

VISITOR

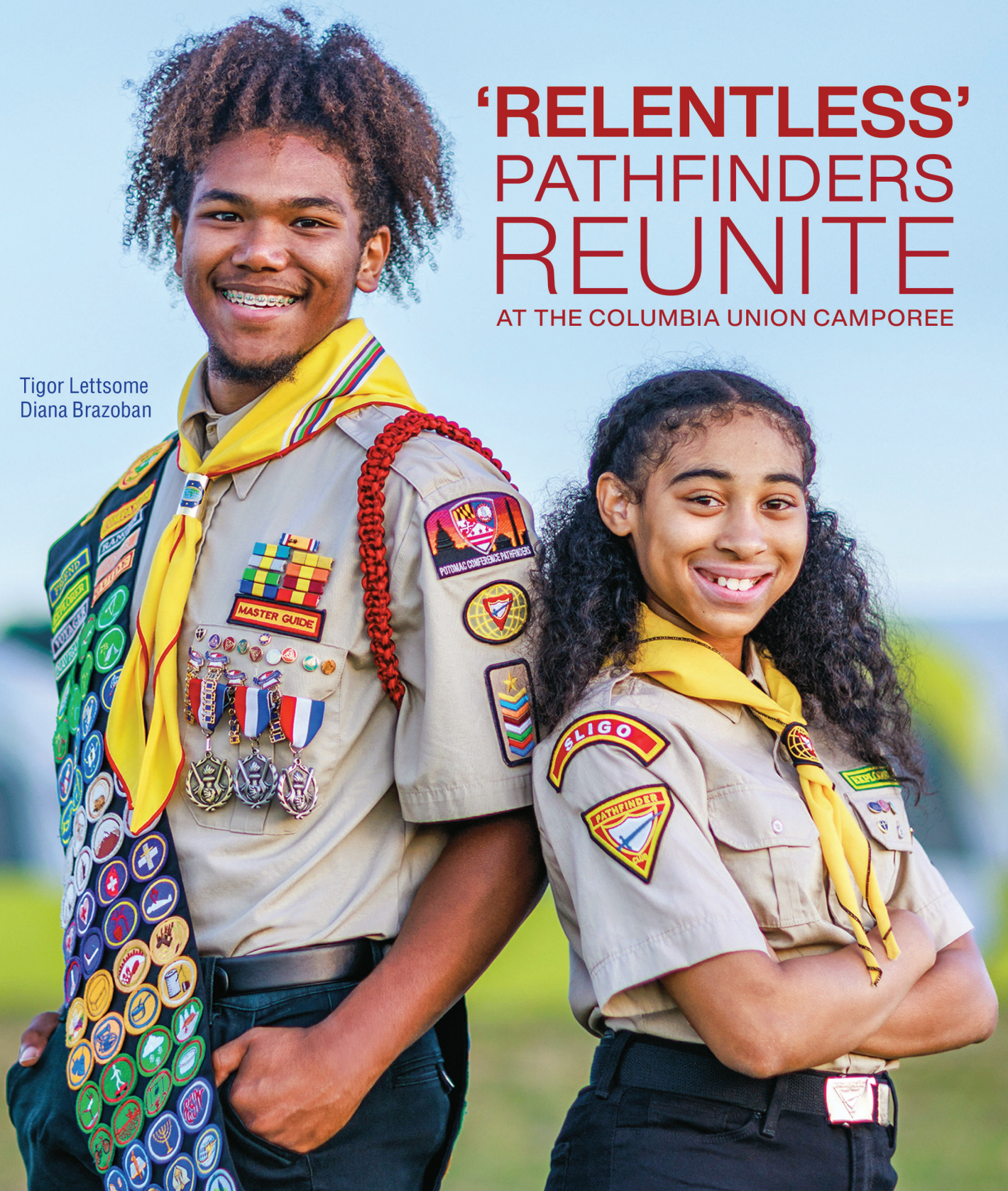
CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 ■ VOLUME 127 ■ ISSUE 6

'RELENTLESS' PATHFINDERS REUNITE

AT THE COLUMBIA UNION CAMPOREE

Tigor Lettsome
Diana Brazoban



Leaders of Tomorrow ... and Today



When the pandemic hit, I witnessed a decrease in youth attending church and a lack of leaders available to minister to those who remained. This afforded me the opportunity to step up and make a difference. God used Daniel and his friends to stand for their beliefs and be a powerful witness; Esther became queen and saved her people; David defeated the giant when everyone doubted him. So, why couldn't He use me—an anxious 17-year-old—to be a Pathfinder director?

The commonality the young adults in the Bible share was their faith in God, knowing that He was on and by their side. I remember praying to God in my bathroom for *that* kind of faith, wisdom and guidance. I determined, if He called me for a purpose, who was I to use my lack of experience as an excuse?

Now as a Pathfinder director, I have a newfound sense of belonging. My role has helped me connect with my peers and build a stronger relationship with God. Together, my group has defined what it means to be a Pathfinder: leaders for God, teammates with one another, community doers for others. From spreading God's love by writing letters to elderly individuals to creating fancy "march moves," we cherish each moment.

The job of a youth, Adventurer or Pathfinder director is not easy, so I am grateful for those who put effort and time into Youth Ministries and who have nurtured and mentored me over the years—preparing me to do the same for others.

As 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and in purity" (NIV).

Now, at the age of 18, I am living proof that God enjoys speaking to and utilizing His children for His glorious plans. Whether you are a director or not, as a Pathfinder, you set an example of God's love, and He will mightily use you. My ultimate goal is for young people to connect with Jesus Christ, because there is nothing better than having God in your heart.

God continues to bless me as He provided a way for my 15 *relentless* Pathfinders to attend the recent "Relentless" Columbia Union Conference Camporee. I pray these memories will stay in their hearts as they will in mine, encouraging them to be the leaders of tomorrow or maybe sooner than they think.

"Once a Pathfinder, Always a Pathfinder."

Catherine Osorio serves as the Pathfinder director for New Jersey Conference's West New York Messenger of Love Club.



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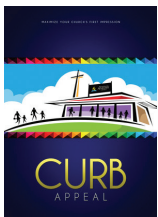
Volume 127 ■ Issue 6

UP YOUR CHURCH'S CURB APPEAL

Many church members work hard to reach out to the community, but they sometimes forget to make their churches easy to locate and don't know the best strategies to welcome visitors.

Make it easy for visitors to find your church, and find various activities within your church by using the North American Division's clear, professional, downloadable signage templates.

Also, don't just guess how your church is perceived; check out AdventSource's "Curb Appeal" for a worksheet to evaluate how first-time attendees view your congregation.



USING HIS SANCTIFIED IMAGINATION

Visit Pieter Damsteegt's Instagram page, @imagineishful, and you'll see artificial intelligence-generated images of the terrible beast of Daniel 7:7, a Babylon city park circa 600 B.C., and the rock in Exodus 17, among other spiritually focused themes.

Damsteegt, who attends Chesapeake Conference's Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md., creates the images by entering adjectives from Bible verses or stories into an app that produces a graphic illustration. Damsteegt



says he started developing his art to deepen his personal study time. "It's helped my sanctified imagination get a grip on some concepts I hadn't considered before. I don't know, it will be fun to compare these to the real thing once we get to eternity," he expresses.

He says he has created a couple hundred images, using some as graphics in his weekly YouTube Sabbath School class and others for pastors to illustrate in their sermons.

100 The number of years since the first Master Guide, then called Master Comrade, was invested. Master Guide is the highest level of invested leadership within the Adventurer and Pathfinder programs.



'GO GREEN' THIS WINTER

Missing fresh summer produce? Why not grow some indoors this winter?

Blue Mountain Academy's cafeteria manager and a longtime gardener, Christina Houston, says it's possible to grow lettuce, greens, microgreens and herbs indoors in the winter. She says tomatoes can also be grown indoors with proper sunlight and heat.

She says that growing your own food can save money, if given a proper start. "Choosing plants that keep producing will give months of continuous harvest until the season changes. The more the plants are harvested, the more they will grow," she says.



JUGGLE HOLIDAY STRESS WITH SLEEP

Most of us know the fundamentals for well-being: drink enough water, eat nutritious foods, and exercise regularly. But what about sleep? This oft-forgotten health habit is crucial to living a healthy life.

"With the holidays, most of us are shopping, going to parties or hosting get-togethers. You end up adding a lot of stress to your daily routine," says Sarah Hussain, M.D., sleep medicine and family medicine specialist and medical director of the Sycamore Sleep Center. "Prioritize and try to plan way ahead. That extra stress affects everything you do—including your sleep."



For many of us, sleep is the first habit to go in times of stress. But lack of sleep leads to fatigue, irritability and grogginess. Even during the busy holiday season, it's crucial to care for yourself by incorporating rest.—*Kettering Health Staff*

ARTWORK BY PIETER THEOPHILUS DAMSTEEGT

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

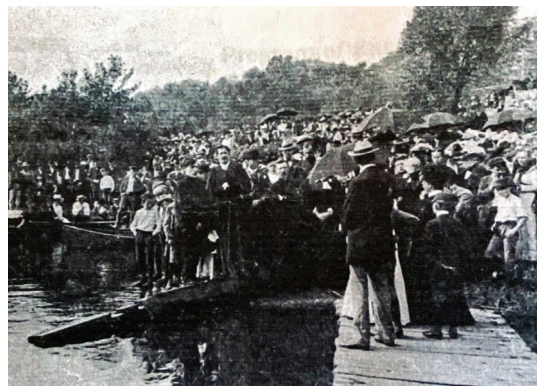
UpFront

2023 CALENDAR IS ON THE WAY!

The *Visitor* staff designed the 2023 *Columbia Union Calendar* using Bible verses to inspire members to live out their mission as Christians in their everyday lives. Be on the lookout for its soon arrival. For the cost of shipping, extra calendars can be ordered by calling (800) 545-2449. Ask for the “2023 Columbia Union Calendar.”

MORE THAN 120 YEARS OF HISTORY

In September, New Jersey Conference’s Robbinsville church celebrated 20 years in their current building. But the church’s history goes back to 1901, when it started as the Trenton church. In November 1901, Ellen White visited the congregation to witness a baptism in the Delaware River (pictured) and preached a sermon at the church in the afternoon.



5 Things You Should Know

columbiaunionvisitor.com/5Things

1 This fall, delegates to the constituency meetings for the Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences voted their executive leadership teams for the next five years. Read more about New Jersey Conference’s event on page 21 and Allegheny East Conference’s event online.

2 “The Columbia Union Conference continues to grow financially,” said Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union treasurer, in his executive committee report in September. “I believe God does this because we are about mission, helping [others] even across the world.” He said the union is still on track to exceed the record-breaking 2021 tithe record. Dave Weigley, union president, added, “If there is no margin, there is no mission. We need that help to move the mission forward,” thanking the treasury team for their work.

3 On November 12, North American Division’s Health Ministries Department is launching “Recovery Sabbath 2022,” a new yearly focus on addiction recovery.

“As we understand the recovery process, we come to appreciate more beautifully the process of God’s work in our lives,” says David Sedlacek, Adventist Recovery Ministries coordinator. Find more details and resources online.

4 Experts say people are most receptive to attending church during Christmas and Easter. Want to invite a nonbelieving friend to a holiday concert at a local Adventist church near you? Find a list of holiday concerts at columbiaunionvisitor.com and in *Visitor News Bulletin*, our weekly e-newsletter.

5 The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is scaling up emergency operations to deliver food assistance and water to vulnerable communities on the verge of starvation within the Horn of Africa, including Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Uganda. Find out more at adra.org.—ADRA Staff

FILLING THE STREETS WITH THANKS

The second Friday night of each month, Carnegie, Pa., hosts the “Carnegie Crawl,” where Main Street businesses stay open late with live music and special events throughout the town.

Earlier this year, nonprofits were offered the opportunity to serve the community during the crawl. Members of Pennsylvania Conference’s Carnegie church joined the event by creating a “gratitude board.” As people walked past the group, members asked them what they were thankful for.

“It was a great experience!” shares John Kent, pastor of Carnegie. “When asked to give thanks, many would pause for a few minutes, then take up a marker and begin writing. As the board filled up, more and more people would stop. Tears came to the eyes of many. ‘This is so awesome,’ they would say. People were grateful for so many things—health, family, being reunited with long-lost friends, God, grace.”

For more ideas on how to participate in Friday night events in your town, visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/fridaynightout.—Tamyra Horst



100 El número de años desde que se invistió el primer Guía Mayor, entonces llamado Camarada Mayor. Guía Mayor es el nivel más alto de liderazgo dentro de los programas de Aventureros y Conquistadores.

¡EL CALENDARIO 2023 ESTÁ EN CAMINO!

El personal de la revista *Visitor* diseñó el *2023 Columbia Union Calendar* utilizando versículos de la Biblia para inspirar a los miembros a vivir nuestra misión como cristianos en su vida cotidiana. Esté atento a su buzón para su llegada. Por el costo del envío, se pueden pedir calendarios adicionales llamando al (800) 545-2449. Solicite el “2023 Columbia Union Calendar”.

CONQUISTADORES EXPERIMENTAN EL AMOR ‘INCANSABLE’ DE DIOS EN EL CAMPOREE

Este verano, más de 2,000 personas asistieron al Camporee de la Columbia Union “Relentless” en el retiro Summit Bechtel en Glen Jean, W.Va. Los Conquistadores participaron en escalada, tirolesa, deportes acuáticos, manualidades, tiro con arco y tuvieron la oportunidad de aprender sobre lo último en investigación sobre sostenibilidad.

