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Pastors Answer 5 Tough Questions

What You Should Know (That Your Pastor Won't Tell You)

> Pastors Blog: What They do all Week

Clergy Appreciation Month

Beyond the Pulpit

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www.columbiaunion.org

Dear Pastor: Thank You!

hen I say the word "pastor," what comes to mind? I would guess that depending on whether you're at the dinner table, a church service, the hospital, or a church board or business meeting, the word conjures a variety of mental pictures, emotions, and experiences.

In films, pastors are depicted as heroes and villains, sinners and saints, and nearly everything in-between. In the news, we hear about the Billy Grahams, the Jimmy Swaggarts, the Jerry Falwells, and the Rick Warrens. In Adventist history, we revere pioneers like the George Vandemans, the E.E. Clevelands, the Morris Vendens, and the H.M.S. Richardes.

While we know those famous names, most of us relate to our local pastors. Some are loved; some are only tolerated. Some stay too long; some leave too soon. Some preach good sermons; some preach ... well, you know. Some are good administrators; some can't keep track of a thing. Some are good at visitation; some are better at having someone else go. Some are introverts; some are extroverts. Some are certain of their calling; some are hesitant. Some are overachievers; some are better at boundaries. But, all of them are human-called by God to be our servant leaders.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR GABRIEL?

But we have become a consumer society and our expectations of pastors have grown, making the job very complex and sometimes impossible. We want them to take care of our needs, comforts, theological dysfunctions, view of standards, and relationship to the rest of the institutional church.



For example, a few years ago I was invited to interview for a pastoral position with a church board of elders and their conference leadership. My wife accompanied me. Well into the interview I asked what was expected of the local pastor. They produced a list: someone who had 40 years of experience; was in their low- to mid-30s (in order to be effective with the young adults and youth); would be a strong supporter of Christian education and could raise funds for worthy students; and would preach sermonettes (because, after noon, few have the ability to listen anyway)! No, they would not be hiring my wife, but expected that she would play the piano. attend all church functions, and lead a Sabbath School Division. As they related three pages of expectations, I asked if they had considered the angel Gabriel for the position.

THANK YOU!

This month—Clergy Appreciation Month—provides a great opportunity for us to show our pastors, and their families, appreciation for all that they do. With that in mind, let me acknowledge the 517 pastors of the Columbia Union who minister to all of us week after week. Pastors, thank you for faithfully praving for our parishioners. Thank you for choosing to lead our congregations to significance. Thank you for faithfully putting all on the line for the mission of God's kingdom. Thank you for reminding us to be like Jesus and to live like Him at home and in our communities. Thank you for faithfully spending time with Jesus and the Word, developing deep spiritual root systems, and allowing the God of the universe to touch us through you. And thank you for being fellow disciples on this journey to the kingdom.





Newsline

LAVERNE HENDERSON

Potomac Conference Appoints New Vice President

The Potomac Conference Executive Committee recently asked Raymond Pichette,



DMin. to serve as Vice President for Pastoral Ministry. "This new role will cre-

ate a more personalized focus on our pastors," says conference president Bill Miller. Pichette has served the conference as assistant to the president since 2003, and was senior pastor of New Market (Va.) church prior to that. "My heart is always at the local church," says Pichette, who has nearly 25 years of pastoral experience. "That's the frontline of our mission." Pichette earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Mich.; and a Doctor of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, in Pasadena, Calif.

Annual ASI **Convention Raises** \$1.6 Million

Louisville, Ky., was the site of the recent 60th ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries) International Convention. The annual ASI Sabbath offering has supported hundreds of ventures through the years. The \$1.6 million



given this vear will support 40 projects. "ASI is about more than making

money, it's about business owners finding creative ways to introduce people to Christ," says Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer and ASI liaison. For more information about ASI and the 2008 convention in Tampa, Fla., visit www.asiministries.org.

NET 2007 Targets Home Audience

—Judy A. Thomsen

HeartOuest is the name of the North American Division's 2007 NET evangelism series. The event runs from October 19 to November 3 and will originate from the Arlington (Texas) church. With the theme "Finding the One Who Has Loved You All Along," Faith for Today speaker Mike Tucker will



ing, and belonging will be highlighted. This year's NET is the first one designed to be a directto-home series, enabling Hope Channel satellite dish owners to turn their home into a downlink site. Churches are also encouraged to serve as sites for this program. For more information, or to register your home or church as an official site, visit www.heartquest.info or call (800) ACN-1119.

Message Magazine Gets New Editor

Washington Johnson II, DMin, was recently named editor of Message magazine by the **Review and Herald Publishing**



Association Board in Hagerstown, Md. He has served the Adventist Church as an

ordained minister for more than 20 years. Washington, whose most recent assignment was projects director for Message, replaces Ron C. Smith. Washington graduated from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala.; Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.; and the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Miss., where he earned, respectively, a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry. He additionally serves as a chaplain (Lieutenant Commander) in the United States Navy Reserve in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Joyce, are the parents of 9-year-old Washington, III.

Cruise With a Mission Geared to Youth

Scheduled for December 16-23, Cruise With a Mission is a Caribbean cruise, a spiritual retreat, and a mission trip rolled into one. Departing from Tampa, Fla., there will be oneday stops for mission work in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico. An estimated 500 young adults (ages 18-35), from all over the world, will collectively spend 7,500 hours engaging in construction, medical work, children's ministry, and simple acts of kindness. To learn more, visit www.cruisewithamission.org. -Tara VinCross

For more news and photos, visit www.columbiaunion.org.

Walking with Jesus from Eden to Eternity Makes a Way

Enjoy a guided tour through the history of the universe.

From Saran's first deception through [ested second coming, you will see it all. Herb Douglass's descriptional Case Makes a Waynelli help you understand the Ond which lower you and longs to bring you home.

This daily reading program will take you through eight of Ellen White's most agnificant busis. Watch biblical history unfold in the Conflict of the Ages senses. Delive denser rate Charse's life with Stress to Cloust. Threaders From the Mount of Bleasure, and Charaf's Obay (Lessons,



The writings of Ellen C. Withe tell us of the biblical. characters and hence of the Christian Isith, Most of all, her words steak of the appalrees and arace. of God. Each drapter in these process books. seveals another event in the great controversybetween good and coll. Chapter by chapter, Dr. Douglass draws out special insights into a big picture of the plan of saluation.

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Pacific Press?



Potluck

CELESTE RYAN BLYDEN

What's New?

Book > I Believe ... **Poems of Faith** for Children

This collaboration of poetry uniquely geared toward children-was written and published by first-time author Irma L. Johnson, a member of the Allegheny East Conference's Mitchellville (Md.) church. The



poems are beautifully illustrated with colorful photographs and accompanied by God's Word in order to

teach biblical principles to young minds in simple language.

"It is written for children, but it's really a family book," explains Johnson, a senior property/casualty claims examiner for Adventist Risk Management. This proponent of spiritual parenting believes God gave her this assignment and started writing the poems in 1996.

Johnson utilized the talents of fellow Columbia Union members to help with the foreword, graphic design, and photography. Get a copy from www.amazon.com or by contacting Johnson directly at ibelievepoems@gmail.com or (301) 776-9393.—Beth Michaels

Video > The Fruit Troop

You've heard of *VeggieTales*, but have you heard of The Fruit *Troop*? These animated characters are a group of fruit friends-Looney Lemon, Monster Melon, Rascally Raisin, etc.—who help make

learning Christian values fun for ages 2 to 9.

The creators are Andre Campbell, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Irvington (N.J.) church; Mark Brown, a Takoma Academy (Takoma Park, Md.) graduate, who now works as a Hollywood movie director and writer; and Eric Walsh, a physician at Loma Linda (Calif.) University Medical Center.

"We wanted to give kids a value-based alternative to the cartoons aired on television," Campbell says. "And as Adventist Christians and parents, we wanted to do our part to influence kids in a positive way by sowing seeds of value early in their lives."

That's why their motto is "Teaching Kids to Bear Good Fruit" and why their first episode—"The Ball Game That Went Bust"—addresses the importance of honesty. It features Alvin "Vinnie" Chea of Take 6, who coproduced the project and voiced several characters. Award-winning songwriters John Stoddart, a member of



Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., and Mark Ferrier, a member of The Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., musically influenced the project. To watch a clip or order a copy, visit www.fruittroop.com. —George Johnson Jr.

CD > Adult Sabbath School **Bible Study Guide**

Ever wish you could study the Sabbath School lesson on your way to work, at the gym,

or while cleaning the house? Pacific Press Publishing Association (Nampa, Idaho) and Christian **Record Services** (CRS) for the



Blind (Lincoln, Neb.) are making it possible by producing an audio version of the Sabbath School lesson study. Narrated by Bert Williams, an editor at CRS, it features daily, four-minute lessons on five compact discs per quarter. This quarter's edition is available at your local Adventist Book Center or www.adventistbookcenter.com for \$19.99.

WholeHealth

Pastors: Too Busy Helping Others?

Research related to clergy and health suggests that pastors may be too busy helping others to take care of themselves. A 2004 survey of 2,500 ministers by Pulpit and Pew (www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu), reported that 76 percent of clergy are overweight or obese, compared to 61 percent of the general population. A 1999 review of the health status of ministers suggests that pastors are in the top 10 occupations of people dying from heart disease. Other surveys report higher than average rates of depression and increasing costs of health insurance for clergy.

Our harried American lifestyle—coupled with the unique expectations and responsibilities of ministry—too often results in high stress, unhealthy coping strategies, and neglect of good nutrition, exercise, recreation, and nurture of family relationships. One study of 250 religious professionals found that Protestant clergy had the highest overall work-related stress and were next to the lowest in having personal resources to cope with the occupational strain.

How can you help? During this month of clergy appreciation, be like Aaron and Hur (Exodus 17) and consider how you can support and encourage your pastor in his or her efforts to balance serving your congregation with time for personal and family health.—Lilly Tryon, MSN, RN, Adventist WholeHealth

In the Spotlight > Mamie Henry Wadkins Clemons

"I've done a lot of stuff in my 90 years," declares Mamie Henry Wadkins Clemons, a member, elder, and prayer warrior at Allegheny West



Conference's Hillcrest church in Pittsburgh. It's true. Clemons, who served on the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee for 15 years, was an educator and administrator in the Pittsburgh Public School System for 24 years. "It was during the time they were integrating schools, and I taught math, science, English, and social studies," she says. Having no children personally, Clemons says, "Everybody else's children are my children."

She is known for her dedication to prayer ministry, and every Sabbath she and other Hillcrest members pray for the people on her "prayer boards"-bulletin boards that display photos of people in need of prayer. Though she started with one board and a few photos, she's now up to seven boards with 465 photos. "I'm a firm believer in the power of prayer," she says. That's why she wrote a book called It's Prayer Time: A Portrait of an Intercessory Prayer Warrior, Social Activist, and Friend that talks about the need of prayer and includes testimonies of answered prayers. Her good deeds have not gone unnoticed in the community. The local Heinz Museum features a write-up on her

work with young people, and recently the mayor of Warren, Ohio, named a day after her in

What You Bring to the Table

Web Watch

Pastors Blog

You see them Sabbath and Wednesday night. But what do pastors do the rest of the week? To walk a day in their shoes, we asked two to blog and give members an inside look at the life and ministry of a pastor. Read them at www.columbiaunion.org on the "Blogs" page.

Ohio Conference's Randy Phipps is a bi-vocational pastor



for the Hamlet (Ohio) church. His other job is head preschool teacher of 3- to 5-year-olds at

the Clifton church's Little Lamb Child Care Learning Center in Cincinnati.

Potomac Conference's Sonia Perez is associate/youth pastor at Beltsville (Md.) church.

She also gives **Bible studies** to children at the Beltsville Adventist School.



honor of her community activism, evangelism work, and prayer ministry. Amazingly Clemons still drives, still goes bowling, and still enjoys her favorite sport-fishing! "I always keep my poles in my truck," she laughs.

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Bevond the Pulpit

Pastors weigh in and share their thoughts about ministry beyond the pulpit.



hey are there for all the important events in our lives: They bless our children, they baptize our kids, they join us in marriage, they visit our loved ones, and they bury our dead. They are our pastors—our spiritual leaders—and from the time we're born until the time we die, they minister to our needs.

That's why this October, during Clergy Appreciation Month, we salute our 517 pastors across the Columbia Union with a special issue that includes the following:

>>> Blog: A Week in the Life of a Pastor, p.7

> Pastors Answer 5 Tough Questions, p.9

- ℅ What You Should Know (That Your Pastor Won't Tell You), p.14
- ✤ 10 Ways to Show Your Pastor Appreciation, p.15
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- > Last Words: Bill Knott Remembers What one Pastor did for Him, p.55

Pastors Answer **5** Tough Questions

How and when did you know you were called? What keeps your **relationship** with Christ strong?

ven before my baptism, I was giving Bible studies and visiting church members. It seemed the most natural and pertinent thing to do. I was working as a department manager at a school for the blind when I was converted to Christ. The changes in my life caused many of my clients to ask me practical religious questions. I began to wonder if the Lord was calling me into full-time ministry. The affirmation of my pastor and local congregation led me to enroll in the ministerial course at Pacific Union College (Calif.), two years after my baptism.

My first assignment was as a Bible instructor in Salt Lake City in 1978. From there I have served as a hospital chaplain, medical missionary college teacher, Bible instructor trainer, and pastor.

Pluralism in the church, the alarming lack of comprehension about the Adventist message and mission, the somewhat ambivalent attitude toward the Spirit of Prophecy, and the slide into worldliness are a challenge to any pastor's courage and integrity. But what keeps my Christian life aflame is the continuous study of Christ's life—from the vantage point of the cross—and the faithful witness and supportive fellowship of loyal church members.—Brian D. Jones, Wheeling and Weirton (W.Va.) churches

rior to becoming a pastor, I served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in several capacities, including president of the Ghana National Association of Adventist Students, secretary of the Lay Advisory Council for Central Ghana Conference, elder, and departmental leader. I also led several evangelistic series, which resulted in new churches in Ghana.

