

VISITOR

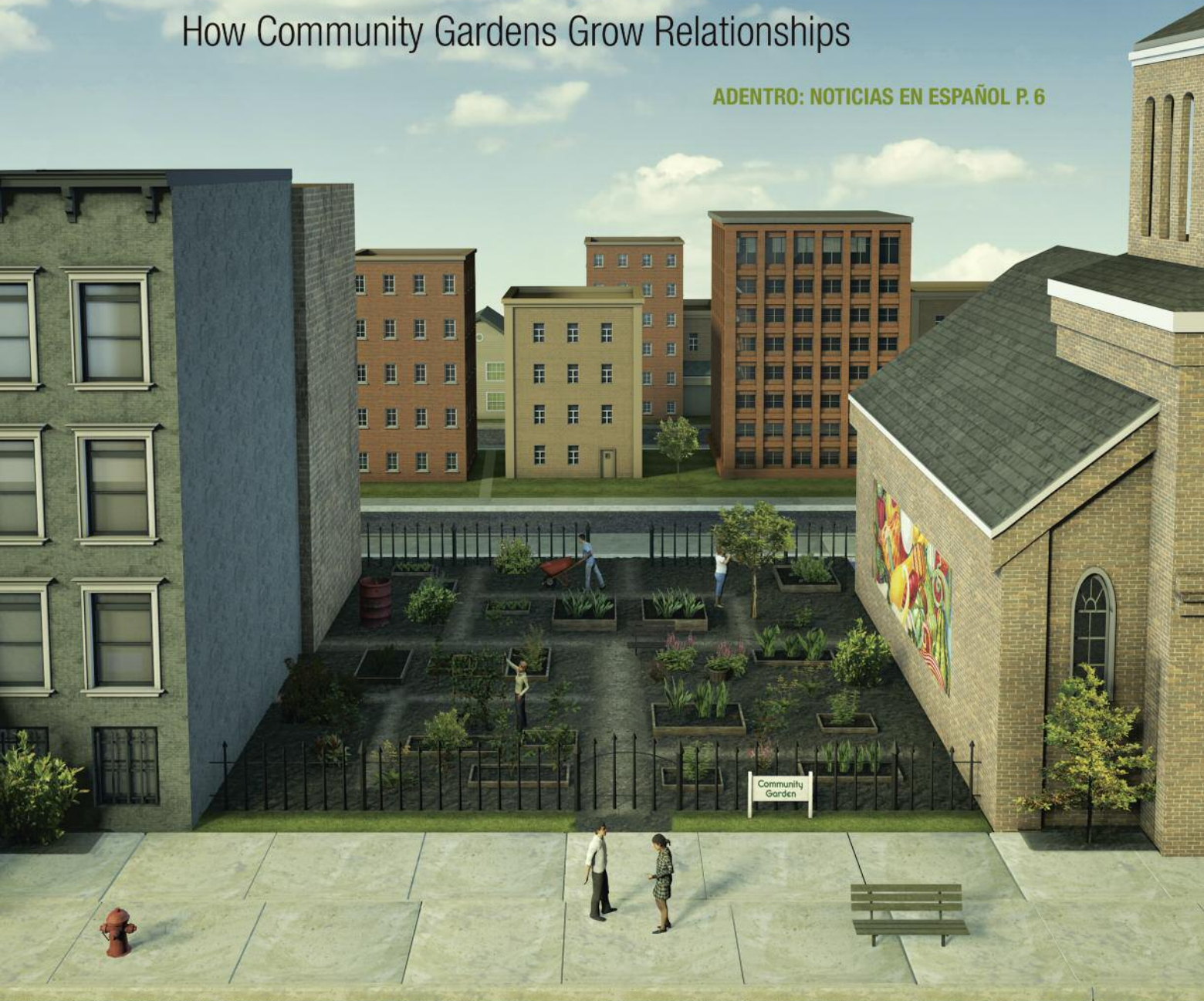
CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

APRIL 2012 • VOLUME 117 • ISSUE 4

Oasis in a Food Desert

How Community Gardens Grow Relationships

ADENTRO: NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL P. 6



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Oasis in a Food Desert

Debra Banks

The Southeast church in Cleveland is in the middle of a food desert, where fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce. They addressed the issue by starting a community garden. Read how the garden is also helping them grow relationships.

