

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

MARCH/APRIL 2022 • VOLUME 127 • ISSUE 2

## 'DRAWING' NEARER

**Pastor Regina Johnson**  
and some of her artistic  
peers from around  
the union are  
using creativity  
to connect to  
the Creator

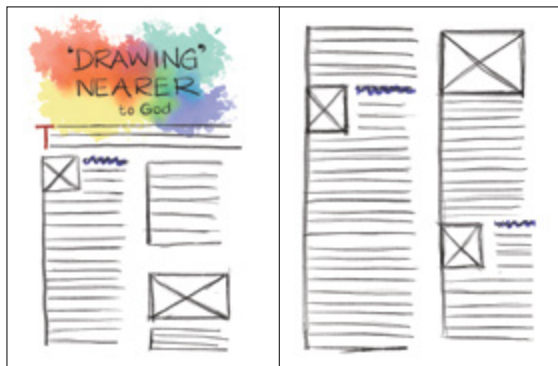


## A Well-Designed Life



It's hard to believe I've been designing the Columbia Union *Visitor* for 22 years. By my calculation, I've been privileged to create and shape 301 issues of this magazine.

When it comes in the mail, and you leaf through it, you probably don't realize how much time and effort goes into the finished product. Our team invests countless hours in each issue—meeting, planning, researching, creating and developing content and designs intended to capture and keep the attention of our readers. As art director and designer, I also spend many hours researching color theory, studying current trends and trying out the latest typefaces to appeal to our very diverse, multigenerational audience. And contrary to popular belief, we aren't just “making things pretty.” We care deeply about our work, applying principles, strategies and ideals that craft each element in our magazine's design—effectively helping to tell our union's story.



An early design sketch for this issue's opening feature spread.

Even today, God isn't just making us pretty. He is continually evaluating our needs, working in our lives and developing meaningful strategies to help us become all that we can be. He agonizes over each of us—no detail is insignificant or overlooked. He shapes and molds our characters with the goal of helping us to feel happy and fulfilled—inside and out.

### TRUST THE PROFESSIONAL

In Jeremiah 29:11, God promises: “For I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV).

While we know this, sometimes we have other ideas and plans. We worry and strive so *hard* to control every detail of our lives. Always willing for us to choose, God waits patiently and compassionately until we're ready to entrust our lives to Him—our Professional Designer.

In this issue, we're highlighting some of the ways our members are using their artistic talents and skills for ministry. Their art is more than just a pretty picture; it is an expression of God's imagination, beauty and intelligence. Their work reminds us that our Creator is carefully and lovingly designing His will for our lives, and that, in the end, everything will come together beautifully.

*Kelly Butler Coe serves as director of communication, art director and graphic designer for the Columbia Union Conference.*

# VISITOR

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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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OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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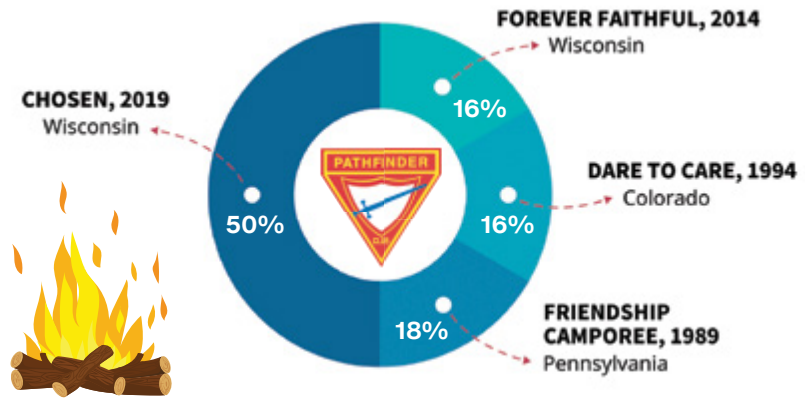
**GREENES RETIRE AFTER 20+ YEARS AT UNION**

In 1995, Harold Greene started working in Information Technology (IT) Services at the Columbia Union. Twenty-seven years later, he is retiring as the director of IT. Christine, certification registrar for the union's Office of Education, is also retiring after working there since 1998.

"The Greenes have made a tremendous impact in our union, especially in the areas of treasury and education. Harold is the brain behind the accounting systems we have in all of the Columbia Union territories," says Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union treasurer. They will both be greatly missed by every institution in the union because of the wonderful support work they have done over a few decades—Harold in accounting software and IT leadership, and Christine in teacher certification, he adds.

**BEST CAMPOREE EVER?**

The Columbia Union Conference is gearing up for "Relentless," the Pathfinder camporee to be held August 10-14, 2022, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. So we wanted to find out about your favorite past camporees. Do you agree with our Facebook poll results? Weigh in at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/poll](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/poll).



**250**

Kettering College in Ohio is doubling its nursing program capacity to 250 students per semester to help meet the growing demand for nurses. They've expanded their nursing program options for part-time study, in-person and some online courses. They've also added a new accelerated track for those wanting to complete their nursing degree in as little as 15 months.



**CHURCHES KEEP COMMUNITY WARM**

This winter, Columbia Union Conference members from Allegheny West Conference's Ethnan Temple; Potomac Conference's Seabrook and Southern Asian; and Chesapeake Conference's New Hope churches have donated some 1,400 coats through drives and Adventist Community Services programs. Find the closest Adventist Community Services at [columbiaunion.org](http://columbiaunion.org) to help with or start a campaign to meet local needs.



**EXTRA! EXTRA!**  
**2022 Columbia Union Conference calendars are still available.**  
**For just the cost of shipping, extra copies can be ordered by calling (800) 545-2449. Ask for the "2022 Columbia Union Calendar."**

**MARCH 19**

Pathfinders from around the Columbia Union Conference will participate in the union's Pathfinder Bible Experience, an event challenging youth to memorize and better understand Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy materials. Visit [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor) for event details and results.

## 5 Things You Should Know

([columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things))

- 1** A recently approved constitutional amendment now allows for General Conference world church sessions to be held virtually in the future, as needed. This option will allow delegates to attend the upcoming session—June 6–11 in St. Louis—via an online option if the pandemic continues to limit travel options.
- 2** More and more churches are communicating with members and their communities via text message. Did you know that eAdventist, a service that provides membership management software for local churches, also offers a texting service? Visit [eadventist.net](http://eadventist.net) to learn more about using it at your church.
- 3** The Ohio and Allegheny West conferences created a 31-day Bible reading challenge that can be used anytime of the year. Find the 31-day reading plan by downloading the Bible.is app.
- 4** Did you know that Chesapeake Conference's Grasonville (Md.) church was recently named as one of the top places to worship on the Eastern Shore in 2021? The church was one of the three finalists in the "Best of the Chesapeake" awards, organized by APG Chesapeake.
- 5** Global Youth Day is March 19, and this year's theme is "Loving the Forgotten." Visit [gcyouthministries.org](http://gcyouthministries.org) for promotional materials, resources and ideas to plan a great outreach event.

### JOSÉ ESPÓSITO TO SERVE AS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR EVANGELISM

In January, longtime pastor and evangelist José Daniel Espósito Forciniti began serving as the assistant to the president for evangelism at the Columbia Union Conference.



Espósito says, "My dream and my prayer are that every church—and members of all ages—will make evangelism their lifestyle, which will bring happiness to them while impacting and transforming the communities around them."

In this role, Espósito will work to provide oversight and training, and build an evangelism committee to implement upcoming plans and initiatives.

Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, says that evangelism is the centerpiece of the union's mission, especially as it builds its new strategic plan for the quinquennium. He also notes the union is looking forward to supporting the goals of the North American Division for exponential growth.



### COLUMBIA UNION TREASURER ORDAINED

Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, was recently recognized for his ministry through ordination at his home church, Chesapeake Conference's Washington Ghanaian church in Columbia, Md.

Leaders from around the union and country gathered at the event to affirm the ministry of Asiedu, his wife, Annette, and their daughters, Azaria and Anneliese.

At the event, Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president, said the union's executive committee perceived Asiedu's calling in ministry and recommended conferring the credentials. "Ordination is nothing magical; it is simply recognizing what God has already done," he added.

Asiedu accepted the call, crediting his wife, and recalling that, while growing up with his grandmother, he felt the call to ministry while reading Bible verses with her. Even though he felt the call, he tried to turn away, eventually studying accounting.

Over the years, Asiedu pursued ministry through various financial positions in the church. "I experienced the transformational power of God in my life," he says, "and I believe that I need to [share] that [fact with] others, so that, as we push forward the mission of Jesus Christ, we hasten the soon coming of our Lord."

ORDINATION PHOTOS BY STEPHEN FRIMPONG AND KWAME ABRAH

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

**JOSÉ ESPÓSITO SERVIRÁ COMO ASISTENTE DEL PRESIDENTE PARA LA EVANGELIZACIÓN**

En enero, el pastor y evangelista de toda la vida José Daniel Espósito Forciniti comenzó a servir como asistente del presidente para evangelismo en la Unión de Columbia.

Espósito dice: “Mi sueño y mi oración son que todas las iglesias, y los miembros de todas las edades, hagan del evangelismo su estilo de vida, lo que les brindará felicidad mientras impactan y transforman las comunidades que los rodean”.

Espósito trabajará para brindar supervisión y capacitación, y creará un comité de evangelización para implementar los próximos planes e iniciativas.

Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, dice que la evangelización es la pieza central de la misión de la unión, especialmente mientras construye su nuevo plan estratégico para el quinquenio. También señala que la unión espera apoyar los objetivos de crecimiento exponencial de la División Norteamericana.

**TESORERO DE LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA ES ORDENADO**

Emmanuel Asiedu, tesorero de la Unión de Columbia, fue reconocido recientemente por su ministerio a través de la ordenación en su iglesia local, la Iglesia Ghanesa de Washington de la Conferencia de Chesapeake en Columbia, Maryland.



TRADUCCIÓN DE DOMITILA ROSETTE

**5 Cosas Que Debes Saber**

(columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas)

- 1** Todavía están disponibles los calendarios de la Unión de Columbia del 2022. Solicite copias para compartir llamando a Pacific Press al (800) 545-2449. Pídalo como “2022 Columbia Union Calendar”.
- 2** Una enmienda constitucional aprobada recientemente ahora permite sesiones virtuales de la Conferencia General en el futuro, según sea necesario. Esta opción permitirá a los delegados asistir a la próxima sesión del 6 al 11 de junio en St. Louis a través de una opción en línea si la pandemia continúa limitando las opciones de viaje.
- 3** Este invierno, los miembros de la Unión de Columbia del Templo Ethnan de la Conferencia Oeste de Allegheny, las iglesias de Seabrook y Sud-Asiática de la Conferencia de Potomac y New Hope de la Conferencia de Chesapeake han donado unos 1,400 abrigos a los necesitados a través de campañas y programas de Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas. Encuentre los Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas más cercanos en columbiaunion.org para ayudar o iniciar una campaña para satisfacer las necesidades locales.
- 4** Cada vez más iglesias se comunican con los miembros y sus comunidades a través de mensajes de texto. ¿Sabía que eAdventist, un servicio que proporciona un software de administración de membresía para iglesias locales, también ofrece un servicio de mensajes de texto? Visite eadventist.net para obtener más información sobre cómo usarlo en su iglesia.
- 5** La conferencia de Ohio y la del Oeste de Allegheny crearon un desafío de lectura de la Biblia de 31 días que se puede usar en cualquier momento del año. Visite su tienda de aplicaciones para descargar la aplicación Bible.is y descargar el plan de lectura de 31 días.

Líderes de toda la unión y el país se reunieron en el evento para afirmar el ministerio de Asiedu, su esposa, Annette, y sus hijas, Azaria y Anneliese.

En el evento, Dave Weigley, presidente de la Unión de Columbia, dijo que el comité ejecutivo de la unión percibió el llamado de Asiedu al ministerio y recomendó otorgar las credenciales. “La ordenación no es nada mágico; es simplemente

reconocer lo que Dios ya ha hecho”, agregó.

A lo largo de los años, Asiedu persiguió el ministerio a través de varias posiciones financieras en la iglesia. “Experimenté el poder transformador de Dios en mi vida”, dice, “y creo que necesito [compartir] ese [hecho con] otros, para que, a medida que impulsamos la misión de Jesucristo, aceleremos la pronta venida de nuestro Señor.”

**19 DE MARZO** Conquistadores de toda la Unión de Columbia participarán en la Experiencia Bíblica de Conquistadores de la unión, un evento que desafía a los jóvenes a memorizar y comprender mejor las Escrituras y los materiales del Espíritu de Profecía. Visite facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor para obtener detalles y resultados del evento.



## 5 Choses à Savoir

([columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses))

**1** Des calendriers supplémentaires de l'Union de Conférences de Columbia pour 2022 sont encore disponibles. Commandez des exemplaires pour partager en appelant le Pacific Press au (800) 545-2449. Demandez le « 2022 Columbia Union Calendar » (Calendrier 2022 de l'Union de Columbia).

**2** Un amendement constitutionnel récemment approuvé, permet désormais la tenue de sessions virtuelles de la Conférence Générale de l'église mondiale à l'avenir, selon les besoins. Cette option permettra aux délégués d'assister à la prochaine session du 6 au 11 juin à St. Louis via une option en ligne si la pandémie continue de limiter les possibilités de voyage.