Cada noche, los Conquistadores

5 Cosas Que Debes Saber

columbiaunionvisitor.com/noticias5cosas

- 1** Este otoño, los delegados de las reuniones de constituyentes de las conferencias Allegheny East y de New Jersey votaron sus equipos de liderazgo ejecutivo para los próximos cinco años. Lea más sobre el evento de la New Jersey Conference en la página 21 y el evento de la Allegheny East Conference en línea.
- 2** “La Columbia Union continúa creciendo financieramente”, dijo Emmanuel Asiedu, tesorero de la Columbia Union, en su informe del comité ejecutivo en septiembre. “Creo que Dios hace esto porque nos dedicamos a la misión, a ayudar [a otros] incluso al otro lado del mundo. Dijo que la unión todavía está en camino de superar el récord de diezmos del 2021.
- 3** Sesenta y cuatro personas fueron bautizadas en la reciente campaña evangelística “Impact Columbus”—Sharing Hope Revival de la Allegheny West Conference (AWC). “Esta ha sido una de las experiencias más increíbles que hemos tenido en Columbus en décadas”, dice Marvin C. Brown, III, presidente de AWC.
- 4** El 12 de noviembre, el North American Division’s Health Ministries Department lanzará “Recovery Sabbath 2022”, un nuevo enfoque anual sobre la recuperación de las adicciones. “A medida que entendemos el proceso de recuperación, llegamos a apreciar más bellamente el proceso de la obra de Dios en nuestras vidas”, dice David Sedlacek, coordinador de Adventist Recovery Ministries. Encuentre más detalles y recursos en línea.
- 5** Los expertos dicen que las personas son más receptivas a asistir a la iglesia durante Navidad y Semana Santa. ¿Por qué no invitar a un amigo no creyente a un concierto festivo en una iglesia adventista local cerca de usted? Encuentre una lista de conciertos navideños en columbiaunionvisitor.com y en *Visitor News Bulletin*, nuestro boletín electrónico semanal.

de las conferencias de la unión ofrecieron una diversidad de música, oraciones y obras de teatro.

Después de cuatro años de preparación, el camporee fue diseñado para “ser una experiencia holística”, dice Frank Bondurant, vicepresidente del Ministries Development en la Columbia Union y presidente de planificación del camporee. “Ya sea [cuando] estaban estudiando el segundo libro de Dios, la naturaleza, o si fue el tiempo que pasaron desarrollando relaciones y haciendo nuevas amistades, sentimos que todo esto contribuyó a una experiencia transformadora, una experiencia que cambió la vida de estos niños.”



FOTO DE STEPHEN LEE, TRADUCCIÓN POR DOMITILLA ROSETTE

Nouvelles

V. MICHELLE BERNARD

5 Choses à Savoir

columbiaunionvisitor.com/nouvelles5choses

1 Cet automne, les délégués aux réunions des Fédérations d'Allegheny East et du New Jersey ont élu leurs administrateurs et leaders pour les cinq prochaines années. Vous trouverez de plus amples informations sur l'événement de la New Jersey Conference à la page 21 et celle de la Allegheny East Conference en ligne.

2 « L' Columbia Union Conference continue de croître financièrement », a déclaré Emmanuel Asiedu, trésorier de l' Columbia Union, dans son rapport au Comité Exécutif en septembre dernier. « Je crois que Dieu agit ainsi parce que nous sommes en mission, que nous aidons [les autres] même à travers le monde. Il a déclaré que l'union est toujours en passe de dépasser le record de la dîme de 2021 ».

3 Soixante-quatre personnes ont été baptisées lors du récent réveil « Impact Columbus »—Sharing Hope de la Allegheny West Conference (AWC). « C'est l'une des expériences les plus extraordinaires que nous ayons vécues à Columbus depuis des décennies », déclare Marvin C. Brown, III, président de l'AWC.

4 Le 12 novembre, le Health Ministries Department de la North American Division lance le « Recovery Sabbath 2022 », un nouveau programme annuel consacré à la guérison des dépendances ou accoutumances.

5 Les experts affirment que c'est à Noël et à Pâques que les gens sont les plus réceptifs à l'idée d'aller à l'église. Pourquoi ne pas inviter un ami non croyant à un concert de Noël dans une église adventiste près de chez vous ? Vous trouverez une liste de concerts de vacances sur le site columbiaunionvisitor.com et dans le *Visitor News Bulletin*, notre bulletin électronique hebdomadaire.

L'EXPÉRIENCE DES ÉCLAIREURS DE L'AMOUR « IMPLACABLE » DE DIEU AU CAMPORÉE

Plus de 2 000 personnes ont participé au camporee « Relentless » de l' Columbia Union cet été au camp de retraite Summit Bechtel à Glen Jean, W.Va. Les éclaireurs ont participé à des activités d'escalade, de tyrolienne, de sports nautiques, d'artisanat, de tir à l'arc et ont eu l'occasion de s'informer sur les dernières recherches en matière de durabilité.

Chaque soir, les éclaireurs des fédérations de l'union ont offert

une diversité de musique, de prières et de sketches. Au cours des réunions, Henry Johnson, pasteur de l'église de Greenville de la Carolina Conference en



PHOTO DE STEPHEN LEE, TRADUCTION PAR JACQUELIN BELZAIRE

100 Le nombre d'années écoulées depuis que le premier Chef-Guide, alors appelé Chef Camarade, a été investi. Chef-Guide est le plus haut niveau de leadership investi dans les programmes d'Aventuriers et d'Éclaireurs.

South Carolina, a utilisé l'histoire de Jonas comme une mise en garde pour rappeler aux campeurs d'aller vers les autres et de partager l'Évangile, et non de le garder pour eux.

Après quatre ans de préparation, le camp a été conçu pour être « une expérience holistique », explique Frank Bondurant, vice-président du Ministries Development de l' Columbia Union et responsable de la planification du camporee.

LE CALENDRIER 2023 EST EN ROUTE !

L'équipe du magazine *Visitor* a conçu le *2023 Columbia Union Calendar* en utilisant des versets bibliques pour inspirer les membres à vivre notre mission de chrétiens dans leur vie quotidienne. Gardez un œil sur votre boîte aux lettres pour son arrivée. Pour les frais d'expédition, vous pouvez commander des calendriers supplémentaires en appelant le (800) 545-2449. Demandez le « 2023 Columbia Union Calendar ».

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'RELENTLESS'

PATHFINDERS REUNITE

IN WEST VIRGINIA FOR COLUMBIA UNION CAMPOREE

By V. Michelle Bernard • Photos by Melvin Donadelle and Stephen Lee



Hours before the official start of "Relentless," the 2022 Columbia Union Camporee held at Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, W.Va., a thunderstorm rolled through, threatening to cancel the first evening meeting. Providentially, the drenching downpour and strong winds stopped just in time for the event and fun to begin.

After the storm, Dave Lopez, an area Pathfinder coordinator for the Ohio Conference, drove around, noting that every campsite he passed suffered storm damage, and every tent in the campsite next to his was down.

Clubs reported broken canopies, tents traveling hundreds of feet from their campsites, and many wet sleeping bags—but no injuries.

Kim Barrett, staff member for the Chesapeake Conference SALT Club from Randallstown, Md., says she thought the Pathfinders would be disappointed by the situation, "but they all just jumped in and set up the campsite [again]. ... You talk about being *relentless*, this is it."

Four years in the making, the camporee was designed to "be a holistic experience," says Frank Bondurant, vice president of Ministries Development for the Columbia Union and camporee planning chair (pictured below with conference youth and Pathfinder directors). "Obviously, we wanted our evening meetings to be the focus. When the kids would hear the gospel, that they would hear God's

Word preached about a relentless love. But we wanted that to be accentuated and complemented by the whole experience."

Bondurant adds, "Whether it was [when] they were studying God's second book—nature—or whether it was the time spent developing relationships and making new friendships, we felt that all of this contributed to a transformational experience, a life-changing experience for these kids."

The camporee was originally scheduled for the fall of 2021 but got delayed due to COVID-19 precautions. As a result, the August 10–14, 2022, date allowed attendees to participate in warmer weather aquatic activities, says Carolina Ramos, administrative assistant for the union's Ministries Development Department and one of the camporee's organizers.

Thanks to a team of volunteers, as well as the union and Summit Bechtel staff, the event offered rock climbing, zip lining, water sports, crafts, archery and the opportunity to learn about the latest in sustainability research.

Ema Gonzalez, a member of Pennsylvania Conference's Lawndale Club, says, "I thought [the campground] was going to be antique but was surprised at all the modern things, like the solar panels and CONSOL Energy Bridge. I was not expecting this."

REUNITED, AND IT FEELS SO GOOD

The camporee offered much more than fresh mountain air to the 2,000-plus attendees. Many noted how special this particular event was—the first big event they had attended since the pandemic canceled many typical gatherings like camporees.

Bernadine Flores, Pathfinder state coordinator for the New Jersey Conference, says, "Pathfinders definitely enjoyed their time. ... You know, we haven't had any [event] for such a long time, so this was definitely a great way to jump right back in for the Pathfinders."

Caleb Jeffrey, a member of Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Southeast Panthers in Cleveland, joined his club during the pandemic, looking for something to do with his time. "The atmosphere of the campground was wonderful," he says. "I mean, just waking up and being around God's creation



was awesome. The people I met, and the four days felt like we knew [each other] for four years.”

Tonyia Williams, a counselor for the Panthers, says she saw her club try new things. “They stepped outside of their box and did things that they wouldn’t ordinarily do,” like rock climbing, BMX bike riding, kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming.

Thokozani Kulemeka, a Pathfinder from AWC’s Hilltop Community Worship Center Heralds in Columbus, Ohio, enjoyed spending time with his friends. Speaking about his favorite activity—archery—he says, “I felt like I was in a movie.”

A popular segment at this year’s camporee was the nature nugget by naturalist John Henri Rorabeck, who shared about God the Creator each night. Throughout the week, Rorabeck encouraged campers to look for their own “nature nuggets” to help appreciate God in a deeper way. He also encouraged Pathfinders to care for the earth, saying, “How we treat creation shows what we think of the Creator. How we act toward nature shows our true nature.”

Pathfinders later went on to earn “nature” honors—several that consisted of studying local habitats. Some of them even experienced close encounters with a black bear—the state animal that visited the campground.

‘DON’T BE A JONAH’

Each night, Pathfinders from the union’s conferences provided a diversity of music, prayer and skits. Patrick Graham, youth director for the Allegheny East Conference and stage manager at the camporee, says the groups were often nervous before going on stage, but “then, when we came together to pray about it, the Holy Spirit just took over.”

During the nightly meetings, Henry Johnson, pastor of Carolina Conference’s Greenville (S.C.) church, used the story of Jonah as a cautionary tale to remind the campers to reach out and share the gospel, not just keep it to themselves.

“In spite of our relentlessness, selfishness, and just self-serving, notice that God’s relentless love pursues us, is available to us, and will never leave us,” Johnson said.

As a fun reminder to actively interact with others beyond their normal circles, Johnson gave attendees a challenge to trade pins with two particular Summit Bechtel staff members—individuals who had never experienced the popular Pathfinder pin-trading activity or heard of Seventh-day Adventists.

That challenge, in addition to the *Visitor* team’s social media challenge to post the event’s hashtag—#relentless2022—to earn a *Visitor*



pin, resulted in 5,481 users reached on Instagram alone, offering Pathfinders another way to share aspects of their faith with people beyond the event.

The camporee’s “social media hosts,” Tigor Lettsome, a member of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville Broncos Club (Md.), and Diana Brazoban, a member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo Challengers Club in Takoma Park, Md., interacted with campers throughout the week, encouraging attendees to share camporee moments and their faith on social media.

DRILL DOWN TIME!

Drill and drum corps competitions have long been a staple of Pathfinder camporees, and the tradition continued this time around.

Joel Hutchins, a staff member for the Sligo Challengers Club who helped run the event, notes that at the last two international camporees in Oshkosh, Wis., drill teams from the Columbia Union entered in more competitions than any other union. He hopes more conferences and teams from the union will continue to join future events. See a list of the winners at columbiaunionvisitor.com/relentlesscamporee.

“The work does not stop here, Pathfinders,” said Lettsome at the final camporee meeting and the person who won first place for the Master Guide drill down. “After this, you guys are going to go home ... God has still called you to be His workers. ... You are appointed by God ... who has called you to go back home and spread the Word.”

Check out our photo album
(more pics on Facebook, too!)







Memories from the Camporee

August 10–14, 2022, West Virginia

Though the heavy rain knocked down many tents, the Pathfinders weren't shaken—just SOAKED!



Pathfinders ziplined, fished, canoed, skateboarded, crafted, earned honors, practiced archery and spent lots of time outside.

We watched EIGHT Pathfinders (plus one mom who surprised her children!) dedicate their lives to Jesus through baptism. (Check out the video on [instagram.com/columbiaunionpathfinders](https://www.instagram.com/columbiaunionpathfinders).)



Pin-trading was the perfect opportunity to make new friends. We got to introduce this hobby to the Summit Bechtel Reserve staff members.