With no intention of becoming a pastor, I finished secondary school

learned of a pastoral ministry program at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. The many miracles—including how I got into the program, how my transcripts were processed in a day instead of a month, the finances, and my acceptance into the ministry in 1989—will require more space than this to explain.

The "blessed hope" keeps my relationship with Christ strong. And the diverse needs of my congregation always keep me on my knees. I want to be strong in Him so that I can minister effectively. -Isaac Boateng, Columbus (Ohio) Ghanaian church

and completed a bachelor's degree in chemistry, with a minor in biology. In 1988, while teaching in the largest Adventist secondary school in Ghana, a church invited me to speak for their week of prayer. Following the revival, one of the ladies said, "I will call you pastor until you become one, for that should be your job." I couldn't sleep that night; it was as if someone was by my bed repeating her statement to me. I prayed about it and told the Lord that since I didn't have a theological background there was no way I could become a pastor. Within a month I

FROM LEFT: Brian Jones, Isaac Boateng







FROM LEFT: Dennis Austin, Mark Sigue, Jair Pinilla, Kevin Kuehmichel, Fredrick Russell

What are some of the **realities** of ministry that make it challenging and the blessings that make it rewarding?

or me, the best way to answer this question is through this story:

His eyes filled with moisture. "Pastor, it is good to see you. How did you find me?" Paul asked with a shaky voice.

After I'd known Paul for only a few months, he and his wife left Pittsburgh for Georgia to be near their children and grandchildren. It was a great blow to our church because he made everyone feel welcomed and loved. He had so much love for others and God—his joy was contagious.

Then, five years later, the treasurer called me after receiving a tithe check (with a local address) from Paul. I arrived at the address not knowing what to expect but, sure enough, there stood Paul. After family members had left Georgia, he and his wife decided to move back to Pittsburgh. His life hadn't been easy, but you could never guess it by his greeting.

Health problems had landed either Paul or his wife in the hospital—six times in the last eight months. Diabetes had taken a toll on him, and he could only wear his prosthetic leg for so long, because his stub hadn't healed very well. The parts on his electric wheelchair were wearing out, and medical bills totaled more than his monthly income.

My heart ached, and I found it hard to not weep, as I listened to Paul's journey. I wish I could wipe away the bills, the pain, and the struggles. Paul has more pain and suffering in this life than I can ever imagine. But, in the

midst of it all, he dreams of studying the Bible with anyone who is open to God and His Word. His hope in the soon coming of Jesus outweighs his trials. "Pastor, I am glad to see you, but I can't wait for Jesus to come," he said.-Dennis Austin, Pittsburgh church

inistry becomes a challenge when people see you as a "paid pastor" and feel they can—and should—demand things from you. Sometimes it is good for members to remember that shepherding is more than just feeding and giving full attention to the sheep. A good shepherd must also prepare the flock to be of service to the Lord.

On the other hand, when a child comes up to me and says, "I want to be a pastor someday because of the time you spent with me," it is very rewarding. Or when a total stranger says they want to learn more about God through Bible study, and then they ask you to baptize them. Officiating at a wedding and becoming a part of people's lives is just as fulfilling. When a member has a major family burden and asks for prayer, and days later you see the answer right before your very eyes, that's a blessing. Seeing God's will materialize on a day-to-day basis is the most rewarding part of the ministry. And to hear God speak through my wife during difficult and challenging times is a tremendous blessing. I thank God each day for giving me the opportunity to be of service in His vineyard.—*Mark* Sigue, Sligo church, Takoma Park, Md.



What is it like to **minister** in this age of AIDS, sexual/domestic abuse, homosexuality, immorality, war, poverty, violence, drugs, etc.?

t is definitely a challenge to minister in this age. On one hand, we need to be informed Labout all of these issues to minister properly, and, on the other hand, pastors need resources. I am talking about money and programs to help people deal with these issues. Many of these oppressors are common everywhere and to ignore them is to be ignorant of that fact. Each situation, and person, has to be dealt with in a loving and effective manner. However, in states where homosexuality is protected by law, it's not easy to address. These days it is not enough to just talk about the love of God. It's more effective when people feel God's love because we help them with their needs.—Jair Pinilla, La Esperanza, Hoboken, and Englewood churches, New Jersey

t seems that sin has taken a stronger hold of the world, and the Adventist Church seems to L be standing by watching with horror, but not really responding as Christ would. My biggest challenge leading an inner urban congregation is not what is happening on the outside, but how the church is responding.

Our church is surrounded by gangs of teenagers roaming the streets; homeless people; people struggling with drugs, sex, and gambling addictions; and lots of violence. Unfortunately, Adventists are sometimes immune, if not deaf, to the cries of the city. Many attendees want the church to do something for them instead of doing something for the church. They want to be served and entertained.

Ellen White wrote about the true attitude of God's people when she said, "I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His

What today's pastor needs from himself, and his church, is love-to the point of sacrifice. The concept of sacrifice, although not entirely understood or embraced in our North American culture, is the measure of God's true Church. We must embrace sacrifice for the simple reason that Jesus sacrificed all for us!-Kevin Kuehmichel, Walk of Faith Fellowship, Cleveland

church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence (Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 511).

The term "disinterested benevolence" means to care for others with no expectation of anything in return. Unfortunately, when the church does something for the non-believing community today, it has ulterior motives, such as increased tithes, attendance, and baptisms.

here has been a seismic shift in the kind of situations that a pastor encounters, as compared to when I started ministry some years ago. Today's issues, for the most part, reflect the erosion of the culture. The stinging reality is that the church is the last resort for many people when it comes to handling life and the "stuff" that life throws at us. The key issue is whether the church can be effective. To be effective, the church has to save the lost and heal the saved. We have to get at the deeper needs-and that list is growing. Even our preaching must target the deeper needs. What we preach on Sabbath morning must be able to be used at 8 a.m. on Monday morning. Thus, the reason why many churches have begun regeneration ministries, counseling centers, crises intervention ministries, and the like. It's a new day! —Fredrick Russell, Miracle Temple, Baltimore



FROM LEFT: Tom Grove, William T. Cox, Mike Fortune, Brenda Billingy

What do you wish members and leaders understood about ministry today and their role in it?

inistry is not just the privilege of the paid pastor. For some this may be a new and L possibly disturbing idea. However, both theologically as well as practically, ministry has to be something that is accomplished by every member of the church. Theologically, we believe and teach "the priesthood of all believers," which means that each of us has a role to play in ministry-paid clergy and laity. We also believe and teach the role of spiritual gifts, which says that each person who is a part of the body of Christ has a spiritual gift, which is to be used to expand the kingdom of God. So everyone has a role to play in ministry.

On a practical level, it is impossible for just the paid pastor to reach everyone with the good news of Jesus' return. As I look at my district in north central Pennsylvania, which has 237,000 people and covers four counties, there is no way that I can reach all of these people alone. Everyone in my three churches has to be involved in ministry to the people in their communities.

I am a big fan of team sports, and I appreciate good teamwork. While those teams are playing for championships, we, as God's Church, are impacting people for eternity. When each of us fulfills our role in ministry, and men and women are brought to Jesus, all of heaven celebrates with us as God's kingdom expands.—Tom Grove, Lewisburg, Lock Haven, and Williamsport (Pa.) churches

inistry is about witnessing and preparing people for the second coming of Jesus. Acts 1:8 states, "But ye shall receive

power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you ... " The greatest need in our Church today is the need for the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, we operate more from an entertainment and cultural prospective than a spiritual one.

Think about it! Who is the worship leader in our churches? Who are the performers? Who constitutes the audience? Sometimes we become confused and think that the clergy are the worship leaders, and the choir and musicians are performers. The attendees are the audience, and the success of the worship service is based upon their response. I would want to remind our members and leaders that the *real* worship leader is the Holy Spirit. The performers are those who have gathered in the sanctuary to worship. And the audience is God and the holy angels. The real issue is not if we say "amen" or clap our hands, but if God is saying amen to our service (Rom. 12:1), which is prompted by His love. God says amen when we witness and obey His commandments. God says amen when we treat our brothers and sisters as we would treat ourselves. God says amen when we forgive and pray for those that have sought to do us wrong. God says amen when we utilize the spiritual gifts He has given us for the edifying of the body of Christ and for the development of our personal maturity.

I pray that we will become more focused in our calling to minister to a dying world. When God says amen to our service real ministry has occurred, and we have moved closer to the return of our Lord.—William T. Cox Sr., DMin, Ephesus church, Columbus, Ohio

What will **local** church ministry look like in 10 years?

have no idea what local church ministry will look like in 10 years. But I'm pretty sure what-Lever it becomes will be fueled by radically humble people who pray, read, and share what God has been telling them. These people will care as much about being in relationship with God and the world He died to save as being right. And they will give with no strings attached, because what breaks God's heart is also breaking theirs. Everything they do will be designed to show others that God loves them like crazy.—Mike Fortune, Toledo (Ohio) First church

his is an exciting question since it forces us to look at where the Church is now and plan for its change within the next 10 years. The truth about our current status is that it is still very "in-reach" in focus. Jesus never left any commands for us to congregate with ourselves, preach to ourselves, witness to ourselves, or take care of the needs of ourselves. The commission is to go into all the world. The church needs to turn its dress garments inside out. Our neighbors, co-workers, and relatives need to know more about us than just the fact that we worship on an odd day, and we don't eat pork. They should know that we are disciples by our love, not just for each other, but also for the community in which we live and worship.

Positive change is always intentional. And a few Sabbaths ago, I began to intentionally initiate changes within our church that would be sustained at least for the next decade. Our goal is to have the Bladensburg church become a wellknown "haven of rest" in our community. It should be a place where *all* are welcomed and secure in the knowledge that we will do whatever it takes to provide for their basic needs as we share the love of Jesus. Such provision will take us out of the pews and into the homes in our community where we can be friendly and show love, outside of giving a Bible study. Our goal is to partner with the city council in identifying three families in close proximity to our church who need help. We're targeting an elderly person, a single parent, and a disabled individual-each from

different cultures-Black, Hispanic, and Caucasian. Then Bladensburg members will adopt these families, as we lovingly take care of their needs. In 10 years this program should change the face of our church and probably bury old, useless traditions and mindsets.

What will ministry look like in 10 years? Vibrant, healthy, innovative, practical, loving, and Christ-centered! Prayerfully, these words will be used to describe most of our churches in the year 2017.—Brenda Billingy, Bladensburg (Md.) church

Everyone has a role to play in ministry.

—Tom Grove

What You Should Know (That Your Pastor Won't Tell You)

take my calling from God to pastoral ministry very seriously and am often humbled and amazed by it.

It is important for me to make the time to cultivate my relationship with Jesus. How can I preach the gospel only to make a shipwreck of my life because I don't spend enough time with Jesus?

I desire a safe church environment for my children to grow, especially during their teenage years.

Please recognize the importance of "couple time" with my spouse so that our marriage can continue to grow strong.

Please understand that I can't fix all the problems in our church or your personal life. Together we can seek God's answers through scripture, courteous dialogue, and prayer. —Barry Tryon, DMin, is executive secretary/ministerial director for the Pennsylvania Conference.

S ometimes I would rather not show up for sermons, presentations, or meetings! Even pastors sometimes struggle with overload, depression, and fatigue.

It takes much effort to prepare a weekly sermon with substance. The seminary encourages one hour

of preparation for each minute of sermon. But with all my other responsibilities during the week, often Friday night is all I have for preparation.

I really don't like the comparison game! No one wants to hear statements like, "There will never be another pastor like so and so. His sermons were masterpieces."

My family and I would love to be invited to your home for Sabbath lunch! Many Sabbaths we go home alone because members feel that the pastor is always going to someone else's house.

It's difficult when someone wants to talk to me just before I enter the platform for the sacred service. Most of the time these "talks" could wait for a more appropriate time and place.

I love to hear my congregation lift up my name in prayer! Like you, I am a mere mortal who needs divine assistance in every task that I undertake.

God's work involves every one of us—not just the pastor! We all have spiritual gifts. Instead of admiring and talking about them, let's discover and use them to grow His kingdom.

It is extremely difficult to administer church discipline. Some members take the pastor's directions or suggestions well, but others react in

FROM LEFT: Barry Tryon, John A. Appel, Karen M. Jackson









unpleasant ways. This weighs heavily on my heart.

My family really doesn't need the additional pressure of members' high expectations.—*John A. Appel is ministerial/pastoral development director for the Chesapeake Conference.*

s a pastor's wife, I know that your pastor won't tell you that the mean letters, emails, A and comments made about *and to* him by church bullies cause their children a lot of pain. That's sometimes why his children leave the church as soon as they are of age, because they cannot understand why God's people would treat their father this way. You will never know the countless hours he spends defending members' rude, insulting behavior to his children, and demanding that the children respect these people who cause so much heartache. Your pastor won't let on that being taken for granted, talked about, maligned, and completely disrespected causes him to come home broken, discouraged, and tempted to walk away from his calling to ministry. You'll never know the countless hours his spouse spends encouraging, counseling, supporting, and praying for him to remain in his calling.

On the other hand, your pastor thrives among loving, caring, kind, understanding members who give unconditional support and do whatever they can to help carry the load. And even if he doesn't tell you, he may be needy for honest compliments, hugs, emails, letters, calls, and words of encouragement. —*Karen M. Jackson's husband, George, pastors the Southwest Philadelphia church.*

10 Ways to Show Your Pastor Appreciation

Sive him or her a gift certificate to a bookstore or local restaurant.

➢ If your pastor has small children, arrange for a childcare co-op once a month, so the couple can have a date.

Have a clergy appreciation day and let him/her sit with their family in the congregation.

➢ Host a special church dinner to let your pastor know how much you appreciate what he or she does.

Send him/her an encouraging note remember words can build or destroy.

Stop negative comments about the pastor. If someone tries to engage you in a destructive conversation, ask him or her if they would like for you to go with them to voice their concerns to the pastor. If they say no, then offer right then to pray for the pastor.