**3** Cet hiver, les membres de l'Union de Fédérations de Columbia de Ethan Temple de la Fédération de l'Allegheny West, de Seabrook et Southern Asian de la Fédération de Potomac, et des églises New Hope de la Fédération Chesapeake ont fait don de quelque 1 400 manteaux aux personnes dans le besoin par le biais de collectes et de programmes de Adventist Community Services (Services Communautaires Adventistes).

**4** Saviez-vous que cet eAdventist, un service qui fournit un logiciel de gestion des membres pour les églises locales, propose également un service de texto (SMS)? Visitez [eadventist.net](http://eadventist.net) pour en savoir plus sur l'utilisation de ce service dans votre église.

**5** Les fédérations Ohio et Allegheny West ont créé un défi de lecture de la Bible sur 31 jours qui peut être utilisé à tout moment de l'année. Visitez votre magasin d'applications (app store) pour télécharger l'application Bible.is, et téléchargez le plan de lecture de 31 jours.

### JOSÉ ESPÓSITO, NOUVEAU ASSISTANT DU PRÉSIDENT POUR L'ÉVANGÉLISATION

En janvier, le pasteur et évangéliste de longue date, José Daniel Espósito Forciniti, a commencé à servir en tant qu'assistant du



président pour l'évangélisation à l'Union de Columbia.

Pasteur Espósito déclare : « Mon rêve et ma prière sont que chaque église—et les membres de tous âges—fassent de l'évangélisation leur mode de vie, ce qui leur apportera du bonheur tout en ayant un impact et en transformant les communautés qui les entourent ».

M. Espósito s'occupera de la supervision et de la formation, et mettra en place un comité d'évangélisation pour mettre en œuvre les plans et programmes à venir.

Dave Weigley, président de l'Union de Columbia affirme que l'évangélisation est la pièce

maîtresse de la mission de l'union, en particulier au moment où il élabore son nouveau plan stratégique pour le prochain quinquennat.

### CONSÉCRATION DU TRÉSORIER DE L'UNION DE COLUMBIA

Emmanuel Asiedu, trésorier de l'Union de Fédérations Columbia, a récemment été reconnu pour son ministère par une cérémonie de consécration dans son église d'origine, l'église ghanéenne de Washington de la Fédération de Chesapeake, à Columbia (Maryland).



Des dirigeants de toute l'union et du pays se sont réunis pour affirmer le ministère de Asiedu, de sa femme, Annette, et de leurs filles, Azaria et Anneliese.

Lors de l'événement, pasteur Dave Weigley, président de l'Union de Columbia, a déclaré que le Comité Exécutif de l'union a perçu l'appel au ministère de Asiedu et a recommandé de lui conférer les lettres de créance. « La consécration n'a rien de magique ; il s'agit simplement de reconnaître ce que Dieu a déjà fait », a-t-il ajouté.

Au fil des ans, Asiedu a poursuivi le ministère en occupant divers postes financiers dans l'église. « J'ai fait l'expérience du pouvoir de transformation de Dieu dans ma vie », dit-il, « et je crois que je dois [partager] ce [fait avec] les autres, afin que, en faisant avancer la mission de Jésus-Christ, nous hâtons la venue prochaine de notre Seigneur ».

# RADIO BROADCASTS END A 50-YEAR WAR



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The Gospel just changed the face of a country and made history as 50 years of fighting ended in Mindoro, Philippines. After listening to Adventist World Radio's broadcasts and taking the Gospel to heart, rebel fighters and assassins laid down their guns and made decisions for baptism. In November, they received amnesty and embraced members of the military they'd previously hunted.

Read (and watch!) this incredible story and share it with your church on **Sabbath, March 12**, during the Adventist World Radio offering.

Learn more: [awr.org/offering](http://awr.org/offering)



**AWR360°**  
BROADCAST TO BAPTISM



# 'DRAWING' NEARER to God

By Cynthia  
Mendoza

**T**he Bible offers several examples of how creativity is an integral part of worship. From creation itself, with its abundance of visual beauty, to Solomon's exquisite temple, it is clear God loves and appreciates art and has gifted many with the eye and skills for it. Meet five individuals in the Columbia Union Conference who use their talents to honor and glorify God.

## A SPACE FOR CREATIVITY



I fell in love with art because it is an expression. It tells a story on canvas, and there are so many stories to be told," says Regina Johnson, on how she incorporates art into a deeper personal and spiritual journey.

Johnson enjoys abstract art because of the freedom it affords her without a set of rules; it is a healing experience for her and helps relieve anxiety. But most important, it stimulates her connection with God, she says.

As the administrative pastor at Allegheny West Conference's Grace Community church in Cleveland, Johnson integrates this creativity into her ministry. She has taken her talents to the pulpit by bringing art and music together, creating a singular worship experience. For example, as the minister of music leads in praise and worship, Johnson enhances the message by painting in the background. "I believe creativity deepens the worship service experience by allowing more ways to experience God," she says.

When COVID-19 hit, Johnson, like many pastors, looked for new ways to do ministry, and the need for



JOHNSON HEADSHOT BY LLOYD MACK

**“** Art is a reminder that God created you in His own image. Genesis shows us that God is a Creator, an Artist and a Crafter. He takes broken things and puts them together to create works of art.”—Regina Johnson

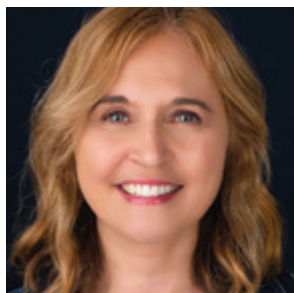
Watch a video about how art has helped Johnson grow spiritually at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/reginajohnson](https://columbiaunionvisitor.com/reginajohnson).



creativity came to the forefront. Johnson says that her pastoral team encouraged their church family to paint, write, draw, sing or use other creative outlets from home.

Johnson has also started “Paint and Heal” classes at various churches. Participants express they are connecting with their thoughts and God in a new way.

## UNTAPPED GIFTS



**W**hat started out as an activity for a women’s retreat a few years ago soon became a ministry called “Creative Inspiration,” led by Debbie Howell at Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md.

Howell, pastor of the Potomac Conference Beltsville church’s online campus, and who is currently studying for her master’s degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University (Mich.), has a passion for creativity and art. She uses writing and creative journaling, particularly through God’s Word, to help her and others relax and explore their creativity.

Her process involves using stickers, washi tape, decorative sticky notes, prayer cards and other similar items to decorate journals and write out scripture texts and prayers by hand. In one of the classes, participants learn how to mark their Bibles topically with specific stickers, such as musical notes next to scripture verses on praise or hearts next to scriptures on God’s love.

“I think what people connect with in my class is how simple it is to do creative journaling. You don’t have to be an artist to do it,” Howell says.

The classes, held the first Sunday of every month, are open to anyone who wants a deeper walk with God through His Word.

Howell especially hopes to instill a love of Scripture for young people beyond just reading or memorizing, but exploring and learning.

“There’s a deeper connection with God’s Word when we write it out, even if it’s just one verse,” she says. “I have been blessed with many testimonies of people from my classes who have had a deeper revelation of God’s Word and a renewed passion to know God through Scripture.”

For anyone who wishes to share their creative gifts with others, she offers the following: “Don’t be afraid to think outside the box. God created you in such a unique and creative way. There are untapped gifts inside you, and, when you step out in faith, God will reveal them to you.”



*Grab your favorite marker and stickers for an interactive Bible journaling class led by Debbie Howell, April 3, on [facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor](https://www.facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor).*

## CREATED TO CREATE



**T**hough she never considered herself an artist, Adrienne Rowe-Saulsbury has firmly established herself as one through her “Bible Page” art. Just as the description implies, Rowe-Saulsbury, a fourth-grade teacher at Allegheny West

Conference’s Columbus Adventist Academy (Ohio), draws on Bible pages using colored pens and pencils to creatively worship and connect with God.

“It was scary at first,” she admits about the thought of drawing in her Bible. “I got rebuked by some people, but I say God is speaking all the time. It is His Word that is holy, not just the pages of the Bible.”

Rowe-Saulsbury has gone through six Bibles, creating at least one drawing per book of the Bible. The drawings are based on different themes or happenings in her everyday life. For example, when a bird flew into her house, it inspired the “Birds in Scripture” theme, which led to her searching out verses that featured birds, such as when the ravens fed Elijah. These familiar stories help her explore new themes, lessons or layers of the Bible.

Beyond simply drawing as a form of personal worship, this creative artistic expression has also



“God created all of His creation to create.”—Adrienne Rowe-Saulsbury

been a form of therapy for Rowe-Saulsbury and a way to share the Word of God and minister to others in their times of need.

In helping her father learn to walk again after suffering a stroke, Rowe-Saulsbury was inspired to create “barefoot” and “footprint” art, based on Bible verses about walking. She recently finished working on a coloring book called *I Will Walk in Power*. Her creativity and support for her father has gone a long way—he is now back to 90 percent cognition and walking.

“God is always wanting to reveal Himself to us,” she says. “I’ve learned so much about who God is by doing this.”

## A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE



Looking for a productive way to help channel Jyremy Reid’s 3-year-old energy and creativity, his mother bought him a sketchbook. His newfound companion accompanied him everywhere, even church.

One Sabbath at church, his grandmother looked down at his sketchbook, and to her amazement, Reid was drawing the podium and the surrounding scenery. That was when Reid’s family realized he had a God-given gift. His lifelong journey with art had just begun.

A member of the New Market (Va.) church, Reid’s artistic gifts have led to many opportunities. He has created commissioned work for the *Oakwood Magazine*, *Message Magazine* and a

gallery at his alma mater, La Sierra University (Calif.), portraying Jesus’ life as revealed in the book of Mark. He has also created “live paintings” during sermons or events.

Reid draws inspiration from several sources, but often feels the Lord places the projects on his heart. “The purpose for my spiritual pieces is to give encouragement and hope,” says Reid. “As an artist, I am also blessed to be able to witness through however the Holy Spirit seems best. It’s a blessing when I hear from others how my work spoke into their lives.”

Reid especially enjoys creating portraits, having done his first self-portrait at the age of 9. When drawing faces, he delves deep into one’s nuances and expressions, even capturing the emotions in the subject’s eyes. When it comes to his social media videos where he depicts Bible characters or stories, he sketches the image on a canvas, sets up the camera and paints. He later edits the videos to speed up the painting process and adds background music.

Reid says the process of creating art is not only a blessing to others but a spiritual experience for him. He recently went through a difficult and humbling personal challenge, leaving him in very low spirits.

“An image I painted of Jesus holding a man in sorrow came to mind,” Reid reflects. “I imagined that man as myself. And every time I look at it, I am comforted. I am reminded that Jesus is always here to hold me.”

One of Reid’s biggest dreams is to create a graphic novel on the book of Revelation, a project he was inspired to do about 14 years ago, at the age of 14. He offers the following words of wisdom to young Christian artists on how to use their gifts for the glory of God: “Stay humble and hungry. Keep learning new techniques, stay open-minded and keep the Lord in your future. He will make your paths straight.”





## TEACHER BECOMES STUDENT



**M**usicians are encouraged to use music for the glory of God, but for artists, what does that mean? It's not about the subject matter; it's about glorifying God by any means," says Shona Macomber, retired art teacher at Ohio

Conference's Spring Valley Academy in Centerville and current member of the Kettering (Ohio) church.

Macomber doesn't just love art; she breathes it. Through the years, it has been integral in forming a deeper personal experience with God and a meaningful way to teach and reach her students.

Realizing how strongly one of her own art teachers had impacted her life, Macomber wanted to give that same experience to others, especially those who didn't think they were talented. She asked God to give her a deeper understanding of making art from His Creator's point of view.

"That's when I became a student of Genesis 1. Through deep and prolonged contemplation of the creation story, I began to see a pattern. During each day of the creation week, God revealed something important about Himself," she says. "Then I realized those same foundational principles could apply to art making."

Macomber passed this insight along to her students. "They not only learned the principles and elements of art, but they also learned about how they were used by Jesus. When we put the Word of God into action, He has promised that it will not return void. I let the kids know I was just allowing the power of the Spirit of God to work because I was applying His Word to what we were doing."

Macomber believes that participating in art expands the brain's abilities to process information, such as the concentration and focus that drawing requires, the same way physical qualities of matter become real through creating pottery or how chemistry takes on vibrancy in oil painting. She has found that every student has the potential to make art that is true and honest, and, over time, this can lead to a stronger character, a more teachable mind and an increased ability to understand abstract ideas.

For example, when teaching art to students, Macomber uses the "alphabet of art," in which lines, shapes and curves combine into something recognizable like letters or other objects or ideas, thus making both art and other subjects come to life. She believes art helps people observe nature in a different way beyond surface appreciation. "It broadens our understanding of the world and



To view additional pieces by the artists in this feature, visit [columbiaunionvisitor.com/cuartists](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/cuartists) for contact information, websites and/or blogs.

expands the brain and its ability to think in more than one way," she says.