Pastor Henry Johnson (with a huge SNAKE around his neck!) reminded us that, like Jonah in the Bible, God's relentless loves pursues us. Naturalist John Henri Rorabeck brought a surprise animal on stage each night to teach us more about God's amazing creations. (Watch the "Nature Nugget Guy" at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/relentlesscamporee](https://www.columbiaunionvisitor.com/relentlesscamporee).)



Each evening, Pathfinders from around the Columbia Union led in song service and presented skits that reminded us of God's LOVE. We also shared our fun experiences on social media, using #relentless2022.



You could hear the "RAT-TA-TAT"  of the drum corps' snares echo into the mountains all throughout the campground.

Some of the campers rock climbed and even saw a black bear at their campsites. Yikes!



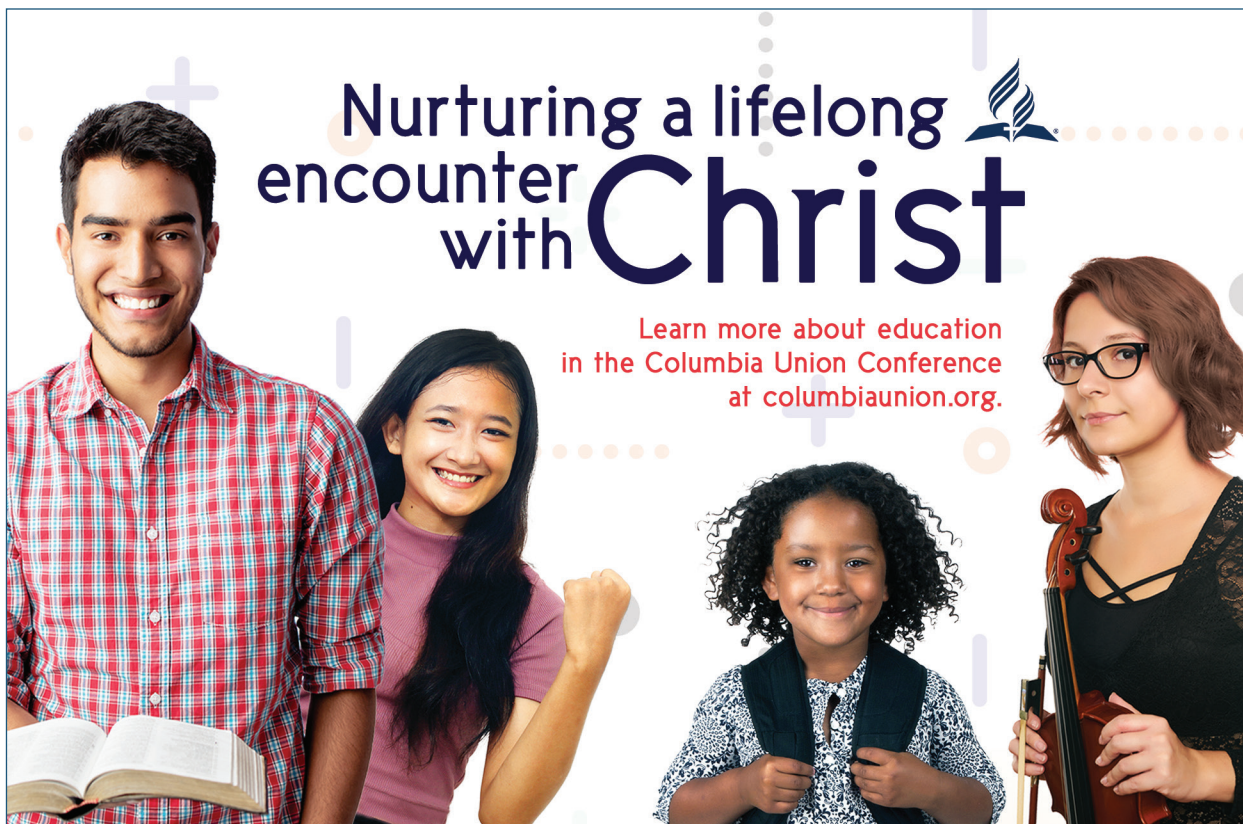
Pathfinders volunteered to serve seniors in the community by doing yard work.

Ultimately, we all grew closer to our fellow campers and God—amid His beautiful creation.

You know what they say, "Once a Pathfinder, Always a Pathfinder!"

—Visitor Team Members
Michelle, Kelly & Ricardo
(Proud Pathfinders!)





Nurturing a lifelong encounter with **Christ**

Learn more about education in the Columbia Union Conference at columbiaunion.org.

Statement of Policy—Nondiscrimination in Adventist Schools

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

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

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

Allegheny West—Columbus Adventist Academy, Ramah Junior Academy

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

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

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

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

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

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

First Church of Teaneck Hosts Hope Channel

The First Church of Teaneck in New Jersey recently hosted Hope Channel International's "Sabbath Impact Day." Led by *Hope Sabbath School* member Jason Miller, the hybrid event began with a Sabbath School discussion with panelists Sabrina Mills and Victor Mills from Middletown, N.Y., and First Church members Asabie Hoyte, Jonathan Mays and Elvys Mutis.

Robert T. Smith, pastor of First Church, then called the church to worship through a short scripture verse and prayer. Derek Morris, director of Hope Channel, presented a message titled, "It's Harvest Time (Luke 10:2)." Using the example of the martyrdom of Stephen in the Bible, Morris reminded congregants that the harvest is great, whether there be one or many in the reaping.

In the afternoon, Hope Channel staff highlighted various programs they produce, presented on how they are ministering worldwide and shared how they are using the channel to prepare people for the second coming of Jesus. Many congregants answered the call to become harvest workers.

"We were honored to be the first church selected



Jason Miller (standing) discusses a Sabbath School lesson with First Church of Teaneck panelists Elvys Mutis, Jonathan Mays and Asabie Hoyte, alongside two other panelists Sabrina and Victor Mills.

to host one of their Impact Sabbaths," says Smith. "It was truly empowering to be a part of a cross-generational worship experience."

To watch the service, visit First Church of Teaneck's YouTube channel.

New Life Church Launches Stewardship Emphasis

The New Life church in Gaithersburg, Md., recently hosted a stewardship emphasis series titled, "Money Moves." Anthony O'Neal, financial



Troy Levy (left), pastor of the New Life church, facilitates a Q & A session with Anthony O'Neal, a financial literacy influencer and author.

literacy influencer and author, jumpstarted the series by delivering a message for worship service, followed by a Q & A session.

O'Neal's message focused on how Christians should be stewards of God's money. He shared four principles to help individuals in their journey to financial freedom: make the money, manage the money, multiply the money, and make the money matter. Following his message, attendees asked questions on topics ranging from investing to business ownership.

The series lasted seven weeks and featured other speakers, such as Michael Harpe, Stewardship director for the North American Division. Simultaneously, the church and the local community participated in a faith-based financial literacy curriculum called The BluePrint, which was created by Troy Levy, pastor of New Life.

"The goal of the series was to help families and communities develop tools to build their financial houses from the ground up and ultimately experience financial freedom," says Levy.

Capitol Hill Hosts Community Fun Day

The Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently hosted a community fun day at the nearby Lincoln Park. Themed “One Love,” the event was designed to bring the community together for positive interaction and fellowship.

Featured speakers included Mark Batterson, author and pastor of the National Community Church (NCC) in Washington, D.C., and NFL legend Darrell Green. “The ‘One Love’ message is critical because God loves us all,” shared Batterson. “We tend to focus on the things that divide us, but the reality is that the image of God in me greets the love of God in you.”

Green hoped that his message helped attendees recognize the purpose of the blessings God allows. “God wants us to use the resources and the platforms we’ve been given to present the gospel to a dying world,” he said.



Capitol Hill members James Mitchell, Madeline Pierre, Mirelande Pierre and Thea Thomas serve food to guests at the community fun day.



Capitol Hill member Speline Irakoze tends to the prayer booth.

Among several musical selections, the Capitol Hill praise team and band shared their God-given talents with the attendees.

Guests also had the opportunity to visit several booths and tents, including the listening, prayer, and health screening booths. Children enjoyed arts and crafts stations, a puppet show, tug-of-war and other fun activities. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in community service projects, cooking demonstrations, food and smoothie testing, and fitness exercises.

“The event was a blessing because we were able to share God in a new and fresh way,” shares Emil Peeler, pastor of Capitol Hill. “I believe God wants us to go outside the walls of the church and make His name great.”



‘Impact Columbus’ Shares Hope and Revival

“This has been one of the most amazing experiences we’ve had in Columbus in decades!” expressed Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) President Marvin C. Brown, III, during his closing remarks of the three-week “Impact Columbus”—Sharing Hope Revival. The meetings, hosted by AWC, featured speaker and evangelist G. Alexander Bryant (pictured, right), president of the North American Division (NAD).

Impact Columbus began in the summer of 2022 as AWC’s Central Ohio churches challenged members to reach out to their local communities and engage in city-wide Bible studies. Columbus area churches hosted evangelistic and community outreach events throughout the city leading up to the 15-day evangelistic crusade. Nightly meetings were



Carlos Quiroga, pastor of Nueva Esperanza church in Delaware, Ohio, embraces a newly baptized member.

held at the Crown Plaza Columbus North Hotel in Worthington, Ohio, and culminated with a corporate baptism in the hotel’s outdoor pool.

“We started to do it in 2020, but then COVID-19 hit, and everything got shut down. Then Bryant said, ‘I’m willing to come again in 2022,’ and although we had a short amount of time, it was amazing how the Lord worked,” says Joel Johnson, AWC’s executive vice president. “Some of the things we thought wouldn’t work, worked out. I remember when we saw the tent and said it would be too small, but it was just right.”

Bryant underscored the tremendous effort the AWC administration, pastors and members made to accomplish a successful evangelistic effort. He commended the team for being able to “pull this off,”

despite the pandemic’s ongoing challenges. “In a COVID-19 environment, where everything is in flux, you could not even plan [the meeting] a year out. There was no way to know if you’d have use of the building. We adapted to wearing masks and preparing for people with varying comfort levels,” he says.

Bryant credits the meetings’ success, yielding 44 baptisms and 26 professions of faith, to the integral role played by AWC members and local Bible instructors. “The pastors were supportive and the conference administrators and departmental directors all came together,” he says. “I appreciate the effort they put forward, and I believe that the Lord is going to bless [even more] as a result.”



During Sabbath School, Benia Jennings, Allegheny West Conference’s Communication director, interviews Max Gomez, associate pastor of the Hilltop church, on why he keeps the Sabbath.



New Auditor Joins Conference

“We should all go to the doctor for routine checkups to ensure everything is operating as it should and to catch potential issues before they become a problem. In my opinion, the role of the conference auditor is similar. It’s good to have someone come in and ensure that the church’s finances are operating as they should and identify potential problems ahead of time,” says Elliott Meredith III, AWC’s newest auditor.



Meredith acknowledges that being audited often has a negative connotation. It’s something that he hopes to change. “I’d like to build a relationship as the liaison between the churches and the Treasury Department that will evoke a positive connotation.”

Working as an account executive for Adventist Risk Management in Silver Spring, Md., before accepting the call to serve as auditor for the AWC, Meredith offers advice from a risk management perspective.

He notes that as an auditor, he functions as a necessary internal control for the churches. “At times, there are red flags that a pastor might not be aware of that warrant a second set of eyes on things,” he says.

Meredith was raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and is a member of the Southeast church. He attended Cleveland State and later graduated from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Fitness Management. He is married to Kellie, and the couple has one daughter, Kaelyn.

Conference Hires New Health Ministries Coordinator

“My passion for Health Ministries comes from my own health struggles,” says Donna Peters, Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) new Health Ministries coordinator. “In the past, I was prediabetic and overweight with high blood pressure. I wanted to learn how I could help heal myself through exercise and food,” she says.

In addition to taking classes that helped her gain a better understanding of food, Peters began fasting and praying. “I later became a certified health coach, which helped me. I lost 35 pounds, no longer had to take blood pressure medication, and diabetes was no longer an issue. I do, however, still struggle with emotional eating. It’s an ongoing journey to better myself as I bring others along with me on this journey to better health,” she says.

Peters is a certified health and running coach. She has volunteered with Girls on the Run, a program that helps girls to build confidence, kindness and decision-making skills, and has served as lead ambassador for Black Girls Run, a program created to encourage and motivate black women to practice a healthy lifestyle. She enjoys working with anyone interested in pursuing health and wellness and loves learning how cooking, nutrition and fitness can benefit overall well-being. Her driving passion is to help others reach their greatest potential—experiencing all God has intended for them in body, mind and spirit.

Peters is married to Eric, AWC’s youth director, and considers her three children to be her greatest earthly gifts.





CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CURRENTS

The Object of Our Thanksgiving

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!
Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord!” (Ps. 105:1-3, NKJV).

As Creator of all things and Sustainer of life, God alone is deserving of our praise and adoration. *He* is the object of our thanksgiving. The psalmist clearly indicates this in these verses (and elsewhere) and urges us to “sing to *Him*” and “glory in *His* holy name” (emphasis supplied). These three verses contain step-by-step instructions for expressing to God what He deserves from us and the joy that may be ours when we follow His teaching.

Of course, there are also many *people* to thank for the happiness they bring into our lives, and we are certainly grateful when things are looking up and going our way. Yet, even when our circumstances are favorable, our gratitude must rise above any experience or human relationship, and we must acknowledge the sovereignty and majesty of God, who transcends all things but remains always within reach and ever attentive to our prayers. The circumstances of our lives, favorable or not, should serve to remind us of God, who grants us His blessings in ways and times He knows are best. Again, *He* is the object of our thanksgiving.