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About the Cover: Illustration by Randy Lyhus

On the Web



Video – Some 39 Seventh-day Adventist congregations across the Columbia Union will plant a community garden this spring. With each new crop, they are planting seeds of hope in their community and growing relationships. Learn more in this month's *Columbia Union Story* video titled "Oasis in a Food Desert." Go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or scan this barcode using a free QR Code Reader App.

Website – To stay connected between issues of the *Visitor*, visit our website, columbiaunion.org, and read news in English and Spanish. Also, click the "Share" button to alert friends of articles posted about your members and ministries.

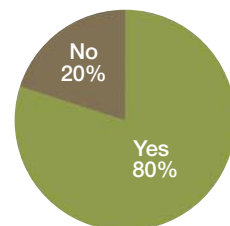


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Visitor Facebook Poll

Are you currently involved in an outreach ministry to the community?



Source: facebook.com/ColumbiaUnionVisitor

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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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Volume 117 ■ Issue 4

The Question

The question caught me off guard. I was prepared to spend a joyful, peaceful Friday evening welcoming the Sabbath with my family. This particular Sabbath was special because it was Christmas 2011, and we were with my parents in New Orleans, an annual tradition. There we were, my wife, LaTanya, our children and, for the very first time, our grandchildren, which only sweetened the moment.



Then my younger brother, Michael, asked the question: "How do you deal with disappointment?" The family immediately fixed their eyes on me because they knew he was referring to my not being elected president of the Southwest Region Conference last May.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

His question, albeit deep, is a legitimate one for all who live in this sinned world. What do you do when dreams seemingly die? What do you do when you are laid off with no means of supporting your family? What do you do when relationships that you thought would last forever end in divorce? What do you do when children use their personal choice to pursue a different direction than the one you desired? What do you do when it appears that others are valued, but you are not? All of these questions and more were hidden in Michael's question.



I was surprised at how quickly the Holy Spirit gave me the answer: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28, NIV).

An outgrowth of that text has given me the perspective I need to deal with disappointment. I've learned that when you do what God asks you to do, He will make Himself personally responsible for your success. We were not created to carry the burden or responsibility for success. We were created to do the will of God, and, when we do His will, He becomes responsible for our success.

I have shared this transformational belief with the many churches God has blessed me to pastor over the years, and now I have the privilege of sharing it with the entire Allegheny West Conference, where, less than one month after my brother's question and the Holy Spirit's answer, I became president.

Be faithful. Don't give up on God! Your best days are ahead!

William Cox, Sr., is president of the Allegheny West Conference, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

Newsline

TAASHI ROWE



2011-16 COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Pictured in front are Seth Bardu, treasurer; Dave Weigley, president; and Robert Vandeman, executive secretary

AFFIRMING WOMEN CLERGY TOPS UNION AGENDA

Last month the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted two items that will propel the subject of women in ministry to the top of its agenda this year, as follows:

“Whereas the North American Division (NAD) leadership has encouraged each union to be intentional in affirming women in ministry,

we vote to establish an ad hoc committee to study the issue of women in ministry and recommend to the Columbia Union Executive Committee how we can be intentional in affirming women in ministry. In addition,

we vote to affirm our previous action requesting the NAD to grant us permission to ordain women in ministry.”

To ensure that these topics remain a priority on its agenda, the committee also requested that the ad hoc committee present its report at the next union executive committee meeting May 17.
—Celeste Ryan Blyden

Lori Farr, pastor of the Wooster, Canton and Carrollton (Ohio) churches, and Bill Miller, Potomac Conference president



VISITOR TO SURVEY READERS

The *Visitor* magazine has commissioned Barna Research to conduct a study of readers in the Columbia Union territory. The telephone survey, which will be conducted this month, will only take about 10 minutes. “It will help us learn more about how members prefer to get church news and information and the *Visitor’s* role in keeping our members connected and informed,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, *Visitor* editor and publisher. A representative sample of Columbia Union members will be randomly selected to participate in the study.

UNION SEES 2011 TITHE GAINS

Seth Bardu, union treasurer, reported to the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee that the union saw a 2.21 percent tithe increase in 2011. Although it has the smallest membership in the union, the Mountain View

Conference contributed to that growth with an 11.20 percent gain in 2011.

“Our people are not rich, but they are faithful,” said Larry Boggess, conference president. With a 4.3 percent gain, Chesapeake was the conference with the second highest increase for 2011. Bardu exclaimed that it was nothing short of miraculous that God has continued to bless the union during a slow economic recovery.