Surprise him or her with a shopping spree at a local department store to pick out a new suit, shirt, and tie. (This was one of the nicest things that someone anonymously did for my husband. He was like a kid in a candy store!)

> Don't assume that your pastor's family should be perfect. Pastor's children make mistakes too; please don't hold them to a standard that you wouldn't want your children subjected to.

➢ Realize that even though pastors are on call 24/7, they need private time to eat and sleep, for devotions, sermon preparation, and maybe even some precious moments with their family. If it is an emergency, by all means call. But if it can wait, try not to call before 7:30 a.m. and after 9 p.m.

> Don't assume that the pastor's spouse had time to whip up a gourmet meal or an entire potluck. Invite the pastoral family to lunch at your house.—*Debbie Glass' husband, Dave, pastors the Linthicum and Pasadena (Md.) churches.*

"I Appreciate My Pastor Because ..."

appreciate Pastor Conrad Reichert because even during challenging times he is cheerful and maintains a healthy, positive demeanor. He is a good leader at board meetings and keeps us focused on our mission. When he speaks, he uses lots of interesting object lessons to illustrate biblical principles. His best characteristic is that he is like Jesus—open and friendly to everyone. He pays attention to that lone child on the playground and the older woman in the church with Alzheimer's. Thank God for good pastors. -Franklin P. Stahl, Gettysburg (Pa.) church

D astor Tom Boggess loves the Lord and it **I** shows. He's also a great listener. Whether it's a positive anecdote or listening to me vent—he listens. In a congregation with a vast array of talented people, some who know their talents and others who are discovering them, he encourages us in the pursuit of ministry options.—Faith Laughlin, Martinsburg (W.Va.) church

D ecause Pastor Joel Johnson had helped a cou-**D** ple move to Alabama, I knew that Pine Forge church had a true servant leader. I appreciate him because, on a very cold day in February 2006, he went that extra mile for me. I had purchased a home and needed some help in moving. So I called Pastor Johnson. He and his oldest son arrived, helped load my belongings into a rented truck, and then drove to my new dwelling. Then they unloaded the truck and proceeded to assemble my furniture. I offered to pay him for his day's work and was told, "No charge." I truly appreciate the care he gives our congregation.—Gwen Norwood, Pine Forge (Pa.) church

D astor Corey Rowe is a true man of God who believes and lives the life he preaches. When he first came to Hillcrest the membership was very small, and they were considering closing the

church. And we had to share him with our sister church in Springfield, Ohio. Since then our church is on fire for the Lord! We've had over 40 baptisms, and we no longer have to share his spiritual guidance—because we have him full time.—Vernon A. Holman, Hillcrest church, Davton, Ohio

appreciate Pastor Franklin David because, in a L church of over 700 members, he still manages to know everyone and makes note of his or her talents and skills. Then, during nominating committee time, he sees to it that members—new and old—are given the opportunity to serve. He still greets people when they come in the front door and positions himself centrally at the conclusion of services to greet worshippers as they leave. Having also had the privilege of working closely with him on communication-related activities, I admire and respect his deep commitment to the church's mission and the needs of members and visitors. He also has a sense of humor in the face of too many demands from too many people. He has been our leader for close to 20 years. At times the job has left him void of energy, but he still soldiers on. We are blessed to call him our pastor.-Wilona Karimabadi, Southern Asian church, Silver Spring, Md.

appreciate Pastor Kevin Powell for several rea-**I** sons. Even though he pastors three other churches and has a family, he always makes himself available. Sometimes he'll stay past 10 p.m. on prayer meeting nights if someone needs to talk. He sets a good example in how he communicates with his wife, and he disciplines his children lovingly, but firmly. He also admits when he's wrong. Our pastor is also honest. Once a store clerk gave him \$16 too much in change and he returned it. And he's always willing to lend a hand at work bees or when we need help unloading the truck for the school's fruit program. *—Rich Chapko, Rocky Mount (Va.) church*

Profiles in Caring



Work is Love Made Visible

togenerlas if the was an Adventist Health for employee leaving the hospital attar cading has shift. She was sharip tital and holed have begat have As the solited, I satisfied here step for a measured, park up a lot of discarded paper that was lying on the riderally and task it into her sout models. I assume the three it user when the found a track our like was through such her shell, but she was still weaking. And she made nus, thái da,

Part Kalul Cilman sente, "Work islaws made stable." I think this small insident shareed on a little of what he month. In braidware feed to bleft a to be combination of all the small things that we deceases day, as part of our daily work, that mores to make the difference.

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Coorne Bernard Shaw weets, "This is the true juy in Rie-Jusing used for a purpose recognized by powerful as a weighty. one." Our work is purposeful, and the tanglele requirement of the values we cherishe low: made visities.

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Innovative Emergency Center Celebrates a Successful First Year

white your direct Navig Dense. Adventist Encapency Center at Generatives special the facility has initially like is period the summaring community.

The people of upper Managourery, Court on Maryland, faired and challenges. when they turnled emergency medical care. Negrodaning population, generic had made source traffic connection even work. The meanst energy and room, at Shally Gener-Adventical Elementaria (NCALE), non-thebusiness in the second particulate states include: on the East Coust, Ambeliance had diffsally negotiating the lawy traffic, and even sense in a solice test because of any activ-Report.

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The opposed process is open the area: we use the converting hearing with the support of many people in the community and the leadership of a moder of elected off trials, state systemal was addressibly. checked to exist plan pages.

Since the Emergency Center opened in August 2005, maily 24,000 patients have Incentionated [New skilder] The pressure of SIGAH Keorgency Department has been Alley inter (Alley and Alley Long) and

more bargingly in the many [15,64 mms.] around time for foral Fus, and Hencer, Second to be related - substance. evenue or e-monorhile in get back on the most morely realize as here short a call.

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At a Glance

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How Could You Not Love this Job?



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about the plane for the Rosseyance Center, the ans convelocitly of ogned-Site because invalued sight from the brainning. She let the administratory know that the way interested in the claimcollour age position, and she develoal. shoe having a basiness degree needed intactul, to she were basis to school and pet ha MDA in half naminangement. She have in the community, so she because case of the level because when

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ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE - PROFILES IN CARINO



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Conference Names Men's Ministries Co-leaders

The Allegheny East Conference Family Ministries department, led by John A. Trusty, EDS, DMin, recently named new co-leaders for its Men's Ministries. Lawrence Wilson (left) is former president of the Delaware Valley Men's Ministries and the men's leader at the North Philadelphia church. Under Wilson's leadership, Delaware Valley volunteers provided health, financial, educational, and entrepreneurial semi-



nars to many men.

Wilson is passionate about the men's prayer line he started more than eight years ago. The prayer line is available to any man, anywhere in the United States, by calling (212) 200-6000 and entering pin code 999981#. Wilson and other brothers in Christ are on the prayer line every Friday at 9 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., faithfully praving for our country, cities, and families. Wilson will celebrate six years of marriage with his wife. Faith. They are the proud parents of a little girl, Jaiden.

Derrick C. Hughes (right) has performed in many Men's Ministries roles throughout New Jersev since 2003, and as former vice president for AEC Men's Ministries in 2005, Since 2005 Hughes has also run numerous mentoring and Bible study courses for the youth of Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., and Trinity Temple Academy in Hillside, N.J. As a result. many young people have committed their lives to Christ through baptism.

Returning to help lead the conference's Men's Ministries, Hughes looks forward to building a better and stronger program, and in bringing together men of all ages spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically. Hughes and his wife. Sharmane, have one adult son. Derrick: one adult daughter. Shalise: and one adopted son. Derick.-Beth Michaels

Berea Temple Sponsors Camp for Prisoners' Kids

or a third summer, nearly 20 children of prisoners from the Baltimore metropolitan area (pictured) were sponsored and given the chance to experience a Christian setting at Camp Danny Davis in Pine Forge, Pa. The trip is made possible through the city's Berea Temple congregation and their Angel Tree Ministry.





projects during the year to help sponsor the children. And several neiahborina churches of various denominations were contacted to donate

personal care

items for the campers' backpacks. This year the Baltimore County Jail warden contacted Edith Tucker. ministry coordinator, to request that 10 more children be added to the original camper list. Not knowing where the necessary funds would come from. Tucker and the group agreed to trust God to work something out. And He did.

Angel Tree campers have experienced some amazing Other Angel Tree projects include collecting and dis-

transformations, both personally and academically, during their summer camping trips. For example, two young ladies, who lost their mother while camping in 2006, attained the distinction of honor roll students this past school year. And one of them received an advanced study scholarship from the Ben Carson Foundation. tributing school supplies and Christmas gifts to the children of incarcerated parents. To participate or start a similar ministry in your church, contact Tucker at (410) 730-7795.

Berea Temple member Reginald M. Anderson-Exum has played a large part in the Angel Tree Ministry since it started three years ago. This Oakwood College (Ala.) student has helped deliver Christmas presents to children of incarcerated parents, and has served as boy's director at Camp Danny Davis, helping to witness to the attending Angel Tree campers.

ALLEGHENY EAST OCTOBER 2007







Pine Forge Academy Plans Pottstown Initiative

Mission Pottstown is the name of the outreach program for the 2007-08 school year at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa. The initiative will spur many of PFA's 180-plus students to get away from the campus and serve in the community. Through Mission Pottstown, students will be assisting the Pottstown Cluster of Churches with its food bank; setting up a story hour and tutoring for children; and distributing food, clothing, and Christ-centered literature. The academy's chapter of the National Honor Society plans to adopt the town's senior citizens, and the school will sponsor a health fair. This spring



students will be holding an evangelistic series in the city. In preparation for this great undertaking, they will participate in Bible studies and hold a

student revival series right on campus. Members' prayers are solicited for

showers of blessings on the Pottstown



Pine Forge Academy students take time out of their busy school year to share their talents and friendly smiles with residents of a senior citizen home.

community, and for the funds to help carry out these plans, as the academy endeavors to follow their theme this year, "Christ First." By sharing Him with others, they hope to know Him better themselves.—A. Pearlita Jones

Trinity Temple Goes Beyond Iron Bars

t's overwhelming how much is happening at Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J., including how much the church has been giving to its communities, and how much it still has to offer. The church has many great ministries, but the biggest surprise might come from sitting in on one of the Prison Ministries meetings.

The Trinity Temple Prison Ministries team (pictured) is comprised of a very impressive group of people: individuals who know the ins and outs of the

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prison system and have reached out to hundreds, if not thousands, of incarcerated people. The team members share about 100 years of experience collectively!

The team regularly visits six prisons in the area. They encounter all personality types and races, and from their experiences, have learned that folks behind bars are not much different from us. They have a need for Christ, too.

Director Randolph Pringle testifies that although he goes in to minister, he is the one who leaves blessed.

> Hearing what God is doing in the lives of the inmates through this ministry is a motivation to him and to the rest of the team. There is a prisoner chairing the ministry inside one of

> > the institu-

tions, including putting together a choir and preaching the sermons. Some of the inmates are avid Bible students. "You think you know the Bible, but they'll tell you some stuff!" Pringle noted with a smile.

Future goals extend far beyond preaching the gospel. Many have been incarcerated so long that when they are released, they don't know how to get back into society. As a result, they regress back to a life of crime, which eventually leads them back to prison. The team wants to not only offer Christ to the prisoners, but also to minister to their personal needs.

"When a prisoner tells me, 'Next month I'm coming home,' I want to be able to say more than, 'I'll pray for you," exclaims Pringle. "It is our job as ministers to keep them on this side of the wall."-Sam Belony

Exposé is published in the *Visitor* by the Allegheny East Conference PO Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548 Phone: (610) 326-4610 President, Charles L. Cheatham Communication Director, Robert Booker Editor, Beth Michaels

Frank Loris Peterson Society Hosts Men's Retreat

Approximately 70 members of the Allegheny West, Ohio, and Great Lakes conferences gathered recently Ato attend the annual Frank Loris Peterson Society Adventist Men's Retreat. This retreat has provided an opportunity for men of all ages to reconnect with the Lord and recharge their spiritual batteries.

The retreat is held during the first weekend in August each year on the campus of Kenvon College in Gambier. Ohio. An array of seminars is offered. including topics such as Christian manhood and improving interpersonal relationships. The theme for this year's event was "God Sent a Man."

"Men who seek to gain a closer walk with the Lord realize that often the Christian life is beset by disappointments and challenges. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly to go forward," explained Donald Cantrell Sr., society president and member of the Ephesus church in Columbus.

The keynote speaker for the retreat was Kwame Ronnie Vanderhorst (pictured), outreach director and personal growth consultant for Prepare Our Youth, a ministry based in Washington, D.C. Other presenters included pastors Corv Rowe of the

Hillcrest church in Dayton; Derrick Moffet, ThD, of the Shiloh church in Cincinnati; Rodney Valentine of the Southside church in Columbus and South Fountain church in Springfield, Ohio; and Ron Dozier, an Ephesus church member. The society was founded in December 1987, Frank W. Hale Jr., PhD, former Oakwood College (Ala.) president and former vice provost for minority affairs at Ohio State University, assembled the group and became its sponsor. The group was concerned primarily with providing an opportunity for the men of the church to achieve a more balanced role and take a more active part in church and community affairs.

Ethan Temple Breaks Ground for New Church Complex

than Temple in Dayton, Ohio, has big plans for expansion and future growth. The church recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new 30-acre tract of land to commemorate its new beginnings in the city of Trotwood, a Dayton suburb. The ceremony was a day of commencement and implementation of a vision first dreamed by former pastor Joseph Harris.

The church's Dayton Eagles Pathfinder club served as honor guards by



Ethan Temple pastor Harcourt King (left) accepts an inscribed shovel from David Frye, vice president of religious facilities for Burns General Contracting, Inc., during the groundbreaking ceremony of their new church complex.