Failing to direct our thanks to God means taking for granted or denying His sovereignty and goodness. Ignoring or turning away from Him to our circumstances effectively means we believe we are on our own. As Revelation 3:17 quotes, we say we are “rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (KJV)—including God, which is implied. But the Laodicean attitude of selfishness and ingratitude is of course folly. As Apostle Paul says, it’s no wonder that it is the will of God for those who are in Christ Jesus to give thanks in every situation and all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Why can Paul say this knowing full well that in this life there is going to be undesirable seasons? Because God is God—holy, righteous, true, good, loving, merciful, forgiving, just and wise—even when things don’t go our way. Since *He is* everything, let us yield everything to Him, and give thanks to the Lord!



Jerry Lutz
President

93-Year-Old Baptized at Forest Grove Church



Pastor Javier Scharon baptizes Alfred Williams, 93, at the Forest Grove church.

Members of the Forest Grove church in Dover, Del., recently celebrated the baptism of a 93-year-old man.

Alfred Williams initially became interested in learning about Seventh-day Adventists after contacting a church member to offer condolences following a relative’s death. When the member invited him to attend church, he agreed to go.

Williams decided to attend the Voice of Prophecy “Serpentine Prophecy” satellite event that was hosted in the Forest Grove/Dover First district. After attending the meetings, he contacted Javier Scharon, pastor of the Forest Grove/Dover First churches, and explained he was 93 years old, and it was “about time he got things right with God.”

Williams began taking Bible studies and was baptized at the Forest Grove church earlier this year.

Congregations Celebrate New Church Properties

Several Chesapeake Conference congregations recently celebrated new church property acquisitions. The Capital Brazilian Temple, the Prince Emmanuel All Nations, and the Open Arms churches all finalized purchases of new properties in September.

The Capital Brazilian Temple church's new location is in Highland, Md., only a few miles from the facility the congregation previously rented. The new 16-acre property comprises five buildings, including a church, barn, stables and two houses. Members hope the new land and facilities will provide expanded ministry opportunities, especially for growing children and youth programs.

Marco De Faria Filho, pastor of Capital Brazilian Temple, says finding a permanent property for the congregation has been a "great journey" and credits God for leading them to this new location. He says he's excited that the church's activities will no longer be limited by their rental agreement and looks forward to the church being "a place where people want to be."

The Prince Emmanuel All Nations church purchased a new church facility on Mitchellville Road in Bowie, Md., necessitated by the congregation's recent growth. The new sanctuary seats more than 200, and church leaders say the new building allows the congregation to expand its evangelistic outreach. The building will also be used by the



Members of the Capital Brazilian Temple church now worship on a 16-acre property in Highland, Md.

Bowie Spanish company, which will continue to rent the facility.

"We love the location," says Joseph Hutchinson, pastor of Prince Emmanuel All Nations. "The building is spacious for growth."

The Open Arms church in Milton, Del.—previously known as the Sussex Central church, located in Georgetown, Md.—is now situated in a town center just across from the town hall building.

Rodrick London, pastor of Opens Arms, says the congregation has already had productive conversations with the mayor and public school principal about how members can serve their new community. London notes that the congregation is especially interested in Youth and Children's Ministries and describes members as "100 percent on board" with the new missional focus.

Sean Robinson, the conference's association secretary and Planned Giving and Trust Services director, says that while reflecting on the recent acquisitions, it is essential to remember why the conference invests in new properties.

"Often, we focus on the intrinsic value of a building's bricks and mortar, but the ultimate value is a simple seat where a precious person learns the gospel for the first time," says Robinson. "May these church buildings become places where sinful people fall in love with God for all eternity."



The Open Arms church (formerly Sussex Central) is now in a town center just across from the town hall building.

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

70 New Believers Attend Retreat

“A New Believer’s retreat! That was a new and revolutionary idea to me,” says Walter Cardenas, assistant to the Mountain View Conference (MVC) president. “I had never heard of this before, but when newly elected President Tim Bailey shared this idea with me, the more I thought about it, the more excited I became. We began to dream about the potential this event would have and the blessing that it was going to be for new believers.”

The retreat’s purpose would be to solidify new members in faith, reclaim discouraged members, and help all participants to better understand Seventh-day Adventist subculture.

Earlier this year, new members who had joined the church from as far back as 2019 were invited to the first retreat at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W. Va. “There were about 285 people to be contacted,” shares Amber West, administrative assistant to the president, “and we personally called each one.”

More than 70 new believers attended the power-packed weekend. Musical group Two Little Fish led the worship time while Cardenas joined MVC pastors Matthew Haire, Stewart Pepper, Heroes Sical and D. W. West in preaching grace-filled messages. There were many opportunities to mingle and interact during the social events, hikes and other activities.



Although the retreat was provided for those who recently joined the Adventist Church, God used this special time to draw even more hearts to Him. Among the attendees were two men who needed to make decisions for Christ. One had been baptized before but slipped away from God and had gone back to his old lifestyle. As the weekend progressed, the Holy Spirit convicted him to recommit his life and be rebaptized. Another man who had been studying the Bible for months with Haire attended the MVC camp meeting this year. Although faithfully attending the Morgantown (W.Va.) church, he had never fully committed his life to God. At the retreat, he chose to enter the waters of baptism. These two baptisms were the unexpected highlight of the weekend.

Matthew Haire, pastor of the Morgantown (W.Va.) church, baptizes Alan Ayala at the New Believer’s retreat.

Union Camporee Comes to Mountain View

Pathfinder clubs from across the Columbia Union recently came to the beautiful state of West Virginia to attend the “Relentless” 2022 Columbia Union Camporee, held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean. Forty-two Pathfinders from four clubs represented the Mountain View Conference (MVC) during the week-long event.

“Although we are the smallest conference in the Columbia Union,” states Beth Ackman, Pathfinder director of the MVC, “our Pathfinders have the biggest hearts and desire for the love of God and others.”

During the camporee, the Pathfinders enjoyed canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, archery, earning new honors and pin-trading. Naturalist John Henri Rorabeck shared a nature nugget each day, while guest speaker Henry Johnson from the Carolina Conference spoke on lessons from the life of Jonah. Organizers chose MVC Pathfinders to lower the Pathfinder flag on Friday night (pictured) and to lead the song service on Sabbath evening.



As the camporee came to a close Sunday morning, the groups said goodbye to new and old friends as they prepared to head home.

“God has blessed us with beautiful territory,” says Tim Bailey, president of MVC, “and what a privilege it was to share just a small taste of heaven with such an amazing group of young people.”

20 Guests Attend Wellness Camp: ‘I Can Laugh Again!’

At the recent Mountain View Conference Wellness Camp, held at Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va., 20 guests made a decision to make a U-turn in their physical, mental and spiritual health.

Tom came to the camp with enough medications to fill a gallon container. He met with one of two

physicians for a one-on-one consultation, and during the 12-day program, he decreased his insulin and stopped taking several other medications. “While talking to my brother here at camp,” says Tom, “we laughed, and it felt so good. ... I have a clear mind.” Many other guests had similar testimonies, and they have the lab results to prove it.

Participants benefited from health lectures, swimming, tailored exercise plans, cooking classes, devotionals, nutritional support and catered plant-based meals. The camp provided two plant-based, oil-free meals a day, as well as the opportunity to exercise in fresh mountain air and be spiritually nurtured.

Classes aimed to educate attendees on the benefits of spiritual health, natural remedies and a plant-based diet, implementing the traditional Seventh-day Adventist elements of the NEWSTART® Lifestyle Program.

“The camp ... seeks to be a place where people jumpstart that U-turn in their health journey,” says Ginelle Edmondson, Health Ministries director.

Wellness Camp guests Ed and Jane Lawaty, members of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, experience a hands-on cooking class.



news

NEW JERSEY

Delegates Elects Leadership Team at 41st Constituency

More than 390 delegates to the New Jersey Conference's (NJC) 41st regular constituency meeting recently gathered at the Robbinsville church to review and celebrate the ministry achievements over the last quinquennium and to vote in the executive leadership team for the next five years.

Members represented 95 organized churches, 13 companies, 11 church plants/groups, and five Seventh-day Adventist education institutions—including seven new churches and seven new companies that were officially voted into the conference at the meeting.

Delegates also voted in the conference's executive leadership team: President Jorge Aguero; Executive Secretary Stephen Lee; and Treasurer Carlos Portanova.

Aguero, the re-elected president, shared a video report highlighting the conference's accomplishments by way of local churches, pastors, schools and teachers over the last quinquennium. He also reported that, despite the pandemic, the conference recently celebrated "100 Sabbaths of Victories"—welcoming a total of 2,600 new members through baptism.

Mario Thorp, who served as executive secretary for the last five years, reported that in August 2017, church membership was at 16,532, and as of June 2022, it stood at 18,126—an increase of 10 percent.

In his treasurer's report, Portanova said, "During the last five years, faithful members of the New Jersey Conference have returned over \$66 million compared to over \$56 million in tithe in the previous quinquennium. That is an increase of 18 percent. The year 2021 was a great year on tithe income, despite the global pandemic."

Lee, the newest member of the executive team and who pastors the Robbinsville and Princeton churches and is the conference's Adventist Community Services director, said, "It is my desire to follow Christ in supporting my mentors and colleagues in administrative and pastoral ministry, teachers who hold a pulpit in their classrooms, the office staff who work behind the scenes, and laity who sacrificially serve their local congregation."

At the meeting, delegates also voted in a new executive committee—comprised of 19 people—who will meet quarterly to oversee the operations of the conference. The constituents additionally voted



New Jersey Conference's leadership team for the next quinquennium is President Jorge Aguero (center), Executive Secretary Stephen Lee (right) and Treasurer Carlos Portanova.

in several changes to the by-laws—including allowing a virtual or combination virtual/in-person (hybrid) constituency meeting in the case of exceptional or extenuating circumstances when an in-person meeting is impossible or impractical. They also voted on procedures for electronic voting. Among the new options are specifications for how votes by digital platform or email should be conducted.

"It was a very exciting and interesting experience," says Sebastian Campos, a member of the Union City Spanish church and a first-time delegate. "I was very intrigued by how everybody discussed the topics on the agenda and collaborated on electing the leaders for the new term. I truly believe that God has blessed the New Jersey Conference over and over again. I'm confident that the new leaders will do everything in their power to make sure that the mission is a success and to ultimately do God's will, impacting other lives for the better."

Aguero concluded the meeting, charging the delegates to surrender their lives to Jesus and to go make disciples, reminding them, "No matter our differences, you are part of this church, and we're here to serve you."—V. Michelle Bernard

PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

Conference Celebrates ‘100 Sabbaths of Victories’

“Acts 2:47 says, ‘and the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved’ (NKJV)”, states Jorge Aguero, president of the New Jersey Conference. “The Lord not only added to the early church then, but He is still doing so today.”

For 100 consecutive Sabbaths in the NJC, constituents witnessed the Lord’s blessing on His church through baptism. From October 2020 to August 27, 2022, pastors and lay pastors baptized members every single Sabbath—totaling 2,600 new members.

“We have called this miracle, the ‘100 Sabbaths of Victories,’ says Aguero. “The pandemic closed our temples but not our mission. To God be the glory!”



Eber Marski, pastor of the Atlantic County church, baptizes David Rodriguez.



Baptismal candidates Rianne Delos Reyes, Carlene Racauckas, Natalia Luste, Natalie Reodica, Adriel Guerrero, Lucas Osorto, David Edwards, Aaron Aspe, Alex Aspe, Max Delos Reyes, Ryan Racauckas and Andre Pratt become members of the Cherry Hill church. (Nia Alteros is not pictured.)



New Youth Director Joins Conference

The New Jersey Conference welcomes Carl Rodriguez to serve as the new youth director. With many years of Youth Ministries experience under his belt, Rodriguez has worked as a teacher, pastor, camporee director and conference youth and young adult director. He most recently served as the Youth and Young Adult Ministries director for the Chesapeake Conference.



Rodriguez is currently a candidate for a Doctorate in Ministry in Urban Ministries from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.), and already holds a Master of Divinity from the same institution. He also has a Master of Business Administration from Frostburg State University (Md.).

Rodriguez is happily married to his sweetheart, Maria, and the couple has one daughter, Elizabeth. They also have two dogs, Caspian and Narnia, and two cats, Tux and Lynx.

In their spare time, the family enjoys playing tennis, golf, hiking, biking, reading, traveling, sightseeing and watching movies together.

Carl Rodriguez, alongside his wife, Maria, is the conference’s new youth director.

A Year of Youth Department Firsts

Another year has come to a close, and we can honestly say that God has not only been with us but has truly led and blessed the children, high school youth, young adults and adults of Ohio.

Reflecting on the year, we had quite a few “firsts.” Some firsts are returning to Camp Mohaven in Danville, Ohio, for Adventurer and Pathfinder events. Other firsts are beginning an organizational culture shift, turning “the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents” (Mal. 4:6, NIV).

March saw our first “Growing Together” weekend, where more than 40 leaders from 17 churches gathered at Mohaven (pictured, below) to learn how to help each generation worship and serve in their local congregations. Jake Mulder, author of the book, *Growing Young*, led this training intensive with practical tools and suggestions for this ministry cohort.