Art is also a way Macomber experiences her own spiritual journey. "Sometimes I'm disappointed in how a piece turns out, but I use what I learned to make the next one better," she says. "In the same way, God uses the events in my life to build on the next. Art has given me a unique understanding about how that works."

### 3 WAYS TO BECOME A BETTER ARTIST

*Shona Macomber shares tips to tap into your creativity and draw you closer to the Creator:*

- 1** Focus on a favorite medium: watercolor, acrylic, pencils, etc.
- 2** Practice! Take art workshops or lessons. There are also some good tutorials on YouTube.
- 3** Realize that "realistic" doesn't necessarily mean "better" art. Learn what good art is by visiting art museums and galleries. And don't compare your work to anyone else's.

# Columbia Union Revolving Fund

## MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE



### Washington Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventist Church

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

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

Learn more:

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

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

# CURF



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

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# ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

## Conference Welcomes Filipino Congregation

Members of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) recently celebrated the official organization of the Filipino American Oxon Hill (Md.) church. What began in 2011 as a church plant with just four members has now grown to more than 100 members. “The focus of our congregation is to reach the Filipino community in the areas of Oxon Hill, Fort Washington and Temple Hills, Maryland,” says Ariel Matira, pastor.

Matira first thought to connect with AEC after a suggestion from Ronald Cho, a retired AEC pastor, who encouraged him to reach out to the administration. “I was touched by the vision of the conference to reach all nations,” remembers Matira. Shortly after, he visited the AEC office building and saw a sign in the lobby with the word, “Mabuhay,” which

means “welcome” in Filipino. Matira instantly felt the congregation should be a part of AEC. “We are grateful that we joined this conference that has been very supportive to us from the beginning, and we have not looked back,” says Matira.

The church continues to flourish during the pandemic. Members have multiple services such as midweek, vespers and all-day worship on Saturdays, including sundown worship to recommit their lives to God for another week.

As a result, tithe doubled compared to what was collected in 2020, and the church has become more united. “Now we are facing 2022, confident that the God who protected and blessed us is the same God who will be with us now,” shares Matira.



## Rehoboth Member Featured in TV Commercial

Gracie Torres, a 14-year-old member from the Rehoboth Spanish church in Reading, Pa., recently starred in a commercial aired on local TV, raising funds for a women’s and children’s shelter.

Torres’ father, Rabiél, is the case manager for Hope Rescue Mission, where they aim to complete The Lighthouse, a new women’s and children’s facility, by spring 2022.

The video was designed to bring awareness to the shelter’s fundraising goal of \$4 million.

Torres felt comfortable with the role. “I tried to go with the flow and imagine myself in the person’s situation,” says Torres. “I was happy to be a part of it because I enjoy helping my dad [and the shelter] create better lives for others.”

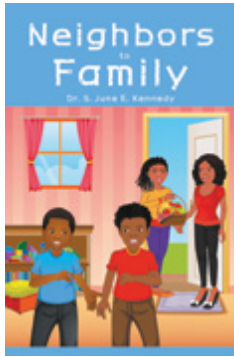
So far, the campaign has raised \$3.5 million toward their goal.



## Members From Emmanuel Worship Center Author Books

A retirement and the pandemic inspired S. June and D. Robert Kennedy, seasoned authors and members of Emmanuel Worship Center in Alexandria, Va., to each add one more book to their publishing accomplishments.

June had recently retired when their son Robert III asked what she would do with all of her “free” time. Initially she thought it might be a great opportunity to revise some of her earlier publications. Her son, however, encouraged her to find a new voice.



Their 12-year-old granddaughter, Britt, added, “I think you should write about how Pathfinders can be witnesses.”

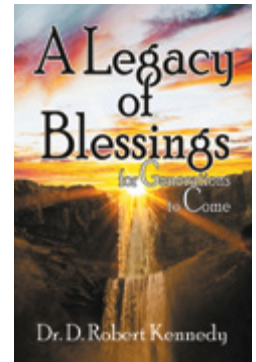
June realized she had found her topic, she says. The fictional story about Freddy’s new neighbor came to life and birthed *Neighbors to Family*. “I hope that readers will use this book as a

tool to build healthy relationships and partner with their children in sharing their faith,” says June.

Robert, pastor of the Emmanuel Worship Center, saw the pandemic-induced lockdown as an opportunity to explore the legacy of God’s blessings in the book of Genesis. “I found these foundational blessings to be very contemporary,” says Robert.

He originally published his findings in 46 bite-sized entries in a local newspaper. He later repackaged them under the book title, *A Legacy of Blessings for Generations to Come*. “My hope is that all who need to understand the blessings of God will read this book and receive encouragement to count their daily blessings and turn the curses that they might face into a blessing,” shares Robert.

Both books are available at [teachservices.com](http://teachservices.com).



## Dupont Park School Serves a Million Meals

When Wayna Gray became principal of the Dupont Park Adventist School (DPAS) in Washington, D.C., she was delighted with the positive qualities she found in the school’s programs, faculty and students. When she noticed students coming to school without lunch, however, she was concerned.

Teachers often gave students their own lunch and bought extra snacks for those who came without anything to eat, Gray recalls. In the past, lunches were provided at a cost to students. Now, due to the pandemic, students had to bring their own lunches, leaving some at a disadvantage.



The staff conducted an intense search for a plant-based caterer. School leaders connected with the National School Lunch Program and generous donors who helped launch a program in the school. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are now served daily.

In addition to feeding DPAS students, the program has expanded to serve nutritious, delicious food at a drive-thru ministry every Sunday at RFK Festival Grounds. Recipients in Washington, D.C., and the surrounding communities receive food for the entire week.

Since October 2021, more than one million meals have been distributed. The DPAS and the Dupont Park church family believes this ministry demonstrates the love of God by caring for the children and feeding them, as Jesus fed the 5,000, says Gray.—*Tamaria Kulemek*



## Women's Book and Bible Study Leads to Outreach

In July 2021, the Women's Ministries Department of Smyrna church in Lynchburg, Va., collaborated with neighboring churches to start the Alabaster Box Book and Bible Study Group.

The group met once a month to read and discuss multiple books. This year, they are focusing on one book: *The Lies Women Believe, and the Truth That Sets Them Free* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. The volume covers topics such as marriage, sexuality and emotions.

The discussion subject matter might be more female-specific at times, but Patricia Jerome, one of the group facilitators, sees this ministry as an outreach tool to reach different groups of people. At the Alabaster Box, all are welcome, she notes.

"So far, the response has been phenomenal, and people really look forward to the studies," says Jerome. "It's all about people reaching people, and the studies provide an opportunity for members to invite their friends, colleagues and family members. I believe the pandemic has had a draining effect on folks, with many people feeling depressed because of social isolation. We recently had a gentleman from the southern Caribbean join us online. He shared that the warmth and support he experienced in the group reminded him of the fellowship he missed at church."

Jerome adds that the group is blessed to be supported by Women's Ministries leaders throughout the conference, many of whom serve as facilitators of the group and assist in coordinating and promoting the book study within their churches and respective regions. "We are thrilled that Women's Ministries leader, Bobbe Reynolds, has given her full support to the group study and has attended several of our meetings. Although women mostly lead out in the studies, men are more than welcome to join and encouraged to participate."

Reynolds notes, "The Smyrna church has put an excellent program together. Some of the women I spoke with said the book has opened their eyes to the untruths they once believed and has helped them see just how much Christ truly loves us."



## Women's Ministries Spotlight

Bobbe Reynolds serves as Women's Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference. A passionate supporter of women in ministry, she has dedicated most of her adult life to supporting initiatives geared toward helping women.

"I like to call it a ministry for women. I believe that it's just as much about women being ministered to as it is about women ministering to others. Christ makes clear the special role of women in the home and wider community. As we surrender our hearts to Him, we are called to serve others with humility, demonstrating the same compassion and grace that our Lord has shown us," she says.



## Prayer Ministries Hosts Breakthrough Prayer-a-thon

The Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Prayer Ministries Department recently hosted their fourth annual all-day prayer-a-thon. Church members, conference administrators, teachers and pastors representing every church across the conference came together virtually to pray for the conference and its members and to thank God for His blessings.

Conducted through a conference call line, the prayer-a-thon theme, “Breakthrough,” reflected the aim of Prayer Ministries for the new year. “We are breaking through in 2022,” says Violet Cox, AWC Prayer Ministries director.

“We were blessed to spend 12 hours together as a conference in prayer,” Cox continues. “We felt the presence of God, as members from throughout our conference assembled virtually to both proclaim their prayer petitions and celebrate testimonies of answered prayer. We know that many personal victories will be won as prayers are answered.”

Cox shares that she regularly receives messages from individuals across the conference in desperate need of prayer. As many continue to experience the effects of the pandemic, they frequently feel socially isolated and alone.

“In these times of waning faith, the prayer-a-thon was just the force we needed to propel us toward our breakthrough with God in 2022,” says Cox. “Now, more than ever, we must trust God to see us through.”



ALLEGHENY WEST

# I Will Go

WOMEN'S MINISTRY DEPARTMENT

International Women's Day of Prayer

SABBATH  
MARCH 5  
2022

For more information visit:  
[www.awconf.org](http://www.awconf.org)

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## He Listens and Understands

In a world where trust and confidence are often breached, it is not wise to completely open one's heart to just anyone.

Most of us learn early in life that trusting others with our innermost thoughts and deepest sentiments can be risky, and sometimes even dangerous. That's because the metaphorical heart, the *inner core* of a human being, is vulnerable to attack and abuse by others, including the enemy of souls who would like nothing more than to see us dispirited, broken, and especially, distrustful of God.

But in Psalm 62:8, King David admonishes God's people to, "Trust in Him at all times ... pour out your hearts to Him" (NIV). David is not suggesting that we cannot or should not trust others. Mutual trust is, of course, at the foundation of all healthy relationships. He is simply directing us to place full confidence in the only One in whose hands we are *completely* safe; One who will *never* break confidence or betray us; One who can *always* be trusted unreservedly. He already knows everything in our hearts and everything about us. There is nothing we can say or do that would shock or surprise Him. Since He understands us better than anyone else and knows us even better than we know ourselves, we can safely unburden ourselves to Him. "God is our refuge" (Ps. 46:1, NIV).

If you are tempted to think that God cannot possibly understand what you are feeling or going through, consider these reassuring words of the Apostle Paul: "The Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God" (Rom. 8:26-27, NIV).

When we pray, the Holy Spirit interprets not just our words, but the unspoken utterances of our hearts. He listens to us, understands us completely and loves us eternally.



**Jerry Lutz**  
*President*

## Chesapeake ACS Welcomes Afghan Families

When families from Afghanistan arrived in the United States following their rapid evacuation, Adventist Community Services (ACS) stood ready to serve.

Chesapeake Conference's ACS team responded to the crisis by meeting evacuees at the airport to offer emotional and spiritual support. A few months later, ACS shifted its focus to providing 340 Afghan families resettling in the Chesapeake Conference territory with food and essential supplies as they rebuild their lives here.

Churches across the conference responded to donation requests for essential items such as cleaning supplies, hygiene products and basic kitchen equipment. In partnership with ADRA, ACS Columbia Union and ACS North American Division, team members from ACS Chesapeake organized the donations into welcome baskets and personally distributed them to refugees living in temporary housing.



*Watch the video to learn more!*



*ACS team members unload supplies to distribute to Afghan families.*

"We're not just giving food or a welcome basket; we're sharing the love of Jesus with them," says Ignacio Goya, Chesapeake's ACS director. "That's what ACS is all about; that's what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is all about."

## Park Church Takes a Bite Out of Homelessness

When a local nonprofit organization supporting men experiencing homelessness needed a new location for its winter shelter, the Park church in Salisbury, Md., decided to lend a hand.

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness (HHEH) was founded 18 years ago after three men froze to death in Salisbury. The organization partners with the city government and area churches to aid displaced men in the city.

For the last three years, Park member Walter Davidson has directed HHEH. When HHEH needed to find another location for the shelter this year, Davidson reached out to his home congregation right away. "It's very gratifying to have my church come alongside this ministry, pick it up and run with it," Davidson says.

Greg Carlson, Park church pastor, approached the church board about utilizing the community service building on the church campus as a shelter, and the board unanimously agreed.

"You could sense the Holy Spirit in the room in that board meeting," Carlson says. "We have this building, and, of course, during COVID, we weren't using it much at all. How could we not serve the community with the *community outreach* building?"

With the board's approval, members converted the outreach building into a shelter, bringing in beds and setting up area dividers. In addition to providing nightly lodging, the men's shelter offers



*The community outreach center sits across the parking lot from the Park church.*



*The Park church's community outreach building has been repurposed as a men's homeless shelter.*

hot showers, clean clothes, haircuts and warm meals. HHEH also works to find permanent housing for the men, which they achieved for more than 20 men last year.

Hosting the shelter at the Park church has provided opportunities for members to get involved in hands-on ministry such as preparing meals, providing logistical assistance and getting to know the men personally. Many of the men staying at the shelter have decided to attend the church's Friday night vespers program and Sabbath morning worship service.

"It's been a tremendous blessing to our church," Carlson says. "I've had more guests on the campus of the Park church in the last 30 days than I did in five years."

The Park church has committed to hosting the men's shelter in its facility through April 2022. "We would like to end homelessness," Davidson says. "We know that's not going to happen, but we're going to take a big bite out of it."