Ethan Temple.

posting the colors

for the special

occasion. The

day was also

accented with

offered by singer

Joseph, PhD,

the church's

Conference

leaders were

present as well as

melodious music Brooke Harris and trumpeter Mervvn minister of music.



OCTOBER 2007



Conference, church, and city leaders join in celebrating a new beginning for

Trotwood mayor Donald K. McLaurin, vice mavor Jovce Sutton Cameron. and two citv commissioners to help commemorate the special day. The president of ArchiComp. Inc., an architectural firm specializina in the desian

of healthcare and religious structures, was there to present the plans of building phase 1.

There are three other building phases to follow: phase 2 is an Educational Ministries building, phase 3 is a gymnasium, and phase 4 is an auditorium. Future development plans also include athletic fields (soccer and softball) as well as pedestrian bridges, walking trails, and a pavilion. Ethan Temple members praise God as they look forward to being a vessel for sharing His goodness in their new community.

CATCH THE //ISION

Mt. Zion VBS Gets Surprising Results

The Mt. Zion church in Erie, Pa., recently planned their first VBS program in about 10 years after kindergarten teacher Veronica Norman heeded the Spirit's voice and the church responded.

"I prayed about it and felt that God really led us to do this," recalled Norman of the VBS program. With only one month to prepare, they handed out flyers in the neighborhood the week before and then planted a sign in their churchyard over the weekend. On Monday morning, the first day of the program, kids were waiting at the church half an hour before the program was to start.

"We were shocked at the results," exclaimed Norman. "Of the 40 kids who came regularly, about 25-30 of them were from the com-

munity. On their busiest night, Norman directed 32 kindergartners (pictured). With the theme "Friends Forever," the VBS team wanted to expose a kind, loving God to the kids, instead of a judging, distant God. And along with crafts, snacks, and other fun activities, they invited different community professionals to come and speak with the youngsters about safety. The turnout for their VBS program was so positive that the church is planning to provide similar programming one afternoon every month to keep the community children coming back.-Beth Michaels

Central Church Joins Fight Against Alzheimer's

The Central church in Columbus decided it was time to increase the material and health support for community members affected by Alzheimer's disease. As a result, church communication director Kim Lee led her education and communication department members in organizing and helping to establish the African-American Alzheimer's Association (AAA), a local group of churches making a difference to those affected.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia or



Senior citizens in the Columbus area are now getting the education and programming they need to ward off Alzheimer's disease.

brain disorders that cause confusion and problems with memory, judgment, and reasoning. In patients, tiny abnormal deposits build up in the brain, which may be more likely to form when diseases affecting the brain's blood vessels are also present. The African-American population is at higher risk for developing Alzheimer's because this population also leads in diabetes and hypertension, two major factors in developing it.

As a result of this shocking knowledge, the primary focus of AAA is to provide

educational, nutritional, and social support to the area's pre-senior and senior populations. AAA volunteers offer them exercise classes, educational workshops, social interactions, and nutritional hands-on seminars.

The uniqueness of AAA is that these programs are

brought to community senior homes, utilizing their activity rooms for programming. Some upcoming events include a healthy brain walk and an annual golf outing. "I didn't see the actual health programming or the exercise component that is needed to ward off this awful, debilitating disease," said Lee, AAA executive director. "We are excited about the upcoming events and this new community initiative to 'Building Healthy Minds.'"

New Website Launched

he long awaited return of the conference website is here! The new site has a fresh look, new format, extra features, and lots of interactivity. Submit your church's upcoming events, and read about other news from around the conference. Take part in the polls and let your opinion count. Visit www.awcsda.com!

Calendar

October

- 20 Southern Ohio Youth Federation, Dayton, Ohio
- 21 Virginia/West Virginia Midterm Constituency Session Roanoke, Va.
- 27 Virginia/West Virginia Youth Federation, Charlottesville, Va. Conference Bible Bowl Championship, Charlottesville, Va.
- 28 Northern Ohio Midterm Constituency Session Cleveland

Catch the Vision is published in the Visitor by the Allegheny West Conference 1339 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205 Phone: (614) 252-5271 President, James L. Lewis Editor, Bryant Taylor • www.awcsda.com



God Calls Us to the World

rarly in my ministry I ran across this imaginary dialogue. It still speaks to me, and I share it with you as we face the challenge of reaching our world for Christ.

"Where are vou?" the stranger said. I didn't understand. "What do you mean? I'm right here." "But where is that?" he persisted. "Right here on planet Earth," I said. He went on: "Who put you here?" "I'm proud to say that God did, of course." The stranger smiled and said, "Who else is here?" "Who else is where?" I said. "Who else is with you," he patiently continued, "here on planet Earth?" I looked around, suddenly noticing everyone else. I was awestruck. After a few minutes I answered, "There are billions of others here!" "And how are they doing?" the stranger asked. I gazed out at what was going on around me, slowly taking in all I could. "Not very well, it seems," I finally managed to say. "Can anything be done to help them?" he said, looking me straight in the eves. I wondered why he was asking me. "Surely something can be done," I managed to reply. I continued looking out, overwhelmed by what I saw. Finally I turned back to the stranger. He had been watching me, quietly and **Rob Vandeman** earnestly. "I have one more question." he said. "Why are you here?"

Mississippi Mission: New Hope's SOS Response

∧ dozen members of the New Hope church in Fulton, AMd. (pictured), recently traveled to the Gulf Coast as part of the congregation's ongoing ministry of caring for victims of Hurricane Katrina. It was the second wave of support from the church's Sharing Our Strength (SOS)-



Mississippi Mission Team. The first SOS team started rebuilding two homes in D'Iberville, Miss., last April. Similar SOS teams from around the coun-

try added their

contributions to the reconstruction work later in the spring. This second SOS team from New Hope went to finish the interior drywall and do the exterior painting.

When asked about her reaction to what she saw in the Gulf Coast region, New Hope associate pastor Ann Roda-Hernandez said she "got mad." Mad that there were few signs of recovery in many of the communities through which they traveled. Mad that the floods of government help had all but dried up. Mad that the people of the region were abandoned by large insurance companies protected by the loopholes in the fine print of their policies. Mad that the focus of the news organizations had moved on to other stories. Mad enough to do something. Quoting a classic on Christian social action (Robert Kysar's Called to Care),





President

Roda-Hernandez said, "To be the people of God, called and set apart by the graciousness of a loving Creator and Redeemer, means to become instruments of that grace and love. It is to experience both the privilege and responsibility of that love."

While in D'Iberville, the New Hope team stayed at a local camp for volunteers named, guite remarkably, Camp New Hope. It was also a home away from home to a volunteer group from Minnesota, the New Hope Fellowship Church. And they worked and praved and ate together under a banner at the camp that read, "After the storm ... a new hope." Indeed, hope is being delivered one SOS team at a time. For more details on the SOS mission, visit www.sharingourstrength.blogspot.com.



Morgan Mainess (left) and Erica Marshall, young New Hope church members from Fulton, Md., paint a home in Mississippi.

THECHALLENGE

MISSIONS ABROAD NEWS

West Wilmington Group Lends Hands in Tobago

Ceventeen members of a mission team from the West Wilmington (Del.) church Opictured) recently spent nine days in Tobago doing renovation work at a



Seventh-day Adventist high school. Tobago is the second largest island of the Trinidad and Tobago archipelago at the southeastern end of the West Indies (and just off the coast of Venezuela). Although Harmon High Schoolnamed after Adventist pioneer leader E.G. Harmon White—is the premiere private school in Tobago, the institution's physical plant was not without its challenges. Some team members spent their energies demolishing the

woodworking shop before rebuilding it and expanding it to twice its original size. Others grabbed their paintbrushes to give a fresh coat of paint to five of the classrooms. In the evening the team conducted a youth revival series based on Daniel 1-4 for members of the local churches. Many of the local members committed to sharing their personal testimony with at least two new people in their community, and three of the mission team members made the decision to be baptized.

an Adventist high school One of the life lessons learned on the trip is that poverty need not rob people of in Tobago. their joy or their faith. "Their genuine happiness and the depth of their trust in God in difficult circumstances brought revival to our own hearts," reported Wilmington youth pastor Keith Acker.

Highland View Cooks Up Divine Recipe in Kenya

community cen-

ter. The center

will serve as a

center for the

residing in and

around the city.

The team from

HVC still basks

in the sweet

aroma of

200 orphans

food distribution

Combine vigorously together:

1 courageous woman with faith and a vision,

1 Kenyan village paralyzed by poverty and disease,

1 small church with a big heart and plenty of tenacity. Mix in an enormous portion of prayer, planning,

and fund raising. This was the recipe God used when he called Eucabeth Odhiambo to share the story and needs

of her home village of Alendu, Kenya, with the Highland View church (HVC) in Hagerstown, Md. One vear and more than \$60,000 later, the village of Alendu recently got to witness a team of 14 fun-loving, hardworking HVC members as they spent 17 days building them a new



The Highland View church mission team from Hagerstown, Md., proudly poses with some new friends in Alendu. Kenva.

knowing God used them as an ingredient to share His love in Kenya: feeding and laughing with orphans (pictured); preaching,



Michelle Knights joins other

volunteers in helping rebuild

West Wilmington (Del.) church



The community center was well on its way to completion when the HVC team left. Local builders recently completed it.

teaching, and baptizing more than 60 people; and constructing a community center.

The rewards of this recipe continue to nourish everyone involved. For the HVC team there are the rewards that come in the form of life-changing memories and Spirit-led introspection. There is also the reward of knowing that service for Christ can continue, whether in Kenya, their own church, or own community.—Joelle Ashley

The Challenge is published in the Visitor by the Chesapeake Conference = 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 President, Rob Vandeman

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New Faculty, Staff Work to Inspire Students

olumbia Union welcomed several new members to its highly talented teaching staff for the new school year. Davenia Jones Lea, PhD (right), associate professor of special education. recently joined the Department of Education.

She received her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Maryland in College Park, focusing on special education and culturally responsive teaching practices.

Mitchell Tropin (below), the Department of Communication and Journalism's new assistant



professor of journalism, seeks to build confidence in his students and improve their skills. Prior to joining the CUC staff, Tropin spent 30 years at the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington, D.C., where he was the senior editor for the Transfer Pricing Report. Tropin has also written

for several local publications.

As assistant professor in the Edyth T. James Department of Nursing, Maureen Fama (below) worked

for 11 years next door to CUC as a clinical specialist in psychiatric nursing at Washington Adventist Hospital. She hopes to give students a better understanding of the psychosocial, psychiatric/mental health components of nursing. Fama received her undergraduate and master's degrees in psychiatric



Norma Procopiow (top right), assistant professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages,



THE GATEWAY

Columbia Union College

has taught at CUC for several years as an adjunct professor. She has more than 35 years of teaching experience and has had several articles published in scholarly books and papers. Lisa Wetherall (below) worked as an adjunct professor for



three vears in the Department of Mathematics. She now teaches math full time. As a 2004 alumna of the college, Wetherall majored in both computer science and mathematics.

Nursing assistant professor Valerie Swan (below) previously worked as an adjunct professor

at Bowie State University. She has also served as a critical care nurse at area hospitals. Swan brings a wealth of experience to CUC's nursing staff. Adrienne Matthews (below) is the new dean of women for Halcyon Hall. As the mother of three adult daughters, Matthews has a wellrounded knowledge of how to shape and





mentor the lives of young women. Prior to arriving at CUC. Matthews worked as a dean of women at Oakwood College (Ala.) for 14 years. Her number-one goal for this school year is to create a sense of unity for the women living both on and off campus. -PR Staff

GÉLERICA ENTÉS SÉLET ÉL THE GATEWAY

Campus Participates in Praver Walk

The Edyth T. James Department of Nursing recently hosted a prayer walk for students, faculty, staff, and administration to ask God's blessings on His institution for the new school year. Teresa Timko, an assistant nursing professor, gathered the group together for this important event.

At each stop, different group members prayed for the safety and prosperity of the students who would inhabit each building. As the number of participants grew, more prayers were offered to ask God's protection over the campus. "I always tell people that problems will arise, but it is how we overcome them that makes the difference," said Barbara J. Walker, office manager for the nursing department. "It is important that we ask God to lift



the clouds of impossibility from our school because, with God, all things are possible."

As students around campus joined the prayer walk, they expressed their appreciation for what was taking place. "It is encouraging to see faculty, staff, and administration get together and lift up the needs of the college in prayer," said Jason Dehaney, senior Health/Fitness Management major.—Michael Martell

Chief of Chaplains Tips Freshman Class

here was great anticipation as the freshman Class of 2011 (below) gathered for a presentation by the U.S. Senate's 62nd Chaplain. Barry Black. Black, a retired rear admiral of the U.S. Navy, addressed the First Year Experience students during the first week of school. His book From the Hood to the Hill was chosen as the summer reading material for freshmen.

Black offered five major tips for students to use to map out their journey for success. "Focusing on Christ's mission for our lives and keeping His will as a prime focus will help us to become Christcentered, and is a sure component of success," suggested Black. He said that people are often unable to see through the everyday blinders that may lead them astray.

"The devil knows that God has plans for our lives and will do all he can to 'nip it in the bud,'" explained Black. As a second tip, he urged





Barry Black, PhD, chief of chaplains for the U.S. Navy, autographs a copy of his book for freshman Roberta Plantak.

students to hold on to God's blessings and seek Him early. Dealing with jealousy was tip number three. He reminded students that, despite trials, their faith is being tested and that God will provide for them in ways they can't imagine.

Black also encouraged students to overcome their imperfections and never settle for the mediocre. "God has given us immense talent and capability: always strive to become better," he said. Finally Black discussed living life with gratitude instead of a sense of entitlement. "We are testimonies of God's grace, and we should live as such," he reminded the students.