As a result of the program, these 17 churches are journeying through 12 months of mentorship until March 2023. Leaders meet via Zoom to discuss intergenerational ministry plans. For example, one church is planning a retreat in which they are intentionally bringing together children, youth, young adults, and adults to fellowship, worship and grow together in Christ.

In April, we held our first post-pandemic Pathfinder Fair. More than 300 Pathfinders, leaders and parents gathered at Mohaven under the theme, “Respectfully Yours,” looking at the life of Abigail from the Old Testament.

In May, we also had our first post-COVID-19 “Respectfully Yours” Adventurer Family Retreat at Mohaven. Brooke Wong (the former chaplain of Worthington Adventist Academy) shared the ways



Campers relax by the fire at the 2022 Young Adult Retreat.

God’s children honored Him in the book of Ruth.

Youth also enjoyed the first Columbia Union Camporee in years, and parents connected at the first Adventurer and Pathfinder leadership training following the camporee.

Another first took place during summer camp, with the first major disaster to hit Camp Mohaven. High winds and tornadoes struck Mohaven the Monday night of Cub Camp. No one was hurt or injured, even though the destruction was tremendous. Though cub campers went home that Tuesday morning, camp staff worked tirelessly to restore the facilities, and within days, were ready to host the remainder of the camp season. The Lord blessed, and as a result, 30 young people gave their lives to Christ through baptism by the end of summer camp.

Our goal in the Youth Department is not just youth ministry on the sidelines of the church but intergenerational ministry for all ages. Adventurers learning with club leaders. Pathfinders exploring with club directors. Summer campers interacting with pastors, adult staff and young adult counselors. All these ministries thrive because multiple generations come together to fellowship, worship, serve and grow in Christ together.



Edward Marton
Youth Ministries Director



'Influencers for Jesus' Overflow With Energy

After a two-year hiatus of public Youth Ministries events, Ohio Conference's Hispanic Ministries recently hosted the 2022 "Día de la Juventud Adventista de Ohio" (Ohio Adventist Youth Day). More than 500 youth and young adults from across the state gathered at Eastwood Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy for worship, spiritual encouragement, fun activities and fellowship.

The weekend's theme inspired youth to be "Influencers for Jesus." Guest speakers included Edward Marton, the conference's Youth Ministries director, and Andres Peralta, the General Conference's associate youth director. They challenged attendees to use their influence to reach others for Jesus through tools like social media. Workshops and seminars allowed attendees



Wilson Baca (speaking), pastor of the Columbus First Hispanic district, introduces the youth members who produced a video titled, *Influencers in my Community*.



Edward Marton, Youth Ministries director, baptizes Angela Margarita Guerrero Cerda from the West Columbus Spanish church.

to learn about and practice their witnessing skills for the modern era.

"We are overjoyed to see the manifestation of the Lord in this place!" says Peter Simpson, the conference's Hispanic Ministries coordinator. "It is something unexpected to see dozens and dozens of young people engaging their talents and leaving their lives at the feet of Jesus."

Several young people responded to the day's call to give their lives to Jesus, eight surrendering their lives to Christ through baptism.

"The weekend had an excellent environment, with good music, good seminars, wonderful baptisms!" says Peralta. "The energy of the young people was marvelous!"

Secondary Teacher Receives Outstanding Educator Role

The Ohio Conference celebrates Lisa Moller, the 2022 Columbia Union Conference Educator of the Year recipient. "Teaching high school English at Spring Valley Academy in Dayton, Ohio, Moller embodies the best of what Seventh-day Adventist education is for our students!" says Rick Bianco, education superintendent for the Ohio Conference. "Reach out to your students' teachers wherever you are, and let them know regularly how much you appreciate their tireless work!"



Pennsylvania Pen

Faithfulness Powers the Mission

This has been a historic year. We have seen the largest inflation increase in the past 40 years. We have also seen a decline of stock markets in the United States and the rest of the world. There is a lot of uncertainty in our world today. Despite it all, we have seen the faithfulness of our brothers and sisters here in Pennsylvania.

As of August 2022, God has blessed us with a 4.1 percent increase in our tithe over the previous year. We also reached our evangelism offering goal of \$300,000 during camp meeting—even though it was a shorter camp meeting than most.

This is what “Powering the Mission” is all about. Every single one of us, united to power the mission through our faithfulness. We know we are living in the last days, and God is going to power His last-day mission through our offerings of thanksgiving and faithful return of His tithe and other gifts. This is how we honor and worship Him.

Learn more about our strategic initiative, “Powering the Mission,” and find resources for you and your family at paconference.org/stewardship. Then join us in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we continue to Reach Everyone, Everywhere—because united, we can fulfill the mission.



Horacio Hernandez-Ble
Interim Treasurer

Sharing the Gospel Through a Pantry

Dawn Penatzer frequently stopped by the food pantry outside of the Simple Way mission group in Carnegie, Pa.

“Often, she would find just what she needed. Maybe it was a packet of Ramen noodles or a bottle of shampoo,” says John Kent, pastor of Simple Way. “One evening, Penatzer came to the cupboard just as we were getting ready for prayer group. ... We chatted for a few minutes, and then I invited her to join us for the prayer time. Pausing for a second, she agreed to come in.”

From that moment, Penatzer began attending regularly. When Kent invited her to study the Bible, she immediately agreed. “Dawn was hungry to learn

from the Bible. She devoured the lessons. She embraced the truths she found and soon asked to be baptized. What an awesome privilege it was to immerse Dawn in the baptismal waters as she took this step of devotion to Jesus,” Kent says. “Now, Dawn is a wonderful, devoted follower of Christ. She leads worship and will soon become a group teacher. I have never met anyone who faces challenges and maintains such a cheerful heart. Her life is hard, but in the strength of Jesus, she keeps pressing forward to love, serve and honor Him.”

Penatzer shares, “The pantry is my miracle cupboard. I came looking for food, and I found a family.”

Kent notes, “Sometimes something as small as a food pantry serves far more than food. Dawn’s deepest hunger was for a family to love and care for her.”

The Simple Way’s food pantry is just one example of how churches are connecting with their communities in vital and inviting ways—showing sympathy, meeting needs, winning their confidence and then inviting them to follow Jesus (see Ellen White’s book, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).



Dawn Penatzer, a new member of the Simple Way mission group, shares, “The [food] pantry is my miracle cupboard.”

Conference Welcomes Media Ministries Director

Matt Stroup has joined the Pennsylvania Conference team as the new Media Ministries director. This new position will focus on creating resources to equip and help churches in their mission to reach everyone, everywhere. He will film and produce training videos and other resources that members can use to help share the gospel with their communities.

Stroup brings more than 22 years of experience in multimedia production and education to this role. "After reconnecting with Christ, I decided to leave the entertainment industry," he shares. "I am excited to use my gifts and experience for God and to impact the lives of others with the gospel."

Gary Gibbs, Pennsylvania Conference's president, says, "Media Ministries is the next step in the conference's 'Reach and Connect' strategic initiative, as we seek to connect with the more than 95 percent of Americans who are online. Video and social media are tools we can use as we follow Christ's method to [lead people to follow Jesus]."

Gibbs continues, "We intentionally designed our new conference office building to be a Mission and Evangelism Center, equipped to produce resources that will enable our churches and schools to effectively share the gospel with their family, friends and neighbors. Matt not only brings strong skills and experience but a passion for reaching people with our message of hope and salvation."

Stroup and his wife, Sara, have four children and are members of the State College church in Pennsylvania.



Young Adults Impact Community

"Just like any other canvassing day, this day was no different, except for one thing," shares Joosung Kim, a member of the Impact Magabook Ministries team who went door to door earlier this year. "Stairs! These were the most stairs I have climbed in my life in one day. ... So, you had to make the most of every single person you spoke to. At one door, I noticed a key that was still in the keyhole."



When the gentleman who lived in the house saw Kim through the window, he motioned for him to leave. Before Kim left, he told the man about the key in his door. "The funny thing is, he had to open the door to get it—and I didn't let this God-given opportunity slip by! I shared the books with him, and in the end, he chose three. Once again, I was reminded that God provides for His dear children!"

Pennsylvania Conference's Impact Magabook Ministries offers young adults the opportunity to raise funds for their school tuition while simultaneously impacting the lives of people by sharing the gospel through books and literature, praying with them and offering Bible studies. This year's team knocked on more than 30,000 doors, placing more than 6,800 books into homes.

"Literature evangelism puts young people in a position to test and grow their faith. ... You see [God's provision] every day as students receive donations for their Adventist education and people are being saved through the written Word," says Johnathan Ryan, Publishing Ministries coordinator for the conference.

Joosung Kim, a member of the Impact Magabook Ministries team, displays his books alongside his new friend.



Potomac People

*growing healthy,
disciple-making churches*

Home Sweet Home

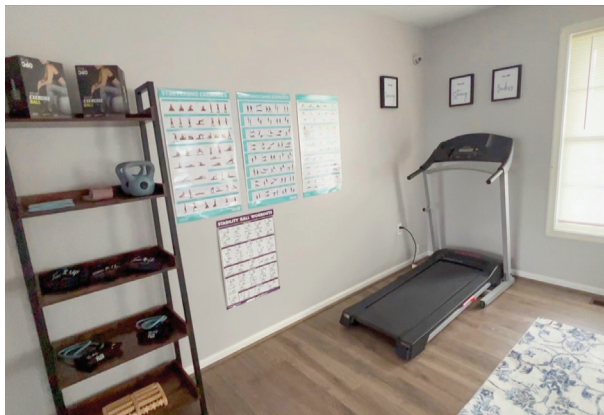
Members of the Potomac Conference office staff recently gathered to improve the living conditions for those seeking refuge from domestic violence. The project fell under the auspices of the We CARE (Compassion Actively Realized Everywhere) Committee, established by the conference in 2021.

The purpose of We CARE is to partner and participate with local organizations and stakeholders in the Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta counties in Virginia to better understand and meet the needs of their communities.

The committee contacted Rosalind Cook, director of program services for the Staunton chapter of the New Directions Center, a national nonprofit organization that provides advocacy, housing assistance and crisis intervention to people affected by domestic violence.

At their initial meeting, Cook told the committee that the organization was asking local establishments and concerned citizens to adopt one of the four bedrooms in the house for renovation. "The residents of our shelter are here because they are seeking protection from physical and emotional abuse," she says. "When they enter our doors, they are in crisis and are experiencing one of the most difficult times of their lives. We not only want to provide for them a haven from harm, but we also want to offer them a comfortable, clean and cheery place."

Debra Anderson, special assistant to the office of the president and chair of the committee, says,



The "after" picture of a room Potomac Conference office staff renovated to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.



The "before" picture of a room Potomac Conference office staff renovated, as they adopted an entire four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath house.

"The Potomac Conference doesn't merely want to occupy office space in Staunton. Our workers want to be active participants in making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. When presented with the opportunity to significantly impact the living conditions for those seeking a safe place, we jumped at the chance."

Representatives from the committee were given the opportunity to tour the home for a needs assessment. Moved by the stories of some of the residents, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the entire four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath house for renovation.

More than 12 staff members removed wallpaper, applied a fresh coat of paint, installed new carpet and flooring, assembled new furniture, made necessary repairs and decorated the entire house. The project took six days to complete with staff members investing more than 500 work hours.

Renovation of the shelter is the second initiative the We CARE committee has undertaken. The first enterprise was in November 2021, when the office staff distributed more than 400 pies to residents in the community, local government offices and businesses in Staunton.

The committee will embark on its third initiative, a Community Spring Fling, to be held in 2023 on the grounds of the Potomac Conference.

Conference Establishes Salt and Light Award

The Potomac Conference is recognizing eligible churches, schools and other ministry institutions for the innovative ways they are moving beyond the walls in service to their communities. Throughout the conference territory, local pastors are engaging their members, educators are involving their students, and organizations are linking with their supporters to expand their wit, wisdom and wherewithal to help those in need.

“Moving Beyond the Walls” has been the conference’s focus since March 2021. Subsequently, members have focused on ministering in novel ways. As a result, conference administrators decided to recognize two institutions by honoring them with the Salt and Light Award.

The first awards were given to the Beltsville (Md.) church and the Olney Preparatory Adventist School (Md.). Beltsville church was recognized for its many years of providing food, clothing and medical services to the local community. The Olney school received its award for collecting blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides handmade blankets to children in need.

Charles A. Tapp, conference president, says that moving beyond the walls is rooted in Matthew 5:13 when Jesus calls for His followers to be the salt of the earth. “As salt serves no purpose remaining in the shaker, neither do we as the church if we are content with merely remaining behind the walls of our buildings and institutions,” he says. “We must move within the community to find and address their needs if we are to be effective ministers of the gospel.”



PHOTO BY RICHARD CASTILLO

The Passing of a Preacher

The Potomac Conference family recently suffered the loss of one of its most prolific preachers, George E. Thornton, Sr.

In October 2021, Thornton was installed as the senior pastor of the Woodbridge (Va.) church. He served the church for just 10 months before his passing.

Thornton embarked on his new appointment with energy and enthusiasm. On his first day, he affectionately renamed the church, “The Bridge.” The members embraced it, seeing the name as a mantra to develop a deeper relationship with the local community.

Thornton joined the Potomac Conference after serving three years at the Magazine Street church in Louisville, Ky., although the majority of his pastoral ministry career was in the Allegheny East Conference.