*Scan the QR code to watch the video!*



# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Go Tell it on the Mountains

Reaching rural territories was once viewed as a difficult task, but members in the Mountain View Conference (MVC) have now embraced it as an exciting journey—encouraging others to seek Jesus. This mindset has grown members' spiritual experience and impacted the territory.

The conference's goal is to advance the Great Commission Christ gave. He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19, NIV).

Leaders have tasked every pastor, Bible worker, elder and church member to go and "Tell Somebody About Jesus," to embody Christ's fearless character in the community and share the news of His soon return!

We have already seen a huge turnaround since this initiative began.

James Volpe, pastor of the Beacon of Hope church in Huntington, W.Va., recently received a Bible study interest card. Volpe took his head elder

with him to follow up on the lead. The address was difficult to find, and as the two men drove through the neighborhood, they saw some women enjoying the day on their front porch.

Volpe stopped to ask the ladies if they knew where the person lived. They pointed him in the right direction, then one of the ladies asked, "What is this for?" Volpe took the opportunity to share about the Bible study, hoping to capture the ladies' interest.

That led to a conversation about the Bible, current events and the nearness of Christ's return. One of the ladies asked if Volpe would be available to study the Bible with her and her friends the following morning. "Of course, that is why we are doing this!" he expressed. When Volpe arrived the next morning, he found three ladies waiting. They studied the gospel and the plan of salvation and made plans to continue studying together.

Bible studies are an essential part of community outreach ministry. The goal of conference leaders is to encourage pastors and members to carry God's message as they continue to experience His great and mighty acts throughout the hills and mountains to whoever will listen.



**Eddie Reyes**  
*Lewisburg,  
Marlinton and  
Rainelle District  
Pastor*



**TELL SOMEBODY  
ABOUT JESUS**

*Go tell it on the mountains*

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 27–April 1**

Lay Bible Worker Training

**April 29–May 1**

Mountain View Conference Teen Campout

**May 30**

Office closed for holiday

## A Plumber Takes the Plunge

The Cumberland (Md.) congregation has been steadily working on their new church building and started to get quotes on reconnecting their baptistry plumbing.

Anthony Watts (pictured, right), who had been out of church for some time, visited one Sabbath. Jim Buchanan (left), Cumberland pastor, became acquainted with Watts and discovered that he was a master licensed plumber. "I asked him what his estimate would be for making the plumbing connections," shares Buchanan, "and it was basically free. Hallelujah! As Anthony and I worked together, we discussed spiritual things. Anthony shared with me how he wanted to return to God to get his life back on track."

One day, the members came to the church and wrote various Scriptures with black magic marker on top of the wood platform before the carpet was laid. "We could then say that we are literally standing on the promises!" Buchanan says. Right by the baptistry steps where Watts was installing the plumbing, Buchanan wrote Acts 2:38: "Repent, and be baptized."

When the plumbing was finished, Watts filled the baptistry to check for leaks. After the baptistry was



filled and there were no leaks, Buchanan commented that it was a shame to have all this water in the baptistry and no one to baptize. At that moment, Watts looked the pastor straight in the eye and said, "I want to rededicate my life to the Lord."

Watts told the church what led him to make the decision for rebaptism. "Every time I looked at the floor next to those steps leading to the baptistry, I saw, 'Repent, and be baptized.'"

Buchanan remarks, "There is power in God's Word."





# NEWS NEW JERSEY

## Urgent or Important?

What is the difference between urgent and important matters? Every day, there are decisions to be made, tasks to be accomplished, people to meet and many other issues that may take some level of priority in our lives. How should we correctly classify urgent and important matters?

Jesus gave us vital insight on this question when He prioritized rest over urgent healings, urgent preaching and urgent teaching. The same principle applies today: urgency cannot overtake importance.

He knew that His earthly ministry would not be long; He knew that the time spent with His disciples would be limited; He knew exactly how necessary it was to heal those who were suffering illnesses and spiritual battles. Yet He appealed: "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31, NLT). He was teaching a practical and very needed lesson to His disciples—to prioritize correctly.

In times like these, with the ups and downs of coronavirus cases, work from home, hybrid school, loss of life and loss of "normality," it is easy to raise the standard of "things we can/must do, as soon as possible."

While trying to check every urgent task off our list, the words of Christ should echo in our minds, *let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile*, to prioritize spiritual restoration and mental health.

Emotionally healthy disciples will prioritize the words Jesus spoke on His way to Bethsaida. Mission was fundamental to Christ's ministry, but that same mission led Him to instruct His core group of believers to take good care of themselves.

Following Jesus' example, let us intentionally analyze what important matters must be done now. Has your health, your family, your communion with Christ, your friends or the mission of God made it on the list yet? Postponing important things so that we can tackle urgent ones is common, but not taking care of the important things will tackle us sooner or later. Let us follow the Master's example.



**Anthony Baffi**  
*Communication and  
Media Director*

## Conference Experiences Departmental Changes

The New Jersey Conference recently announced several departmental changes. Stephen Lee, former Music Ministries director, will be the new Adventist Community Services (ACS) director. Lee replaces Mike Gill, former ACS director, who recently retired after 34 years of service.

Carlos Torres has assumed the office of Church Planting director, in addition to overseeing Personal Ministries and Family Ministries, which he has been leading since 2017.

Eduardo Monteiro, director of Evangelism and Prison Ministries, adds Ministerial Secretary to his role, supporting pastors and elders with his vast experience in the pastoral field.

Anthony Baffi, Communication and Media director and Youth associate director, has been appointed to be the new Children Ministries director, which he will lead alongside Cinthia Portanova, volunteer Children's Ministries state coordinator.



PHOTO BY MARKUS WINKLER

## Conference Hires Seven New Pastors



children, Isabella and Fernando.

Albert Perez is the new pastor of the Bound Brook Spanish Company and First Bilingual and Flemington Spanish Companies. Perez received his bachelor's degree in Theology from the UNADECA (Central America Adventist University) in Costa Rica. Perez and his wife, Margarita, have two



Fortunato Jardinico is the new associate pastor of the Lake Nelson church. Jardinico received his Master of Divinity at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.).

Anthony Ponteiro is the new pastor of the Tranquility, Hackettstown and Phillipsburg churches. Ponteiro received his bachelor's degree in Theology from Andrews University (Mich.). Ponteiro is happy to be working in his home state alongside his wife, Kensy.



Fismed Omar joins the conference as the pastor of the Newark Spanish, Harrison Spanish and Nueva Vida Spanish churches. Omar received his Master of Art in Pastoral Ministry from the Theological Seminary at Andrews. For the past couple of years, Omar has pastored in the Potomac Conference.



Daniel Ludtke is the new associate pastor of the Luso-Brazilian church in Newark. Ludtke previously worked on a small university campus in Spain, and now he will be working in a big city. "God doesn't want us to be comfortable," says Ludtke. "There is no greater emotion than fulfilling God's plans." Ludtke is passionate about creating new ways of communicating God's love, be it through music, communication or personal evangelism.



Luis Fernandez is the new pastor of the Hammonton, Redemption Chapel church plant and Wildwood churches. Fernandez received his master of arts in Biblical-Theological Studies from the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. His personal passions are reading and spending time with his wife, Samantha, and children, Jeremiah, Jared, Mickaela and Eli.



Eber Marski joins the conference as the new pastor of the Parkway South, Cape May Court House and Atlantic County churches. Marski received his bachelor's degree in Theology from UNASP, an Adventist university in Engenheiro Coelho, Brazil. Marski says his wife, Natalia, has helped him grow personally and spiritually and is a great support to his ministry.



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



## 600-Plus Participate in 31-Day Bible Reading Challenge

Members of the Ohio Conference and Allegheny West Conference (AWC) began 2022 with a renewed focus. Led by presidents Marvin C. Brown, III (AWC) and Bob Cundiff (Ohio), members joined together for the second annual 31-day President's Bible Reading Challenge.

A monthlong journey through the Bible is a fast-paced overview of the Great Controversy from beginning to end—a different interaction with Scripture than typical daily devotional study. Readers must put away most other books and TV in order to accomplish the pace of covering around 39 chapters per day.

This year, more than 600 signed up, many choosing to continue through the rest of this year with a second, more detailed reading of the Scriptures.

"As we repeat this project each year, I'm hopeful it gathers momentum with even more of our church members seeing and understanding the value of spending daily time in God's Word," says Cundiff.



Marvin C. Brown, III, and Bob Cundiff share a video message to their members.

Participate in a 31-day overview of the Scriptures at any time by downloading the Ohio and Allegheny West 31-day reading plan in the Bible is app. Scan the link in the QR code to download the app.



## 2023 Initiative Brings Renewed Outreach Focus

Ohio Conference churches have embraced the "2023 Initiative" to see 2,023 Ohio baptisms by the year 2023 and are witnessing God move in amazing ways, say leaders. The Wilmington church

is one of those experiencing a renewed passion for evangelism.

Tyler Roberts was searching for truth. He learned of the Seventh-day Adventist message on Facebook after interacting with church member Chris Hamilton. Roberts visited the Wilmington church, and members quickly adopted him, making sure he had a ride to church events and Sabbath services. Roberts also connected with participants in Pastor Fred Shoemaker's Zoom Bible study and soon decided to dedicate his life to Jesus through baptism.

The crowning event of the church's 2021 outreach happened during their "Welcome Home Sabbath." Leading up to the weekend, members focused on reaching inactive and former members and visitors. That Sabbath, attendance more than doubled to 77, with nonmembers numbering more than 30. Some highlights of the day were a baptism, profession of faith and a baby dedication, shares Shoemaker.

The 2023 Initiative is more than just a numerical ministry goal; it is these stories of churches across the territory rallying together in community to share the gospel, say leaders.



Tyler Roberts, Pastor Fred Shoemaker and Jessica Halye celebrate Roberts' baptism and Halye's profession of faith at the Wilmington church.

## Hamilton Youth ‘Kare for Kentucky’

In December, a catastrophic storm system ripped through the Midwest, with tornadoes devastating cities and homes in Kentucky. The next morning, across the Ohio River at the Hamilton church, youth gathered for Sabbath School and reflected on the tragedy.

The crisis hit close to home, and they wondered how they might help their neighbors to the south. The idea to hold a fundraiser the next day soon emerged from their discussions. That is when “Karing for Kentucky” began!

The church youth were excited to help. The class had already been working on nativity candles to present to the church on Christmas Day, but with a little change in plans, this project turned into a fundraiser.

The youth left Sabbath School and went up front during the church service to invite the congregation to participate in “Karing for Kentucky.” They invited members to return later with their donations, and, in exchange, the youth would present them with a nativity candle, a Merry Christmas wish, a cup of hot chocolate and a Christmas cookie to go.

The kids eagerly served those who stopped by. Mary Evans, 95, and a longtime member of the Hamilton church, supported the youth. She shares,



*Anika Wendth displays nativity candles her Sabbath School created to sell as a fundraiser.*



*Peyton Marshall-Lett, Anika Wendth, Emmanuel Henneh and Charles Boampong are part of the Hamilton church Sabbath School that raised \$1,800 for storm relief.*

“It is wonderful that the kids are involved in helping where there is a need. I believe it is so important that children build a character of giving and kindness. I have been so blessed, and I support the church missions however I can.”

After a couple weeks of fundraising, the youth met on the first Sabbath of 2022 and shared their fundraising total with the congregation. All together, the students raised \$1,800 in donations for Adventist Community Services disaster relief efforts!

Parent Teresa Marshall-Lett shares, “It filled my heart with joy and hope to see my daughter and the other children participating in the fundraiser and displaying God’s love and caring for those in need.”

Kelly Wendth, Hamilton church member and Children’s Ministry leader, says, “We are grateful to the church for supporting the kids in their efforts to raise funds. Most importantly, we are in awe of how God blessed our efforts to help, by allowing us to raise an amount that surpassed all our expectations.”



# Pennsylvania Pen

## Does Public Evangelism Work?

Public evangelism doesn't always work if it's simply done as a stand-alone event. However, public evangelism done as part of the cycle of evangelism is still highly effective.

"Churches who purposefully practice the cycle of evangelism on a yearly basis have successful evangelistic series and are consistently growing," says Yves Monnier, Ministerial and Evangelism director. "These churches do not do a lot of haphazard church events throughout the year—then remember to do an evangelistic series every so many years. No, these churches faithfully do activities that connect them with the community and build momentum leading to regular public evangelism, the harvest, year after year."

One of these churches is the Pottsville church. Pottsville had not experienced growth for a long time, but a few years ago, the church leadership decided that they were no longer satisfied with that and embraced the cycle of evangelism as their blueprint for ministry going forward.

That meant making some changes in how the church did things. So, with some fear and trepidation, the church courageously forged ahead, and God blessed enormously. Attendance jumped from around 30 members to 66 members in just two years. Baptisms grew from one per year to between 10 to 12 in the last two years. Tithe also increased exponentially. These numbers reveal an amazing turnaround.

Reflecting on what was happening in her congregation, Lori Koch, the church clerk, made the observation: "The only thing that was going to make us grow was evangelism because we were stagnant for years. Otherwise, we were going to die."