Students were pleased with the message. "His presentation made me analyze my personal life and helped me see how his five points

can help change the way I live." said Lupita Garza, a freshman public relations major. Freshmen theoloav and computer science major Michael Alami agreed. "I loved it! I felt like I was being talked to oneon-one, as if he knew my past and what I was going through. It was just the right message I needed to hear."-Michael Martell and PR Staff

CALENDAR

October

3

- Service Day
- **15-17** Midterm Exams
- 18-21 Midterm Break
- 27 SA Fall Festival
- 28-30 Writer's Conference

November

- 5-9 Health and Wellness Week
- 10 SA Roller Skating
- 11 Open House for Academy Students
- 17 SA Sabbath Surge

The Gateway is published in the Visitor by Columbia Union College 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (800) 835-4212 • www.cuc.edu Gaspar Colón, Interim President - Exec. Dir. of Marketing and Communication. Scott Steward
Fditor, Tanisha Greenidge



Yearning for the Great Reunion

We have just finished our first few days of school. I love to see the reunions that take place as students return to campus and see friends they missed during the summer. The faculty is also anxious to see the students again, to hear about their summer experiences, and to see how they have changed and matured.

Also, as I write this. I am a few days away from becoming a grandparent. My stepdaughter and her husband are having a little boy, our first grandchild. I know that the degree of love I feel in my heart now will pale in comparison to what I will feel the first time I see him. I know that from the moment I first hold him, life will never again be the same.

These life events make me think of how Jesus must be waiting with such anticipation to be with us. Yes, He sees us now, but He is yearning to be with us face to face, to hold us, to restore us to what He created us to be. Stop for a moment and think about a reunion you've had with an old friend, or your own experiences of seeing your child or grandchild for the first time. Can you remember the deep emotions you felt during such times? Then stop and imagine for a moment what it will be like to catch that first glimpse of Jesus' face. Nothing we have experienced here on Earth will even come close to meeting our Creator and Savior. Now, join me in thanking God for His promise to return for us, and pray that He comes soon!

Enrollment Soars to 145

More than 130 enthusiastic students recently started their first day of the 2007-08 school year at Highland View Academy (HVA). Within the first week, 15 more students arrived, increasing the enrollment to 145. The budget for the year was built on an estimate of 110 students, and this increase marks the first rise in enrollment since 2001.

Students arrived from throughout the Chesapeake Conference area—which includes parts of Maryland, West Virginia, and Delaware—and from as far away as Russia, Taiwan, and Korea. The freshman and sopho-



Students are geared up for another year of academic and spiritual learning.



Highlander **OCTOBER 2007** www.highlandviewacademy.com



Sheri Tydings Principal



more classes boast the highest number of students with 43 each: the junior class has 32 members: and there are 27 seniors.

Students arrived with a variety of emotions. Some were nervous, some thrilled to be back with friends. and some expressed a renewed commitment to achieve higher goals. When asked what they looked forward to most in the coming year, senior Brady Lee said, "I'm looking forward to meeting the new faculty and students and seeing how everyone has changed." Sophomore Kenije Nomura is looking forward to the social events. "With so many more students, it just seems like everything will be more fun. There are so many new people to get to know," he chimed.



Visitors Invited to Upcoming Events

ighland View Academy faculty and students would like to extend an invitation to schools and youth to participate in two upcoming events. A soccer and volleyball tournament and youth rally will be held on the

campus from November 1-3. While there will be many games played during this event, students will also have ample opportunity to worship together and grow spiritually. Brad Durby, new athletic director and event coordinator, says the purpose is "to get our Adventist youth together for an event filled with wholesome activity, social interaction, and strong emphasis on worshiping our Lord."

The annual Academy Days event will be held November 4-5. These days are designed for students who want to know more about attending HVA. Students will have the opportunity to stay in the dormitory, visit classes,

meet teachers, and experience the total school program.

For more information on either event, contact Durby at (301) 739-8480, ext. 234, or bdurby13 98@yahoo.com.

New Faculty and Staff Welcomed

∧ s well as new students, the Acurrent school year brought several new faculty and staff



business office assistant: Denise Abshire (right), receptionist; Matthew Murray, assis-

The new taskforce workers include (left to right)

Matt Murray, assistant dean of boys; Arty Gibb,

grounds; and Jonathan Messenger, technology.



members. Joining

year are Brad

chaplain, and

Durby, recruiter,

athletic director;

the HVA faculty this



and computer

expertise in their respective disciplines, each of these individuals has a strong desire to mentor students and nurture them in both their academic and spiritual journey," says principal Sheri Tydings. "We're glad to have them here."

CALENDAR

HVA's new athletic director, recruiter, and

chaplain, Brad Durby, gets support from

his wife. Christie. and their children.

Megan and Andrew.

October

14

9

- Week of Prayer 8-13 10 College Fair, Gym, 8-10 a.m.
 - Parent Teacher Conferences 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- Home Leave 17-21 26-28 **Bible Retreat**

November

- 1-3 Soccer and Volleyball Tournament
- 4-5 Academy Days Senior Recognition
 - Highland View Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Parent Weekend 9-10
- 10 Talent Show, Gym, 7 p.m.
- 17 Academic Bowl
- 20-26 Thanksgiving Vacation

December

14

Music Dept. Christmas Program, Highland View Church, 7:30 p.m.

Highlander is published in the Visitor by Highland View Academy 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 Phone: (301) 739-8480 Fax: (301) 733-4770 Editor, Sheri Tydings www.highlandviewacademy.com

Our Dream and Vision are Becoming Reality

Most of our churches have organized Share Him Outreach Leadership Teams that are committed to reaching Local congregations are watching the leading of God as Bible study requests are pouring in by the hundreds.

Excitement is building in Mountain View as members witness God working through them in fulfilling the great Caospel commission. God's high calling that seemed so elusive at one time is now being fulfilled as never before. The difference is the moving of the Holy Spirit, arousing members to prepare to meet their God and share their faith. their communities for Christ. Each leadership team has plans to conduct two reaping evangelistic meetings yearly until Jesus comes. God is blessing the citywide preparations being made by our sister conferences as they continue to partner with Mountain View to capture our major cities for Christ. Our young people are not only conducting reaping evangelistic meetings within the conference, they are also volunteering for overseas assignments.

One veteran Bible worker expressed that she has never before seen such an upsurge of interest in God's Word. One local church has had more community attendance at their citywide reaping series than ever before. New members are proclaiming the gospel soon after baptism. Local churches are willingly involved in relevant and effective outreach through thrift stores, feeding the homeless, cooking classes, healthful living seminars, and other practical ministries.

God's people continue to demonstrate their faithful stewardship by a notable tithe increase for the first half of 2007. This has made it possible for us to hire several new Bible instructors who will serve rotationally throughout the conference. Our dream of fruitfully and joyfully engaging in the work of saving souls is becoming a reality.

Officers Break Ground for Valley Vista Youth Chapel

∧ II of the members of Valley Vista Adventist Center's A(Huttonsville, W.Va.) camp management committee agreed that the time had come for a safer, more comfortable and roomy meeting place for Mountain View youth. With the approval of the conference Executive Board, members of the committee drafted floor plans for erecting a spacious chapel near Williams Lodge.

The planners estimate that with volunteer assistance





1	Ch
-	teacher;
	Olga Bilan
	(not pictured),
	music; and
33	Arty Gibb,
	grounds.
	"In addition

tant dean of

boys; Becky

Whetmore

(left), assis-

tant dean of

girls; Mike

Hackleman

to bringing

Jonathan Messenger, technology; Alban Howe (below), math

(right), math teacher:





Larry Boggess President

in constructing this 4,000-plus sq. ft, chapel, the cost will be over \$150,000. By the end of this year's camp meeting, slightly more than \$105,000 in pledges and gifts were already donated. What is no less valuable are the offers to help with the construction work. Construction has already started (pictured) with plans to complete the project by next year's camp meeting. This chapel will have multiple uses such as church retreats, pastors and teachers meetings, youth conventions, training events, and more. Still needed-besides additional funds-are volunteer carpenters, plumbers, electricians, roofers, heating and air conditioning specialists, and unskilled laborers willing to take direction. Conference president Larry Boggess led out in a groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel during camp meeting. Members and friends of Mountain View are appreciated for their faithful, willing help in



this camp improvement project. This year's "President's Pocket Fund," held by our "perambulating depositary." Randall Murphy, was dedicated to building the new chapel. Mountain View youth will pursue various projects to help finish raising the required funds. Let us do all we can, financially and physically, to assist in this project.

VIEWPOINT

Valley View Burgeons With Interests

With a long history of evangelis-tic outreach, the Valley View church in Bluefield, W.Va., is accustomed to favorable results. But even this seasoned army of workers, constituting its membership of 169 strong, could hardly have anticipated the avalanche of Bible study requests-more than 400-that descended in response to its mailing of 10,000 "Something Wonderful" cards from Seminars Unlimited. Many additional Bible study enrollments resulted from this summer's sweep through the town by 18 young literature evangelists.

Lillian Torres, an experienced Bible instructor currently working in Bluefield, spent several days with the literature evangelists before their first house-to-house visits,

instructing them on the art and science of discerning good interests. Their primary focus for each day's work was to lead people to Christ. As a result, not only did they garner more than 200 Bible study interests. they also sold many more books than they had anticipated.

Torres is working with about 25 trained Valley Vista members to follow up with the body of more than 700 leads. Many of the studies are in a home setting, and others are by correspondence. One respondent to the enrollment card signed up over 25 of her friends and relatives. Her home has become the host site for a group study. And Janelle and Julie Glass, along with Amber and Kelsey Sarno (ages 13-16), are giving a program for the children. All these

Special Guests Address Living Waters Visitors

iving Waters, the downtown Community Outreach Center of the Spencer (W.Va.) church, hosted a special Narcotics Anonymous



recently. Special guest Cheri Peters (left) was the speaker. A recoverina addict, Peters is the founder of True Step Ministries, a

meeting

faith-based, nonprofit organization for troubled children. She presented her story and the amazing love of God to attendees. She emphasized that not only does God want to give us freedom from addictions, but also an abundant life full of joy and limitless potential. Peters shared how the Lord has blessed her life through her ministry of helping others find freedom in Christ. Her presentation gave hope to attendees as they listened to one who had experienced the "hell" of life and is now



Guest speaker Cheri Peters (fourth from left), founder of an organization for troubled children, gave a special presentation to recovering addicts at the Living Waters outreach center in Spencer, W.Va.

working to save others.

Other special guests at the center have been two students from Uchee Pines Institute (Ala.). The two guests used vacation time to come and minister to Spencer residents. After knocking on doors to invite those interested in living a life free from smoking, they conducted a five-day Stop Smoking program, which resulted in two graduates. -Chris Hasse



Bible instructor Lillian Torres (right) gives a Bluefield, W.Va., homeowner a Bible study, following a recent influx of requests.

endeavors are in preparation for a public series of evangelistic meetings scheduled for this fall.

"Two years ago, the same number of cards mailed out to the same addresses brought in 35 Bible study requests. We now have a 10-fold increase of responses," marveled Valley Vista pastor David Byrkit. "When we are favored with unusual success, our natural tendency is to attribute that success to our own skills and techniques, but it's not so. The voluminous influx of interests here and across Mountain View can only be a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit working directly on human hearts."

Mountain View EVENTS

October

- 5-7 Women's Retreat Valley Vista
- 21 Executive Committee 10 a.m.

November

4 Board of Education 10 a.m.

Mountain Viewpoint is published in the Visitor by the Mountain View Conference 1400 Liberty Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101 Phone: (304) 422-4581 President, Larry Boggess Editor, Brian Jones . www.mtviewconf.org

A Lesson in Planting Seeds

On August 21, the faculty and staff of Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) were devastated by the tragic news that one of our 2007 graduates had passed away in her sleep. Shaquor "Shay" Houston (pictured) was an active part of our school and had purposely attended MVA to take advantage of the many opportunities it provided her. A bus of more than 30 students and staff traveled from Mount Vernon, and half of her graduating class flew or drove to the funeral service to support both the family and one another. As I sat through the service and heard stories of how Shay ministered to people in her community, we all



couldn't help but be proud to have been a part of her life. The references during the service to the Summit church family of Jackson, Mich., and the MVA community, reinforced for me the importance of church and school working together to help students develop a Christian lifestyle and commit their lives to Christ.

We have a short time on this Earth, and our most vital resource is our young people. Each of us must encourage our young people to stay faithful in serving the Lord. I urge you to do whatever vou can to support a voung person at church and in Christian education. Shav will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her life has taught us all about the value of planting seeds. Everyone who knew her eagerly waits for the day when we will see her in the kingdom.

Three-Year Plan Reveals Seven Strategies

which identi-

fies specific

Outreach-

implement

community

that serve

different

areas:

goals in seven

Mount Vernon Academy is a community of Christians who have joined together for the purpose of academic progress, personal development, and spiritual growth. It is an institution dedicated to producing graduates who reflect the character of Christ and dedicate their lives to selfless service in their communities. In order to accomplish this task, the MVA administration, faculty, and staff recently gathered to approve a three-year strategic plan for the school,



The strategic plan is another step in helping outreach MVA establish a solid future for its students. programs

our community and coincide with the goals of the Ohio Conference.

Faculty-Recruit dedicated Christian educators who embrace quality Christian education, implement innova-

Curriculum—Engage students in challenging and purposeful learning that prepares them for service and to become productive citizens.

Community Continue to develop and

Financial Development/Alumni Relations—Ensure the school's ability to maintain guality education and provide for its students. Raise sufficient capital funds to meet the renovation and replacement needs for the next 10 years.







David Daniels Principal

tive ideas into the classroom, make learning experiential. and are devoted to personal and professional growth.

Parents-Nurture a relationship with parents, which encourages active involvement and continued support of MVA's purpose.

Students-Recruit and retain students committed to serving others, developing Christian character, embracing diversity, achieving academic excellence, and establishing a work ethic.

Facilities-Improve the physical plant and use of space for service, academics, arts, and athletics through a continuum of renovation and replacement projects that are appropriately prioritized to match curricular requirements with resource availability.

The creation and implementation of the new plan is another step in helping the school establish a solid future for students, staff members, and constituents. To view the plan in its entirety, visit www.mvacademy.org.

