own understanding? Ah, God whispers to me, *do you remember the trust you're building in Me? This is where it gets tested and grows.*

“Seek His will in all you do ...”

Hmm. What am I listening to on my playlist? What am I watching on Netflix? Where are my priorities? Where is my heart? Do I make time to connect with Him daily, hourly, moment by moment? I need to surrender all of me to You.

“And He will show you which path to take ...”

As one of my favorite songs goes, “All I know is I'm not home yet. This is not where I belong. Take this world and give me Jesus. This is not where I belong.” Yes, Father, direct my path home to You. *Father, I choose to trust in You with all my heart. Amen.*

Astrid von Walter is a Primary Sabbath School teacher at Potomac Conference's Community Praise Church in Alexandria, Va.

Bonus
Devos

5 Ways to Memorize Scripture

- 1 Journal.** Jot down the same verse every day for a week.
- 2 Sing.** Learn or compose a catchy Scripture tune with your kids and tag us on [instagram.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.instagram.com/columbiaunionvisitor).
- 3 Pray.** During your daily prayer time, take a moment to recite a psalm.
- 4 Post it.** Share a favorite Bible verse online and tag us on [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).
- 5 Download** the Columbia Union Conference app. Memorize one verse each week from our 2022 Memory Verse Plan.

'You Left the Crumbs'

"Behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23, KJV).

When I was in the seventh grade, my homeroom teacher would often quote Numbers 32:23 to us. It was his way of reminding us that the things we did in secret would eventually be brought to light. It wasn't until the following year that I realized this to be true.

My mom had baked brownies and advised my brothers and me not to eat any until she said so. She had made so many that I was certain she wouldn't notice that one had gone missing. So, while my mom was out, I grabbed a brownie, bit into the chocolate square and smacked my lips when finished.

Months later, my mom brought the "brownie incident" to my attention. Initially, I feigned innocence, but then confessed.

"How did you know?" I asked.

She replied, "You left the crumbs."

True to what my homeroom teacher quoted, my sin had found me out.

Heavenly Father, teach us to regard Your Word and be honest in all things. Amen.

Yvonne Curry Smallwood is an elder at Allegheny East Conference's First church in Washington, D.C.



Every Day an Ebenezer

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'" (1 Sam. 7:12, NIV).

In this story, the prophet Samuel—a man who'd begun his life of service as a child and who was now very old—called on God's people to be faithful in fulfilling the task that God had laid before them. They responded with commitment and courage. As a result, they were able to achieve the goals that had eluded them for more than 20 years. They turned back an invasion and won the day—as well as their confidence for the future.

Then Samuel raised up a monument stone and named it Ebenezer (literally, stone of help) because "thus far the Lord has helped us."

The location became a monument for how God had blessed His people. Whenever they would see the Ebenezer stone, their focus was not on the battle they had won but on how God had won the battle for them.

When Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center opened in Silver Spring, Md., in 2019, I was reminded of this old story, which calls us to remember the abundant blessings we have received from God. Milestones such as these are Ebenezers—stones of help. And every day brings a new Ebenezer!

How blessed am I to be a participant in growth and transition, where the evidence of how "the Lord has helped us" is so abundant! *God, I can't wait to see the ways You will bless us in the future! Amen.*

Terry Forde is the president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md.



HOW GOD BLESSED

Throughout the year, the Columbia Union received positive feedback from readers who, because of reading *Words of Life*, were inspired to dig deeper into their Bibles, received direct answers to prayer and were motivated to begin Bible studies. The Visitor team appreciates the many handwritten letters, emails, phone calls and social media posts. One story in particular touched our hearts:

The Unwanted Package

I was recently longing for something more than just prayer every morning with my significant other—specifically a good Bible verse app. Sometime last week, I received an “unwanted” package in the mail. I didn’t pay attention to the sender, but I definitely noticed it was addressed using my divorced last name. Of course, I was immediately turned off and set the package on the table. Typically, I would have thrown it in the trash, but I was impressed to hold onto it.

One day, I got tired of looking at the “unwanted” package that was *still* sitting on my table. I peeled back the plastic covering and saw “2021 Year of the Bible.” My interest was immediately piqued!

As I flipped the book over, the color scheme warmed my soul. I read the title *Words of Life* and said to myself, *This book is the answer to my prayers! God knew exactly what I needed!*

Across town, my significant other also received an “unwanted” package. Typically, he, too, would have thrown the contents in the trash. However, he, too, was impressed to hold onto it.

One Wednesday in early January, I visited him. As I placed my things down, I glanced at his counter and saw the devotional book. He told me he received the same book in the mail.

For the past few years, I have been anti-religion, anti-prayer, anti-Jesus. But 2020 taught me that I must rely on *God* not religion. I thank the Columbia Union Conference for being proactive in publishing and distributing a timely “unwanted” package that has been a blessing to me and my relationship with God. It is amazing to sit back and contemplate how He guided two different people on opposite ends of the Beltway, opposite genders, yet they simultaneously experienced God working in the same manner. God knew before I began my search for the perfect Bible app that a tiny “unwanted” package would provide the “extra quality time” that I was longing for. I thank God for my timely much-needed package!—*Marialyce “Elle” Carter*

Carter’s blog post was republished with permission. To read the unedited version, visit ellesnlife.com/2021/01/09/unwanted-packages.



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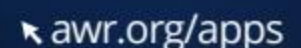
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Let's Connect!



Conference Appoints President, VP for Administration

Members of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Executive Committee recently appointed two administrators at a special executive committee meeting.

The untimely death of Henry J. Fordham III, former AEC president, left a vacancy in the presidential role. The committee appointed Pete Palmer to assume the office, vacating his previous role as vice president for administration. Marcellus Robinson, AEC's director of Stewardship/Philanthropy and Planned Giving since 2018, was appointed as the vice president for administration. Both leaders will hold their posts for the remainder of the term, and the executive committee



will elect the entire leadership team at the next constituency session in October 2022.

Palmer was elected as vice president for administration at the constituency session in October 2017. Prior to that, he served for 10 years as the

senior pastor of the Germantown church in Philadelphia. He is now ready to embrace his newest role as president. "I am deeply humbled by the mercy and grace of God, as well as the confidence that the executive committee has placed in me, by charging me with the awesome responsibility of leading our great conference," he says.



Prior to Robinson's role in Stewardship/Philanthropy and Planned Giving, he was the vice president for administration. He has also been the ministerial director and a pastor within the conference. Regarding the appointment, Robinson says, "I'm excited about the opportunities and possibilities that exist in service for God, as well as the Allegheny East family and community in working together with new leadership team members and fellow partners in ministry."

Maryland Central Korean Eager to Return to Church



After the church building closed for 15 months due to COVID-19, members of the Maryland Central Korean church in Gaithersburg, Md., were eager to return to in-person worship.

The church finally reopened early summer after putting safety measures in place and following Allegheny East Conference guidelines. More than 70 attendees gathered at the reopening worship service—the first Seventh-day Adventist Church to reopen in the surrounding area since COVID-19 hit.

Some members shed tears, and others could not stop smiling. Overall, much of the service consisted of members rejoicing for being able to see each other again. The church also held a special prayer meeting in the afternoon to celebrate the reunion and offer thanks to God.

Organist Celebrates 50-Plus Years of Music Ministry

Earnest Hargrove, the organist at the Dupont Park church in Washington, D.C., was recently recognized for more than 50 years of service in music ministry.

Hargrove was first invited to Dupont Park by a close friend and member Esther Wroten. His musical involvement, however, began more than 50 years ago when Edward Jackson, minister of music at the time, recommended Hargrove as the organist for the church.

During his longtime service, Hargrove played the organ for Sabbath School, the Chancellor Choir, Male Chorus, Women's Chorus and for special musical guests.

Hargrove has also played at many special events using his musical ministry to enhance wedding ceremonies, funerals, tributes and seasonal concerts, including the Messiah and Easter cantatas.

Hargrove traveled extensively and played frequently for Allegheny East Conference Camp Meeting services. In addition to being a highly sought-after organist, he has also taught private



lessons to students and parents associated with the Dupont Park Adventist School.

During the past 50 years, Hargrove has experienced many health challenges, but a change in diet, exercise and testifying about God's goodness has helped him overcome. He also gives credit to the church for their support, claiming the motto: "Thus far by faith—a life tuned to God."

Grace Pointe Church Hosts First Clothes Drive

The Grace Pointe church in New Jersey, formerly known as the First Church of Montclair, recently hosted its first clothes drive to celebrate their community.

"We wanted to thank the community for making us feel welcome and give back to them," says Domonique Bebohi, member and event organizer.

Approximately 40 people came through during the drive. Items—donated in perfect condition or new—included men and women's clothes, ranging from shirts and dresses to shoes and other accessories.



"The community was elated. They were happy at the quality and versatility of the items, and especially the fact that everything was free," says Bebohi.

The church plans to offer a clothes drive at least twice a year moving forward. "There is nothing better than making someone smile or giving without expecting anything in return," adds Bebohi.

Shiloh Cincinnati Partners With Baptist Church

The Shiloh Cincinnati church continues to “Impact the City” of Cincinnati with the gospel of Jesus Christ. As back-to-school season approached, many churches geared up to do their annual school supply drive. This year, Bryant Smith, pastor of Shiloh, and his members in the Avondale neighborhood wanted to approach things differently.

Smith and church leaders combined forces with the Corinthian Baptist church in the Bond Hill neighborhood to leverage resources and influence to impact people in Hamilton County.

The churches served more than 500 people, providing them with free haircuts, COVID-19 vaccinations to those over the age of 12, book bags, school supplies, vouchers for shoes, clothing and free food. Kids learned about the Seventh-day Adventist message, received Sabbath School lessons and *Steps to Christ* books, and had the opportunity to sign up for Bible studies.

“The work that is being done here today is extraordinary, and the partnership between the two churches is incredibly exciting,” says John Spencer, an event attendee.

Shiloh’s NEWSTART ministry volunteers (pictured)



educated attendees about the health message of the Adventist church.

“I can see that this will not only be a one-day partnership, but for years to come. This has been a blessing, not just for these two churches, but for the city of Cincinnati,” says KZ Smith, pastor of Corinthian Baptist.

“As we continue to be the church in this post COVID-19 landscape, we need to find ways to meet people where they are and take the love of Christ to them,” says Smith.

Conference Staff Enjoy Family Fun Day

Allegheny West Conference (AWC) office staff, church members and conference youth recently shared a day of family fun at Kings Island, a 364-acre amusement and water park located near Cincinnati.

Under the leadership of Jason Ridley, pastor



and AWC youth director, the Youth Ministries Department organized the trip. More than 160 attendees enjoyed roller coaster rides, food and games at the park, while interacting with conference officials and fellow church members.

“The purpose of our Family Fun Day at Kings Island was to create an opportunity and place for our youth to reconnect with many of their friends,” says Ridley (pictured with his wife, Aislinn, and daughter, Annabelle). “Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not been able to have an in-person summer camp for the last two years. Even though many of our youth have enjoyed Virtual Summer Camp, it could never take the place of being in person.”

Patricia Mosby, assistant to the youth director, agrees: “The young people need to know that you can still have fun in a Christian way. It is always a blessing for our pastors and conference officials to be able to interact with our members.”



Conference Hosts Two-Day Education Retreat

“Moving Higher and Better,” the theme for the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Education Department this school year, perfectly captures the enthusiasm and energy from the AWC teachers as they recently met in person at a two-day teacher’s retreat.