Churches with a Christ-centered evangelism emphasis like the Pottsville church are less likely to face the problems that so often paralyze churches, adds Monnier. He notes the following from the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*: "When the [church] board devotes its first interests and highest energies to involving every member in proclaiming the good news and making disciples, most problems are alleviated or prevented, and a strong, positive

influence is felt in the spiritual life and growth of members" (p. 129).

Monnier reinforces, "If there ever was a time when public evangelism works, it is now." He says, people are searching for answers to life's big issues more than ever. Let's make sure that it is part of a carefully and prayerfully laid-out Christ-centered plan like the cycle of evangelism.

### POTTSVILLE CHURCH STATS

#### Attendance

- For years, the average attendance was 28 to 30 people.
- In 2018, the attendance jumped to 39 people.
- In 2019, 53 to 63 people were attending.
- In 2020, 66 were attending.
- In 2021, 66 people were coming, despite the pandemic.

#### Baptisms

- For 20 years leading up to 2018, there was one baptism per year.
- 2018 = 5 baptisms
- 2019 = 12 baptisms
- 2020 = 2 baptisms\*
- 2021 = 10 baptisms

#### Tithe

- 2017 = \$92,887
- 2018 = \$98,331
- 2019 = \$123,894
- 2020 = \$152,328
- 2021 = \$165,090

\*The church didn't participate in public evangelism in 2020.

## Daughter Overjoyed by Surprise Baptism

Rachel Ondimu and her family prayed for years that her stepfather, Courtney Cuffie, would accept Jesus and attend church with them.

"I've grown up with my stepfather since I was very little, and he's always been a kind and gentle man. He would drop my mom off at church every Sabbath, but we were always hopeful he would give his heart to the Lord," says Ondimu.

She, her mother, and two of her children, Obed and Ruhamah, recently attended an evangelistic series at the Allentown church, where the children decided they wanted to study for baptism.

As the family deepened their relationship with Jesus together, they prayed for Cuffie to accept Christ too. Regular interactions allowed the children to share scriptures and read Bible stories with their grandfather almost every day. The Holy Spirit quietly worked, and Cuffie's heart began to change.

Obed and Ruhamah were ready for baptism by the final Sabbath of the evangelistic series. That morning, Ondimu approached Carlyle Wildman, pastor of Allentown, to ensure everything was ready for her children. She asked how many were to be baptized that day. The list contained three names: Obed, Ruhamah and Courtney—her stepfather had decided to surprise his family that day.

"I was shocked and thrilled that we would celebrate my dad also giving his life to Jesus," Ondimu shares. "We prayed for him tirelessly, but it was God



*Courtney Cuffie (center) and Ruhamah and Obed celebrate their recent baptisms at the Allentown church.*

who really brought my father to Jesus and changed his heart."

Thirteen people were baptized as a result of the Allentown church's evangelistic series and eight more are continuing to prepare and study with volunteers. To learn more about opportunities for evangelism in your local church, visit [paconference.org/evangelism](http://paconference.org/evangelism).—*Natalie Lilly, Communication Intern*

## Attend Camp Meeting 2022: 'Unshakeable'



Mark your calendars for June 14–18, to hear author and speaker David Asscherick at the 2022 Pennsylvania Conference Camp Meeting, held on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg.

Join Asscherick as he takes attendees deep into God's Word to learn how to live "Unshakeable," even when the world seems to be falling apart. Asscherick has spent more than two decades traveling the globe preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. A speaker for Light Bearer's ministry, he is the cofounder of ARISE, a discipleship ministry that empowers people to be disciple-making disciples. He is also the author of *God in Pain*.

Learn more about seminars, children's activities, or register for lodging at [paconference.org/camp-meeting](http://paconference.org/camp-meeting).





# PotomacPeople

*growing healthy,  
disciple-making churches*

## Conference Welcomes New Director of Media

The Potomac Conference recently created a director of media position to further opportunities for spreading the gospel. “We operate in a high-tech, digital-media environment. We must use every tool available to reach today’s generation, providing them with opportunities to use their talents *beyond the walls* and expand the kingdom of God,” says Charles A. Tapp, president.

Richard Castillo will lead this new department. He recently served as vice president of Integrated Marketing and Communications at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Previous stints include the media pastor for the Sligo church in Takoma Park and the communication director for the Oklahoma Conference.

Working in coordination with the Office of Communication, Castillo will oversee the strategic growth and development of all multi-media platforms to support and promote the conference’s priorities.

Tapp says, “Having previously worked with Richard, I am confident that his unique skill set, along with his passion for ministry, will serve us well in our mission to grow healthy, disciple-making churches. A visionary, he will use his skills to highlight the various ways Potomac is moving *beyond the walls*. He will also serve as a consultant to our churches, schools and other conference institutions, as they work to build their media infrastructure.”

Castillo is married to Kara, a teacher at Takoma Adventist Preparatory School in Takoma Park. They have two daughters, Makala and Maya.



## Most Important Way to Draw People to Jesus

Anita Garcia Mercado lived in the Philippines and was raised a Roman Catholic. She served God in many ways there, ministering to others in their homes, in hospitals and in prisons. When her husband deserted the family, she was left to raise their three children as a single parent. Devastated by his absence, she consulted spiritists, mediums and “quack doctors,” trying to win her husband back with spells and rituals.

Her introduction to Adventism came when her daughter Marie married Junnie Ree Pagunsan. When Marie’s secret baptism was discovered, friction arose between mother and daughter. Years later, Marie and her husband invited Mercado to live with them in the United States.

For 15 years, she attended church on Sabbath with her family, listening as her son-in-law, now a pastor, shared the gospel. Still, Mercado continued to participate in Mass every Sunday. But moved by home worship discussions and Sabbath worship, Mercado was convicted and chose to be baptized on Christmas Day 2021.

“After all the years in ministry, preaching and sharing the gospel, it was so incredibly humbling to finally baptize my mother-in-law,” says Pagunsan. “It was the best Christmas gift and a testimony that being consistent in living the gospel is one of the most important ways to draw people to Jesus.”

*Pastor Junnie Ree Pagunsan baptizes his mother-in-law, “Annie,” alongside her daughter, Marie.*



PHOTOS BY DACHELE CUKE AND MARIE JEAN PAGUNSAN

## Hundreds Board the ‘Caravan of Hope’

The Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Ministries Department recently held its annual evangelistic campaign called “Caravan of Hope.” Every night for more than a week, the caravan made stops at different churches, bringing a message of hope to hundreds of families as they battled COVID-19, unemployment and turbulent family relationships.

International evangelist Alejandro Bullón was the featured speaker for the nine-night campaign. Bullón traveled from his home in Brazil to deliver Christ-centered messages on the importance of the resilience of a family. The theme of the evangelistic effort was “Jesus, Revive My Family.” Captivated attendees listened to Bullón’s practical applications for building one’s faith and implementing godly strategies in developing healthy families.

“Strengthening the family is essential,” says Rafael Soto, director of Hispanic Ministries for the conference. “It is important that we provide our members opportunities to grow in their faith and consecrate, or in some cases, reconsecrate themselves to a God who loves them unconditionally.”

More than 3,000 people braved the cold weather to attend meetings in Washington, D.C., and Maryland churches in Langley Park, Goshen and Wheaton. In Virginia, attendees poured into church facilities in Manassas, Newport News, Richmond, Dumfries and Alexandria. The services were live-streamed every night for those who could not make



*Pastor Obed Rosette baptizes Jesús Adonai Diaz at the Central Spanish church in Washington, D.C.*



*Pastor Alejandro Bullón speaks during the “Caravan of Hope” at the Wheaton (Md.) Spanish church.*

it to the in-person meetings. Nightly hosts Carolina Duran and Tatiana Ovalle and correspondents Carlo Duran and Williams Ovalle kept the more than 30,000 online viewers well informed as they interviewed participants and attendees.

In addition to the nightly preaching, attendees joined seminars on building and enhancing the dynamic of family relationships. Presenters Roger and Kathy Hernandez, Ministerial secretary and Evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union, respectfully, taught on finances, marriage and raising spiritually, emotionally healthy children.

“I was moved every night as Pastor Bullón preached Jesus and His saving grace,” says Jose Vazquez, vice president of Administration for the conference. “People are longing for a closer walk with God; they want to increase their faith and live a better life. The evidence of that was manifested as we witnessed many people with tears in their eyes responding to the nightly appeal. The Holy Spirit was certainly present in every meeting.”

When the caravan finished, 33 precious souls joined the family of God through baptism. In 2022, Hispanic Ministries will focus on several initiatives. Plans include more discipleship training for members and engaging second- and third-generation members in becoming more active in their churches.

PHOTOS COURTESY POTOMAC CONFERENCE HISPANIC MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT



# THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

## Student Receives Susan Berry Leadership Award

Senior Helmi Calles recently received the 2021 Susan Berry Leadership award at RingFest, held in Toledo, Ohio. The award recognizes one bell choir student each year in the North American Division who “demonstrates outstanding leadership in the art of handbells.” This is the second consecutive year

that a Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) student has received this award.

Calles has been a member of the La Sonnette Handbell Ensemble, the school’s advanced handbell choir, for three years. This year, she is the assistant director—a job description that includes helping select music, assigning parts, assisting during rehearsals and conducting some of the pieces.

She also conducted the handbell choir at Blue Mountain Elementary School in Hamburg, Pa. With minimal guidance from Eric Engen, BMA’s handbell director, Calles took charge of the program at the elementary school.

“Helmi is a very important part of the team that plans and promotes music activities at BMA and the Blue Mountain Academy church,” shares Flora Rivera, BMA music director.



*BMA student Helmi Calles leads a handbell choir at the nearby Blue Mountain Elementary School.*

Come with us

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To reach your dreams  
To face challenges  
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The BMA Experience is published in the *Visitor* by the Blue Mountain Academy ■ 2363 Mountain Road, Hamburg, PA 19526  
Phone: (484) 662-7000 ■ Fax: (484) 662-7001 ■ bma.us ■ Principal, Burney Culpepper ■ Editor, Esther Hernandez



## God Provides Miraculous Protection

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Highland View Academy (HVA) has experienced miraculous protection from the virus on campus and among its faculty and students.

In fact, HVA has been fully open and in person since fall 2020, without any student or teaching staff contracting the disease during their time on campus. School leaders thank God for providing His protection and allowing HVA to fully function within the CDC guidelines.

During the 2020–21 school year, faculty and staff followed proper CDC/state guidelines, including daily health and temperature checks, masks when not eating and social distancing within the classrooms and cafeteria. They cleaned daily and between classes as students moved from one subject to another. Students chose their café seating and stayed at their same table for each semester with two different lunch periods to accommodate necessary cleaning between student groups. The HVA community also prayed during school home-leaves and vacations that students would stay healthy while away from campus.

This school year, staff and students continued to follow health guidelines—this time with less restrictions but fully masked when not eating or participating in outdoor activities. Thanks to these procedures, students were once again able to participate in varsity sports programs, with visiting teams being encouraged to wear masks when arriving on campus. Proper protocols were put in place for cleaning during and after events.

Many prayers continue as HVA seeks to educate their students for eternity in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian high school setting. School leaders have found that being in person for schooling helps the students be fully engaged in their learning, provides the needed mental health safety nets that this pandemic demands and increases their growth in both spiritual and social areas.

“With God’s help, we have continued to increase student enrollment and the number of families we can serve in obtaining their Adventist Christian



education,” says Andrew Lay, HVA Marketing team member. “We invite new and older high school-aged students to consider joining us for this coming school year and enjoy the benefits of programs such as Campus Ministries, music, gymnastics, STEM and varsity sports.”

For more information on how to start your academy experience with HVA, please scan either of the QR codes below.





# the LEGACY

## OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

## My Reminder to Find Christ in Conflict

Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA) ends every calendar year with one of its most important and meaningful events—the Christmas program. With every year, this ministry increases in importance and becomes more memorable. The most recent program focused on the story of Joshua and Rahab and how they overcame struggles and conflicts.

Joshua faced conflict and self-doubt when God chose him to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death.

Rahab also faced conflict. She searched for a way to escape the things that trapped her. She heard about a God who led people through the Red Sea, and she wanted to believe in and discover who He was.

In the end, God used Rahab as a vessel to help the men who infiltrated Jericho on God's behalf and help Joshua complete his mission from God.

Both Joshua and Rahab were able to overcome doubts and successfully complete the tasks God gave them. This helped them believe in themselves and provided hope in situations where they may have felt helpless. Throughout both of their stories, as they put their trust in Him, God helped them.

The production process also brought the students and faculty involved into a deeper understanding of the meaning of the story. Because of COVID-19, we were unable to perform in front of a live audience as we had in previous years. The main cast was required to receive a negative COVID-19 test before performing, and the remaining cast members had to wear masks under their costumes. The AV team put in



*Hannah Headley ('26), portraying Rahab, shows her desire to follow a different path in the streets of Jericho.*

many long hours setting up lighting and running electrical and HDMI cables to connect cameras to the streaming computers. Anna-Gayle Hemmings, seventh-grade homeroom teacher and high school biology teacher, also spent countless hours designing and preparing costumes for the cast members. On each level, from students and staff to faculty and volunteers, there were difficulties that had to be overcome.