SPIRIT

Website Provides Valuable Information

Mount Vernon Academy unveiled a newly designed website last spring, and it has become a valuable resource for individuals interested in the school and its happenings. Visitors can find basic information about the school and its history. Current students and parents are able to access information about academics and activities. Potential students are able to submit a request for information or download admission forms. The school calendar and various school-related publications can be found in a section devoted to news. Even alumni can find useful information about Alumni Weekend, alumni class projects, and giving opportunities. Visit www.mvacademy.org today.



New Staff Welcomed

The Mount Vernon Academy campus is already a flurry of activity. It started when 36 excited freshmen arrived on campus signaling the beginning of the new school year. Three days later, the rest of the stu-



dent body converged to register for class and meet new faces, including those of six new staff members. Mario Broussard, a 2002

MVA alum-

returned as

nus, has

New staff members include (left to right) Mario Broussard ('02), Michelle Itschner, Gabriel Johnson, and Shannon Lee.

the assistant dean of men. He recently graduated from Southern Adventist University (Tenn.) with a degree in psychology. Gabriel Johnson joins the staff as an assistant chaplain and will also be assisting the

Parent Volunteering Initiated

n an effort to involve parents and friends of Mount Vernon Academy in various activities on campus, the school has established a Parent Volunteer program. The program provides the opportunity for parents to donate time to various aspects of the MVA experience.

Volunteers can assist in the dormitories and classrooms, with event planning, campus and community ministries, and fund raising/development. Volunteer options include speaking for religious meetings, helping transport students for community outreach, beautifying the campus, mentoring dormitory students, presenting mini-workshops to students, etc.

For a complete listing of opportunities, visit the school website or email volunteer@mvacademy.org.

deans in the men's dormitory. He previously worked in missions at Kettering (Ohio) College of Medical Arts. Michelle Itschner, a recent theology graduate of Walla Walla College (Wash.), will also be serving as an assistant chaplain and will spend time helping the girls' dean.

Shannon Lee, who joins her husband Joe-Student Services advisor-in service at MVA, will be working in the business office while finishing her internship in dietetics. Jeff Morris, the athletic director, comes from Collegedale, Tenn., where he previously shared his coaching talents with students at an elementary school. Tralese Syvertson will be serving as tutor. She has been teaching for 15 years, and most recently taught at an elementary school in Mansfield, Ohio.

Both students and staff are excited about the new school year, getting to know each other better, and drawing closer to Christ.

CALENDAR of **EVENTS**

October

- **16-18** Midterm Exams
- **19-21** Teen Girls Retreat & Boys Campout
- 22-26 OGT Testing
- 25-27 Bell Festival

November

- 2 Family Communion
- 2-4 Parent Weekend
- 3 Fall Festival
- 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences SAT Testing
- 7-11 Acrofest
- Thanksgiving Break 18-25

Spirit is published in the Visitor by Mount Vernon Academy 525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 = Phone: (740) 397-5411 Principal, David Daniels www.mvacademy.org

Our Service Will Be Rewarded

The parable of Jesus in Luke 12:26-28 gives us incredible encouragement. In the story, Jesus tells of a man's servants who were anxiously watching for him to return home. They had carefully prepared for his arrival, having everything in place no matter what time of the night he might arrive. Indeed, as soon as the man knocked on the door, his servants instantly opened it for him. He was pleased with their faithfulness. So pleased, that instead of expecting them to minister to him, he actually served them! In fact, the man had his servants sit at a feasting table, and-dressed as a servant himself-he served them a meal. Can you imagine their joy as their master ministered to them?

So it will be when Jesus comes the second time. We, as His servants, are to prepare everything for His coming. Everything needs to be in a state of readiness, no matter when He should arrive. And you can be sure that when the Lord finally does come, He will be so overwhelmed with our faithfulness toward Him, that He will show His appreciation by serving us in the same manner that we have been in the habit of serving Him. Yes, you can count on the fact that He will reward us handsomely for our faithfulness to Him.

Pastors Ordained to Ministry

Efraín Duany, Jr. - Pastor Duany was recently ordained to the gospel ministry at the Passaic I Spanish church where he is serving as pastor. The ceremony was enhanced by the ordination sermon presented by Pastor Efraín Duany, Sr., and conference leaders.

Pastor Duany was born in Habana, Cuba, into a Seventh-day Adventist family. His father baptized him when he was 10 years old. Developing a talent in piano at an early age, he later studied piano at the Professional Musicians School in Camaguey, Cuba. This year he plans to obtain his master's degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University (Mich.). He has a deep concern for the mental health of families and is also obtaining credits from Capella University (Minn.) in that field to help them.

Pastor Duany's wife, Zoraida, is his right hand in pastoral ministry. God has gifted them with two children, Jasmin and Samuel. The conference welcomes the family into their fold.



Yung Min Kim - Pastor "Isaac" Kim ordained to the gospel church in Rahway, where he is serving as pastor.





Bradlev Galambos Ministerial Secretary

was recently ministry at the **Central New** Jersey Korean an associate



Pastor Yung Min Kim is joined by his wife and son during his recent ordination service.

Conference department leaders joined Pastor Eung-Tae Kim, Pastor Kim's father, in welcoming him to the ministry. The Central New Jersey Korean Choir enhanced the ceremony with their performance. Pastor Kim was born in South Korea. He immigrated with his family to the United States in 1979. He first earned his bachelor's in theology from Pacific Union College (Calif.), and later his master's in theology from Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea, as well as a Master of Divinity from Andrews University (Mich.).

Pastor Kim married Mina Chung, a dentist, and they have one son, Theodore "Teddy" Sung-Hyun Kim. Pastor Kim has dedicated his life to God. The conference is happy to welcome him to pastoral leadership as an ordained minister.



Korean Women's Ministries Meeting Held in Rahway

∧ regional meeting of Korean women from New Jersey, New York, and APennsylvania was held recently at the Central New Jersey Korean church in Rahway. The meeting was part of an effort by the North American Korean Women's Ministries Counsel to explore the status of Women's Ministries in this region and to support related activities.

The three presenters for the event were Carlyn Kim, Hwasun Sul (Kim), and Roseann Metrinko. Kim. director of the council. shared her vision of support for the Women's Ministries department by all Korean Adventist churches in North America. This Arkansas resident encourages women throughout the country to become more involved in local church ministries.

Sul relayed her experiences of being one of a very rare and small



First Bilingual Church Celebrates Organization

he First Bilingual Company recently celebrated its confirmation as an organized church during a special ceremony, with various conference administrators and more than 200 members, visitors, and friends in attendance. The festivities kicked off with an inspiring program led by Sabbath School superintendent Sophia Batallas and the teaching of Pastor Sheldon Cooper. The divine service featured an historical overview of the church, testimonies, pastoral prayer, sacred music, and a heartening sermon by conference president LeRoy Finck.

Executive secretary José Cortés and church clerk Angelia Bryson spearheaded the church organization ceremony. Seventy-two members of the newly organized church



José Cortés, executive secretary, watches as attendees commit themselves as new members of the First Bilingual church.

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Conference president LeRoy Finck (left) addresses attendees. while church elder Cesar Grau translates.

were called by name. Upon their acknowledgment, an invitation was given to those wanting to become new members, either through baptism or transfer of membership. More than 15 people stepped forward. When Finck officially conferred the First Bilingual Company the status of an organized church, attendees erupted into applause.

The First Bilingual congregation was born in early 2004 as an initiative of Pastor Walter Umaña and various members of the New Brunswick Spanish church. Since the beginning, the mission of the congregation has been twofold: to serve the needs of second-generation youth and young adults while also reaching out to former

Adventists. This is being accomplished, in part, through the blessing of live worship music and through members' God-given talents being mobilized into active service for the Lord.—Cesar G. Grau



October

- 6 Children's Sabbath Dav
- 7 Adventurer Fun Day ABC Open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 9 Pastors Meeting
- 11 Board of Education, Noon

12-17 CU Annual Council Youth Ablaze Church Education Secretaries Meeting

- ABC Open. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 18 Eighth-Grade History Tour
- 21 ACS/ACSDR Advisory
- 30 K-12 Teacher Inservice Meeting—No School

New Jersey News is published in the Visitor by the New Jersey Conference 2160 Brunswick Ave., Trenton NJ 08648 Phone: (609) 392-7131
President, LeRoy Finck Editor. Aura Garcia www.njcsda.org

Church News

Many Ohio churches are finding creative ways to serve their communities, develop friendships, and share Jesus' love with those they serve. Below are a few recent examples:

Westerville FunFest Unites Community

New high-end housing developments and a new high school have sprung up around the Westerville church in recent years, land once home to open fields and farms. Church members decided it was time to put



the five acres of their church property to good use by inviting their new neighbors over for a free "block party." Many neighborhood families

came out to

enjoy "Summer FunFest." Kids and adults tested their throwing arms at the dunk tank and enjoyed a variety of other games. They also got a chance to win door prizes and enjoy delicious treats. This first-time carnival earned a great turnout, encouraging members to do it again.

Toledo First Hosts Local Mission Trip

The Toledo First church went on a four-day mission trip just 15 minutes away from its suburban location to

inner city Toledo. Their purpose was to show residents of the Aurora House transitional home for women and children that God loves them like crazy! With the help of community sponsors,

church members hosted a street carnival for the neighborhood,

and offered events such as spa treatments, art classes. and a trip to the Toledo Museum of Art for the residents. The mission trip culminated with a block party open to the public, including an art show displaying works



Toledo First church members and volunteers lay fresh sod in the new "pocket park" next to the nearby Aurora House transitional home for women and children.





created by Aurora House residents. live music, and the unveiling of the new "pocket park" the members helped fix up next to the house. The city's

mavor was invit-

ed to perform the ribbon cutting for the new park (pictured). Pastor Mike Fortune reports, "The mayor of Toledo, Carty Finkbeiner, preached my sermon for me! He said the recent ribbon cutting on Toledo's skyway was exciting, but that this event, in this neighborhood, was inspiring. He joked how startling it must seem that a church from the 'burbs of Sylvania would spend so much time and energy in the city seeking to do good, as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did."

Warren Community Picnic Shines Through Rain

Rain couldn't put a damper on the Warren church's annual community and family picnic. Numerous tents housed various stations of interest for the participants, including food, games, and music. Instead of the usual barbeque style, the planning committee prepared boxed lunches, making it possible for all to enjoy the food and fellowship without worrying about preparations. A bake sale also helped raise money for the local food bank ministry. A special surprise was also arranged for the children. A professional Christian clown named Gospel Sunshine (pictured) stopped by to entertain the kids with balloon animals

and face painting. Through-out the day, community residents enjoyed the company, food, and entertainment, even in what could be described as "showers of blessings." The picnic, which started out with question marks, ended with resounding success.—Shelvan Arunan



Community Children Enjoy Camp SonPower

amp SonPower brought a summer camp experience home to many community children throughout Ohio for a second year. The program has become a great option for churches to extend their internal resources into a weeklong high-quality day camp program for children. Teams of five Camp Mohaven-trained staff-



creative, energetic college students-led each camp.

Jean Perez, director of the Mansfield church's camp. reported that more than 50 children attended each day, with two-thirds of that number coming from the community. The members feel that much of their success in attracting



Attendees of the Mansfield church's Camp SonPower program enjoy singing for the members.

so many is due to the growing familiarity with the Mansfield church. They have increased their involvement in community events and by partnering with several local agencies throughout the year.

open to Part A participants.)

and The Quiet Hour.

Children's Spirituality Emphasized at Conference

Pastors and teachers united recently to participate in the first one-day conference to focus on fostering the spiritual development of children. Award-winning author and children's communicator Karyn Henley (right) was the guest speaker. She presented an expanded view of the stages of moral development and explained how to plant and grow faith in children as they move through each stage. In today's increasingly pluralistic culture, largely unfamiliar with the Bible and the accepted tenets of Christianity, Henley emphasized that love is the bridge that will cross all cultural and religious barriers. Presenting God in Jesus as Perfect Love must be the centerpiece of all our teaching.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Ministry Workshops

"Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children"

Central Region: October 20, 3-6 p.m. Worthington Church 385 East Dublin-Granville Road North Region: November 3, 3-6 p.m. Lakewood Church 1382 Arthur Avenue

"Called to Display His Glory" Seminar

Learn how to build relationships with Muslims.

Speaker: Bryan Gallant (pictured), founder of Enoch's Passion

Location: Worthington Church Part A: October 27-28, Part B: November 17-18



Mission Ohio is published in the Visitor by the Ohio Conference P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 Phone: (740) 397-4665 President, Raj Attiken Editor, Nancy Barnett = www.ohioadventist.org

Time: 3 p.m. on Sabbath thru Sunday. (Part B is only

Free registration is required and includes Sabbath

supper. The 150-page manual and other resources

Sponsors: Ohio Conference, Worthington church,

or email information@ohioadventist.org.

are \$20 per participant. Call (740) 397-4665, ext. 165,

Youth Spend Summer Sharing Christ

reventeen kids spent their summer vacation knocking on doors and selling literature. They carried a backpack full of Obooks in the heat and humidity, and most residents they approached were not interested in what they were selling. These brave youth were participants of the second Pennsylvania Conference Youth Challenge. Separated into two teams, they canvassed the areas around Lansdale and Harrisburg with support from conference youth director Kris Eckenroth and pastors Lonnie Wibberding of the State College, Lewistown, and Mifflintown churches, and

James Wibberding of the Lansdale and Souderton churches.



The groups met each morning for worship and prayer. After lunch, they Siontay Lewis, of Pittsburgh, got involved in Youth Challenge in order to

restocked their materials and headed out to an area mapped out by team leaders Andrew Master and James Weigley. These two drove the vans, kept in touch with members, and provided more materials as needed. get closer to God. He shared how God tested his faith and told about one woman who asked him some tough questions about what he believed. Answering them stretched him to really think and respond on a deeper level. Though he could have spent the summer playing basketball in Philadelphia, Roberto Herrera stayed at the home of a Lansdale church member to participate in Youth Challenge. He recounted how he was led to the home of a struggling Christian who wasn't attending church. Herrera exchanged phone numbers with the man and invited him to the Lansdale church. He asked others to join him in praying for this man. While they were successful in selling books and earning money for tuition, each young person experienced God and saw Him at work. For more information or to get involved, contact the Youth Department at (610) 374-8331.