Day one opened with a supplementary Three Angels Bible Training, presented by Sandy Doran and Yvette Cooper, curriculum/creative director and project assistant, respectively. This was followed by an in-depth Occupational Mental Health Wellness workshop, conducted by D’Andria Jackson, psychologist and founder of Epiphany Psychotherapy & Consultation, and Anna Keller, licensed psychologist with the same organization.

Day two featured the Lucy Calkins Literacy Training all-day workshop, conducted by Jeanne Marie Garcia, vice principal of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville Adventist School (Md.).

“The literacy workshop was most enthusiastically received by all educators involved in the training,” says Violet Cox, AWC Education Department director.

Featured presenter Donovan Ross, vice president for Education for the Columbia Union Conference, charged teachers to embrace change with positive enthusiasm as they “move higher and better” in finding ways to encourage their students.

Ross states that what he most enjoys about education is the students, their energy, enthusiasm



Featured presenter Donovan Ross, vice president for Education for the Columbia Union Conference, charges teachers to “move higher and better.”

and infectious joy. “I enjoy helping them have a personal encounter with Jesus and equipping them to become more productive citizens of this world,” he says.

At the end of the training, several teachers remarked that the retreat provided excellent tools for educators and that they felt much more prepared. “As a teacher, I am always seeking resources and tools to improve my craft. In other words, my objective is to get as much as I can get so that ultimately my students benefit,” says Tamaria Kulemeka, a fifth-grade teacher at Columbus Adventist Academy (Ohio). “This year’s training equipped me with resources and tools I could implement right away to help my students soar and excel in reading and writing. For that, I am grateful!”

Evelyn Goodman, principal of Columbus Adventist Academy, adds: “This year’s training was amazing in so many ways. First of all, I was able to meet my fellow conference school colleagues away from the computer screen and in person for the first time since having assumed my role as principal of Columbus Adventist Academy. I was encouraged, inspired and reminded of the tremendous responsibility we have to educate God’s children. The pandemic has not stopped us; it’s only fostered in us more determination, creativity and dependence on Christ—the ultimate Educator.”



Teachers from the Allegheny West Conference attend a two-day teacher’s retreat to learn new tools to improve their skills.

Thankful in *All* Circumstances?

Let's admit it, shall we? Sometimes it's hard to be thankful, especially when we find ourselves amid difficult, faith-stretching circumstances, particularly ones that threaten life and limb. When in dire, physical danger, we naturally, instinctively go into survival mode. It's the fight-or-flight response, also known as acute stress response—a condition that refers to a physiological reaction that occurs in the presence of something that is terrifying, either mentally or physically.

In those frantic moments, probably the last thing on one's mind is thankfulness. Gratitude is not part of the natural human response to deeply distressing or disturbing experiences. Instead, we either devote all our attention and energy to literally running for our lives or become so focused on the problem that all our mental, physical and emotional energy is focused on seeking relief or self-preservation at the exclusion of all else.

What, then, does the Apostle Paul mean when he says, "Give thanks in all circumstances"? (1 Thess. 5:18, NIV). Surely he isn't serious about the "all" part, is he? Oh, but he is, as indicated in the second part of verse 18: "... for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

First, we must recognize that Paul's statement is not meant so much as a command as it is a call to commit oneself to respond to all circumstances from an attitude of thankfulness. Then, we must understand that unconditional thankfulness is an acquired state of mind that is developed over time by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is similar to what Paul says about responding to all circumstances in a spirit of contentment, which he says he "learned" (see Phil. 4:11-13). In other words, thankfulness—like contentment in all circumstances—is the result of living day by day in the presence of Jesus, learning it from the Great Teacher Himself, until it becomes instinctual. So, if Paul could learn these important lessons of life from Jesus, then surely we can too. Happy Thanksgiving!



Jerry Lutz
President

'Kids Town' Opens at New Hope Church

"Wow! I can't believe you did this!" That has been the typical response of kids and parents when they see the newly renovated children's wing at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., for the first time.

"Kids Town" is a complete redesign of the children's Sabbath School hallway ("circles" at New Hope) on the church's second floor. The space has been reimagined to resemble an entire town featuring landmarks like a café, pet store, arcade, pizzeria, toy store, barber shop, farmer's market, ice cream truck and more.

Kids Town features interactive elements for kids to enjoy. There's a firetruck in the middle of the "street" that kids enter to use the water fountain. The renovated space also includes a repurposed ATM and plastic fruits and vegetables for kids to play with on the farmer's market stand.

"At New Hope, we really value families and children," says Marilyn Scott, church family pastor. "Because of the value we place on them, we're always trying to find ways to communicate that value. Kids Town is one of those ideas."

Mike Speegle, lead pastor, agrees: "We wanted to communicate to parents and kids—especially

first-time guests—that kids are important to what we do. We want to exceed people's expectations. We want people to say, 'Wow! I didn't expect this from a church!'"



August, Giselle and RoseAnnah Rouse stand in front of the "Kids Town" ice cream truck.

Bell Branch Grows During COVID-19 by Being a Family

In January 2020, the leadership team at the Bell Branch church in Gambrills, Md., prayed that God would bring five new people into their church. Then COVID-19 hit.

But despite the pandemic, the church has seen unprecedented growth in 2021, adding 21 new members—a growth of more than 20 percent. And they're not done yet.

"I think it goes back to that meeting in January 2020," says Geoff Crowley, pastor of Bell Branch. "We wanted a phrase that would sum up our mission and vision and everything we say and do here, and what we settled on at that meeting was this: 'At Bell Branch, we're family, and so are you.'"

Crowley (pictured with his wife, Amy, and children, Madison and Griffin) continues, "I think that [phrase] is the thing that's driven everything. We've been really intentional about welcoming anybody who comes to our church and asking, 'How do we make you part of the family?'"



Church elder Serrah Thomas was part of the conversation last year. "When you strip away all the pretenses of being something you're not and you just open up and let people be who they are, it creates a space where the image of Christ is shown. It draws people to our fellowship," she says.

Many of the new members at Bell Branch agree. "Coming to church here each week has been the highlight during what feels like a tough and dark time in the world right now," says Aja Schorr, who was baptized this summer along with her husband, Chris. "I don't feel like anyone here is trying to be somebody they're not. ... A lot of people think we're



Chris and Aja Schorr's children, Emma and Austin, began attending the Bell Branch church during the pandemic and love their new "family."

crazy to drive an hour each week to be here, but you do it for family."

Traviss Green was raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church but admits he had fallen into a bit of a spiritual slump. When his daughter Nyle insisted she wanted to be baptized, the family decided to search for a new church online.

"We came across Bell Branch," says Green. "We started watching, and every Sabbath morning we'd hear, 'Welcome to Bell Branch, where we are family, and so are you.'... Every Sabbath morning we'd huddle together, and we would hear those words, and it would just warm up the home."

After watching online for some time, Green emailed Crowley to ask if Nyle could receive Bible studies online. She was baptized a few months later, and today the whole family is active in the church.

Attendance at Bell Branch has now reached pre-pandemic levels, even though a number of long-time members continue to stay connected virtually because of ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

"I think the strength of Bell Branch has always been an authentic and welcoming community," says Crowley. "I think what happened during COVID-19 is a lot of people realized their lack of community, and I think that gave Bell Branch a chance to really show our strength."

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

God Calls Couple to Come Home

Donald West (known as DW) was born and raised in Parkersburg, W.Va. When he was 9, DW and his parents, Don and Leona, joined the Parkersburg church.

DW began attending Parkersburg Academy and was soon involved in Pathfinders, youth leadership, music and even preaching. After sixth grade, DW attended public school. Five years later, a calamity in his family resulted in him leaving the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "I began to follow my dreams of becoming a rock star," shares DW.

Amber, DW's wife, was born and raised in Kanawha, W.Va. "I grew up with my father showing me the simple ways of life," she says. "At a young age, I told my grandmother and mother that I had Jesus in my heart and wanted to be baptized."

Amber joined the Methodist church and was very active until the youth pastor left. "I felt alone, and my life started to flip upside down," she says. Amber's parents got a divorce and her mom moved out. "Then, when my father died in 2007, my world stopped. I was mad at God for taking him away, and I lost all faith."

DW and Amber met at Parkersburg High School, a senior and sophomore, respectively. After he graduated, he moved to Columbus, Ohio, and started a recording studio and record label. But soon DW moved home to be closer to his parents, separating the two of them.

When they reconnected years later, Amber had just ended a toxic relationship of seven years and was trying to find her purpose in life.

DW says, "Amber and I began dating, got engaged and married. But then I began to self-destruct while managing my music career and professional wrestling company. I returned to the Parkersburg church a couple of times. In 2017, my father passed away and I called Daniel Morikone, pastor of the Parkersburg church, to conduct the funeral.

In 2019, one of my academy classmates, Kerra Ball, invited me to attend Ten Days of Prayer. I came one night and was convicted by the Holy Spirit. Amber and I were not well—we needed Jesus! I began to attend Wednesday night Bible study, and I rejoined the Adventist church. I became involved at



Parkersburg Academy, working with the students, and Pastor Morikone mentored me as I realized that my calling was to become a pastor."

Amber says, "My husband was involved with the church, but I had no interest. Our relationship was on the rocks. DW pled with me to attend services, and I finally agreed, trying to be supportive and do anything to help our marriage. I was welcomed with open arms. I enjoyed the pastor's sermons and soon became acquainted with the members of the church."

In 2019, Amber attended the Mountain View Conference (MVC) Women's Retreat. When guest speaker, Linda Johnson, spoke about her father's death, Amber says, "That hit me deep down in my soul. A few weeks later, I woke from a dream in tears. In my dream, I was standing inside the Parkersburg church, and in front of me was a man dressed in a black robe with open arms. I ran and hugged him, and it seemed that my father was hugging me. At that moment, I realized that it had been God—my Heavenly Father—watching over me, loving me always and guiding me, even when I didn't believe in Him."

In God's miraculous ways and perfect timing, in 2020 DW was appointed assistant pastor for the Point Pleasant (W.Va.) church, and also had the honor of baptizing Amber. This year, Amber joined the MVC office team as the administrative assistant to the president.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Camp Meeting Is a Time to Rejoice

More than 135 people gathered at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., earlier this year at the Hispanic camp meeting to celebrate the way God has been protecting and leading their communities during these difficult times. They celebrated the purchase of Moorefield Spanish—the first Spanish church building in Mountain View Conference (MVC). They also celebrated the baptism of two new members. Ten more accepted the invitation for baptism soon. “We look forward to more people accepting Jesus as each member tells somebody about Jesus their Savior,” shares Walter Cardenas, MVC Hispanic Ministries coordinator.



Joining in the English camp meeting celebration, Walter Cardenas, Hispanic Ministries coordinator; Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president; and Tim Bailey, conference president, surround the pool with four campers who committed their lives to Christ through baptism or rebaptism.

At the English camp meeting, “Tell Somebody About Jesus ... Go Tell It on the Mountains” was this year’s theme, as folks from MVC and other areas joined the encampment at Valley Vista. With a mix of daily summer camp-like outdoor activities, along with several meetings sprinkled throughout the day, folks enjoyed the gathering as they worshipped God, fellowshiped and played games together. The highlight of the week was two baptisms and two rebaptisms on the second Sabbath. Next year’s camp meeting will take place June 24–July 2, 2022.

Wellness Camp Keeps a Secret

“Best-kept secret,” stated one guest on an evaluation form at the end of this year’s MVC Wellness Camp. For 12 days, people from New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and other locations joined together at Valley Vista to experience a healthier lifestyle. Participants benefited from educational classes, exercises, swimming, bonfire time with staff and guests, cooking classes, morning worship, healthy meals and more. Plan now to attend the 2022 Wellness Camp, August 7–19.