This story and the process of producing it provides a reminder that we should place our trust in God. When we feel like it is impossible to accomplish certain goals or leave something behind that causes us pain, we need to believe in God and understand that He will aid us in difficult times.

—Joseph Atalaya ('23)



*To view the 2021 Christmas Program, other archived events and programs or future programs, please scan the code or visit <https://youtu.be/5Hco3mEyrCs>.*

# PFA POST



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

## Academy Recognizes Outstanding Student Performance

Every quarter, Pine Forge Academy (PFA) staff hold an Honors Convocation ceremony. This ceremony—where students are recognized for their academic efforts—encourages the pursuit of excellence in all areas of the high school career. Students receive pins and medallions for individual and collective academic achievements, with awards going to the class and dormitory with the highest grade point average (GPA).

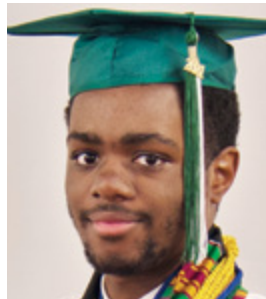
This healthy competition between the Kimbrough (women) and Handy halls (men) is one of the highlights of the program. Students eagerly await hearing which dormitory will get to display the coveted “Principal’s Award for Academic Excellence” trophy in their dorm office for the quarter.

For the 2021–22 fall semester, Kimbrough Hall ladies stole the trophy from Handy Hall males, who had ended the 2020–21 school year as the most outstanding dormitory. The senior class of 2022 led the school with the highest class GPA. Approximately 30 percent of the entire student population received highest honors (3.75–4.00 with no grade below “B”) or high honors (3.45–3.74 with no grade below “B”).

Staff also highlighted other notable students during the ceremony. Justyce Goode ('21), pictured right, received a perfect score of 800 on the math section of the SAT, and scoring in the 97th percentile.



Iyanu Miller-Tahir ('21) scored in the 94th percentile on the SAT. Ethan Harris ('23), pictured left, received a PSAT/NMSQT score that placed him in the 96th percentile. Four-year senior Salea Parker ('22), who has maintained the Principal’s List status with a 4.0 GPA,



Students from the first quarter 2021–22 Principal’s List: (back row) Danyel Brewer ('22), Salea Parker ('22), Robert Holloway ('22), Christophe Whyte ('24); (front row) Maylin Chavers ('25), Darby Holder ('25), Samantha Campbell ('22), Hayden Reynolds ('23), pictured with Principal H. Clifford Reynolds, III.

says, “PFA has kept me grounded and disciplined and has challenged me to do my best academically and personally.”

According to a recent study from the National Center for Education Statistics for public high schools, the 2017 national dropout rate for African American students is 6.5 percent with an adjusted cohort graduation rate of 80 percent. The graduation rate at PFA has remained 100 percent during this time.

With a median GPA of 3.27 for the first quarter of 2021–22, this makes PFA a wise choice for any family looking for a supportive, safe and caring environment for their child to learn, excel and receive recognition for their work. PFA is proud to offer students an environment where they can find the love of Christ while growing spiritually, socially and academically, say school leaders.



# Spotlight on Spencerville

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

LOVE TO LEARN  
LIVE TO SERVE  
ALL FOR CHRIST

## Our Community Keeps the School Strong



Living during a pandemic is not something any of us ever expected to experience, but here we are, two years into the COVID-19 crisis. We each have a unique perspective and have been impacted in different ways—none of us have been untouched.

Those who work in education have had to find ways to prioritize academics in classrooms that do not allow appropriate spacing or that have poor ventilation. They work to be heard clearly while wearing a mask and struggle to understand what the students are saying. Teachers and students have had to become efficient in online platforms and teaching/learning methods, able to move between online education and the protocols of campus teaching with little to no notice.

Plant management teams have added sanitation stations, installed additional air purification systems and sanitized the building, while cleaning teams have had to follow stringent cleaning protocols. School nurses are bombarded with questions, work with the county to manage contact tracing and are expected to keep schools COVID-free. Business teams are balancing extra costs while trying to manage

*Spencerville church pastors Chad Stuart and Matthew Piersanti participate at the pie-throwing booth at the SAA Home & School Association's re-imagined annual Fall Festival fundraiser.*



*The SAA community gathers at the flagpole on the first day of school to celebrate and pray together.*

*Facility Manager Ken Roe and his team install easily accessible sanitation stations throughout the school to make the building as safe as possible.*



budgets. Administrators juggle the needs of each stakeholder group while trying to keep up with constantly changing rules.

The Home & School officers have had to look for creative ways to host fundraising activities and safely bring people together. Parents worry about their child's academic, physical and mental health while juggling work in uncertain times. Pastors work to encourage and support community members.

Education worldwide has been impacted by this pandemic, but we are blessed with a God who continues to show Himself and share His love.

We want to recognize and thank the Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) community for the many ways they have worked together to keep our school strong and for pushing through challenges with grace and positivity. We are so proud of our faculty, staff, students, families and community! We appreciate your dedication, resourcefulness, contributions and prayers!—*Tissiana Bowerman, Principal*

PHOTOS BY DENISSE HERNANDEZ, HEIDI WETMORE AND ROBERT A. MARTINEZ

# SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY<sup>.ORG</sup>

# CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS



## Mark Your Calendar for an Open House

Whether you have a brand-new kindergartener or an experienced high schooler, allow us to introduce our Spring Valley Academy (SVA) family to yours! Visit our beautiful campus, meet our faculty and staff and have your questions answered. We can't wait to meet you!

### WELCOME WEDNESDAYS

**March 9** ■ 8:15–11 a.m.

**April 13** ■ 8:15–11 a.m.

**May 11** ■ 8:15–11 a.m.

### OPEN HOUSE

**March 9** ■ 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

- No RSVP necessary
- For all students, grades K–11
- Those who attend will receive an admission discount coupon
- Meet the SVA administration, teachers and staff
- See SVA in action!

### KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

**March 9** ■ 2–3:30 p.m.

- RSVP requested
- For all students, ages 4–5
- Our “Little Stallion Kick-off” begins in the multi-purpose room with fun, kid-friendly activities
- Parents will visit the classroom and be given an introduction to our early childhood program
- Ask questions, get answers!

### STEP-UP DAY

**May 11** ■ 1–3 p.m.

- For all students, grades K–7
- Students will “step up” and enjoy an orientation with their future teacher

### ACADEMY DAY

**May 11** ■ 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m.

- For eighth-graders currently attending SVA and all visiting students, grades 8–11
- Experience different classroom settings
- Academic scholarship testing
- Fun scavenger hunt after school
- Attend a Dayton Dragons game and dinner in luxury box (*approximate return to SVA for parent pick-up is 9:30 p.m.*)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: (937) 433-0790

Email: [viswetnam@springvalleyacademy.org](mailto:viswetnam@springvalleyacademy.org)

Visit: [springvalleyacademy.com](http://springvalleyacademy.com)



*Expanded high school campus coming in 2022–23!*

Connections is published in the *Visitor* by Spring Valley Academy ■ 1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville, OH 45458  
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ [springvalleyacademy.org](http://springvalleyacademy.org) ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam





# IMPACT Shenandoah

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

## ROK Vespers Features Duawne Starling '88

Recently, the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) campus family gathered in the church for a vespers—not just any vespers, however. This was the Reach Our Kids (ROK) program. ROK is the largest ministry of the New Market church, focused on supporting and loving high school students. Volunteer church members referred to as “ROK friends” or “ROK families” have been blessing SVA students for many years by providing a church friend to pray for them, send notes and gifts or just help them get through high school.

Each year, ROK puts on several events for ROK friends and their students that usually involve worship, food and fun. One of these events is the Fall Meet and Greet vespers where students have the opportunity to meet their ROK friends and spend the evening with them. (This is often a surprise!) There is always an engaging speaker and lots of yummy food.

This year, the speaker was Duawne Starling ('88), a Seventh-day Adventist singer, actor and model. He shared his testimony with the group with music interspersed throughout. Attendees shared it was a great blessing and was especially fun for the students because he is an SVA alumnus.

After the vespers portion of the evening, the students and their ROK friends walked to the fellowship hall and church lawn to enjoy pie, hot drinks, candy corn, apples and caramel and more.

Junior Alle Jackson says, “The ROK vespers was so lovely! Mr. Starling has an amazing voice, and I enjoyed listening to him and getting to talk with him afterward. And of course the food was delicious: pie, apples and candy corn galore!”

A huge thank you to ROK director Tammy White and the other ROK coordinators who made this special vespers such a great success.

—Ellie Anderson ('23)



*Left to right: Shenandoah Valley Academy students and alumni Nicanor Montiel ('25), Jared Thompson ('88), David Delfish ('23), Duawne Starling ('88) and Traci Brossfield ('88) enjoy visiting with each other at a special ROK vespers.*

*Come home to Shenandoah for the greatest reunion this side of heaven!*

**Shenandoah  
Valley Academy  
Alumni Weekend**  
*April 15-17, 2022*

**Honor Classes:**

1932 1942 1952 1962 1972 1982  
1992 1997 2002 2012 2022

Contact [janel.ware@sva-va.org](mailto:janel.ware@sva-va.org) 540-720-2202 to make honor class reunion arrangements.



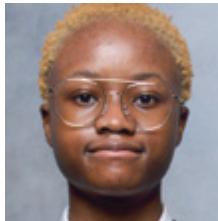
# www.ta.edu TATO TODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## Art Program Nurtures Young Artists

When most people think of visual artists, names such as Michelangelo, Picasso, Van Gogh, Warhol, Monet and DaVinci come to mind. Mentioned less often are names such as Frida Kahlo, Elizabeth Catlett or Yayoi Kusama. Unfortunately, most people can identify at least a few male artists but struggle to name talented females in the same creative space. Takoma Academy's (TA) art program seeks to nurture young artists so they can inspire others, whether it be in the marketplace or through ministry. Three of these students express the genre of art they love and create.

Freshman Shaiel Palmer is a member of the school's art club. She is a digital artist who receives commission for her work that she posts on social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok or Discord. Buyers use her work for group/game icons and in-game pictures on Roblox or similar gaming

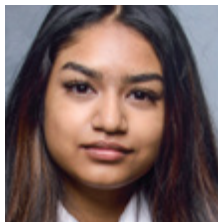


platforms. Palmer plans to attend Oakwood University (Ala.) on a pre-med track in pursuit of a career in anesthesiology.

With so many tech companies venturing toward the "metaverse" and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), a type of digital ledger, Palmer could find her artwork becoming more than just a side job. She

hopes it will help pay for her education and inspire others around her, as she's been inspired by artists like Hirohiko Araki, Steve Lacy and Daisuke Igarashi.

Junior Colette Kalapala is a student in TA's graphic design class. This class has helped sharpen her skills as a digital artist. Kalapala has been creating traditional art with paint since she was a little girl and recently ventured into digital art, which she believes is the future for young entrepreneurs.



She displays her projects on the Painter app, Instagram and TikTok.

She plans to study medicine at the University of Maryland or George Washington University (D.C.). The child of Indian immigrants, Kalapala looks to art as a way to express herself, finding inspiration through her culture, music and life experiences.

When asked about a possible career in art, she replied, "I hope to find a side job or hustle that will allow me to use my artistic talents. I hope to inspire others to draw or express whatever is beautiful to them and create masterpieces!"

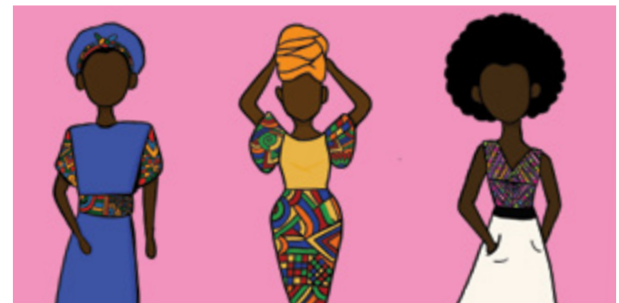
When describing her passion for art, sophomore Cai Smith says, "I've been making art for as long as I can remember. I illustrate stories and pictures for community service. Sometimes, people will commission artwork from me." She usually gains inspiration



from things that she enjoys like TV shows or music artists.

She also creates the artwork for *Agape's Neighborhood*, an online animated show presented by the Youth Department at Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md.

The show was recently recognized as the "Best Non-church Stream" by the AEC in August 2021, highlighting the importance of visual/creative arts in ministry.—*Shaun Robinson*



# wgts 91.9 news



## Making a Difference at the Drive-Thru

Taking a few minutes to show kindness. And a way to help and encourage each other on a Thursday through our Hands and Heart ministry with the weekly WGTS 91.9 Drive-Thru Difference. Whether you pay for someone behind you at the drive-thru or find another way to brighten someone's day, you can be a part of this effort to make our communities better. This story from Brenda is a great example of how small acts of kindness can make a real difference and give you a blessing so you can bless others too.