A visionary pastor, Thornton enjoyed the admiration and respect of his colleagues. Paul Graham, associate ministerial director for the Potomac Conference, says of Thornton, “His preaching was on-time, on-point and on-message. George was known for his catchy and unique sermon titles. When he stood at the pulpit, he delivered messages

that were profound and effective. Sharing the gospel of God’s redemptive mercy and grace was his imperative, and he delivered every time.”

Thornton was passionate about young people and education, serving as principal of both Pine Forge Academy (Pa.) and Dupont Park Adventist Junior Academy in Washington, D.C.

He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of 30 years, and their three adult children, Cortney, George Jr., and Justin.





THE BMA EXPERIENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

A Powerful Start to School Year

Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) began the new year with 161 students—an increase in enrollment over the past three years—and with several “power weekends” featuring speakers who shared their testimonies and challenged the young people and staff to take the steps needed to strengthen their relationships with God.

Justin Kim (pictured, below), assistant director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries for the General Conference, challenged students not to settle for being mediocre.

Junior student Lucas Magnum shares what impacted him from the weekend: “We sometimes think ... we don’t have to be careful when we hang



around friends who aren’t Christian and how they could influence us. Or how we use the latest technology to watch videos or listen to music instead of using it to help God and His mission. We need to be extra careful with what we let our minds see and think. If we are in a situation that can influence us to break our relationship with God, we need to pray and ask Him what we need to do to strengthen our relationship with Him instead.”

Sophomore Mark Vine adds, “Dr. Eric Walsh presented the Bible and the parables of Jesus in a way presentable to the youth. His presentations showed me why it is important to self-evaluate myself; whether the seed grows depends on me, not the Sower.”

Walsh, who earned a doctorate degree in Public Health from Loma Linda University (Calif.), is a practicing physician and health care administrator.



Speaker Eric Walsh, a practicing physician, is flanked by Principal Burney Culpepper (left) and Chaplain Antonio Gil.

Other speakers included pastors Jack and Amanda LaCamera. Jack serves as the associate pastor for the State College and Lewistown churches in Pennsylvania.

“We have been blessed with powerful speakers over the last few weeks, and there are more scheduled in the future,” states Burney Culpepper, BMA’s principal. “These weekends help to reinvigorate our spiritual life and point us to the only source of hope—Jesus Christ.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4–5

Youth Rally with Sebastien Braxton, international speaker and serial entrepreneur

December 9–10

Christmas concerts

December 16–17

Mental Health Seminar with Dana Philossaint, educational psychologist; and Frantz Philossaint, spiritual coach and operations

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

Academy Blessed With Student Population Growth

Highland View Academy (HVA) has been blessed during the 2022–23 school year with a 12 percent growth in its student population. Ending last school year with 96 students—including a graduating class of only 20—the future seemed bleak. But God had a different plan in store, and this year the academy boasts 106 students.

It is a blessing to have the opportunity to share Seventh-day Adventist Christian high school education with students from across the Chesapeake Conference, as well as from states like New York and Ohio and countries like Colombia, Korea, Peru and Thailand.

During the admissions process, students who apply will have references submitted on their behalf and then be interviewed by a small admissions committee to help ensure that HVA is the best fit for them. They will then have a class schedule generated and be assigned an on-campus job where they will work as a part of their school program. Their work helps with character development and will assist in personally reducing the cost of attending HVA. The school offers many scholarships for students who qualify.

Along with new assistant deans in both dorms and a change in the administration this year, HVA welcomes new students, faculty and staff. An emphasis on mental, physical and spiritual well-being is already increasing student engagement in the multitude of classes, musical and sports organizations and with ongoing community service in local, national and international arenas.

Admissions for second semester is now open to 9th through 11th graders. HVA also has rolling admissions for students interested in attending the 2023–24 school year. Please contact the Office of Admissions by clicking the “Learn more about HVA!” QR code. Come join the value of an Adventist Christian education at HVA!



Highland View Academy welcomes students from across the world to enjoy Adventist Christian education.



Learn more about HVA!



Visit HVA's website!



the LEGACY

OUR JOURNEY

A PUBLICATION OF LAKE NELSON ADVENTIST ACADEMY

A Library Is Born

Gigi Darko wanted to do something different for her 40th birthday—something that would give back to the community. In 2019, Darko (pictured, right, in yellow) and 10 of her family members, including her Ghanaian-born husband and two daughters, flew to Ghana to share books and school supplies with children in need.

Darko's goal of 40 supplies for 40 children, celebrating her 40 years of life, quickly expanded as the Lake Nelson and University Heights churches in New Jersey learned of her project. As generous donations poured in for them to serve four churches in four different communities, the Darko family realized they could serve more than 1,560 students, including 61 orphans.

When they arrived in Ghana, Darko says, "We met so many beautiful children. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed with cheers and gratitude—not for food but for books. Their level of gratitude was overwhelming. Even the village leaders were in tears."

Darko's daughters Gianna and Tessia are students at Lake Nelson Adventist Academy (LNAA). As they visited the four schools, the girls wore their school uniforms to show the children that even small kids can be a blessing to others.



"When we came back home," she says, "all I could think about were the children and how I could get more books to them."

An idea began to formulate in her mind. What if she could build a library for the Ghanaian children? She didn't want to ask for charity, so she began writing books about the COVID-19 pandemic and about children. She later started her own publishing company, Notes Publishers, with all book sale proceeds going toward building the Legacy Library in Ghana. LNAA and the LNAA Student Association donated pencil boxes filled with pencils, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, markers, pens and glue sticks.

In the fall of 2021, Gigi's husband, Teddy, and an architect drafted building plans. After plan approval, the Darko family began raising funds for construction. Three generous investors matched the funds Gigi raised through her book sales, and they had enough to begin the project. In addition, Gigi received \$15,000 worth of books for the library.

Little by little, Teddy bought building supplies and hired local contractors. Finally, in late spring of 2022, the Darkos gathered village leaders together for a groundbreaking ceremony, praising God for the future library and the solid foundation that had already been laid.

Gigi says, "It is only by the grace of God that we were able to build the first stand-alone library in a public elementary school in the city of Kpando, Ghana."

They anticipate to hold a ribbon cutting and dedication service for the library in July 2023.



Gianna and Tessia Darko distribute filled pencil boxes to Ghanaian children, provided by LNAA and the LNAA Student Association.

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Phone: (732) 981-0626 ■ Fax: (732) 981-0770 ■ lakenelsonacademy.org ■ Principal, Elisa Maragoto ■ Editor, Ashley Boggess

PFA POST



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

Clubs Build Self-Esteem, Teach New Skills

Extracurricular clubs are a resourceful, fun and interactive way to teach students new information and skills. This year, faculty and staff at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) are utilizing clubs to share their personal hobbies with students.

The curriculum on Fridays consists of labs and clubs—10 clubs to be exact: Beautification, Culture Appreciation, Coding, Healthy Living, Poetry, Robotics, Sparks Online (Journalism), French, Yearbook, and Spiritual Life. Students are allowed to be in two clubs that run all year.

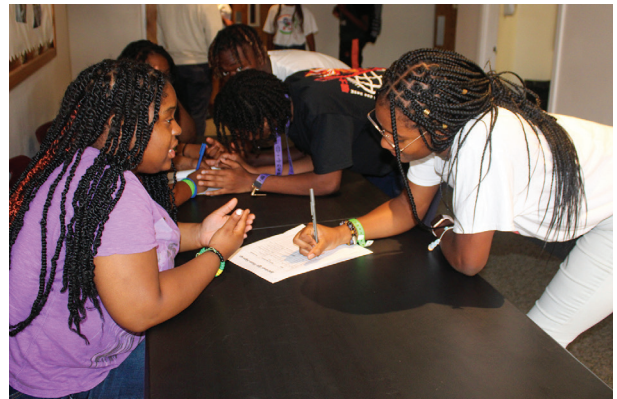
Clubs have always been a part of the PFA lifestyle, building self-esteem and leadership, offering opportunities to experience ownership of activities or products, teaching new skills, and helping make new friends.

For example, the Beautification Club does extra clean-up around the campus. Managed by Makayla Weathers ('23) and sponsored by H. Clifford Reynolds, III, PFA's principal, the club is working toward restoring the school's greenhouse and disposing of old furniture in some of the buildings.

Participant Jhamal Nelson ('23) says, "I find a sense of accomplishment after doing something good for the campus. I think people need to pay more attention to keeping the campus neat and clean."



Seniors Elijah Tyler and Makayla Weathers clean the gym basement during Beautification Club.



Sophomore student Marie-Michelle Desir encourages classmate Kaitlyn Lyseight-Shields to sign up for the Spiritual Life Club.

Kristen Dudley ('23) joined Sparks Online to "better develop my skills in journalism and public relations," while Cairo Nora ('23) has learned "how to manage and promote myself and others on social media." Sparks Online is sponsored by Elita Baker ('05), the school's technology instructor. Baker also sponsors the Coding Club, which "encourages students to take the first step toward being a creator and not just a consumer of technology."

The Culture Appreciation Club is a new club for students who are fascinated with Asian culture and art. Sponsored by Deborah Claborn, admissions director and registrar, she helps students identify and share Asian entertainment and culture that aligns with Christian values. For example, students discuss their favorite anime, Korean movies, TV shows, clothing and music, and examine how and if these things can be incorporated into a Christian lifestyle.

One of the most popular clubs is the Spiritual Life Club, sponsored by Ja'Chin Holness, PFA's chaplain. This club plans programs and activities to foster and enhance the spiritual growth of the student body. Students write, practice and perform skits, as well as organize games and music that minister to the PFA youthful audience.

Spotlight on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

LOVE TO LEARN
LIVE TO SERVE
ALL FOR CHRIST

Students Grow Spiritually at Annual Retreat

Spencerville Adventist Academy's (SAA) motto, "Love to Learn, Live to Serve, All for Christ," echoes Colossians 3:17, which reminds us to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (ESV). With this admonition in mind, SAA began its high school year with a spiritual retreat, themed "Reflecting Christ," at Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. The goal of the retreat was twofold: to provide an opportunity for students to become better acquainted in a specifically spiritual context, and to foster a deeper personal relationship with God.

This year's retreat began with an afternoon of mixers and games planned by the Student Association (SA) and led by Lauren Brown, SA president.

Senior class member Jon-Carlo Celestial says, "I appreciated meeting new students and strengthening the bond with my current class." His classmate Ashlyn Wilhelm shares that she was inspired by a group of senior girls who went to each cabin one evening and introduced themselves to the incoming freshmen.

Friday evening and Sabbath were devoted to spiritual growth. Javier Scharon, pastor of the Dover



The worship team, including junior Timothy Levterov on the keyboard and sophomore Christian Hernandez on the guitar, lead praise time.

First and Forest Grove churches in Dover, Del., provided inspirational worship focused on being a "reflection" of Jesus.

"Pastor Scharon was relatable, inspiring, and gave us messages that really helped us draw closer to Jesus," says senior Caleb Berhanu.

A good portion of the Sabbath hours was dedicated to praise, worship and spiritual discussions. But it was the times of stillness and quiet that students seemed to most appreciate. Math teacher John Musselman led the students on a night hike to quietly contemplate the wonders of creation. Wilhelm says that it was during this time that she "felt the closeness and nearness of God." On Sabbath afternoon, students were also provided an hour of quiet time to be alone with God.

Timothy Levterov, a junior, says, "I thought the time for personal devotion and reflection was the most impactful moments of the spiritual retreat. I really appreciated that God and I had time to spend together, just the two of us."—*Tim Soper, Campus Chaplain*

PHOTOS BY ROBERT MARTINEZ AND AMBER MAYER



To encourage teamwork and bonding, students enjoy a variety of activities, including tug-of-war, planned by the Student Association.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

New High School Wing Dedicated

Spring Valley Academy (SVA) recently held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the Dean and Trudy Johnson High School Wing. Hundreds of SVA families, friends and community members attended the ceremony, recognizing major donors and the sacrificial generosity of the first donors who founded SVA.

After the ribbon was cut, the crowd streamed into the new space, and groups of parents, teachers and community members spent time in prayer, asking for God's blessing on the school year and His presence in the lives and hearts of the students who will learn within the new facility.



While the building may be completed, fundraising for the new space has not. The urgent need for more space, partly due to the record-high enrollment of 515, means that construction began before fundraising was complete. Another \$1.25 million still needs to be raised.

"We hope to get that done quickly," adds Wilkins. "God has big things planned for SVA. We don't want to get in His way!"

For more information or to support the project, please contact Angie Peach at (937) 433-0790.

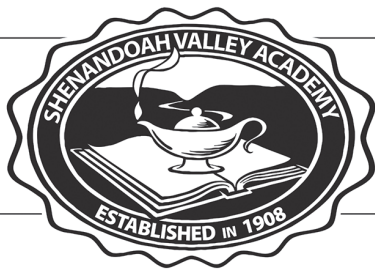
The high school addition adds 15,000 square feet to the existing campus and includes six new classrooms that open onto a large atrium with plenty of space for studying, small groups and other gatherings. There is also an activity room with ping-pong tables and a spacious patio.

Construction was completed within a year, a seemingly remarkable feat for a facility of its size and scope.

"It's an absolute miracle," says Darren Wilkins, SVA's principal (pictured, above, addressing the attendees at the ceremony). "At every turn, this project has shown us God's leading. We've been blessed!"