Shepherdesses Relax at Weekend Retreat

For the first time ever, MVC shepherdesses enjoyed a weekend retreat. Led by Liz Bailey, Shepherdess leader, the women gathered at Slaty Fork, W.Va., for a time of relaxation, fellowship and fun. The event was not limited to current MVC pastors’ wives, but retirees and office staff as well.



WELLNESS CAMP PHOTO BY CRYSTAL HOLLINGSWORTH

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news

NEW JERSEY

He Is Always on Time!

Do you know someone who is always late for meetings? That person might even be you. There is Someone, however, who is always on time. You know who I'm referring to. But when it comes to God's timing, many draw the wrong conclusion. Personal hardships or calamities and suffering can cause one to question His good and perfect plan.

Some have lost trust in Jesus' promise of His second coming, because, in their opinion, He is late. Second Peter 3:9 gives insight into this apparent delay:

"The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering [extraordinarily patient] toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance" (AMPC).

According to Peter, the apparent delay is a demonstration of Jesus' patience and desire to save us.

Another example of Jesus' timing is when Mary and Martha lost their brother, Lazarus.

"Now Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died'" (John 11:21, NKJV). Jesus goes on to resurrect Lazarus—in His own time, not theirs.

When things don't go our way, it is easy to conclude that Jesus has not "arrived on time." He, however, has promised to be with us no matter what circumstances we face. Comfortingly, He says, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20, NKJV).

The end of the year is approaching, a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus—a moment when He arrived on time. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4, NKJV). This season, remember that when Jesus promises something, He always follows through. He is coming again when the time is right!



Jorge Agüero
President

¡El Siempre Llega a Tiempo!

¿Hay alguien que siempre llega tarde a las reuniones? Puede que esa persona seas tú. Sin embargo, si hay alguien que siempre llega a tiempo. Usted sabe a quién me refiero. Pero cuando se trata del tiempo de Dios, muchos sacan la conclusión equivocada. Las dificultades personales o las calamidades y el sufrimiento pueden hacer que uno cuestione su plan bueno y perfecto. Algunos han perdido la confianza en la promesa de Jesús de su segunda venida, porque, en su opinión, llega tarde. Segunda de Pedro 3:9 nos da una idea de este aparente retraso:

"El Señor no retarda su promesa, según algunos la tienen por tardanza, sino que es paciente para con nosotros, no queriendo que ninguno perezca, sino que todos procedan al arrepentimiento." (RV1960).

Según Pedro, el aparente retraso es una demostración de la paciencia de Jesús y de su deseo de salvarnos.

Otro ejemplo del tiempo de Jesús es cuando María y Marta perdieron a su hermano Lázaro. Marta dijo a Jesús: "Señor, si hubieses estado aquí, mi hermano no habría muerto." (Juan 11:21). Jesús resucitó a Lázaro en su tiempo, no en el de ellos.

Cuando las cosas no salen como queremos, es fácil concluir que Jesús no ha "llegado a tiempo." Sin embargo, Él ha prometido estar con nosotros sin importar las circunstancias que enfrentemos. Confortantemente, Él dice: "Yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo." (Mateo 28:20).

Se acerca el fin de año, un tiempo en el que celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús, un momento en el que llegó a tiempo. "Pero cuando vino el cumplimiento del tiempo, Dios envió a su Hijo, nacido de mujer." (Gál. 4:4). En esta temporada, recuerda que cuando Jesús promete algo, siempre lo cumple. Él vendrá de nuevo, en su tiempo perfecto.

—Jorge Agüero

Academies Forge Partnership for Greater Access

At the end of the 2020–21 school year, the North American Division (NAD) Substantial Change in Program Visiting committee granted Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) the permission to operate a satellite education program this school year to offer grades 11–12 at the Waldwick Adventist School and grades 9–12 at the Vine Haven Adventist School.

With approval from the NAD, the Columbia Union Conference and the New Jersey Conference, LNAA, a pre-school to 12th-grade school, partnered with Waldwick, a pre-K3 to 10th-grade school, and Vine Haven, a kindergarten to eighth-grade school, to offer high school courses that will lead to high school diplomas from LNAA. This partnership will allow students from Waldwick and Vine Haven to receive virtual and in-person instruction from LNAA from their campuses.

Leaders reviewed the memorandum of understanding and visited all three campuses. They then recommended the decision to both the NAD Commission on Accreditation of the Adventist Accrediting Association and the Middle States Association of Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools in which LNAA belongs.

Elisa Maragoto, principal of LNAA, embraces the partnership: “At LNAA, we consider ourselves blessed to be engaged in active and genuine collaboration, all with the objective of providing our students—regardless of geographical location—with Adventist secondary education.”



Ruth Nino, principal of Waldwick, shares the same enthusiasm: “Waldwick Adventist School has been blessed with the opportunity to partner with Lake Nelson Adventist Academy for our junior academy students to continue their Adventist educational experience as juniors and seniors while still attending Waldwick. The academy experience through this partnership has opened the doors for multiple opportunities of collaboration, learning and unity among our students and staff.”

Dulce Gabriel, principal of Vine Haven, adds, “This partnership with Lake Nelson Adventist Academy has been a huge blessing and has given our students the opportunity to receive an Adventist education for grades 9–12. We have some students who have been in our school system since kindergarten and now have the opportunity to continue their education through high school at Vine Haven, connecting to live classes at Lake Nelson. Vine Haven students are also able to attend classes in person on the Lake Nelson campus as well and participate in the high school student association and events.”

All three schools have pledged to follow the voted memorandum of understanding for the success of their partnership to give greater access to Adventist secondary education throughout the New Jersey Conference.—*Sadrail Saint-Ulysse, Superintendent of Schools*



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



God Showing Off

My late friend, Dave Robinson, was the Camp Mohaven director and pastor of the Delaware church in Ohio. He often had a time during his church service called the “God Showing Off Moment,” where he and members shared God’s recent blessings.

One Sabbath, Dave told a “God Showing Off Moment” story about things happening at the camp. In church that day was a lady named Betty Taylor, who became convicted to do something for the camp. The next week, Betty called me at the Planned Giving office. We talked about many options, and she settled on setting up a Camp Mohaven endowment to help maintain the facilities.

Betty had not been to the camp since the 1960s. On a nice, sunny spring day, I took her out to see what Pastor Dave had been telling his congregation. She instantly fell in love with the horses there.

Afterward, Betty asked, “What more can I do for the camp?” She wanted to see the endowment grow and be more of a benefit for generations to come. I told her we could do a matching campaign so that she wouldn’t be giving all the money but others across the conference could help. Betty pledged \$25,000 from her estate, hoping to encourage a full match through the campaign.



Betty Taylor, Delaware church attendee, and Dave Robinson, the late pastor and Camp Mohaven director, spend time together at the camp.

I visited her a couple months after we started this campaign, and she eagerly showed me her investment statement from the previous year. The increase on the account was \$24,994.80! Betty and I just looked at each other, both teary-eyed. Of the \$25,000 Betty stepped out in faith in pledging, the Lord only asked Betty to provide \$5.20 out of her pocket!

Many times, we think of the Planned Giving departments of our conferences as dealing with somber moments in family’s lives—and this is, indeed, a part of what we do. What gives us passion and joy, though, are the many stories like this in which God takes our few talents and turns them into many blessings for His kingdom. In the words of our dear, late friend, Dave, Betty’s story is just one example of the extravagant abundance of our Father: God truly showing off! If we step out in faith, the Lord will provide. We just need to trust Him.



Harry Straub
Planned Giving Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1, 2022	Conference Prayer of Emphasis Day
January 29, 3 p.m.	Stereo Adventista Radio Anniversary Celebration, Toledo First Church
February 5	Area Pathfinder Bible Experience
February 17, 2 p.m.	Conference Geography Challenge, Eastwood Adventist School

Hispanic Camp Meeting Unites in Mission

Camp meeting season came to a beautiful conclusion this year, as families from across Ohio gathered for the 2021 Hispanic Camp Meeting. Attendees camped in beautiful weather to worship together under the big tent at Camp Mohaven in Danville.

Across Ohio, Hispanic Ministries encompasses many congregations of varying languages. During the service, representatives from each of those congregations shared the theme, "United in Mission," in their own language: Spanish, Tojolabal, Swahili, Portuguese, French and Kinyawanda.

Hispanic camp meeting is not only a time for worship, but a time to celebrate new lives that are surrendered to Christ. Peter Simpson, Hispanic



More than 970 people gather for the 2021 Hispanic Camp Meeting at Camp Mohaven.



In one day, 28 people are baptized during the camp meeting, including María Magdalena Ángulo, baptized by Anthony Infantes, pastor of the Lorain Hispanic church.

Ministries coordinator, encouraged the attendees by sharing how God has been blessing the ministry:

"As of today, Hispanic Ministries has grown to more than 2,300 members in the Ohio Conference," he said. "Over the past year, 678 members have been involved in the mission of bringing people to know Christ. We've never seen this before! Year to date, 345 people have given their lives to Jesus!"

In fact, during the worship service, 28 people were baptized on site. As of September 2021, 707 people have come to Christ through baptism and profession of faith across the Ohio Conference. This brings the conference ever closer to the ministry goal of baptizing 2023 people by the year 2023!



Representatives from the seven language groups that comprise Hispanic Ministries deliver the theme of the camp meeting in their native language.

Pennsylvania Pen

Power the Mission

It all begins with our mission of “Reaching Everyone, Everywhere.” As Seventh-day Adventists, we are committed to the hope of Christ’s return, and we are passionate about sharing the everlasting gospel to as many people as we can. We believe that we are the last day church, allowing God to take control of every area of our human existence—including our resources. We have been called to live and trust the lordship of Jesus Christ daily (see Prov. 3:5; Luke 12:22). God is empowering our mission through our faithful return of tithes, offerings and other gifts.

Generosity opens the way for abundant blessings upon our lives. Your giving equips and resources people and churches to share our message of hope with their communities. Your support empowers specific projects that change lives and draw people to Christ. We are grateful that God is taking care of His church in these difficult times, and we are especially thankful for our members and their support of the mission in the Pennsylvania Conference.

One day soon we will stand on the sea of glass. We will sing the song of Moses—but we won’t be the only ones. Thousands of people will join us, who, because of your generosity, made it possible for them to stand together with us, praising God for His salvation, grace and hope. Tithes and offerings are not about money; they are about God’s treasure. God’s inheritance is His people.

I invite you to store up your treasures in heaven, and power the mission here in Pennsylvania. Learn more at paconference.org/stewardship.



Carlos Charnichart
Treasurer

Conference Headquarters Is Moving

The Pennsylvania Conference is eagerly gearing up to move into its new Evangelism and Mission Center on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, as builders predict its completion in early 2022. Over the last few months, progress on the new conference headquarters happened quickly, with all walls framed by mid-September and sheet-rock placed the following weeks.

At the end of October, conference employees said goodbye to their previous location, established in 1951 on Museum Road in Reading. During this transition, some moved into finished offices at BMA, while others are working remotely. The new owners of the building in Reading will maintain the historic charm of the building and utilize it as a residence and care center for memory-impaired patients.

“Our staff is excited to see this vision of the conference Evangelism and Mission Center come to fruition,” says Gary Gibbs, conference president. “We expect God to use this united effort of our conference to reach many for Jesus!”—*Natalie Lilly, Communication Intern*



We are moving!