2.21%

2011 TITHE INCREASE UNIONWIDE

UNION COMMITTEE ADOPTS VALUES, PRIORITIES

Last month at the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting in Hershey, Pa., members voted to adopt the following values for the 2011-2016 term:

Christlikeness
Unity
Respect
Excellence
Equality
Integrity
Service

Paula Barnes, a member of Allegheny East Conference's Calvary church in Newport News, Va., said she was particularly excited about embracing Christlikeness and respect as unionwide values. She

explained that "to be Christlike, we need respect for children, youth and women, which will help us work together to create healthy churches."

The committee also voted to adopt six priorities:

Youth/young adults: Engage and partner with youth and young adults to further the mission of the church

Evangelism: Impact our communities by revealing the love of Christ and inviting people to accept Him as their Savior, and sharing the distinct Seventh-day Adventist message

Education: Foster excellence in spiritual and academic development in Adventist schools and support programs that promote affordability and increased enrollment

Local Church Revitalization: Promote healthy churches by uniting members through personal

spiritual renewal and active engagement in ministry

Innovation in Church Ministry: Embrace innovation in ministry to respond relevantly to the changing needs of our church and community

Leadership Development: Maximize the vitality of the church by supporting leadership development, promoting effectiveness and assuring equality

"These parameters will guide our work, and we will dedicate our time, talents and monetary resources toward implementing them," said Dave Weigley, union president. "They are broad enough for varied adaptation at each level of the church, but will feed into our overall vision to see members across the Columbia Union become more engaged in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

“ God does not have a mission for the church. He has a church for His mission! ”

—Lowell Cooper, General Conference vice president, speaking to the Columbia Union Executive Committee, March 17

Mountain View, New Jersey Ramp Up Evangelism

Larry Boggess (below), Mountain View Conference president, reported that since receiving \$100,000 from the Columbia Union a couple years ago, the conference has been ramping up evangelism and spiritual development in their territory. They have established a Monday morning prayer line, gone on a mission trip and, as a result of hosting three evangelism meetings a year, seen a 500 percent membership growth at the Charleston (W.Va.) church. Thanks to a recent infusion of \$100,000 from the North American Division, they can continue along this path.

Last year the New Jersey Conference received \$100,000 from the union to invest in their Mission Caleb evangelism initiative. As a result, churches throughout the conference have made it their mission to plant churches in 80 cities throughout their territory where there is no Adventist presence. José H. Cortés, conference president, reported that they are on their way to organizing several companies this year. "God is blessing New Jersey in a way that we do not deserve," Cortés said.

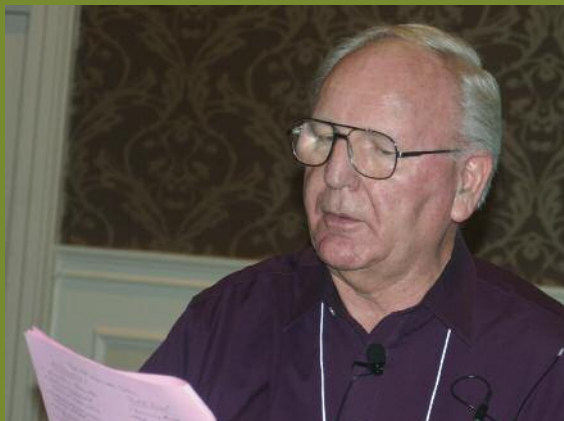


PHOTO BY TONY VENTOURIS



EL FESTIVAL HISPANO LAICO DEL POTOMAC ATRAE A DOS MIL QUINIENTAS PERSONAS

Durante los últimos dieciséis años, el festival hispano laico de la Asociación del Potomac ha atraído a pastores y laicos interesados en aprender cómo compartir mejor el evangelio con el mundo. Este año, el festival, celebrado en Ocean City, Md., atrajo a dos mil quinientos participantes, la mayor asistencia de todos los tiempos, que llegaron no sólo de la Asociación del Potomac, sino también de las Asociaciones de Allegheny Este, Allegheny Oeste, y Mountain View. La Asociación de Chesapeake envió ciento cuarenta feligreses. Basado en su tema, “El santuario...un lugar de esperanza”, mostraron réplicas de tamaño real, de los muebles del santuario bíblico. Vea más fotos en Columbiaunion.org/potomaclayfestival.