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IMPACT Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

56 Seniors Dedicated to Follow God's Calling

At the recent Shenandoah Valley Academy Senior Dedication, Principal Don Short placed the Class of 2023—made up of 56 seniors—into God's loving care during his dedication prayer:

Dear Father,

What a tremendous collection of dreams, hopes and desires on the platform this evening. It is with those dreams and desires that we come to you as teachers, administrators, parents, grandparents to ask for Your help.

The task is tremendous as we seek to raise our young people in the way they should go, that when they are old, they will not depart from it. You know there are many obstacles that would take each one of us away from the plans that You have for us. And so tonight we want to submit to You. We come before you in a simple and honest way to say that You have given each student here as a gift. Now we come back to You and dedicate these young people to You.

They have a tremendous influence. What an incredible amount of potential. It is staggering potential for good. We know within every Christian's sphere of influence, each one has the privilege of being an



Class of 2023 praise team members Aubrey Herbert, Trinity Moguel, Emma Cuellar, Saray Castillo, Jaylin Villatoro, Anaiah McCalla and Leo Lam sing during the Senior Dedication.



Dave Herbert (left), speaker, educator and parent of senior student, Aubrey, encourages the Class of 2023 to "Follow Your Dreams With God as Your Guide."

influence for good, to help others. May we set ourselves aside long enough to lend a helping hand.

And that is our prayer for our seniors as we dedicate them this evening, that when we come to the end of the school year and they're ready to make the next step, they can say their legacy is a positive one where they have helped others to know you better; they have answered the call and claims they have felt that You make in their lives; they are prepared to make that step and to serve others.

It is for these things that we come to You this evening, we pray for these things and dedicate this senior class. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| December 9-10 | Christmas Candlelight Concerts |
| February 11-12 | Middle School Basketball Tournament |
| April 14 | Alumni Golf Tournament |
| April 14-16 | Alumni Weekend |
| May 26-28 | Graduation Weekend |

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Academy Acquires Brand-New Starting Five

This school year, Takoma Academy (TA) welcomed five new members to its teaching staff: two math teachers; a history teacher; an English Language Arts teacher; and an athletic director. Some schools end up with teachers who go into education as a secondary option or who consider the job to be some sort of mitzvah. This group, however, is different. They have truly been called by God to do what they do.

History teacher Dori Caines hails from Bermuda. A recent graduate of Oakwood University (Ala.), Caines feels she is already making a real impact with the students. "My passion for education and young people allows me to fully put my heart and mind into serving these students," she says. "I'm enjoying coming into school every day to help create productive, critically thinking Christian individuals."

English Language Arts teacher Whitney Mack graduated from Southwestern Adventist University (Texas) in 2017. Prior to joining the TA family, she taught for five years at Allegheny East Conference's Pine Forge Academy (Pa.). Speaking to the school's culture, Mack says, "If you stand still and watch current and former faculty and staff, students, parents and other stakeholders, they seem to pour into each other at the right time. A joke, greeting or helping hand comes at the right time. Who but God orchestrates like that?"

Math and science teacher Maya Rawls is a multi-talented educator who joined the team after teaching in Baltimore County, Maryland, for three years. She gets excited when she talks about her students and how much she enjoys being a part of this educational experience. "Following God's calling for my life led me to leave the Baltimore County school system and embark on a mission to serve His children," she says.

Milan Scott, the other new math teacher, is a TA alumna, graduating in 2016. Scott reflects on her transition from former student to now teacher. "One



Takoma Academy welcomes new teachers (left to right) Maya Rawls, Dori Caines, Kevin McCray, Milan Scott and Whitney Mack to the 2022-23 academic year.

thing I especially love about TA is how much I can relate to the students I encounter every day," she says. "Being around students and other professionals who look like me, share the same Christian values as I do, and understand me in ways that I would not see in other schools has been a blessing."

Coach Kevin McCray is excited to work with high school students. Prior to arriving at TA, he was an elementary school gym teacher in Akron, Ohio. "My vision for the Athletic Department is to help create mobile-minded athletes who honor their opponents with their play and who represent Christ and TA to the fullest!"

TA is truly blessed to have such passionate and God-fearing educators working with its students!

“Who’s There?”

A girl was teaching her little brother how to tell a “Knock-Knock” joke, but he just didn’t get the “joke” part.

What he did understand almost immediately was that with the simple phrase “Knock-Knock,” he could command the attention of anyone he wanted. Trying his newfound powers out on his mom he said, “Mom, knock-knock!” “Who’s there?” she replied, leaning in to look at him and listen for his answer. Overwhelmed by the sudden focus and forgetting the idea of the joke, the boy innocently looked at his mom with face upturned and proclaimed, “Mama, it’s me!”

Active listening is powerful – and, at Adventist HealthCare, we recognize listening as an essential tool for effective care and healing. We cannot not show respect, provide excellence or be of service without listening carefully. When we listen with attention and focus, we can best live out our core values.

Writer and theologian Henri J. Nouwen expressed the power found in listening when he wrote, “The beauty of listening is that those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their words more seriously and discovering their true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends” (Bread for the Journey).

But active listening is not just something we are called on to do. It is a promise to us as well. A passage in the Old Testament of the Bible states, “The Lord is close to all who call on him” (Psalm 145:18, NLT) – and what an amazing assertion that is to think that God is listening! It brings listening right to the center of the sustaining relationship we have with our Creator.

I hope you carry in your heart the feeling that you are listened to with the deepest love and respect. And I hope that you experience that feeling so strongly that it is a joy to extend active listening to others as true spiritual hospitality. Thank you for playing a crucial part in Adventist HealthCare’s ability to help others feel heard – one of the most powerful ways we embrace our sacred Mission to extend God’s care.

Terry Forde
President & CEO
Adventist HealthCare



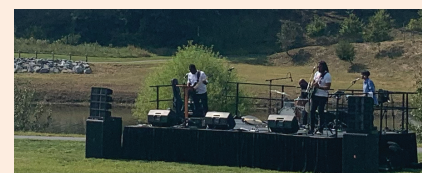
Concert at the Lake

Music filled the air as community members gathered on Sept. 18 at the lake behind Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center for a sunny afternoon to support body, mind and soul with music, health awareness and fellowship.

Subject matter experts talked directly with people on important health topics such as physical rehabilitation and emergency treatment as well as imaging, cancer, maternity, urinary tract, stroke, heart and vascular, and other service-specific care. Health screenings such as blood pressure checks were also offered. Additionally, community partners presented information on fire safety and affordable housing that incorporated green technology.

The event kicked off with music by the Praise team from New Hope Adventist Church in Fulton, Maryland, who inspired people to join in singing uplifting spiritual songs. Next the Pax River Band took the stage and featured Randy Preston, a singer-songwriter who has performed worldwide. His storytelling songs contained powerful messages of hope and growth.

The afternoon of fun was rounded out with giveaways and a variety of raffle prizes generously donated by local businesses and sponsor DARCARS.



Top and middle: Community members engaged with experts on a range of health topics. Bottom: The Pax River Band performs in front of the lake.

Living Our Mission to Extend God's Care



Breast Cancer Awareness

Adventist HealthCare celebrated Breast Cancer Awareness month in October with several community activities.

- On Oct. 2, breast cancer survivors were celebrated with a special honor walk and sunset luminary launch at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center. Many survivors and team members from across Adventist HealthCare attended in tribute to the strength of breast cancer survivors.
- On Oct. 19, a virtual webinar was held featuring experts from Adventist HealthCare who shared important information about early detection and the latest advances in prevention and treatment.
- Available on demand are two new episodes of the "Adventist HealthCare & You" podcast featuring breast health topics – "Young Women and Breast Cancer" and "Mammogram Myths." Find the episodes at [AdventistHealthCare.com/Living-Well/Podcast](https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/Living-Well/Podcast).

Forensic Medical Unit's Research Sheds Light on Abuse in Dark Skin

The Forensic Medical Unit (FMU) at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center is one of two hospitals in the nation researching the use of alternate light sources to improve the discovery and documentation of bruises across skin color groups.

The research is a potential breakthrough in caring for abuse cases in people of various races and ethnicities. Shady Grove is partnering with Dr. Katherine Scafide of George Mason University in Virginia on the research. In the first round, Dr. Scafide and her team analyzed 2,903 bruises on adults representing six different skin color groups. The researchers tested bruises with alternate light sources (ALS), which are used at crime scenes to find evidence. Bruising and soft tissue injury is more difficult to detect and document in individuals with darker skin tones, but using ALS helped detect bruising during the first few days after inquiry, research found. Currently, Shady Grove Medical Center's FMU is continuing to partner with researchers as a study site helping to develop an evidence-based practice program.

Golfing for a Great Cause!



Record numbers of sponsors, players, and invited guests joined in Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center's third annual golf tournament in August. More than 130 players enjoyed friendly competition and an additional 13 players participated in a Rehabilitation Adaptive Clinic for people with mobility challenges. More than \$225,000 was raised to support nurses with enhanced education, training, tools and resources to further improve world-class care to every patient, every time.

Advanced Stroke Treatment Honored



Stroke caregivers celebrate certification by The Joint Commission for improving outcomes for patients.

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center has earned a prestigious national certification for mechanical thrombectomy, an advanced minimally invasive stroke treatment shown to be very effective for strokes that involve a blockage in a major vessel of the brain. Mechanical thrombectomy extends the time window to treat patients who may not qualify for tPA, the clot-busting medication commonly used to treat stroke. The Joint Commission, in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, awarded Shady Grove Medical Center its Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC) Certification. The designation also recognizes Shady Grove Medical Center's excellent care to patients after the procedure.

Teaming Up Together

By Christina Keresoma

Hearing the word “cancer” brings anyone’s world to a stop. Life seems to freeze around as you try to comprehend everything that’s about to change.

The cancer journey affects the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. And it requires a community to navigate. That’s why at Kettering Health we stand behind our faith-based approach to bring to every cancer patient care that not only heals but also offers hope. Our dedicated cancer specialists treat patients with innovative treatments and a holistic approach, coming alongside patients and their families for every step of the journey. We’re no stranger to what it takes to help others fight cancer—and neither are our friends in the NFL.

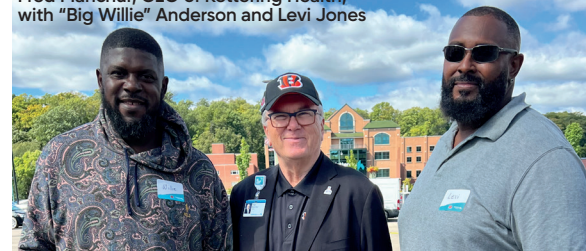
In 2009, the NFL and the American Cancer Society began a campaign to bring awareness to cancer prevention and the screenings available to spot cancer in its earliest stages: the “Crucial Catch: Intercept Cancer” campaign. The campaign has raised more than \$23 million for the American Cancer Society.

The Cincinnati Bengals, of which Kettering Health is the official healthcare partner, promote the Crucial Catch campaign in several ways. On Thursday, September 29, the Cincinnati Bengals brought team alumni and others to the Kettering Health Cancer Center, located on the campus of Kettering Health Main Campus. There, Bengals legends joined forces with Kettering Health staff to create care packages, sign banners of encouragement, film inspirational video messages, and meet some of the patients.

“As a healthcare organization, Kettering Health is dedicated to supporting the needs of our community, ultimately helping people be their best,” said Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Health. “The Bengals are equally committed to



Fred Manchur, CEO of Kettering Health, with “Big Willie” Anderson and Levi Jones



their people, their fans, and local residents. This partnership builds on that common purpose and the strengths of both organizations. We are excited to work together to build a healthier community.”

The event at the Cancer Center preceded the Bengals’ “Ring of Honor” at the Paycor Stadium, where Bengals alumni Willie Anderson and Isaac Curtis were inducted into the Bengals Ring of Honor during the game.

Center of Excellence

Kettering Health Main Campus is now a Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Center of Excellence. Facilities that receive this designation excel in patient care, safety, and multiple therapies. Our sites offer therapies for neuroendocrine tumors, thyroid cancer, prostate cancer, and more.

"This designation is a testament to the quality and collaboration that makes our department stand out," said Rachael Sammet, director of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging at Kettering Health. "I'm proud of our team and the care they provide for the Dayton Community!"



Stop the Bleed

The Kettering Health Trauma Program has trained 6,000 community members in how to stop life-threatening bleeding. The Stop the Bleed program prepares the public to save lives through basic steps that can be taken to care for someone with a severe injury. The program is available free of charge to the community we serve.



Caring Beyond the Walls

We're called to care for patients beyond the walls of our medical centers. And our friends in Kettering Health Dayton's cath lab are the perfect example of this.

The crew volunteered at Miami Valley Meals, prepping more than 100 large meals for under-resourced families.





Kettering College Receives Grant for Community Health Worker Program

By Courtney Dove

Kettering College has been awarded a grant aimed at creating and implementing a comprehensive education program for community health workers in Dayton, Ohio. The funding is effective immediately through September 2025. The \$1,847,399 grant is from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Community health workers (CHWs) are grassroots health workers who live in the communities they serve. They work with their friends, families, and neighbors to bring reliable health information and services to under-resourced communities. This is especially true for communities who are predominately minorities.

Kettering College, a division of Kettering Health, will develop, implement, and evaluate a new community health-worker training program (CHWTP) focusing on recruiting students from West Dayton and Trotwood, where many under-resourced people of color reside.

Nate Brandstater, president of Kettering College, says, "Although Kettering College is focused on degree programs, we recognize the value of certificate and short-term training programs that can enable our graduates to serve our communities."