Beginning November 1, 2021
our new address is:

Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
2359 Mountain Road
Hamburg, PA 19526

Regeneration Equips Churches to Thrive

Stewart Lozensky, director of the Church Regeneration Department, is currently in the process of helping 20 churches reach their full potential. Regeneration is an initiative by the Pennsylvania Conference in which there is partnership with churches to provide extra resources, training and mentoring to advance the local churches' growth objectives.

Lozensky derives a lot of inspiration for his regeneration process from author S. Joseph Kidder's book, *The Big Four*. In it, Kidder shares the concept of "faith-based optimism" and applies it to thriving Seventh-day Adventist churches that are rapidly growing the kingdom of heaven.

"In my experience working toward the regeneration of a church and in the Christian walk in general, I have found Kidder's book to be vital," says Lozensky. "Can we see our churches' potential? I believe that we can capture the vision and mission for our churches again."

One of Lozensky's most effective methods of training pastors for growth is by sharing practicum content binders with them. The practicum binders contain evangelism materials with helpful guidelines on how to form an evangelism committee, create a one-year evangelism strategy, build an evangelism calendar and more. Several pastors have reached out to Lozensky to thank him for making measurable growth happen in their churches.

"Thank you for presenting the regeneration practicum in our district. The content was clear and compelling. The content binders you provided were particularly helpful because we were able to follow



Stewart Lozensky, Church Regeneration director, trains pastors on how to create a one-year evangelism strategy, how to form an evangelism committee and more.

along with something in our own hands, take notes and even refer to the information later," shared one conference pastor. "In one of my churches, I was having a difficult time forming an evangelism committee, but after the practicum, because our members were so excited about what we were learning, we scheduled a practicum follow-up meeting immediately."

To begin a church's consultation process, contact Lozensky at slozensky@paconference.org, or visit paconference.org/church-regeneration.—*Natalie Lilly, Communication Intern*



God Is on the Move

God is on the move in powerful ways across Pennsylvania—in lives, in churches and in schools. During a recent virtual town hall meeting, Gary Gibbs, president; Will Peterson, vice president for administration; and Carlos Charnichart, treasurer, shared reports on the impact God has had on mission.

To watch these reports, along with "Testimonies of Faith," a series of stories by members and pastors who share how God is moving in their lives and communities, visit paconference.org/godisonthemove.



Potomac People

*growing healthy,
disciple-making churches*

Solid Rock Supports People Experiencing Homelessness

During the pandemic, volunteers from the Solid Rock church in Arlington, Va., engaged in aiding individuals in foster care and women's shelters, as well as feeding those experiencing homelessness. Their efforts did not go unnoticed.

Recently, New Hope Housing—an agency in Northern Virginia that provides services to this population—named Solid Rock as its “Outstanding Volunteer Group” of the year for its ongoing assistance at the agency’s Residential Program Center (RPC).

Donald Richardson, volunteer coordinator at the center, presented the award (pictured with Solid Rock members Patrick Long and Romana Lavalas). “Every fourth Sunday of the month, [more than 100] guests of RPC are served an incredible hot breakfast by Solid Rock,” he said.

Shelter staff say that the relationship between



Solid Rock and RPC is as strong as the church’s name, as Solid Rock is moving “beyond the walls” to minister to the spiritual and physical needs in their community.

PHOTO BY NEW HOPE HOUSING

Flag Folding Ceremony Honors Departed Veteran

The Fredericksburg (Va.) church is located just a few miles from Marine Corps Base Quantico. The base’s proximity to the church makes it convenient for active-duty personnel to worship there on Sabbaths.

Robert Littlejohn Jr., is a veteran and member of Fredericksburg. His father, Robert Littlejohn Sr., also a veteran and member, died during the early months of COVID-19, a time when large gatherings were suspended. Consequently, no official funeral service or military honors were given to the Navy World War II

veteran who served as a cook aboard the USS Wasp—an aircraft carrier.

To honor the elder Littlejohn’s military service, a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol was mailed to his son. It arrived neatly folded in a “square” box—not proper military protocol.

William Jones, a retired Marine and church elder, says, “Robert Jr., asked if I could help him fold the flag in the proper military fashion. That’s when I came up with the idea of conducting a Flag Folding Ceremony for Mr. Littlejohn Sr.”

When a veteran passes, the U.S. flag drapes the casket, giving honor to the memory of his or her service. During a burial, the ceremonial folding and presentation of the flag is a heart-rendering tribute to the veteran’s family, a final thank you for the member’s service.

Jones’ idea received support from the family, church and fellow veterans. The National Museum of the Marine Corps, located at Quantico, hosted the event. Members of the military Color Guard performed the Flag Folding Ceremony as “Taps” echoed throughout the building.

“This Veterans Day, November 11, remember those who served or still serve,” says Jones. “Thank them for their commitment and service to this country.”



The Navy Honor Guard presents the U.S. flag to Robert Littlejohn Jr. (holding the flag), son of Robert Littlejohn Sr., a departed Navy World War II veteran.

Takoma Park Church Moves ‘Beyond the Walls’

In following the theme of the conference’s mission to expand ministry beyond the walls of the physical church, on Sabbath, September 11, 2021—the 20th anniversary of 9/11—volunteers from the Takoma Park (Md.) church led an effort to extend help to a neighbor in need.

Church members and friends spent the day repairing and restoring the home of Robin Morton, a 75-year-old grandmother who lives alone and whose house had deteriorated. Morton applied for the repairs with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County—an organization that partners with local governments, community volunteers, nonprofit service providers and corporate partners to provide free critical home repairs to the county’s most vulnerable residents.

The 50 volunteers completed several tasks in one day, including replacing Morton’s rotting front entry ramp. Volunteers also made significant repairs to her broken gate and fence and cleared out 30 years’ worth of clutter in her attic and garage. The workers made a host of other repairs.

“Those 12 hours were nothing less than sacred,” says Daniel Xisto, Takoma Park pastor for community engagement. “We were on ‘holy ground.’ Everyone felt it. The energy was palpable.”



Daniel Xisto, Takoma Park pastor for community engagement, snaps a selfie with Robin Morton, a neighbor needing major repairs on her house.

Morton was brought to tears when addressing the volunteers during their lunch break, “I never dreamed that something like this would happen to me. I cannot thank you all enough,” she said.

Morton’s neighbors also felt the love, as they came out to see what the people in the red Takoma Park shirts were doing. After hearing the story, one neighbor asked to take a photo of the church group. The neighbor said she had never witnessed such a wonderful thing happen to someone she knew.

At the end of the day, when the final piece of decking was installed and the last tool was put away, a few of the volunteers spontaneously formed a circle around Morton. Grateful for the opportunity to serve, they thanked her for allowing them into her space. They prayed, thanking Jesus for all He had accomplished that day.

“There is something extraordinary about serving the community on Sabbath,” explains Pastor Xisto, “and those of us who served on this project can testify to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Maybe Morton, not a member of any church, felt God’s presence, perhaps unlike never before.”

To view before and after photos, visit the Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church Facebook page.

PHOTO BY ANGELA HUBBARD



More than 50 volunteers from the Takoma Park church and community spent a recent Sabbath day restoring a 75-year-old grandmother’s home and yard.



THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

FOCUS Week Inspires Growth in Students

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) started 2020–21 strong with a higher-than-expected enrollment of 130 students. Kicking off the year spiritually, students and faculty experienced a “Focus on Christ’s Ultimate Sacrifice” (FOCUS) week, with guest speakers from Pennsylvania Conference’s CORE evangelism school—a one-year discipleship and evangelism training program for young adults. Amid their regular school activities, students spent the week in prayer, fasting and recommitting their relationships to God.



Seniors Johanna Juarez and Issa Perez pray together during FOCUS week.



Sophomores Elibeth Breton and Jordyn Schaeffer lead worship time during a morning devotional service.

“God touched many souls during the week. Some came requesting more prayer after the meetings, and others recommitted themselves to the gospel ministry,” says Sanghae Kim (pictured), BMA chaplain. “FOCUS week is like sowing seeds in the dirt. God has sown seeds, and I’m waiting for them to grow to be big trees.”

During FOCUS week, the students were not only inspired to continue growing spiritually, but academically. Many felt the week helped equip them for further education after high school.

“My plan for the school year is to excel in my learning ability by improving my time management and efficiency. I can’t wait to complete these goals at BMA,” says Nathan Messenger (’24).

“I feel grateful that I’m spending my senior year at BMA,” shares Grace Park (’22). “This year I want to be a leader at school through Christ’s example. I’m doing my best to finish strong and get ready for the next chapter of my life.”

To register for the Spring 2022 semester by December 15, 2021, visit bma.us/admission.

—Natalie Lilly, *Communication Intern*

Alumni Report From the COVID-19 Front Lines

Following Highland View Academy’s mission to excel in all Christ asks, three alumni share their perspective on working as COVID-19 frontliners:



I began travel nursing during the first wave of COVID-19. I worked a crisis job in New Jersey, where the skin on my nose and ears began breaking down after wearing an N95 mask for 14 hours at a time.

During one shift, the non-breathable fabric of my full-body isolation suit stuck to my arms as I assisted in five separate emergency codes. Despite all interventions, some people didn’t make it.

I watched as the plastic barrier sealing off the isolation section was moved down the hallway multiple times as more and more isolation beds were needed.

Of my six patients, half of them were intubated and on a ventilator, a critical state normally reserved for the ICU. They required continuous IV infusions of sedation and vasopressor medications, critical interventions normally run only in the ICU.

As our health care system is again pressed to the breaking point, I encourage you to pray and continue following recommended guidelines to keep you, your loved ones and those of us on the front lines safe.
—Josh Calhoun ('13), Traveling Registered Nurse



I volunteer at ACTS 9, the Adventist Community Services food and clothing bank for the Hagerstown, Md., area. The pandemic changed a great deal of how we serve our clients.

Previously, clients came into the office to talk about their food choices. Now, wearing masks and social distancing, we meet on the front porch, and I ask if there is anything they won’t eat. Before COVID-19, I got to know them and their families personally, but now there is lack of

privacy when new clients want to share with you.

COVID-19 has affected the number of staff working. Even though several volunteers in the “high risk” group chose to stay home, Jesus has continued to bless our efforts to be His hands and feet, and we thank Him for all He has given us. This pandemic did not catch Him off-guard.—Kathy Kelley ('71), Community Services Volunteer



Nursing school could have never prepared me to deal with a pandemic prior to the end of my first year of nursing. At the beginning of the pandemic, my former unit was shut down because people weren’t coming to the hospital, meaning any one of us could be pulled into the

designated COVID-19 unit. I, however, was transferred to the emergency room to staff the secondary unit.

The nurses who helped me grow and survive my first year of nursing are on the front lines every single shift. My hospital has gone from a handful of beds to three full units and two other partial units dedicated to COVID-19 patients who have come into the hospital for any number of issues. We appreciate the prayers. Please keep them coming.
—Emma Worthington ('13), First-Year Nurse

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 1–5 Week of Prayer
- December 4 Junior Talent Show
- December 10 Christmas Concert,
Highland View church
- February 17–20 Aerials Ohio Tour
Various Ohio Conf. Schools

Visit hva-edu.com/calendar for more info and events!



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Vice Principal Rescues Driver During Hurricane Ida

The Lake Nelson Adventist Academy family and the entire state of New Jersey recently experienced a storm that rocked their campus. The remnants of Hurricane Ida came roaring into the state just five days into the school year. Within hours, more than eight inches of rain fell on the region, causing widespread flash flooding, and even flooding parts of the academy. The brook next to the academy rose so high that the road quickly turned into a river, stranding drivers.