*A few months ago, our family was going through a little bit of a struggle and I went to pay for my groceries—mostly things for my children—and my credit card was declined. The gentlemen behind me, when he saw that I was feeling flustered and upset, he offered to pay for it, as I was asking the clerk to remove some of the items. I broke down and started crying, because he didn't realize how much of a difference he made in my life at that moment, that he offered to pay for something, and for my children. It changed my life, and I felt I couldn't thank him enough. Then a few weeks ago, I was able to help the lady in front of me at the store buy a pack of diapers and formula for her child. It's so crazy how God blesses you so you can bless somebody else.*

Be a part of the WGTS 91.9 Drive-Thru Difference in 2022—you can download the note from our website and be generous your next time at the drive-thru.

## Highlights of 2021



**400** games of Bible or Not with Johnny & Stacey  
Exploring and learning scripture in a creative way

### WGBZ 88.3

signed on the air in June and covers the Eastern Shore with the music and programming of WGTS 91.9.



**8,760** hours of life-changing programming



### 52 Health Tips

at 7:40 a.m. on Wednesday with an Adventist HealthCare professional

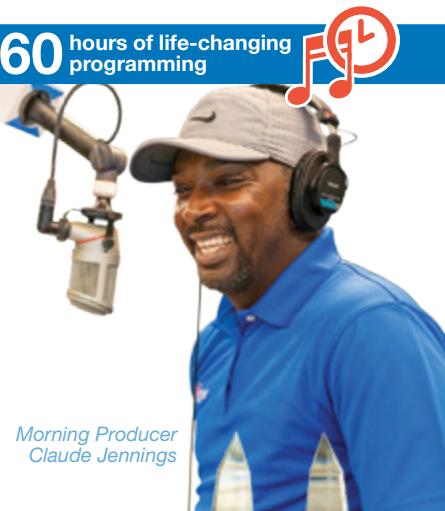


WGTS producer Tom Miner and producer Claude Jennings's son, Manny, help raise over **\$18,000** for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive.



**1,602,654**

Prayers prayed by listeners for other listeners on When We Pray since we began the ministry in 2011.



Morning Producer Claude Jennings

2099 Gaither Road, Suite 105  
Rockville, MD 20850  
202.902.6000  
wgts919.com

WGTS received Marconi awards for "Religious Station of the Year" from the National Association of Broadcasters, as well as "Radio Podcast of the Year."





## Kettering College Expands Nursing Program with an Eye Toward Affordability, Flexibility, and Career Fulfillment

by Courtney Dove

There are more ways than ever to earn a nursing degree at Kettering College—with expanded options for part-time study, in-person and some online courses, and a new accelerated track for those who want to complete their degree in as little as 15 months.

“The pandemic has highlighted the need for well-trained, compassionate bedside nurses. And by expanding our nursing program, we hope to bring more people into the profession as soon as possible,” says Paula Reams, RN, PhD, dean of Nursing at Kettering College. “Our four nursing tracks provide options for people in many stages of life, with added flexibility to fit their educational pursuits around their job and family responsibilities.”

This year, the college is doubling its Nursing program capacity to 250 students per semester.

In addition to expanding its program offerings, Kettering College is focusing on affordability, Reams says. For example, the college recently lowered tuition for the online RN-to-BSN track. Eligible Nursing students who work 20 hours a week at a Kettering Health facility receive a 30% tuition discount and a \$7,000 annual tuition credit. These savings are available to Kettering College students working in any benefit eligible role at Kettering Health. The goal is to help students cover as much of their costs as possible so that when they graduate, they have little to no debt.

Nurses who graduate from Kettering College will be in high demand, earning an average salary of over \$65,000. Additionally, the college works closely with Kettering Health to maximize employment opportunities for its graduates. Over half of the college’s 2021 Nursing graduates obtained jobs within Kettering Health.

“Kettering Health will always be looking for nurses who have a heart for serving others, practice exceptional care, and exhibit God’s love with every interaction,” says Jennifer Schull, MHA, BSN, RN, executive vice president and chief nursing officer at Kettering Health.

**To learn more about the Kettering College Nursing program and degree tracks, visit [kc.edu/nursing](https://kc.edu/nursing).**

### Our Nursing degree tracks include

- A new, full-time **accelerated BSN track (A-BSN)** for college graduates who have fulfilled specific prerequisite courses and want to earn their nursing degree in four semesters.
- A **prelicensure BSN (BSN-P) track** for recent high school graduates, which can be part-time (five years) or full-time (three years).
- An **LPN-to-BSN track** for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) pursuing a BSN degree—available part-time (five years) and full-time (three years).
- An online **RN-to-BSN track** for nurses with an associate degree or equivalent who are already working in the field (students can take up to five years to complete this track).



# WAU ENTERS AGREEMENT FOR DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW



**H**ighly qualified students at Washington Adventist University now have an opportunity for early entry into the University of Baltimore School of Law (UB Law), under an agreement between the two schools.

At Washington Adventist University (WAU) we are committed to harnessing the unique opportunities of learning at our nation's capital to engage minds and transform lives, so that citizens of our world's diverse communities are enriched in new and awesome ways. It is for this and many other reasons that we are excited about entering into a partnership with UB Law, so that our students from any of our disciplines can, with intentionality, work to meet and exceed the admission criteria for successful matriculation at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

After successfully completing 90 semester hours of study at WAU, students who gain admission to the law school would be able to complete the undergraduate degree requirements by earning 30 semester hours of law study. This means an individual could complete college and law school in six years rather than seven, if attending full-time, or seven years instead of eight, if attending law school on a part-time basis.

Founded in 1925, the University of Baltimore School of Law provides a rigorous and practical legal education, combining doctrinal coursework and community-based learning to ensure that its graduates are exceptionally well prepared to practice law. The University of Baltimore is a member of the University System of Maryland and comprises the College of Public Affairs, the Merrick School of Business, UB Law and the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences.

This is the most recent of over 50 academic and nonacademic partnerships we have established to enhance the learning opportunities for our students. We are intentional in creating educational and workplace pathways for our valued students. One of our many assets is our location, the nation's capital. It provides a dynamic extension of the WAU learning community. We are able to bridge the gap between school and a potential workplace for our students by requiring an internship for degree completion.

THIS IS WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY!



**Weymouth Spence, President**



## WAU Welcomes New Employees



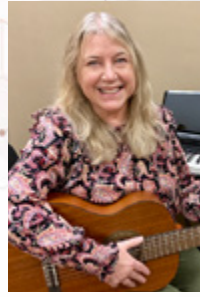
### Everett Wiles

Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communication

- MA in Communication from NYIT
- Over 25 years experience in media and media management
- Award winning Producer and Director
- Over 20 years experience in higher education
- Former General Manager of NCU Media Group at Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica
- Former Department Chair of Communication

Studies at Northern Caribbean University

- Former Professor at Andrews University
- Produced "3AM: Morning is Coming" series for Hope Channel International with approximately 100,000 views per episode on YouTube



### Alicia Barksdale

Director of Music Therapy

- Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University
- Taught at Howard Community College and Towson University
- Governor appointee on the Maryland State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing-Aid Dispensers, Speech Language Pathologists and Music Therapists
- Specialized Training and Certified in Neurological Music Therapy Techniques
- Developed and implemented music therapy programs for students in non-public special education schools and taught in Maryland public schools as a choral and general music educator
- Published author in journals and textbooks



### Duaa Elzeney

Vice President for Enrollment Management

- MA in Political Science from Loyola University
- BA in Business (Digital Marketing) from Calvin University
- Has 18 years experience in Education Technology, Higher Education and IT Project Management
- Has a passion for higher education and for youth to attain knowledge



### Simonique Dietz

Advancement Service Specialist

- BA in Journalism and Digital Media from Edinboro University
- Over 15 years serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a Canvasser Program Coordinator and Recruiter for the Review and Herald
- Worked as a Photographer for the NBA
- Worked as a Journalist and Videographer for the *Erie Reader* in Erie, PA
- Worked as a Digital Producer for *Erie News Now* in Erie, PA
- Worked on many fundraising campaigns for various Adventist churches and organizations

## Alumni Weekend April 1 - 3 2022 SCHEDULE



# REFLECT, RESET, RECONNECT

### Friday, April 1st

- Cherry Blossom/DC Tour – 10:00 AM EDT (meet in the parking lot across Wilkinson Hall)
- President's Reception – 5:00 PM EDT Votaw House
- Vesper Program – 7:00 PM EDT Singspiration Concert

### Saturday, April 2nd

- Edyth T. James Department of Nursing Breakfast – 8:00 AM (Nursing Alumni Only)
  - Sabbath Service – 11:00 AM EDT Speaker: TBD
  - Homecoming Fellowship Luncheon/Class Photos – 12:30 PM EDT Wilkinson Hall
  - WAU New England Youth Ensemble – 5:00 PM EDT (location TBD)
  - Alumni Awards Dinner – 7:30 PM EDT
- Join us for a night celebrating our distinguished Alumni (Maggiano's: Bethesda, MD)

### Sunday, April 3rd

- Alumni Business Meeting – 10:30 AM EDT Virtual Alumni Business meeting
  - Acro Airs Home Show – 5:00 PM EDT WAU Commons
- April 1st – April 30th**
- Virtual 5K Run/Walk
- Registration information available at [www.wau.edu/alumni-weekend-2022-schedule/](http://www.wau.edu/alumni-weekend-2022-schedule/)



Honoring the Life & Legacy of

# Lucy Byard

On Sept. 22, 1943, Lucille "Lucy" Byard, a Black Seventh-day Adventist member, was turned away from the Washington Sanitarium because of the color of her skin.

Seventy-three years later, when Terry Forde, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare, first learned of Ms. Byard in a phone call in 2016, he was heartbroken to hear how a person seeking healing from her faith community was not given equitable care. Mr. Forde resolved to do two things. First, he knew he needed to better understand Ms. Byard's story and how racial inequities still exist in our community. Secondly, he pledged to take concrete actions to ensure that Adventist HealthCare was truly fulfilling its Mission to all people to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.

To learn Ms. Byard's story, Mr. Forde connected with key individuals including Benjamin Baker, Adventist author and historian, and the late Henry Fordham, former president of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists – people who knew the history and were willing to speak about it. Next, an Advisory Committee was formed of Seventh-day Adventist leaders from the Columbia Union, Regional Conferences and local clergy as well as Adventist HealthCare executives. Then a Lucy Byard Steering Committee met to determine how Ms. Byard's history could serve as a constant reminder of the many stories similar to her experience as well as an inspiration on how we are called to serve as a channel for the unconditional love of God. They decided on two major initiatives – a visual testament and an empowering scholarship.

***I needed to thank others who really understood this history and were willing to speak about it, to learn about it so that we never give up on ensuring God's love for humanity and healing is meant for all people."***

*– Terry Forde, President & CEO, Adventist HealthCare*

## Honoring the Past

For the first initiative, the committees commissioned a portrait of Lucy Byard to be placed in one of the most visible areas of Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center, the recently constructed hospital built to continue the health services first started at the Washington Sanitarium. The portrait will be featured in the connecting walkway between the medical pavilion and the hospital – a place where guests, patients and staff can stop, look, read and reflect on Ms. Byard's story.

*Continued on the next page*



## Who was Lucy Byard?

Lucy Byard was a devout Seventh-day Adventist woman who by 1943 had developed liver cancer together with cachexia, known also as "wasting disease."

Wishing to be treated in a Seventh-day Adventist hospital, and with an introduction from a renowned church leader, Ms. Byard traveled with her husband, James, from her home in the Jamaica neighborhood of Queens, New York City to Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park, MD – the first of the hospitals that now make up the Adventist HealthCare system.

As told through the work of Adventist author and historian Benjamin Baker, staff members became aware that Ms. Byard was a Black woman upon her arrival at the Washington Sanitarium. Because of the color of her skin, the Washington Sanitarium did not provide Ms. Byard with the care she needed and she was transferred to Freedman's Hospital, approximately six miles away.

Ms. Byard was treated at Freedmen's Hospital, now Howard University Hospital. She died 38 days later.

*Learn more in the March 2019 edition of the Columbia Union Visitor*





Artist Simmie Knox (left) and Ms. Lisa Sweeney Walker, a descendant of Lucy Byard, at the Lucy Byard Recognition Event on Dec. 10, 2021.

## Lucy Byard – Continued

After a nationwide search, the portrait was commissioned to be painted by Simmie Knox, a respected teacher and portrait artist of many well-known personalities, including a sitting U.S. president, a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, congresspersons and state senators. Mr. Knox is also the first Black American artist to receive a presidential portrait commission. At the presentation event, Mr. Knox discussed how portraits make "a special statement" and that this portrait offered the potential for "a moment of healing." Signage detailing Ms. Byard's story will be placed near the portrait as part of Adventist HealthCare's public commitment to serving others with respect and compassion.

### Empowering the Future

The second initiative to honor Lucy Byard is the creation of a scholarship in her name to help address racial disparities and economic inequities. The scholarship is both a merit-based and needs-based award with priority given to people of color pursuing undergraduate nursing education.

Adventist HealthCare has committed to providing \$500,000 to fund the program for its first five years, with the intent to establish an endowment to fund the program well into the future. In its inaugural year, 2022, Adventist HealthCare will award scholarships to three students who are in their second year of a nursing track and starting the clinical portion of their program.

This scholarship is an important part of the broader commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion within Adventist HealthCare, which seeks to provide a world-class patient experience to every person, every time. But perhaps most significantly, this scholarship helps honor Ms. Byard by creating a legacy of compassionate nurses to provide equitable care for all people seeking community and healing.