Kettering College will partner with several community-based organizations to refer potential students, provide experiential learning sites, and assist with job readiness and placement. The college will also work with a local organization to develop the first apprenticeship program for CHWs in the Dayton area.

A portion of the grant funding will be used to develop and implement a continuing education program for current CHWs. Stakeholders from these organizations will be invited to join a community advisory committee, where they can offer advice and direction to ensure the program stays connected to those served by it.

The program will meet the requirements for certification from the Ohio Board of Nursing, which certifies CHWTPs and individual CHWs. Cohorts of students will begin late in the first budget year.

"Kettering College continues to seek ways to transform lives through innovative healthcare education," Brandstater says. "Our community health worker program will ensure that people in our community get the support and assistance they need to get and stay healthy. We are very grateful for this grant that will provide funding needed to develop and deliver this valuable program."

Night of Hope Blesses WGTS Community

It began nearly a decade ago. This year, Night of Hope once again provided attendees just what is needed most: hope in Jesus Christ. "Our vision for this ministry event is to provide an evening for listeners which intentionally paves the way for them to take one step closer to Christ," says Kevin Krueger, president and CEO. "It is intentionally free so that all may attend and receive the blessing of an evening of uplifting music, and an inspiring spoken message to help them face the challenges coming their way," says Krueger.

Christian music artist, Matt Maher, lead all in worship, and the personal testimony of WGTS afternoon host Johnny Stone, challenged all in attendance to submit their lives fully to Jesus. Johnny, who spent many years looking for meaning and purpose in his work as a secular radio show host, shared how God found him at his lowest point and led him to a job in Christian radio. "For the last 22 years," he shared, "working in Christian radio has given me an avenue to bring encouragement and hope to others, helping them discover how they can draw closer to God." Johnny impressed the audience that, "No matter how far you have strayed from God, He will always be there for you, ready to welcome you home."

Night of Hope is a time when we expect some attendees will hear about God's love for them for the first time. In this context, Night of Hope always includes a special area for prayer with our prayer team and pastors. "It was an honor to pray with a woman who had just that day been told by her doctor she had two months to live," shared a volunteer. Bibles, Bible study guides, and prayer journals, are shared freely, helping recipients in their walk with God.



Johnny Stone

God can give you the victory! WGTS midday show producer, Spencer White, inspires his team as he coaches them in kids' football. In the latest Words of Hope video devotional, he connects messages he learns as he coaches his team, with the giants we each face in life.

Spencer focuses on Matthew 17:20-21 in the devotional. It is a verse which assures us that even with faith as small as a mustard seed, God can use our faith and move mountains. He can take those big, scary giants and move them for us. He can give us the victory, sometimes even before we knew that giant was headed our way.



Words of Hope video

Listeners Donate Sleepwear

At a recent summer concert event, WGTS listeners generously contributed over 100 pairs of pajamas to help local children as part of the WGTS Hands and Heart initiative. The pajamas will be given to children through the nonprofit organization Comfort Cases, which helps children with a backpack filled with sleepwear and cosmetics who are going to a foster home.

WGTS brings many Hands and Heart project giving opportunities to listeners each year. "Whether local, national, or international, engaging our listening family in helping others is a part of our organizational DNA," says Kevin Krueger, president and CEO.






EVIDENCES OF DISTINCTIVE STUDENT SUCCESS



Washington Adventist University is continuing the transformational journey of engaging minds and transforming lives. It is essential to us to continuously measure how our students are experiencing the daily routines (academic and non-academic), of the WAU learning community. We are celebrating their successes and focusing on the timely adjustments we must make to ensure that our students are graduating on time, with little or no debt, ready for the 21st Century workplace and for eternity. Every action we implement is designed to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities. Here are three recent desired outcomes that demonstrate that we are on track in moving forward with outstanding student successes:

- My leadership style is to consistently ask students how they are experiencing WAU and if they are making the grades that would make me proud. On September 14, I asked a group of five biology/premed majors who were preparing for a physics test my usual questions. Each of their responses were clear and convincing. "The WAU experience is fantastic. There is nothing that you need to do to improve our WAU experience." They also indicated that they were making academic grades that would make me proud.
- From a recent nursing graduate: "My dear Dr. Griffin. Thanks for checking on me. I pray you are doing well. I am so excited with my nursing job. WAU trained us exceptionally. There is a great difference between us and those who studied in other schools. Many of my co-workers have asked me where I worked before as a nurse before coming to my present job. They are always so surprised when I tell them I am coming straight from school. I am so grateful to you all."
- "Dear Dr. Spence: My husband and I would like to thank you and your team for the outstanding experience our daughter... is having as a student in the honors program at WAU. I am also a former associate professor in the Education Department at WAU (2002 - 2006) and have a passion to see WAU continue to thrive. We were hoping to make an appointment with you to discuss some ideas we had about enrollment at the university. We would love to see many other students across the NAD have the same dynamic and exciting experience as our daughter is having... Thank you so much for letting us know what time and day would work for you. Kindest regards."

This is Washington Adventist University!



Weymouth Spence, President



FALL SEMESTER 2022 KICKS OFF AT WAU

The Fall 2022 Semester got off to a great start at Washington Adventist University (WAU), it began with the new students orientation during the week of August 21- 27. WAU welcomed 204 new, transfer and graduate students. Among those new students, nine (9) took advantage of the special annual flat tuition rate initiative of \$12,000 currently being offered by WAU for undergraduate Columbia Union students. The breakdown for the flat tuition rate is as follows: Four (4) from the Potomac Conference, three (3) from the Chesapeake Conference, one (1) from the Allegheny East Conference and one (1) from the Allegheny West Conference.

To start the semester, the Betty Howard Center for Student Success culminated their tireless efforts to welcome and engage the new students entering WAU as new freshmen and providing them a taste of WAU's culture as they start their academic journey. While most of the events occurred during the New Student Orientation week, Betty Johnson, DSL, newly appointed Dean for Student Success, shared a new initiative that preceded Orientation, "Welcome Days," which took place during the Summer. Approximately 42 prospective students visited WAU for a campus tour, individual sessions with faculty advisors, financial aid and account representatives, connecting with their cohort, and meeting the Center staff.

Johnson shared some of the most "influential activities," as she puts it, that had significant impact and added much value to the New Student Orientation experience. The Gateway Dinner was a highlight and well-attended event, hosting both students and their families. As customary, the dinner was followed by the Gateway Ceremony, where new students gave their pledge to work hard and to become part of the WAU culture, then afterward marched through the Gateway to Service arch and thus were officially welcomed into the WAU family.

As shared by the students, another high point in the week was "Bafa Bafa", a cross-cultural simulation led by Ralph Johnson, PhD, Dean for Student Life. This exercise allowed students to immerse themselves in a foreign culture and learn to navigate the experience through observation. The object of this activity was to model what could happen in diverse settings on campuses like WAU. They were told that the approach should be one of patience and respect- having an open mind towards the various cultural dynamics represented on campus and in the classroom.

Students also participated in the popular Ropes Course, a team building exercise. Additional highlights throughout the week were many ranging from the faculty panel, where faculty shared their expectations for the students, to the ice cream social, and to culminate the activities on Friday evening with a Consecration Service, a spiritual and solemn event featuring new students as the main participants.

Another event culminating the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester was the annual Colloquium event during which all WAU faculty, staff and administrators gather to launch the new academic year.

This launch is a vivid depiction of the Stephen Covey admonition that, for distinctive success, it is absolutely essential to "begin with the end in mind". Accordingly, during Wednesday through Friday of the third week of August. The academic community gathered to be inspired by Weymouth Spence, EdD, WAU President as he gave updates specific to the VISION 2030 priorities. Some other highlights of the colloquium were reconnecting through fellowship, listen to and create actions in response to the previous year's assessment data; be refined by professional development such as "relationship rich" customer service; experience the significance of being enriched by faculty research; gain insights on the newly acquired advising platform "WAU Finish Line" (Stellic) and learn of new student success resources such as those made available to WAU through the department of Education's EMC unit (e.g., VitaNavis and Financial Literacy).

Of special significance, this year's Colloquium was empowered by devotional themes shared by the WAU Student Ambassadors. The colloquium ended with an inaugural campus prayer walk.



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TRAVEL

ADVENTIST TOURS 2023: Israel in Jesus' Steps, April 16–25 and June 4–13 with Andy Nash, and June 18–27 with Clifford Goldstein; Egypt & Exodus, April 6–14; Revelation's Seven Churches/Patmos/Greece, March 22–April 2; Tanzanian Safari, March 1–8; Germany Reformation/WWII, June 16–28, 2024. Contact tabghatours@gmail.com or tabghatours.com, or call (423) 298-2141.

OBITUARIES

BETKE, David E., born March 11, 1944, in New Brighton, Pa., to the late J. John and Dorothy (Elliott) Betke; died September 24, 2019, in Beauer, Pa. He was a member of the New Brighton (Pa.) church. He enjoyed fishing, boating and his cat, Precious. He was a member of the Local Plumbers Union #27. Survivors: son, David E. (Morlene) Betke, Jr. of Hopewell, Pa.; daughter, Tracy (Jason) Sabatasse of Happy Valley, Ore.; his sisters, Sandra Lee (Edward) Dancek of Lansing, Mich., Linda Lou (Jim) Kusch of Darlington, Pa., and Donna Rae (Donald) Rapp of Mount Airy, Md.; and special friends Dan and Bernadette Parsons and Dr. Grace Tarabay. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Carolyn M. (Prest) Betke; and his grandson, Dallas Matthew Sabatasse.

HARLESS, Virginia B., born August 21, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pa.; died July 27, 2019, in Hagerstown, Md. She was an active member of the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Virginia was a teacher in Winchester, Va., and John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Md. Survivors: her daughter, Barbara McLaughlin; and her son, Donald Quincy Yowell.

SATTELMAIER, Joseph, born February 1, 1927, to the late Johann and Aloisa Sattelmair in Gradiska, Bosnia and Herzegovina; died March 31, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Va. At the end of WWII, he was incarcerated in three different Communist concentration camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the former Yugoslavia. After release from the concentration camps, he and other family members were permitted to move to West Germany because they were ethnic Germans. In 1957, they immigrated from Germany to the United States.

Soon after, Joseph and his family joined the Adventist church. He was a member of the Meadowbridge church in Mechanicsville, Va., for many years and served as a deacon. Joseph worked in the heating and air conditioning business. An avid gardener, he enjoyed sharing vegetables with friends and family. Survivors: Sophie, his wife of 69 years; sons John (Lynn) and Michael; grandchildren, Tracy (Nick), Joe (Stephanie), Judge and Journey; as well as great-grandchildren, Trey, Jack, Logan, Kate and Gavin. His sisters Olga and Mara preceded him in death, and he is survived by two sisters, Josephine and Anka.

REDDING, Leo C., born July 28, 1938, in Gettysburg, Pa.; died April 21, 2020, peacefully on his farm. He was the son of the late Leo L. and Marquerite (Storm) Redding and came from a large family of 15 siblings. Married for 61 years to Marlene G. (Fritz) Redding of Gettysburg, Pa., Leo was a member of the Gettysburg (Pa.) church. He worked as a dairy farmer and milked cows for over 60 years before recently selling his herd. When he was farming, he was very generous to the community, donating food to anyone who was in need. He was a loving and devoted family man and especially loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a very religious man and looked forward to Jesus' second coming. In addition to his wife, Marlene, Leo is survived by his eight children, Lindora (Richard) Costello of Georgia, Louella (Henry) Santos of Gettysburg, Suzette (Tyree) Berlin of Gettysburg, Jonathan (Rose) Redding of Gettysburg, Timothy (Kimberly) Redding of Orrtanna, Pa., Abraham Redding of Gettysburg, Paul (Lisa) Redding of Waynesboro, and Benjamin (Sarah) Redding of Middletown; 20 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; four siblings, Kenny Redding, Caroline Brighner, Genevieve Weaver and Theresa Spillman; and a number of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by 11 siblings.

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Bulletin Board

Sunset Calendar

	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30
Baltimore	6:03	4:56	4:50	4:46	4:44	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:52
Cincinnati	6:35	5:28	5:22	5:18	5:16	5:15	5:16	5:19	5:24
Cleveland	6:19	5:11	5:05	5:00	4:58	4:57	4:58	5:01	5:05
Columbus	6:27	5:20	5:14	5:10	5:07	5:07	5:08	5:11	5:15
Jersey City	5:50	4:43	4:37	4:32	4:29	4:29	4:30	4:33	4:37
Norfolk	5:50	4:43	4:37	4:32	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Parkersburg	5:50	4:43	4:37	4:32	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Philadelphia	5:56	4:49	4:43	4:39	4:36	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:44
Pittsburgh	6:14	5:07	5:01	4:57	4:54	4:53	4:54	4:57	5:02
Reading	5:58	4:51	4:45	4:41	4:38	4:37	4:38	4:41	4:46
Richmond	6:09	5:03	4:58	4:54	4:52	4:51	4:53	4:56	5:00
Roanoke	6:20	5:13	5:08	5:04	5:02	5:02	5:03	5:06	5:11
Toledo	6:26	5:19	5:12	5:08	5:05	5:04	5:05	5:08	5:12
Trenton	5:54	4:46	4:41	4:36	4:34	4:33	4:34	4:37	4:41
Wash., D.C.	6:05	4:58	4:53	4:49	4:46	4:46	4:47	4:50	4:54


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