Elayna Moffitt, vice principal and eighth-grade homeroom teacher, who resides close to the school building, helped rescue a driver from one of those stranded cars.

On the night of the hurricane, Moffitt opened her front door to survey the damage from the storm. "I saw my neighbor, Chris Band, wading through knee-deep water in my front yard," Moffitt says.

"He said he was going to try to help someone who was stranded in the street due to the rising water." Moffitt offered her canoe and joined Band to try and help save the person.

"As we walked with the canoe, the water was first at our ankles, then our knees," she

says. "Once the water reached my waist, I got into the canoe and helped paddle while my neighbor 'walk-swam.'"

On the first attempt, the current pushed her and Band past the stranded man. Once the water lowered to the point in which Band could touch the ground, he walked the canoe to the back of Moffitt's property where they tried again to reach the driver.

The second attempt was successful. But "as the driver tried to get into the canoe, it tipped over," she says. "So, Mr. Band and I were holding onto the canoe and the man. We were pulled by the current to where the water was a little bit more shallow."



Vice Principal Elayna Moffitt is grateful that God used her to save someone from drowning during Hurricane Ida.

Moffitt, Band and the stranded driver made it safely to a neighbor's yard and front porch. The man who had been stranded "was very thankful. He said he had been standing on top of his car and holding onto the power line pole to stay out of the water. He didn't know how much longer he would have survived in that position," Moffitt explains. "I told him that ... there is a God in heaven who loves him and who set us to help him in this storm. And maybe now, he can get to know God for who He really is."

Just like the man Moffitt helped rescue, many of LNAA's students experienced some level of material loss, whether it was personal belongings or vehicles. LNAA faculty have positioned themselves to be of service to their families and support them through this storm. God spared the lives of each student, parent and faculty member, and continues to provide for them in the midst of the storms in their lives. God put His hand of protection over LNAA and has allowed them to be a beacon of hope during this difficult time, says Moffitt.

PFA POST



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

Alumni Association Celebrates 46th Annual Reunion

To honor Pine Forge Academy's (PFA) 75th anniversary, leaders of the 46th Annual National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association (NPFAAA) reunion recently converted the traditional three-day weekend event into a weeklong celebration. This hybrid virtual experience ended with an in-person reunion at Allegheny East Conference's Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C.

The week premiered with a virtual kick-off welcome, introducing the theme "Forever Forward." The events included an alumni-sponsored pizza party for the student body in which student ambassadors Cariss Reynolds ('23) and Kristen Dudley ('23) hosted a live virtual call with Carmen Robinson ('00), who interviewed various students about their current PFA experience.

The reunion also featured a Pioneer Podcast with Eric Adams ('05), featuring Gloria Davis ('49), one of the originators of the honorary 50th class graduation march. Davis shared insights into the early Pine Forge Institute days, demonstrating that, although the campus has had structural advances, the familial friendship experiences remain securely intact.

Courtney Coutreyer-Thornton ('06), NPFAAA general vice president, shared the new FalconConnect Tutorial for the Membership Moment, and Sokoni Scott ('94), NPFAAA president, honored the contribution of all former staff and faculty. He presented Distinguished Faculty awards to Samuel ('70) and



Everard Williams ('57) proudly wears his vintage class sweater at the reunion.

Diane Darby, Kris Fielder and Henry Beck for their decades of dedicated love and service to the students and the overall success of the academy.

A virtual Friday Night Live and Alumni Concert ushered in the Sabbath. The culmination of the week's events occurred with a hybrid divine worship service at the Capitol Hill church with guest speaker Calvin Watkins Sr., North American Division vice president for Evangelism and Regional Liaison.

Charles Battles ('70), former PFA history instructor and Capitol Hill member, says, "About 150 to 175 people attended the mask-mandated service, sporting their class sweaters and reuniting with classmates from the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s."

Joyce Dorsey Martin and Ethel Hall, representatives from the "classy" 50th anniversary Honor Class of 1971, presented a donation of \$50,000 to the academy.

The virtual Alumni Awards Ceremony honored Karl J. McCleary ('84) as Alumnus of the Year and Zsakeba Watkins-Henderson ('91) as Alumna of the Year. Frazier and Virginia ('65) (Lester) Mathis received the Community Service Award; Lawrence Washington ('54) received the Meritorious Award; Cecelia Lester ('71) received the President's Award; and Henry J. ('61) and Sharon Fordham received the Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously.



Joyce Dorsey Martin ('71) presents the Class of 1971 donation to Sokoni Scott (right), president of the National Pine Forge Academy Alumni Association.

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Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Academy Earns National STEM Certification

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently earned the National Certificate for STEM Excellence (NCSE), a Campus Certification from the National Institute for STEM Education (NISE). SAA is one of only 56 schools in the nation to have earned this national certificate.

NCSE provides a research-based support system for campuses and teachers seeking to strengthen STEM instruction and outcomes. NISE STEM leadership coaches worked with SAA's educators and instructional leaders to refine the school's operations and curriculum instruction to further strengthen STEM practices and the campus' overall STEM culture.

To secure the NCSE Campus Certification, faculty had to earn the National Certificate for STEM Teaching (NCST), further contributing to the school's collective STEM expertise. Kim Terry and Gabrielle Agwu, elementary STEM coordinator and technology teacher, respectively, earned this certification during the 2020–21 school year. Viara Levterova and Rachel Fuentes, high school foreign languages teacher and second-grade teacher, respectively, are working toward their certification this school year.

Both the NCSE and NCST certifications are pivotal to the continued development of SAA's STEM program. Tissiana Bowerman, SAA head principal, says, "STEM helps students learn how to be part of a team and be adaptable. It also develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills, builds resilience and fosters creativity."

To complete the campus STEM certification

process, a STEM leadership committee comprised of teachers from a variety of grade levels and disciplines, as well as an administrator, a parent representative, a school board representative and a STEM coach from NISE, had weekly virtual meetings during the 2020–21 school year. The team successfully completed the process in nine months, even when faced with challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alyssa Caruthers ('22) says, "Having a STEM program at SAA has helped me discover skills I never knew I had and advance the ones I already had. It is a blessing to participate in the STEM program at my school, and I am certain that all that I have learned will continue to benefit me in the future."

Fuentes adds, "STEM education allows my second-grade students to take risks during learning activities as they work to solve problems. It builds their confidence and perseverance as they learn to push through the challenging lessons that will shape how they approach problems in the future."

Under the guidance of SAA's STEM leadership team, this year the school will focus on five specific STEM standards from NISE: student-to-student interactions; 21st century skills; engineering design process; authenticity of the driving question; and real-world connections. Monthly small group meetings will be held under the guidance of a STEM leadership coach to focus on a specific STEM standard.

Coach-led small groups offer teachers the opportunity to have discussions, hands-on practice and ask questions regarding STEM education best practices.—*Paty Serrano, STEM Coordinator*



Members of the STEM Leadership Committee: Myrna Nowrangi, Seelan Abraham, Gabrielle Agwu, Rachel Fuentes, Viara Levterova, Paty Serrano, Kim Terry (Not pictured: Lauren Esveld and Lynette Sigh)

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Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Head Principal, Tissiana Bowerman ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

Academy Welcomes New Faculty Members

With God's continued blessings, K-12 enrollment at Spring Valley Academy (SVA) has grown this 2021-22 school year. Staff has also expanded to include six new faculty team members:

Liza Da Cunha hails most recently from Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.), where she served as the third-grade teacher. She is now serving SVA as one of three grades 3/4 teachers. Da Cunha has a master's degree in Special Education from the University of West Florida. She and her husband, Don, have two children enrolled at SVA: Cameron ('23) and Brea ('25).

Stacy Doyle has spent most of her 21-year teaching career in the Southern California Conference, where she taught at the Conejo Adventist Elementary School as the grades 5/6 teacher. Holding a master's degree in Education from Pacific Union College (Calif.), Doyle is SVA's new Intervention Specialist. She and her husband, Matt ('99), have two children enrolled at SVA: Finley (seventh grade) and Kellen (first grade).

Bryan Mattheson joined the SVA team as the accountant after Kathy Boyd, who served for

more than 25 years, retired last December. Mattheson received a bachelor's degree in Finance Management from Loma Linda University (Calif.) and a master's degree in Accounting from Walden University (Minn.). He most recently transferred to SVA from Loma Linda University Health. He and his wife, Lassie, are recent newlyweds.

Audrey McGraw recently graduated from Walla Walla University (Wash.) with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She joins the SVA team as one of three grades 1/2 teachers. McGraw loves to sing and play the guitar, and is a creative thinker, determined to make learning fun and engaging for her students. She and her husband, Evan, were married this past summer before moving to Ohio.

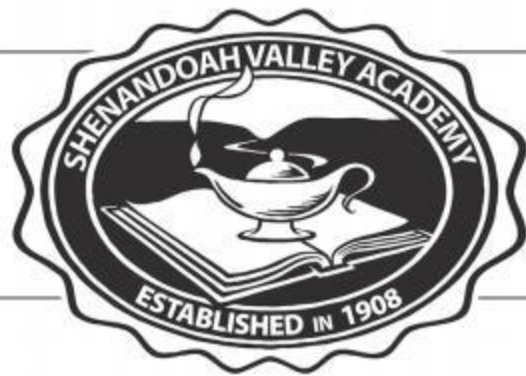
Jessica Robinson ('17) first joined SVA as an eighth grader in 2012. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English Literature from Oakwood University (Ala.), graduating this past May. Robinson is teaching high school English classes and is the elementary librarian. As a former varsity cheerleader at SVA (and in college), she brings abundant enthusiasm as the new coach of the high school varsity cheerleading squad.

Robin Tucker transitions to SVA from Ohio Conference's Worthington Adventist Academy, where she taught first grade. With a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Andrews University (Mich.) and with 20 years of teaching experience under her belt, Tucker is one of three grades 1/2 teachers at SVA. She and her husband, Neal, have two sons, Scott and Jordan; daughters-in-law Raquel and Alison (former student); and seven grandchildren, including current student Rowan (first grade).

Robin Tucker, Audrey Turner, Bryan Mattheson, Stacy Doyle, Jessica Robinson (sitting) and Liza Da Cunha make up the six new faculty members who joined Spring Valley Academy this school year.



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IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

The Icing on the Cake: 'SVA Family' Fun

At Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA), students build positive relationships with Christian mentors who truly care about them—a rare and valuable experience. Answering the call to a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school as a faculty and staff family means to choose a lifestyle in which the students are an integral part of your life. And that is what we cherish when it comes to living and working at SVA. The students are what make our life and work so special.

At SVA, the students, faculty and staff form meaningful relationships. Together, our “family” enjoys events like Student Association (SA) Picnic



Fifty-four seniors display their contest-winning class banner, clinching SA Picnic victory.



Led by Alexa Sepulveda (front) and Calla Morgan, the seniors dominate tug-of-war at SA Picnic.

and Almost Anything Goes (a class-on-class fun night). These events are the icing on the cake, making boarding academy life a fun, unique experience. The teamwork required at these fun events makes the school campus family strong and helps bind us together to conquer challenges and goals.

It's rewarding to watch faculty and staff sponsors mentor students and participate in the fun. This year at SA Picnic, five faculty and staff men: Daniel Biaggi (music), Joe Lowe (recruiter, personal finance), Derek Raymond (work coordinator, maintenance), Kaleb Leeper (vice principal, religion) and Vernon Hsu (physics, calculus) participated in the belly flop contest. The students remembered that last year Mr. Leeper did a huge belly flop, so this year the students chanted, “Leeper, Leeper, Leeper!” to get him on the diving board.