Reading Kids Beat the Heat at Cool Camp

Camp director Keith

As many as 30 children, ages 8-12, got to enjoy Asinging, skits, worship, crafts, games, and splashing in the pool on hot summer afternoons through Cool Camp. It is a three-week summer day camp held at the Kenhorst Boulevard church in Reading. Another 15 children attended a week of Cool Camp at the York



Kelsey Larrabee, a senior at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, teaches crafts to Cool Camp campers.

helped lead Bowman, a theology major at Southern Adventist University leadership.

thinking she would lead chil-

wife, Shayna, as well as Satara Johnson, a music major at Southern with family in the Reading area; Jonathon Sanner, a physical therapy major at Andrews University (Mich.) and member of the Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) church in Hamburg; and BMA students Kelsey and Connor Larrabee.

Pennsylvania Den OCTOBER 2007

Reading pastors Mike McCabe and Brian Cassell and York pastor Dave Woodruff worships, while Kenhorst church member Annette Wilson offered her support and Shayna Bowman came



Plaving in the pool with Jonathon Sanner. a member of the Blue Mountain Academy church, was a fun activity for attendees of Cool Camp.

dren to Christ, "but I found that they taught me much about God in the way they treated each other and in their attitudes and desire to learn." Many on the team are already looking forward to next year. To be a part of next year's Cool Camp, contact the Youth Department at (610) 374-8331.

Pennsylvania **Pen**

Korean Youth Help Rebuild Mississippi

wenty-seven young people from the Pennsylvania Korean church in Huntingdon Valley recently headed south to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They raised funds for the trip through donations, car washes, bake sales, hosting a luncheon, and other service projects.

The Korean group joined work already started by His Hand and Feet



Young people, like DongHun Lee, from the Pennsylvania Korean church, spent 10 days helping to rebuild hurricanedamaged homes in Mississippi.

Ministry volunteers in Mississippi. While working, the group was amazed to hear stories of incredible loss, yet strong faith. One woman had lost both her husband and dog. Another lost all of her children. Yet they were thankful to have young people willing to give up



YoungWook Kim gave up some of his summer vacation to help rebuild homes in Mississippi.

portions of their summer to travel and help them rebuild their homes.

Several of the residents also participated in the ministry, sometimes leading out with worship. One woman encouraged the young people to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their own lives. One youth volunteer realized that certainty in life can't be found in houses or belongings, but in the knowledge that God is always there and will provide and guide no matter what. She writes, "By the end of the mission trip, I realized the people I came down to help actually helped me get closer to God."

Hanover Helps Elderly Neighbors

Would you give up two days of your summer vacation or take a couple of days off from work to do repairs on the homes of people you have never met? Members and youth of the Hanover church would, and did.

Each year Hanover members spend part of their summer on a mission trip to another state, working with hundreds of other kids from across the country. This year they decided to take a mission trip to their own community. Youth group leader George Mann contacted the Adam's County Department



These Hanover church members and youth pause from building a wheelchair ramp and doing other jobs for a local senior citizen.

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of Aging and asked for names of people in need of home repairs.

Ten teens along with eight adults spent two humid summer days painting, applying two coats of sealant to the roof of a mobile home, building a wheelchair ramp, digging up flowerbeds then refilling them with flowers and mulch, and whatever else the homeowners needed. The group even purchased and paid for all of the supplies they needed for the two home repair projects, using collected donations and money from their youth group fund. One pleased resident said he didn't know how the work would have gotten done if it hadn't been for the Hanover teens.

Many of the teens wore T-shirts from a previous mission trip that summed up why they gave up two summer vacation days to help others: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Giovanna Sobrinho shared. "I want to give all my life for Him. This is one way of beginning to do that."

Mhat's happening

October

- 5-7 Pathfinder Fall Camp Out Laurel Lake Camp
- 12-14 Fall Women's Retreat Laurel Lake Camp
- 20 Living the Mission York Church
- 27 Youth Leaders Training Mother/Daughter Conference, Hershey
- 28 Live Your Strengths Event Hershey

November

- Pathfinder/Adventurer 2-3 Leadership Training Laurel Lake Camp
- 9-11 Equipping University Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Pen is published in the Visitor by the Pennsylvania Conference 720 Museum Road, Reading, PA 19611 Phone: (610) 374-8331, ext. 210 President, Ray Hartwell = Editor, Tamvra Horst www.paconference.org

Potomac People

Manassas Pastor Ordained/Commissioned

Onference officials recently joined Joey Pollom (right), pastor of the Manassas (Va.) church, his wife, Sarah, and their friends and family for his ordination/commissioning service. Prior to answering the call to ministry, Pollom taught high school, managed a law firm, worked in sales, and even owned a marketing firm. "All my life experiences were God's training ground for the ministry," he acknowledges.

"I felt the call to ministry during a dream at the age of 13 while attending Lodi Adventist School," Pollom recounts, At Lodi (Calif.), he benefited from the local worthy student fund. As a result of this kindness and generosity, he is a staunch supporter of Christian education today. God blessed him with three wonderful sons: Joel, Justin, Jesse; and later a daughter, Jessica Ritchie. All four are attending college.-Jeanie Allen

Summer Camp Changes Lives, Yields Baptisms

During this year's five-week summer camp program, 357 campers made the journey to Montebello, Va., for an adventure-packed week at Camp Blue Ridge (CBR). Ask campers what they most enjoyed and many will say it's the friends they made. Some will also say it's where they first realized how much Jesus loves them, leading to an unforgettable spiritual experience.

Each week, following the Friday evening passion play, the camp pastor made an appeal to those who wanted to commit their lives to Jesus, or go one step further and be baptized. This year nine young people stepped forward and were baptized in the cool waters of the lake. with friends and family celebrating with them. An additional 11 campers are preparing for baptism.

One of the newly baptized campers is 14-year-old Jacob from New Hampshire. This was his second year at CBR. Last year Jacob's aunt, who lives in Luray, Va., called Youth Ministries director Denny Grady to inquire



Melvyn Hayden, associate pastor for During the second youth at Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., prepares to baptize be baptized. Grady staff member Brittany Sweeney.

dysfunctional family, to enjoy a fun-packed Grady explained. This year Jacob returned week, Jacob asked to





Clinton Adams (back row, center), pastor her reaction and at the Tappahannock, Carter Memorial, and Kilmarnock churches in Virginia, prays with campers and staff.

felt obligated to obtain permission before baptizing him. and called the aunt.

Not sure what she might say, Grady recalls. "I was surprised by realized that the Holy Spirit was indeed working to transform lives.

The aunt's response was, 'If faith is what helps him deal with his reality [life issues], then I'll be supportive of it." The next day, Jacob's aunt and several of her friends witnessed his baptism. He also attended several area churches while finishing his summer vacation in Virginia. And the pastor and several staff members guickly worked on an Adventist connection for Jacob

in New Hampshire. If you know a young person, like Jacob, who needs to find stability. remember CBR. Don't underestimate what a difference it can make eternally in a child's life.—Jeanie Allen



Potomac People

Beltsville Pathfinders Triumph at Annual Fair

The Pathfinder Fair is the long-awaited finale, a time for clubs to showcase their knowledge and skills," said Youth Ministries director Denny Grady. This year approximately 350 members from 24 clubs participated in the event, which took place at the Vienna (Va.) church and school.

The Beltsville (Md.) Broncos Pathfinder Club-80 members strong and Potomac Conference's largest-not only worked hard to compete and win first place in the basic drill team competition, but they also learned what it means to witness and share their faith. Two months before the event, the Broncos did not have an organized drill team. Heidi Hartlev, a staff member and long-time Pathfinder herself, recalled how several months earlier, she approached the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Core (NJROTC) program coordinator at her daughter's public high school. She asked if any of their students would be willing to teach the Pathfinders basic drilling skills.



The Beltsville (Md.) Broncos drill team prepares to compete at the Pathfinder Fair.

To her surprise, five students immediately volunteered, four of which spent countless hours training the 15-member team.

"Two of the volunteers were brothers who had lost so much in their lives. First their father died and then Hurricane Katrina destroyed everything they owned, yet they were first to step up to the challenge," recounted Hartley. "The volunteers often compared our Pathfinders to their own NJROTC members and remarked. 'This group works better than our beginning groups," says Hartley. "And they asked many questions, including how Pathfinder club relates to our church, if they could visit on Sabbath, and what makes our church different." She believes the seeds have been planted, and only time will tell the outcome of their witness.-Jeanie Allen

Radford Introduces Novel Idea for Witnessing

Well before dark they came. Sixty residents from the City of Radford (Va.) joined Adventist members at the church parking lot with blankets and cushions to stake-out spaces on the lawn. The

church. located near Radford's Bissett Park, has become a choice spot to watch the July 4 fireworks display.



to serve popcorn and lemonade during the July 4 celebration.

But, this year, the church added a new twist. Radford's new pastor. Vincent MacIsaac (far left). grabbed a large tray filled with bowls of popcorn and distributed them to guests, while members served

lemonade. "It was a wonderful event where the church was able to connect with the community," recalls MacIsaac. "As I served popcorn to the people, everyone was impressed and thankful that we had been so thoughtful and generous. I believe this is a beginning of many more good things to come as we strive to serve our community in Christian love."

Guests, startled by the church's generosity, expressed appreciation. Several offered money, and some asked for seconds! Everyone enjoyed this added touch for the evening's festivities. And the fireworks that evening seemed bigger, brighter, and more beautiful than ever! Church member Vicki DiNitto summed it up this way: "It's been a while since I have been this proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist. It feels good." -Win Howell

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Three Miracles Marked by 100

Cometimes I wonder if certain events are truly a Omiracle or just wonderful occurrences. It might be debatable which category the following events fall into, but I consider them modern miracles:

First Miracle - Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) will celebrate 100 years in New Market, Va., this school vear. I realize there are other Adventist academies older than SVA, but 100 years is a good occasion to recount the blessings of continued existence, especially in New Market. You see, of the 21 private schools existing prior to 1908, SVA is the only one remaining. Three other private schools have been founded since 1908,



Freshman Natalie Carter (seated, left) is the 174th student to register this school year. Helping her seal the deal is (left to right) Rita Miller, accountant; Wendy Dean, director of admissions; and (seated, right) Dorenda Dodge, vice principal.

but they, too. ceased operations. We have endured significant ups and downs over the vears. even closing for the 1913-1914 school year when fire destroyed the

interior of the original building. But by the grace of God and

through His blessings, SVA

has survived for a century and continues to fulfill the mission envisioned by our founder, Charles Zirkle.

Second Miracle - Our latest challenge occurred last year when enrollment dropped by 70 students—or one-third-which is a major challenge for any school. Then having 40 percent of the reduced student body graduate only compounded the problem! But even through this turmoil, last school year was a very good one for SVA. Pleased with the progress made last year, the students, parents, staff, and Board of Trustees have worked hard during the past seven months to rebuild our enrollment. Our school refocused on our spiritual values and programs, quality academics, improved facilities, and making student aid available to those in need.

contributing an average of \$5,000 each! Too optimistic? We don't think so. We think it will happen, and perhaps you would like to be a part of this miracle. Check our website for donor information and track the progress of our third miracle: www.shenandoahvalleyacademy.org.



While all of these are major changes and will take some time to fully execute, the Lord blessed our efforts. We have 172 students this year, including 108 new students, to help us celebrate our 100th anniversary! The second part of this miracle unfolded when we realized

that 45 percent of our new students attended public schools last year. I hope someone is saying "Amen"!

Third Miracle The last miracle is one we are still praving will happen. Built in 1964, Price Hall,



Ted Decker of Lynchburg, Va., helps with the overhaul of Price Hall.

the boys' dorm, was in need of major renovations when I was principal here 30 years ago. The plumbing system, including drain lines from the building, is in need of complete replacement. The electrical system, including the panels and wiring, must be replaced. The furniture, closets, and dressers will be



replaced and a new HVAC svstem for each room is on order. The projected cost for this project is \$2 million. but we have started the Price Hall

project in faith that the remaining

\$500.000 needed will be donated in the next few months. The miracle we'd like to see take place is 100 donors



Dale Twomley, PhD Principa



All Things Work Together

What a busy, stressful summer it was with the loss of three key personnel. Within three months time, I learned that Lisa Follette, vice principal for finance; Karohn Young, learning specialist; and Denise Barclay, guidance counselor, were vacating their positions. We got right to work and started searching for new staff, but nervousness about a new school year weighed me down. I knew I had to stay on my knees.

But God is such an awesome God! As Romans 8:28 states, "And we know that God causes all things to work



together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (New American Standard Bible). By the end of July, after the Personnel Committee of the Takoma Academy (TA) Board interviewed and made several recommendations, I am

happy to be able to introduce our new staff! Darryl Stowe (left) is our new vice principal for finance. Stowe is a treasurer for, and member of, the Seabrook church in Lanham, Md. He joins TA after working for the Marriott Corporation for 26 years. He is married to Earla, and their daughter, Brittany, will be in our freshman class.

Kristina Harris Flo is our new guidance counselor. She and her husband, Teddy (right), are TA graduates from 2001. It is always great to have graduates return and give back to their alma mater. The Flos are members of the Beltsville (Md.) church.



Jimmie Gibson (left) is teaching Freshman Bible and also assisting in the Guidance Department. He is married to Rasheeda and has three children.

Angela Paris is covering the Language Arts classes on a part-time basis. Paris was the assistant to the principal for the 2006-07 school year. Paris and her husband, Chris, have one daughter.

Loida Doukmetzian will be assisting us with our special education needs, and Karohn Young has committed herself to helping in any way possible during the upcoming school year. God truly is good.