### Reflections from Leaders

at the Lucy Byard Recognition Event  
held on Dec. 10, 2021

"I'm really proud today to be a part of the Columbia Union, and part of a healthcare system that recognizes it's time to set the record right."

– **Dave Weigley**, President, Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Chair, Adventist HealthCare Board of Directors

"To come together in recognition of Lucy Byard, who symbolizes the experience of so many African Americans, to commend her life and legacy is extraordinary, especially in a day and age of so much divisiveness and so much racial insensitivity and so much inequality. I appreciate the significant efforts to acknowledge the past and to bring forth in constructive and tangible ways activities and programs to help validate the worth of all people."

– **G. Alexander Bryant**, President, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

"The recognition of Lucy Byard is an important step in helping people understand that Seventh-day Adventists, not just the institution, but all of us, must truly follow in the steps of Christ and understand what it means to offer respect and dignity to all."

– **Ted N.C. Wilson**, President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

"It is most appreciated that we can stand here today and not only acknowledge our painful past, but more importantly, let the world know that we are making an honest and good faith attempt to move beyond that past."

– **Peter Palmer**, President, Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## A Need That Is Never Ending

By Christina Keresoma

Many of us take for granted an everyday item that is readily available: water. Our homes have water, whether tap water or filtered water, or we have bottled water delivered to our doors. But every few seconds, somewhere in the world, a child five years old or younger dies because he or she does not have access to clean water, food, or basic medicines.

Each year, an estimated 1.6 million children under the age of 5 die from contaminated water. The all-volunteer nonprofit organization RipplAffect believes that helping others gain access to sustainable, clean drinking water has the potential to save countless lives, especially children's.

RipplAffect was inspired by a miracle in the life of Narcisa Mikov, who was cured of cancer through prayer. Since her healing, she has found purpose in helping people around the world access sustainable, clean water, thereby saving lives as a way to thank God for his miraculous healing in her life.

The dream of RipplAffect started in 2016 and has taken off like wildfire. The Adventist community, along with the Greater Dayton community, has jumped in with full support from Spring Valley Academy, local Adventist churches, Kettering Health, and surrounding businesses. So far, people in Kenya, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Yemen, Uganda, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, the United States, and (soon) the Philippines have received water filters to help purify unhealthy water from watering holes or water supplies after being hit by natural disasters. Over 33,000 people have benefited from receiving a filtration system.

At the beginning of some projects, the funds needed to cover costs have seemed daunting, but God has blessed each project. RipplAffect has secured a matching grant of \$50,000 and the donations have miraculously come in each time.



RipplAffect has seen tremendous need due to poverty and natural disasters. They are now building a community of monthly donors so that they can respond to natural disasters quickly.

*"Getting in to help right away and bring clean water can save so many lives,"*

– Narcisa Mikov

Please join RipplAffect's growing group of generous monthly donors by visiting [rippלאffect.org](http://rippלאffect.org) and dive deeper into this all-volunteer nonprofit humanitarian organization. Many of us wonder how we can make an impact around the world to save lives. It can start with our most basic necessity: water.

## Treating Their First Lutathera Patient

A team of employees from Pharmacy, Cancer Care, Nursing, Nuclear Medicine, and Radiation Safety trained for and treated their first Lutathera patient at Kettering Cancer Care.

Lutathera is a unique treatment for patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. The team uses PET imaging to locate the cancer and then Lutathera to treat the tumors on a cellular level.



## Advanced Technology Now Offered at Kettering Health Hamilton

Kettering Health Hamilton is expanding access to advanced surgical and breast health technology. The medical center recently added a da Vinci Xi® Surgical System and a new 3D mammogram machine.

The robotic-assisted da Vinci Xi® Surgical System is used in minimally invasive surgery for several areas, including general surgery. It helps reduce post-operative pain, scarring to the body, blood loss, and the risk of infection. The system also promotes quicker recovery.

The GE Pristina 3D mammography system captures high-quality images while reducing radiation exposure. The system also enhances the patient's comfort by offering flexible positioning and self-controlled breast tissue compression.

"By adding these cutting-edge technologies, we're ensuring people have access to high-quality surgical and breast care where they live," said Dr. Marcus Romanello, chief medical officer at Kettering Health Hamilton.

*"It's our mission to serve the community by providing excellent healthcare."*



## VISITOR ADVERTISING AND SERVICES

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## EMPLOYMENT

### ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Come join us in our mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing.

Honored as a  
Washington Post  
Top Workplace in 2021  
and ranked as one of  
Forbes Best-in-State  
Employers in 2020 and 2021.

Learn more and apply at:  
[AdventistHealthCare.com/  
Careers](http://AdventistHealthCare.com/Careers)

**ADVENTIST INFORMATION MINISTRY** is seeking an operations supervisor to manage daily operations of our evangelistic contact center. This person will work to coordinate schedules, hire student workers, monitor and create reports and more. Full-time position in Berrien Springs, Mich. Full description: [callaim.org/employment](http://callaim.org/employment). Contact Brent Hardinge, [brentharding@adventistinfo.org](mailto:brentharding@adventistinfo.org), for more information.

**RN/DELEGATING NURSE:** Elternhaus Assisted Living is a special place for seniors, and we're looking for a key leader to help keep it that way. Elternhaus is a 23-bed, Adventist family-owned and -operated assisted living home near Columbia, Md. As our DRN, you'll be more than a nurse. You'll be giving your attention to the overall well-being of our residents,

coordinating their medical care and maintaining excellent communication with their family members. Perhaps most important, you will be joining our mission to provide a deeply Christian environment that will feel comfortable and safe for our Christian residents, many of whom are Seventh-day Adventists. If you're ready to explore this opportunity, please contact Tim Mayer at (240) 286-3635. Learn more at [elternhausalf.com](http://elternhausalf.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**INTERESTED IN A MINISTERING CAREER?** Considered Massage Therapy? With our hybrid program, in seven months you can be prepared to be a licensed therapist, four months online and three months on campus. Why not consider Black Hills School of Massage, the only Adventist massage school in the country! Call (423) 710-4873, (605) 255-4101 or visit [bhhec.org](http://bhhec.org).

## 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% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

**NEED A REBOOT POST-COVID** or want to enhance your immune system and strengthen your resistance? Come to the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, and enjoy being pampered with infrared Sauna, Russian steam bath, jacuzzi, massage, great plant-based food and more. Call today at (605) 255-4101 or visit [bhhec.org](http://bhhec.org).

**DON'T JUST RETIRE,** live with purpose at Fletcher Park Inn, an independent living retirement community, located on the campus of Fletcher Academy near Hendersonville, N.C. Join our family, take part in the many opportunities for staying active, volunteering, making new friends and living with a purpose. Call to find out more about our apartment and villa homes, (828) 209-6930, and ask for our marketing department, or visit [fletcherparkinn.com](http://fletcherparkinn.com).

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

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

**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](http://elternhausalf.com). Elternhaus also offers a great work environment for Adventist caregivers, LPNs and RNs. Call Tim Mayer, (240) 286-3635.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

### QUADRENNIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth regular quadrennial and eighteenth regular constituency session of the Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene Sunday, April 10, 2022, at 9 a.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229.

The purpose of this meeting is for receiving reports, the election of officers, departmental directors, and pertinent committees for the ensuing quadrennial and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Each organized church within the conference is entitled to be represented by duly appointed delegates chosen on a basis of one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof.

Marvin C. Brown, III, *President*  
Joel E. Johnson, *Executive Secretary*  
Keisha A. Stubbs-Bone, *Treasurer*

### ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS QUADRENNIAL CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth regular quadrennial and eighteenth regular constituency session of the Allegheny West Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene Sunday, April 10, 2022, at 9 a.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, OH 43229.

The delegates to Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Marvin C. Brown, III, *President*  
Joel E. Johnson, *Executive Secretary*  
Keisha A. Stubbs-Bone, *Treasurer*

### CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconference. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may

# Bulletin Board

properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article III, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each 500 church members or major fraction thereof.

Jerry Lutz, *President*  
Andre Hastick, *Secretary*

## CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconference at 11 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Jerry Lutz, *President*  
Andre Hastick, *Secretary*

## HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY FIFTH QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the fifth quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 22, 2022, by videoconference at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Jerry Lutz, *President*  
Harry Janetzko, *Secretary*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY** (BMA) will be hosting the 66th annual Alumni Weekend, April 22–24. Alexander Archer, Class of 2012, will be the guest speaker for church services. Honor classes: 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 will be recognized in addition to the classes from Lake Ariel and Philadelphia academies. Please view the BMA website, at [bma.us](http://bma.us), for details and updates.

## OBITUARIES

**BLACHOWSKI, Richard "Rich" A.**, born May 13, 1945, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died December 13, 2019. He was the son of the late Walter Carl and Mildred Drout Blachowski. He was a very active member of the Gettysburg (Pa.) church and school where he served on the school board and was treasurer. Following high school, Rich entered the U.S. Army serving for 20 years. He served in Germany, then two tours in Vietnam, a year in Turkey, three years back in Germany and finally at Fort Devens, Mass. Following retirement from the service, he

worked for a time at Lowe's in Frederick, Md. But for the last 20 years, he was employed at S & S RV Service until he fully retired. Rich is survived by his wife, Ardis Mae Jones Blachowski; his son, Karl E. Blachowski of Fairfield, Pa.; his two sisters, Nancy Blachowski and Karen Wozzynski. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Blachowski.

**KOVALSKI, Ruthe (Hirsch)**, born November 8, 1929, in Jersey City, N.J.; died August 14, 2019, in Metuchen, N.J. She attended Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University), in Takoma Park, Md., and graduated from the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, in Takoma Park, Md., in 1952. She worked as a registered nurse her entire career. Ruthe was a member of the New Brunswick (N.J.) church and most recently the Lake Nelson church in Piscataway, N.J. Her husband, Peter Kovalski, and brothers Arthur and Randolph Hirsch predeceased her. She is survived by two sons, Ken (Becky) Kovalski of Collegedale, Tenn., and Peter J. Kovalski of Metuchen, N.J.; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

# Sunset Calendar

	Mar 4	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 29
Baltimore	6:01	6:08	7:16	7:22	7:29	7:36	7:43	7:50	7:57
Cincinnati	6:33	6:40	7:47	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:15	8:21	8:28
Cleveland	6:20	6:28	7:36	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:14	8:21
Columbus	6:26	6:34	7:41	7:48	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:17	8:24
Jersey City	5:50	5:58	7:05	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:35	7:42	7:49
Norfolk	6:01	6:08	7:14	7:20	7:27	7:33	7:39	7:45	7:51
Parkersburg	6:21	6:28	7:35	7:42	7:49	7:56	8:03	8:10	8:17
Philadelphia	5:55	6:02	7:10	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52
Pittsburgh	6:14	6:21	7:29	7:36	7:44	7:51	7:58	8:05	8:12
Reading	5:58	6:05	7:13	7:20	7:27	7:34	7:42	7:49	7:56
Richmond	6:06	6:13	7:19	7:25	7:32	7:38	7:44	7:51	7:57
Roanoke	6:16	6:22	7:29	7:35	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:00	8:07
Toledo	6:27	6:35	7:43	7:51	7:59	8:06	8:14	8:22	8:29
Trenton	5:53	6:01	7:08	7:15	7:23	7:30	7:37	7:44	7:51
Wash., D.C.	6:03	6:10	7:17	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:44	7:52	7:58

**The Adventist HealthCare**

# Lucy Byard Scholarship



The Adventist HealthCare Lucy Byard Scholarship was created to honor the legacy of Lucy Byard and to reaffirm Adventist HealthCare's commitment to treat all people with respect and compassion.

The scholarship is a need-based, merit opportunity for gifted nursing students that helps address racial disparities and economic inequities. All qualified candidates are welcome to apply, but special consideration will be given during this inaugural year to people of color pursuing undergraduate nursing education at Washington Adventist University, Oakwood University and Howard University.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Successfully completed, or are in the process of completing, sophomore year at an accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in the United States
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- A family income threshold of \$70,000 or less

## Interested? To be considered, please submit:

- Personal Profile, which includes a cover letter and a copy of official school transcript.
- Essay of 800-1000 words that tells your story. Explain: Why do you want to be a nurse? What drives you? What are your values? Include descriptions of personal experiences that led you to nursing, challenges you've overcome along the way, and discussion of how nursing will help you be the person you want to be.
- Two recommendations by references who have firsthand experience with the quality of your work and professionalism. Please include their contact information and inform them that we will contact them by email or phone.
  - The first recommendation must be from a nursing professor/instructor.
  - The second recommendation must be from someone who is not a family member. Suggestions include: clergy, community leader, teacher or former employer.

## To Apply:

Please visit

**[AdventistHealthCare.com/LucyByardScholarship](https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/LucyByardScholarship)**

Please apply by March 31 to be considered for the 2022 Scholarships. If you have any additional questions, please call 301-315-3342 or write to [LucyByardScholarship@AdventistHealthCare.com](mailto:LucyByardScholarship@AdventistHealthCare.com).



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*We thank God for you all the time and pray for you.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2