Often students build relationships with our extended families, including faculty kids. The students and kids have limitless energy, creativity and excitement, as they laugh and play together. Yesterday, I watched faculty kids play yard chess with a group of students, take photos of the action and enthusiastically cheer them on. The students even let my 6 year old play soccer goalie for a while and adjusted their play accordingly. The children and students are learning valuable skills while engaging with various age groups. These types of interactions are a big part of what makes us “SVA Family.”—*Jaelyn Knight, Phanstiel Hall Dorm Mom*

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Academy Embraces New Beginnings

After a challenging 2020–21 school year, the Takoma Academy (TA) leadership team announced the return to in-person school in late summer 2021. Keith Beckett, vice principal, transitioned to interim principal to fill the position left vacant by Carla Thrower, who continues her journey as the associate director for secondary education for the Southern Union Conference, headquartered in Georgia.



Interim Principal Keith Beckett welcomes students back to in-person school.

Beckett has served in many leadership positions, including vice principal, dean of students and athletic director in the Seventh-day Adventist school system. He has also taught high school history.

“In my heart, I will always be a teacher. It is my privilege to lead TA and the many talented Christian educators and students!” says Beckett. “My goal is to continue to provide a supportive climate and culture at TA that is conducive to teaching and learning. By doing so, each individual student and teacher can experience growth to their highest potential.”

TA is expanding new elective opportunities, such as digital photography and videography, taught by Keon Green ('90). Green is currently completing a bachelor's degree in Digital Media and Web Technology from University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

Green's childhood passion for graphic design led him to start his own business in 2008. KTGworks Media, LLC is a photography and videography company that develops marketing and branding content.

Green (pictured right) says, “As a 1990 TA graduate and Adventist Christian, I have a sense of obligation to prepare our youth to be competitive in this rapidly growing area of digital media. I feel God has called me to help prepare our students to not only compete in the job market, but to go out and apply their creative knowledge in their local churches and further push the gospel.”



TA also welcomes Fine Arts teacher Opal Foster (below), a graduate of Andrews University (Mich.). With a bachelor's degree in Media Technology, a minor in Graphic Design and more than 15 years of experience in the graphic industry, Foster is excited to take on her first teaching position.

Foster expresses, “This year at TA, I look forward to educating our students and sharing my love of the arts with them. I'd like them to have a deeper understanding of visual arts and how it impacts our world. I would like students to go beyond their artistic ability and fine tune their God-given talents.”



TA leaders say they are looking forward to embracing new challenges and changes, as the school continues to strive for excellence and reiterates their mission to lead young people to Jesus Christ while providing excellence in academics and a commitment to service.

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

To Walk with God

Enoch walked faithfully with God. Enoch lived a total of 365 years. . .and walked faithfully with God;

– Genesis 5:22-24, NIV

Enoch is one of those people many may not know very well. In fact, we have little information about Enoch, but we do know at least one important thing: Enoch walked faithfully with God.

Walking is a core part of the human experience. It is practical and also a powerful metaphor for the forward movement of our lives. In fact, when we talk about the story of our life, we normally describe it as journey. A long walk.

Walking with someone else takes the basic function of walking to another level.

When we ask someone to go for a walk with us, it means something, often something special. We are not just just meeting up – we are linking our ability to move about freely to another being. We are going to be moving together, over the same ground, following the same path. Throughout the Bible, we can find some of the most engaging stories describing the meaningful moments in which God walks with humans.

If I imagine myself walking with God, I visualize a child holding on to a strong and steady finger – like my own children did with me. When I visualize Enoch walking with God, I see two persons who know and trust and respect one another sharing the same pathway, seeking the same goal and destination, moving in tandem with each other, lockstep across every threshold, through every experience, in every moment.

I want to walk with God like Enoch did. I want to be in God's presence all of the time – and I want that to influence the paths I take through my own life. I want it to influence the interactions I have with other people. I want to see the world like God sees the world, and to know that I am holding on to the hand of love and compassion. And this week, I encourage you to do the same.

“Enoch walked faithfully with God” is what the story records. It turns out that it's not so much a statement as an invitation.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



Patients can continue their recovery process and healing by seamlessly transitioning from Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center.

Rehabilitation Moves Into White Oak Medical Center

Adventist Rehabilitation will open the doors to a new inpatient rehabilitation hospital inside of Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center on Dec. 12.

Relocating from its previous Takoma Park location, Adventist Rehabilitation approached the design of the new two-floor, 42-bed hospital from the patient perspective first. In keeping with studies that show thoughtful design can improve outcomes and speed recovery, the new hospital will provide:

- **All private rooms** – to provide comfort, quiet and privacy
- **Two recovery gyms** – to provide space for patients who enjoy a more active environment and space for those who require less distraction and lower stimulation
- **Day rooms on both floors** – to provide a place of respite and community with kitchenettes, sofas, eating tables, computers and TVs
- **Ceiling track systems** – to assist each patient safely to their private bathroom
- **An Activities of Daily Living (ADL) apartment** – to help patients prepare for independent living by practicing real life activities such as cooking, cleaning and dressing
- **Inspiring artwork** – to feature artists of the Mouth and Foot Painters Association or showcase local nature scenes

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in all four of its specialty areas – amputee, brain injury, spinal cord, injury and stroke – Adventist Rehabilitation offers high-quality care that patients trust. Additionally, Adventist Rehabilitation promotes long term total health by offering support groups, both in person and virtually, as well as a Peer Visitor Program, which connects current patients and family members with former patients who can provide guidance and hope.

Living Our Mission to Extend God's Healing

Named a Forbes Best Employer – Again!

For the second year in a row, Adventist HealthCare was honored as part of Forbes' annual list of America's Best-in-State Employers.

The recognition considered many factors including working conditions, salary, potential for development and company image. The award also attests to the culture of partnership established so that, even spread over 40 locations across the health system, team members are strongly connected to the Adventist HealthCare Mission to extend God's care in the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing – whether directly through compassionate, high-quality clinical care or indirectly through strong support services.

The rankings were done by an independent market research company that conducted anonymous surveys which gathered both direct recommendations from Adventist HealthCare team members and indirect recommendations from other healthcare workers in the surrounding region.



Fort Washington Medical Center Welcomes All with New Lobby

As part of a strategic plan of hospital renovations, Adventist HealthCare Fort Washington Medical Center updated its lobby to help create a healing environment as soon as a community member steps through the door. County officials and community leaders gathered with Adventist HealthCare leadership for an official ribbon-cutting on Aug. 30 to support improving care for the patients and community of southern Prince George's County in Maryland.

The new lobby welcomes people seeking medical care with a calming palette of light blues and comfortable seating. Improved lightning complements the natural sunlight from a bank of windows and highlights soothing artwork. One series of pictures reflects the Seventh-day Adventist faith foundation of Adventist HealthCare by depicting the seven days of creation and unites the hospital with other locations throughout the health system. The digital screen offers health tips as well as information about the hospital. Visitors can also examine a rendering of further hospital renovation and expansion plans.

Empowering Surgeries

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center and Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center recently installed da Vinci Xi Surgical Systems for minimally invasive procedures in the areas of gynecology, urology, thoracic, cardiac and general surgery.

This state-of-the-art upgrade to our robotic system assists our surgeons in performing delicate and complex operations through a few small incisions. This approach results in improved recovery times and decreased pain from traditional open surgery. "We are eager to introduce this new technology to our community because it offers a lot of new opportunities," said Elena Campbell, Director of Surgical Operations at White Oak Medical Center.



One part of the da Vinci Xi Surgical System gets wheeled into place.

Honored for Cardiac Care

Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center and Shady Grove Medical Center have both earned the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® STEMI Receiving Center Gold. Each year, more than 250,000 people

nationwide experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction, or STEMI, the deadliest type of heart attack, caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. "This recognition demonstrates that we will do everything we can to give severe heart attack patients the best chance for survival and recovery," said Dan Cochran, president of Shady Grove Medical Center.





Manager's Memo: Moving Forward

As we reflect over the past year, we are so thankful for how God has blessed and provided direction for this media ministry. The Lord has provided financial and leadership stability during a challenging season. One of those changes this year was filling the position of chair for the board of directors, with the passing of Rob Vandeman earlier in 2021.

It is an honor to announce that our corporate membership elected Charles A. Tapp for this position. Tapp has been a member of our board of directors for 13 years and has been the host of the long-running program Simple Truths for Life on WGTS 91.9.

His administrative talents, along with his heart for telling others about Jesus, are key in his selection for this role. We are thankful for his past and future leadership and service.

He has a wonderful and rich history with media and with WGTS 91.9, and we look forward to continuing the good work God has entrusted to us all – to bring people closer to Christ throughout the Nation's Capital region.

—Kevin Krueger, WGTS 91.9
president and general manager

Have You Made 'Par'?

We invite you to watch our latest Words of Hope video with assistant producer and on-air host Claude Jennings on the golf course.

In golf, the objective is to sink the ball in a set number of shots, which we call par. In life, we can feel pressure to reach certain milestones, much like aiming for par in golf. Perhaps it's, "Graduating from college by the time I'm 25" or "having two children by the time I'm 30." But when we fall short of par in life, we can feel frustrated and defeated.

In this video, Jennings shares these Words of Hope from Matt. 11:28-30. God will give you rest, and He will carry your burdens. He is your partner and when you follow God, He will always help you make par.

To view the full video, please scan the QR code using your smartphone or visit wgts919.com.



Prayer Ministry Grows

Let's pray together! The WGTS 91.9 prayer ministry was recently renamed "When We Pray." It comes to you through our website and provides a place for listeners to share and pray for requests.

We learned recently that our listeners have prayed more than 1.5 million prayers for other listeners who have posted prayer requests. What a wonderful way to come together and to bless others!

The When We Pray ministry extends far beyond the website as our team and volunteers pray with listeners by phone, at events and even online. Each day listeners come together for our daily Facebook Live broadcast with afternoon host Stacey Stone.

Share your prayer requests and pray for others – visit wgts919.com.





Kettering College Announces New Scholarships for New Students

By Jessica J.W. Beans

Healthcare professionals are needed now more than ever. A report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment opportunities in healthcare is projected to grow 15 percent from 2019 to 2029, citing that this is much faster than the average for all other occupations. The need for well-educated graduates in the field of healthcare is clear, but we know that choosing a career path is one of the hardest decisions a student can make, and many times finances play a big role in that decision.

Kettering College has announced two new scholarships to make a healthcare education at Kettering College more accessible.

The Kettering College Academic Achievement Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship for first-time freshman in select programs. This scholarship is automatically awarded to students based on their high school GPA and to those pursuing a degree in nursing, health sciences, respiratory care, and human biology. Students can receive between \$8,000-\$12,000 a year. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA at Kettering College to continue to receive the scholarship.

The Kettering College Need-Based Scholarship was established to help those who are in financial need pay for their college tuition. This scholarship is based on a student's expected family contribution (EFC), which is determined by a student completing the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA). Students can receive \$500-\$1,500 and it is awarded only their first year of college.

"We are excited to be able to offer renewable scholarships to many of our incoming students," said Kim Rawlins, director of Student Finance at Kettering College. "By making an investment in our students, we can make their pursuit of a degree in healthcare more affordable."

Kettering College continues to offer Kettering Health employee discounts, and scholarships for those in the respiratory care and human biology programs as other options for eligible students. Visit kc.edu/scholarships for more details.