C. Dunbar Henri Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Academy Day - Tuesday, October 23 is a day for eighth-grade students from local Adventist elementary schools to converge on TA's campus. They are guided through the academy program and given the opportunity to determine if TA is right for them. Academy Day hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (301) 434-4700.

Third Annual Fall Fest - This is a day (October 28) of fun for the children, complete with a moon bounce, iousting arena. Velcro wall, and other fair activities. Food will be provided and various items will be for sale as TA fund-raisers. In order to rent space for selling items, or for more information, call (301) 434-4700.

Calendar

October

- 7-9 Pastor/Teacher Convention, Williamsburg-School Closed
- 10 Classes Resume
- 17 PSAT Testing
- 20 Fall Hike
- 22 Finance Committee—3 p.m. Board of Trustees—7 p.m.
- 23 Academy Day
- **25. 26** Semester Exams
- Third Annual Fall Fest 28

TA Today is published in the Visitor by Takoma Academy = 8120 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 Phone: (301) 434-4700 = Principal, C. Dunbar Henri = www.ta.edu





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The Columbia Union Visitor accepts classified advertising as a service to its members. Announcements for Adventist church-sponsored events, legal notices, and obituaries will be printed without charge on a spaceavailable basis. The Columbia Union Visitor editors reserve the right to refuse or discontinue advertisements at any time and may edit classified ads to comply with editorial policies. The Visitor also does not guarantee the integrity of any product or service advertised.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY LIFE EVENT AT BURNT

MILLS CHURCH: Family Life features: The Ravnes Family from Restoration International Seminars: Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; and Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. The theme is "Christ in the Home." Topics include: Foundation of Family Life; It is Written, What?: Biblical Role Models: and Couple Communication. This event will change your family life forever. For more information, call Maryanne Frost, (301) 776-0834

THE PACIFIC UNION AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCES

of Seventh-day Adventists, in cooperation with the Canoga Park Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, are pleased to announce the inauguration of a new congregational ministry, Congregation Beth Ohavey Torah, "The house of those who love Torah." The purpose of this new ministry is twofold: 1) To provide an authentic worship experience for those Jewish people who have come to embrace Yeshua ha Mashiach, commonly known by Christians as Jesus; 2) To provide an opportunity for interfaith couples to worship together without compromise. A Jewish and Christian spouse can worship together in a respectful context that honors both traditions, without either party feeling pressured to convert; 3) We also anticipate that a variety of both Jews and Christians will participate in these services, and we wish to extend a very warm welcome to all who wish to join together in a worship service that combines authentic Jewish liturgical elements, with wisdom and instruction derived from both the Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist theological traditions. Schedule: The congregation will begin meeting on a monthly basis, on Sabbath afternoons, to celebrate the close of Sabbath, the Havdalah service, and to enjoy a social time togeth er with food of course. Some of the meetings will include the morning worship time. This announcement is being sent widely. To insure that you receive current information about upcoming meetings, send an email request to mrliberty@churchstate.org to be added to the congregational list.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST SOCIAL WORKERS (IAASW) announces a conference for its members to be held Friday, October 26, at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in San Francisco, Calif. For more information, visit www.jaasw.org.or.contact.Lindsev

Pitts at ceilidh zee@vahoo.com.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE: at Highland View Seventh-day

Adventist Church, beginning October 7 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Purchase a table for \$10 to join the sale. All proceeds from table sales purchase food for HIV/AIDS orphans in Kenya. Call (240) 217-5249 to reserve a table or donate. Learn more about the Kenya project at www.fullylive.com. The church is located at 21600 Academy Terrace in Hagerstown, Md

Norfolk ANDREWS ACADEMY Parker

Andrews Academy will be holding their Alumni Homecoming weekend October 19-21. All alumni of Emmanuel Missionary College Academy, and Andrews Academy plan now to join us for special services on Friday evening and all day Sabbath. Honor classes are 1938, '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68 '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, and 2003. For more details, contact the Academy Alumni office, (269) 471-6140, or email acadalum@ andrews.edu.

OBITUARIES

HOMECOMING:

BECHLER, Michael A., born January 17, 1944, in Baltimore. Md.: died July 13, 2007. in Fishers Hill. Va. He was a member of the Strasburg (Va.) church. He survived by his wife, Josephine M. Bechler, of Fishers Hill, Va.; sons, Michael A. Bechler Jr., of Manchester, Md., and John A. Bechler of Cartersville. Ga.: daughters, Lisa Marie McNabb of Houston, Texas, and Kristina A. Bechler of Fishers Hill, Va.: a brother, James P. Sendelbach of Coyeas, Ga.; a sister, Mary E. Moxley of Covington, Ga.; six grandchildren; and one greatarandson

BILBEE, Margaret, L.

born October 20, 1939; died December 23, 2006, in Bellville Ohio. She was a member of the Mansfield (Ohio) church. She is survived by her husband, Larry; son, Michael Steven; grandsons, Travis, Joshua, and Nash Bilbee; and granddaughters, Stephanie Oakley and Danielle Bilbee.

BOATRIGHT, Haynes L.,

born May 23, 1911, in Calhoun, Ky.: died May 17, 2007, in Sandy Spring, Md. He was a member of the Spencerville (Md.) church. He was a linotype operator for the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. (R&H) for 35-plus vears. retiring in 1976. Prior to working for the R&H, he worked at Washington Missionary College Press. He played saxophone and started a sax-quartet, that performed every Sabbath in churches around Takoma Park, Md, He is survived by his daughter, Sally A. Robbins of Silver Spring, Md.: his son.

GRUVER, Lynn E.,

Trento Wash.

Bulletin Board

	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9
Baltimore	6:32	6:22	6:13	6:04	4:57
Cincinnati	7:04	6:54	6:45	6:36	5:29
Cleveland	6:51	6:40	6:30	6:21	5:13
Columbus	6:57	6:47	6:37	6:29	5:21
Jersey City	6:21	6:10	6:01	5:52	4:44
Norfolk	6:33	6:24	6:15	6:07	5:00
Parkersburg	6:52	6:42	6:33	6:24	5:17
Philadelphia	6:26	6:16	6:06	5:57	4:50
Pittsburgh	6:45	6:34	6:25	6:16	5:08
Reading	6:29	6:18	6:09	6:00	4:52
Richmond	6:37	6:28	6:19	6:11	5:04
Roanoke	6:47	6:38	6:29	6:21	5:14
Toledo	6:58	6:47	6:37	6:28	5:20
Trenton	6:24	6:14	6:04	5:55	4:48
Wash., D.C.	6:34	6:24	6:15	6:07	5:00

SUNSET CALENDAR

Ronald H. Boatright of Silver Spring, Md.; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, after 67 years of marriage.

DARR, Amy E.,

born July 29, 1919, in Takoma Park, Md.; died March 11, 2007, in Luray. Va. She was a member of the Luray church. Survivors include her son, Glenn Darr of Luray, Va.; her daughters, Harriet Smallwood of Tucson, Ariz., and Janet Mathey of Dunn, N.C.; three grandchildren: four great-grandchildren: a brother. Dale Cornor of Moncks Corner, S.C.; and a sister, Muriel L. Laubach of Luray, Va.

born December 31, 1932; died June 22, 2007. He was a resident of Wadsworth, Ohio, most of his life, and a member of the Barberton (Ohio) church. Lynn was preceded in death by his parents, R. Milo and Ellyce Lucille (Hartman) Gruver: and brothers Lowell M. and Roger B. Gruver. He is survived by daughter Tammy L. Gruver of Canton, Ohio; brother Max E. (Esther) Gruver of Wadsworth; sisters-in-law Patricia Gruver of Michigan and Joan Delaney of Florida: many nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Noreen Price.

HACKLEY, Leigh M.,

born June 15, 1922, in Savage, Md.; died December 8, 2006, in Florence, S.C. He was a member of the Midport Road church in Port St. Lucie. Fla. He is survived by his wife, Mary L. Hackley, of Palm Bay, Fla.; sons, Steven Hackley of Palm Bay, Fla., and Mark Hackley of Waynesboro, Va.; daughters, Sharon McCabe of Jensen Beach, Fla., and Kathy Shubert of Edgewater, Md.: eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren

HALL, Ernestine, K.,

born July 24, 1933, in Mt. Pleasant, Pa.: died March 23. 2007, in Pine Forge, Pa. She was a member of the Pottstown (Pa.) Walnut Street church. She was the pianist and organist for the Reading and Pottstown Walnut Street churches. Ernestine worked as a substitute teacher for Pine Forge Academy, in Pine Forge, Pa She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; son, Samuel Leon Jr.; daughters, Sandra Lee Hall and Lois Marie Branford; brothers Joseph Lerov and Isaac: and sisters Lois Louise Hall Florence Thomas Nicholson, and Willa Mae Hall. She is survived by her son, Ernest Hall, of Pine Forge Pa.; her daughter, Sharon Hall, of North Highlands, Calif.; and four grandchildren, Paris Hall, who lives in Georgia, Kenneth Bradford, of Pine Forge, Pa., Dwayne Hall of

Maryland, and Jameela Hall of California; 12 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren; sisters. Lucille Colbert of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., Dorothy Boone of Uniontown, Pa., Edith Herring of Philadelphia, Pa., and Mildred Hall of Uniontown, Pa.; brothers, Davis R. Hall of Braddock, Pa., Pastor Willard Hall of Philadelphia, Pa., Pastor Wilbert Hall of Georgia, Jered Hall of Georgia Benjamin Hall of Washington, D.C., and John Hall of Cleveland, Ohio.

LIERS, Helmut O. "Chuck," Jr., born January 1, 1923, in Marvdel. Del.: died April 13, 2007, at his home in New Market, Va. He was a member of the New Market church. He was an Army veteran of WWII. He managed the Shenandoah Valley Bindery in New Market, Va., and retired as manager of the Bindery at the Review and Herald Publishing Association. in Hagerstown, Md. Šurvivors include his wife, Sara Jane Anders Liers; a daughter, Shelby Maas; two sons, William S. Liers and Robert J. Liers; four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

SMITH, Helen M. (Tanner), born June 19, 1912, in Mainesburg, Pa.; died February 28 2007 in Mansfield Pa She was the daughter of Zachary Taylor Tanner and Agnes Douglas (Boyd) Tanner. Mrs. Smith was a

long-time member of the Blossburg (Pa.) church. She served as cradle roll/kindergarten Sabbath School pianist for 40-plus years, as well as church treasurer for 10-plus years. She enjoyed doing many crafts, as well as doing gardening, traveling, and visiting with her family. Her husband, Franklin Smith, passed away in 1973. She is survived by a son, Donald (Ruth) Smith of Blossburg, Pa two daughters Phyllis J Williams (Ken) of Paradise, Calif. and Dorothy M. Frank (Ray) of Mansfield, Pa.; nine grandchildren, Gary Williams, Merilyn Williams; John Williams, Joseph Smith, Theresa (Smith) Mahosky, Sherry (Smith) Stoudt, M. Scott Smith, Pamela (Frank) Scheib, and Janet (Frank) Armstrong; eight greatgrandchildren; two great-greatgrandchildren; one brother-in-law, Kenneth (Charlotte) Smith of Cleburne, Texas; and several nieces. and nephews.

OBITUARY SUBMISSION Phone toll-free (888) 4-VISITOR or e-mail: sjones@columbiaunion.net A form will be sent to you for completion. Obituaries are printed in the order they are received on a

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The Columbia Union Visitor wants to recognize amazing kids-ages 5 to 14who are involved in evangelism, outreach, ministry, community services, leadership, or other creative activities in their church, school, or community.

Send two quality photos-one headshot and one of the youth engaging in their said activity.

Write a 300-500 word story explaining why this youth should be featured.

Include contact information (phone number and email).

Please email photos and stories to: Ihenderson@columbiaunion.net

or mail to: LaVerne Henderson Columbia Union Visitor 5427 Twin Knolls Road Columbia, MD 21045

Deadline: November 5



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Visitor provides news and information, resources for effective ministry, and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help people celebrate God's transforming grace in preparation for His return

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was the "designated hitter" at his church's weekend revival series, for which he had scheduled me months ahead. Yet there I lay on the couch, clutching the phone, barely able to form a coherent sentence. The pain from the ruptured lumbar disc was desperately intense.

never came.

"Bill, can I visit you? I want to pray with you," he offered. I protested how unnecessary such a trip would be—90 minutes on back roads when he now had an entire weekend to reconfigure. "I'll be fine," I told him, hoping it would be true. My protest delayed him only 48 hours. Sabbath afternoon, unannounced, he bent over my bed, took my hand, gripped it warmly to his chest, and prayed for me as no pastor ever had. There was no hurry in the man, no sense of brisk, forward movement so that he could return to more important stuff. For that moment, I was the important "stuff" in his world. He wrapped my hurting body in the prayerful words of a man used

to dealing with pain.

Eighteen years of pastoring had given me a grasp of the personal and professional skills needed to comfort others. Now helpless and vulnerable, I was the one being served in Jesus' name.

GRATEFUL FOR THEIR GRACE

Needless to say, I'll always honor that pastor. He may yet do things with which I disagree, preach sermons that don't match my tastes, urge projects that don't interest me. But I'll always give him that special margin—call it grace—we give to those who serve with caring hearts.

I know dozens of men and women like him, pastors who understand their primary calling to come *alongside* the hurting, the fallen, and the haughty. Theirs is often a solitary life, filled with emergencies small and great, pouring time into people and projects that don't show much promise. Even in their highest hours, they rarely hear the gratitude for which every human heart hungers.

So here's my gratitude—not just to one who served me so well, but to all who similarly serve the Lord and administer His grace. With such servants, I have great hopes for the people of God.

Bill Knott is editor of the Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines and an elder at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md.

Last Words

BILL KNOTT

To Whom Honor is Due



"I can't come this weekend," I mut-

tered. "I'm headed to the hospital. Looks like surgery." I waited for the inevitable expression of frustration, but it



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