Article cited above: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>

Saving the Cinnamon Roll Lady's Hands

By Kelsey Kimbler

Patti Bachman enters a waiting room holding a pan of her cinnamon rolls. She hands them to the receptionist, hoping Brent Bamberger, DO, will enjoy one.

Patti knows she needs hand surgery. But she missed the official acquisition day for Hand Day, when she'd meet with a doctor to determine whether she was eligible. This is her last chance. Without this surgery, she'll need to stop baking.

She waits. Dr. Bamberger walks into the waiting room, licking his fingers and spots Patti. "So, you're the one with the cinnamon rolls," he says. "Yeah, we'll do your surgery."

Becoming "the cinnamon roll lady"

Patti baked to relax. She enjoyed focusing on each intricate step—kneading, rolling, chopping—bringing separate ingredients into one delicious creation. She especially enjoyed baking cinnamon rolls.

After customizing her own cinnamon roll recipe, she started giving them to neighbors and taking them to her family for Christmas. They loved them.

Her homemade hobby became her calling card. And she earned the title of "the Cinnamon Roll Lady." Some even say her cinnamon rolls are better than Cinnabon.

She baked not only to feed people but also to grow relationships. As she makes cinnamon rolls for someone, she sits on one side of her bar while a neighbor or friend sits on the other. And prepares a feast as they chat.

She began to sell her creations through Facebook and, in August 2020, made Hunny's Bakery official. She created a website and was ready to take orders. Scrolling through Facebook one day, she saw a post about Kettering Health's Hand Day.

Pain you can't shakeout

Patti dealt with carpal tunnel in both hands. The pain started at night, in 2018. The first thing she noticed was how hard it is to sleep. She learned to position her hands a certain way—in front of her—every night. If they went behind her head, her hands would go numb.



Throughout the day, she started to do what she called the "shakeout" to force feeling into her hands. For two years the numbness increased, becoming unbearable. She had to take a hiatus from her hobbies. She stopped knitting, coloring, or cooking.

She couldn't bake cinnamon rolls on her own any longer. Her husband stepped in to help. Hunny's Bakery still accepted orders, but a different baker prepared them, under Patti's watchful eye.

She didn't have insurance, so she couldn't have hand surgery. Until she found the announcement on Facebook for Hand Day.

Giving the community their hands back

Every fall, the Hand Center at Southview Medical Center offers free hand surgery to qualifying uninsured patients in the Dayton area. Skilled surgeons address all types of hand conditions, giving patients like Patti back the use of their hands.

Seeing the announcement, she was interested but scared it was too good to be true. So, she went to see for herself, taking two pans of cinnamon rolls.

(continued)

Kettering Health Leadership Transitions

Kettering Health is making key leadership transitions to strengthen its senior executive team, positioning the organization for long-term success.



Wally Sackett has been named president of Kettering Health. In his role as president, Wally will directly oversee the organization's medical centers and service lines, mission and culture as well as clinical and nursing operations.

For the past three years, Wally has served as the president of Kettering Medical Center, leading the development of multiple operational improvements and facility expansions while leading his team through an unprecedented pandemic. With nearly four decades in healthcare administration, Wally has also held a number of other executive roles at Kettering Health since joining the network in 2007, including serving as the president of Sycamore Medical Center for nearly seven years.



Sharlet Briggs has been selected as the new president of Kettering Medical Center—the first woman in this role for the organization's flagship hospital.

Sharlet joined Kettering Health earlier this year as Kettering Medical Center's chief

operating officer, enhancing the hospital's operational efficiency and building strong relationships throughout the facility and network. Sharlet spent most of her career serving with Adventist Health, most recently as the president of Adventist Health Bakersfield.

"Kettering Health is blessed with incredible, mission-focused leaders," said Fred Manchur, chief executive officer of Kettering Health. "This leadership transition positions us for the future, ensuring we continue providing high-quality, Christ-centered care to our communities."

Saving the Cinnamon Roll Lady's Hands *(continued)*

Saving a baker's hands

Her bilateral carpal tunnel surgery took only 20 minutes outpatient. But it's given her back much of her life. And after a week of recovery at home, she was back on her feet.

Knitting, coloring, and baking were all hers again. "It's been life altering for me." And she's returned to Hunny's Bakery, working on a business plan—perhaps a food truck or space at a food court. But no matter where, she's grateful to be baking her cinnamon rolls and caring for her community.

"I want to take the gift I was given, utilize it, and make it something more," she says. As she returned to her kitchen, she wondered deep down if she'd see a bill. One never came.



SOCIAL MOBILITY



Christ's example and teachings directly contradict the world's aspirations toward always looking for wealth. In Christ, we see a Deity lowering himself to human form to reach the poor, sick, and struggling. Instead, his path is a path of lifting the broken-hearted and guiding His children to better horizons, whether that is financial or spiritual.

He said, "Whoever wants to be first, must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35), and "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." These aren't the words that would indicate the priority is to search for wealth and let the benefits of your wealth trickle down to the masses. Instead, this is a call to dive into the masses and find those you can lift, heal and exalt.

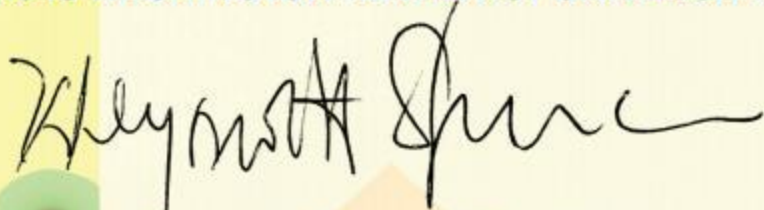
In the last three years, Washington Adventist University has increased from 78th, then to 22nd, and now to 17th in our region for social mobility by US News. Simply put, our focus and strategy make it possible for our students to walk paths that their families may have never dreamed of. Each student's social mobility can impact their home, culture, and the future of the environment they may have been born into.

When we say, "All of God's children are welcome at WAU," it means that we will make every effort to ensure that, if a student has the drive and passion for reaching for higher goals, we are the institution that is ready and willing to support, guide and bolster their education. We are not shy about our love for the oppressed, the hopeless, and the weary. We will not stand in the way of God's blessings that God is pouring upon our world, the families and children searching for a better life.

Paul spoke of Jesus in this way, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8)

We are honored to host students who can share a testimony of change and growth that can impact their communities in immeasurable ways. The heart of service that this campus instills offers a population of professionals that will affect the world for generations.

THIS IS WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY!



Weymouth Spence, President

8TH ANNUAL VISIONAIRIES GALA



Congressional Country Club was the site for our 2021 Eighth Annual Visionaries Gala.



Chairman Dave Weigley offers a Martinelli's toast to the future.



Columbia Union Exec. Sec. Rick Remmers looks on.



WAU Students attended Gala in their elegant best.



President Weymouth Spence accepts a special award.



2021 Gala Honorees, (Left to Right) President Weymouth Spence, Congressman Jamie Raskin, Dr. Beverly Anderson, Dr. Ronald Anderson, President and C.E.O. Gigi Godwin

Washington Adventist Universities 8th Annual Visionaries Gala took place on Sunday, September 19th, 2021. It was held at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Around 225 guests arrived to take part in this annual fundraising event.

The evening began with a reception serenaded by a quartet from WAU's Music Department. Screens around the reception hall displayed views of campus from unique vantage points, and guests were able to view drawings and designs for the new Science building/Library renovations. Next, guests walked out onto the Congressional Country Club veranda, bathed in the afternoon sunlight, amidst the beautiful backdrop of green manicured lawns and trees.

This year's Honorees included U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Gigi Godwin, and Drs. Ronald and Beverly Anderson.

Dinner was served amid the sponsored tables in the main ballroom. The program was led by the night's Emcee and Alumni Association President, Stephen Brennwald.

President Weymouth Spence offered the reason for the evening and expanded on the new Vision 2030, "Distinctive Excellence In Student Success. WAU Board Chair Dave Weigley presented a toast toward Vision 2030, Our distinguished honorees, and the future of WAU.

As a surprise to end the evening, Provost Cheryl Kisunzu, CFO Patrick Farley, and Board Chairman Dave Weigley took to the podium to offer a special honor to President Weymouth Spence and Rebecca Spence for their indelible efforts to support Washington Adventist University and its community of students, faculty, and staff.

Each year, the Visionaries Gala is presented to raise money for the Needs Grant, given directly to students falling under needs-based criteria.

Visionaries Gala 2022 will be held on September 18th at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. If you'd like to reserve a table, learn about sponsorships, donate, or offer feedback on the event, please reach out to the Office of Advancement and its director, Jennifer Albury, jalbury@wau.edu.

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EMPLOYMENT

UNION COLLEGE, in Lincoln, Neb., seeks candidates for a biomedical science faculty. Doctoral degree preferred; master's required. This person will teach courses in biology that may include general biology, immunology, histology and other courses. An interest in leading an undergraduate research team is preferred. See full job description at ucollege.edu/employment, or contact Debbie Eno at debbie.eno@ucollege.edu for information.

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Neb., seeks candidates for a Health and Human Performance professor. Doctoral degree is preferred, master's required. This person will teach courses that may include Concepts of Wellness, Personal Training, Healthy Eating, Intro to Allied Health Professions and physical activity classes. Target date: January 1, 2022. See full job description at ucollege.edu/employment. Contact Shawntae Razo at Shawntae.razo@ucollege.edu for information.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Assistant Director, Counseling & Testing. In collaboration with the director, provides leadership in the clinical services of the Counseling & Testing Center, including clinical supervision and the coordination of the clinical internship program. Available for after office hours clinical consultations and student crisis interventions. Provides individual, couple, and group counseling. Participates in outreach presentations to assist students in achieving more effective personal, social, educational and vocational development and adjustment. Maintains an assigned case load and provides consultations on issues related to mental health. Reports to the Counseling & Testing Center Director. Must have a doctorate (Ph.D., Psy.D. or Ed.D.) in Counseling or Clinical Psychology with full license as Counseling or Clinical Psychologist or license eligible in the state of Michigan. For more information, andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_2.

MISCELLANEOUS

CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS: High quality, 20-gauge steel. Includes 1 Thess. 4:13-18, picture of the second coming of Jesus, 10 Commandments and the three angels' messages displayed on the casket. Under \$800. For more information, call (865) 382-1834, or visit 1844casketsforadventists.com.

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE/ACREAGE FOR SALE: 3,300 sq.-ft. home, 3-4 bedrooms, sunroom, two attached garages and one detached garage, on 70 acres with free gas to home. Central heating and air conditioning. Separate 12 x 14 ft. greenhouse, 8 x 10 ft. chicken coop with run. Near Hughes River, Ritchie County, W.Va. Small year-round creek on back of property. Beautiful area for hiking, hunting, fishing and camping. Four miles to North Bend State Park; 4.5 miles to Cairo, W.Va. Call for more details, (304) 966-3487. \$325,000.00.

SERVICES

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!

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING, Adventist family-owned and -operated, provides specialized care for seniors in a family homestyle 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.

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 Dante at (800) 766-1902 for a free estimate. Visit us at apexmoving.com/adventist.

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

OBITUARIES

MILLAR, Samuel J., born April 30, 1928, in Abington, Pa., to the late Eugene and Bernice Millar; died June 3, 2019, at his home in Wyalusing, Pa. He was a member of the Souderton (Pa.) church, where he served as a deacon and elder. Sam was married to Althea Berneice Oswald for 49 years. He was a Navy veteran and served as a first class boatsman on the U.S.S. John Hood during WWII and the Korean War.

After his honorable discharge from the Navy, Sam worked as a heavy equipment operator for Glasgow Construction and Thomas M. Durkin & Sons. During retirement, he could always be found riding his tractor or mowing the lawn. He is survived by his wife Althea; his children: John Robert Oswald, Magdeliene Cynthia Keough and Lori Lynn Taylor; his grandchildren: Chad Oswald, Dorothy Porawski-Orzechowska, Patricia Porawski, Victoria Porawski, Kellie Oswald, Chloe Olin and Gemma Taylor; and great-grandchildren: Russell and Wesley Orzechowski and Daniela Oswald; and his sister, Marion Matthia of Miami, Fla.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Annual
Christmas
CONCERT

Featuring:
Columbia Collegiate Chorale,
ProMusica of WAU, Concert Winds &
New England Youth Ensemble of WAU.

December 3, 2021 7pm

Our concert will include inspirational holiday favorites and a congregation sing-a-long of popular Christmas carols.

Sligo Church
7700 Carroll Ave.

FREE CONCERT! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Bulletin Board

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church-operated schools, admits students of any race to all privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, handicap, ethnic background or national origin in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs and extracurricular programs.

The governing body of the Church has ruled officially, and in practice abides by, the following policies: 1.) Equal employment opportunities shall be afforded, with no discrimination in recruitment or hiring against any employee or application because of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification. 2.) Preferential hiring shall be practiced only on the basis of freely chosen adherence to Adventist tenets essential to the operation of an Adventist institution. 3.) Compensation and benefits will be administered without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, creed, age or sex except where age or sex is a bona fide occupational qualification. 4.) Decisions for the promotion of employees will be based upon the qualifications of an individual as related to the requirements of the position for which he or she is being considered. 5.) Inasmuch as the personal life and professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist practices.

Allegheny East—Baltimore Junior Academy, Calvary Seventh-day Adventist School, Dupont Park Adventist Junior Academy, Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy, George E. Peters Adventist School, Hillside Seventh-day Adventist School, Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, Sharon Temple Academy, Trinity Temple Academy, Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Christian Academy

Chesapeake—Atholton Adventist Academy, Baltimore-White Marsh Adventist School, Dover First Christian School, Frederick Adventist Academy, Friendship Adventist School, Highland View Academy, Mount Aetna Adventist School, Rocky Knoll Adventist School, Spencerville Adventist Academy, Wilmington Jr. Academy

Mountain View—Greenbrier Valley Academy, Highland Adventist School, Parkersburg Academy, Summersville Adventist School

New Jersey—Lake Nelson Adventist Academy, Meadow View Junior Academy, Tranquility Adventist School, Vine Haven Adventist School, Waldwick Adventist School

Ohio—Clifton Christian Academy, Eastwood Adventist Junior Academy, Mansfield Adventist School, Mayfair Christian School, Mount Vernon Adventist School, Northern Ohio Adventist Academy, Piqua Adventist School, Spring Valley Academy, Toledo Jr. Academy, Worthington Adventist Academy, Zanesville Adventist School

Pennsylvania—Blue Mountain Academy, Blue Mountain Adventist Elementary, Gettysburg Adventist Christian School, Harrisburg Adventist School, Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Mountain View Christian School, Pocono Adventist Christian School, Reading Adventist Junior Academy, Whitehall Christian School, Wyoming Valley Adventist School, York Adventist Christian School

Potomac—Beltsville Adventist School, C. F. Richards Christian School, Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, Manassas Adventist Preparatory School, Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Powell Valley Christian School, Richmond Adventist Academy, Roanoke Adventist Christian School, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary, Stanley Adventist School, Takoma Academy, Takoma Academy Preparatory School, Tappahannock Junior Academy, Tidewater Adventist Academy, Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Vienna Adventist Academy

Sunset Calendar

	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Baltimore	6:01	4:55	4:49	4:45	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53
Cincinnati	6:33	5:27	5:21	5:17	5:15	5:15	5:17	5:20	5:25
Cleveland	6:18	5:10	5:04	5:00	4:57	4:47	4:58	5:01	5:06
Columbus	6:26	5:19	5:13	5:09	5:07	5:07	5:08	5:11	5:16
Jersey City	5:49	4:41	4:36	4:32	4:29	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:38
Norfolk	6:04	4:58	4:53	4:50	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:58
Parkersburg	6:21	5:14	5:09	5:05	5:03	5:03	5:04	5:08	5:12
Philadelphia	5:54	4:47	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:45
Pittsburgh	6:13	5:06	5:00	4:56	4:54	4:53	4:55	4:58	5:03
Reading	5:57	4:50	4:44	4:40	4:38	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:47
Richmond	6:08	5:02	4:57	4:53	4:52	4:52	4:53	4:56	5:01
Roanoke	6:18	5:12	5:07	5:04	5:02	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:12
Toledo	6:25	5:17	5:11	5:07	5:04	5:04	5:05	5:08	5:13
Trenton	5:52	4:45	4:40	4:36	4:33	4:33	4:34	4:38	4:42
Wash., D.C.	6:04	4:57	4:52	4:48	4:46	4:46	4:47	4:51	4:55

Columbia Union Revolving Fund

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



Reaching Hearts International, Laurel, Maryland

When we started our journey with a vision for a new church plant in the year 2000 we were worshipping in a tent in Spencerville, Maryland hoping to soon have a church of our own. Under the leadership of our then conference president, Elder Charles Cheatham, working closely with Pastor Michael Oxentenko, myself the treasurer, and few others, we finally prevailed in a landmark religious liberty victory in federal court that changed the law of the land and that opened up the providential door for us to build our church on 17 acres of fertile farm land in West Laurel, Maryland. All of our prayers to God in every hour of struggle leading up to the legal victory would have been for naught if the Columbia Union Revolving Fund had not come to our rescue at the last hour. Our friends at the Columbia Union Revolving Fund, working hand in hand with the executive officers of the Allegheny East Conference under the leadership of Elder Henry Fordham and Elder Lawrence Martin, found a way for us to realize our long held dream. Today we worship in a beautiful facility with a large cross that reaches high toward the sky showing the whole world that our church is a gift from God.

Since 1968 the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) has been providing low-interest loans and financing for Seventh-day Adventist church and school building and renovating projects so as to facilitate growth. What started as a \$200,000 fund with investments from members has grown to a \$182 million resource that makes ministry possible.

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

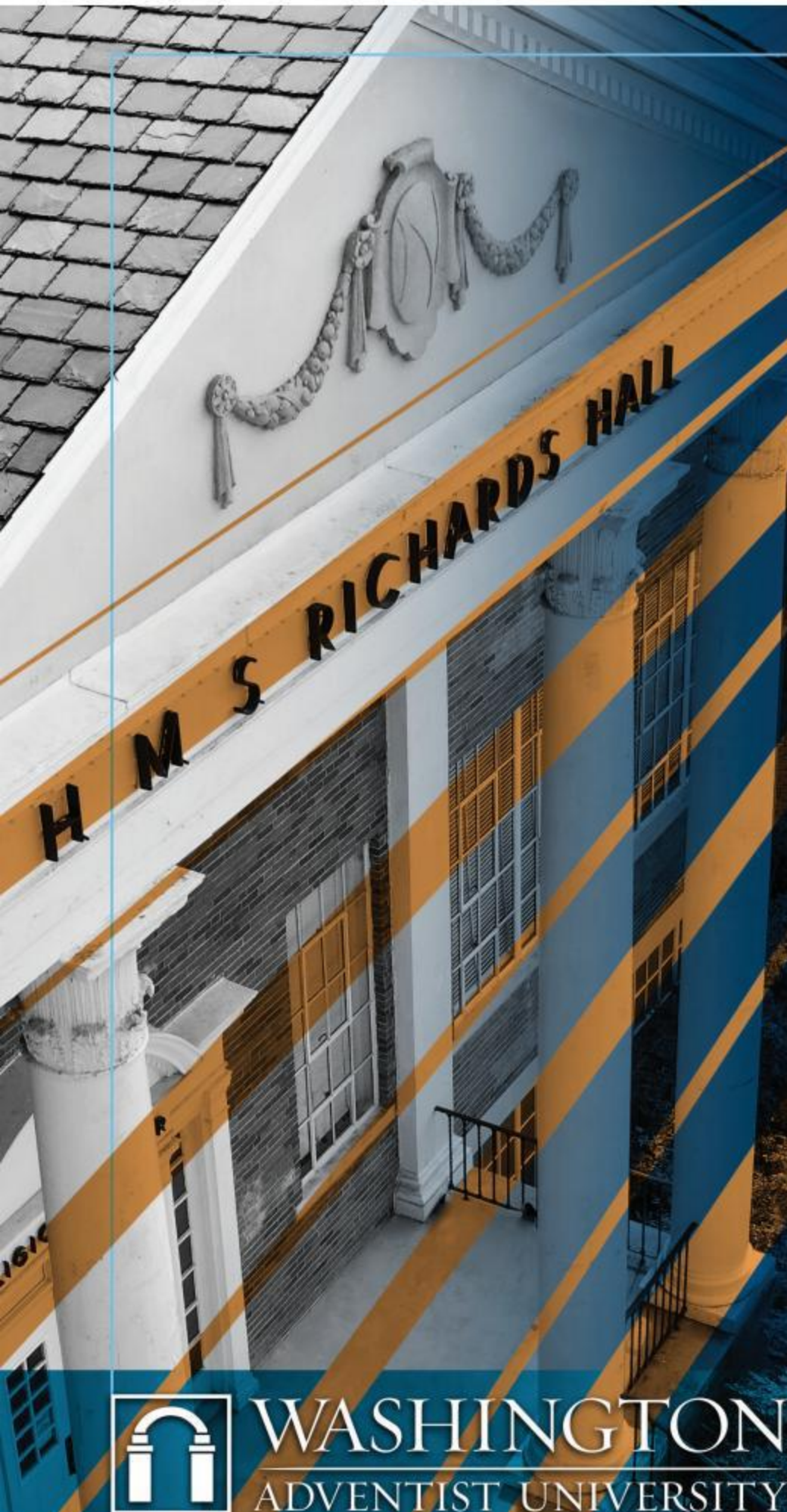
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CURF



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

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Washington Adventist University offers academic programs leading to the following degrees.

Two-year Program Leading to Assoc. Degrees

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Radiologic Technology

Four-year Programs Leading to Bacc. Degrees

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Biology
Early Childhood Care and Education †
English
General Studies
Music
Psychology
Religion
Urban Ministry *
Theology

Bachelor of Music (B.M.)

Music Performance
Music Therapy **

Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Accounting
Biology
Business Administration
Entrepreneurship *
Finance*
International Business *
Management*
Marketing *
Business Administration
(Newbold College, England, only)
Computer Science
Counseling Psychology
Fitness & Sport Science
General Studies
Health Care Administration †
Health/Fitness Management
Health Science
Information Systems
Medical Imaging
Nursing
Nursing (RN-BS in Nursing) † *

† Offered only through School of Graduate and Professional Studies.
* Concentration or track
** 5-year program (min. 60 months)

Honors College

WAU has established the Honors College for those pursuing a bachelor's degree, whereby students can pursue Honors Interdisciplinary tracks, which contain a unique curriculum for students to enhance their individual degrees.

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Master of Arts
in Counseling Psychology
Master of Arts
in Health Care Administration

Master of Business Administration

Master of Business Administration

Master of Education

Master of Education in School Counseling

Master of Science

Master of Science
in Nursing and Business Leadership
Master of Science
in Nursing and Business Leadership
(RN-MS in Nursing) *



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