LOS JÓVENES HISPANOS DE MOUNT VERNON “DESPIERTAN” AL MINISTERIO

“Dios está realmente bendiciendo”, comparte Víctor Martínez,

ex director de jóvenes en la iglesia hispana de Mount Vernon del Potomac. Según Martínez, la bendición es que la iglesia, que tiene de unos cuarenta a cincuenta feligreses activos, regularmente atrae a unos noventa jóvenes a sus servicios vespertinos mensuales los viernes de noche, en la localidad de 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, en Alexandria, Va.

¿Qué los atrae? “Awakening” [despertar], que es cualquier cosa menos una adoración tradicional. Cada mes, los jóvenes como Adalid Durán (en la foto) vienen desde tan lejos como Stafford, Va., al sur, y Germantown, Md., al norte, para compartir cantos originales, poesía, y dramas. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/awakening.



ARTÍCULO ESPECIAL DE VISITOR: OASIS EN UN DESIERTO DE ALIMENTO

Tener alimento disponible para los necesitados es una noción familiar para la feligresía que dirige el departamento de Servicios a la Comunidad de la iglesia de Southeast. La congregación del Oeste de Allegheny en Cleveland, comenzó con entusiasmo a servir a los habitantes locales por medio de su programa de banco del alimentos, alrededor de veinticinco años atrás. Así que, cuando el representante de la iniciativa de salud comunitaria del primer distrito de la ciudad, se acercó a ellos a principios del 2010 para iniciar un proyecto de jardín comunitario, creyeron que ambos podrían unirse. Lea más acerca de este proyecto en inglés, en la página 10, o en español en columbiaunion.org/communitygardens.—*Debra Banks*

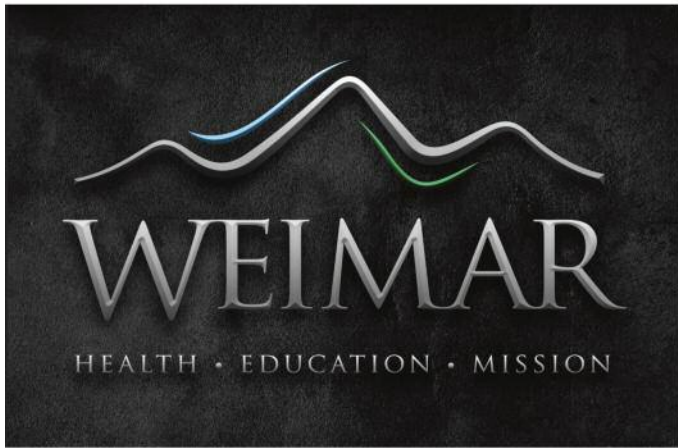
EL PASTOR DE RAHWAY HISPANA MUERE

Semanas después de haber comprado el nuevo edificio de la iglesia, los feligreses de la iglesia hispana de Rahway, en Rahway, N.J., se entristecieron por el fallecimiento de su pastor, Charles González, el 5 de febrero. Le sobreviven su esposa Tamara, su hija Edith Cristal, e hijo Carlos Daniel. Lea más en columbiaunion.org/RahwaySpanish.



Los líderes de la Unión de Columbia han establecido las prioridades y valores de la Unión para los próximos cinco años. Vea la lista en columbiaunion.org/prioridadesvalores.

Be A Part of Something Special



Join Us As We Grow!

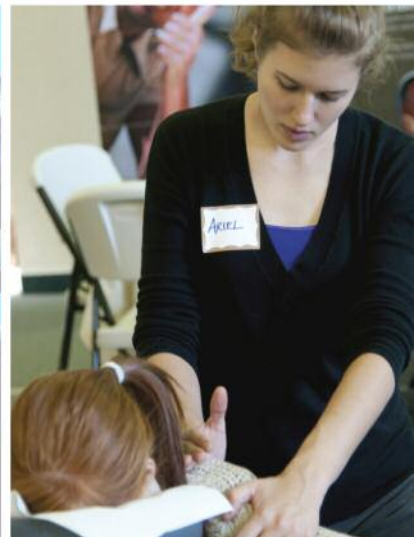
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Potluck

BETH MICHAELS

What's New?

Books > *In God's Time* Peggy Curtice Harris

This collection of stories involves simple people, like George, Nelson and Sandee. Some of their stories are painful, even

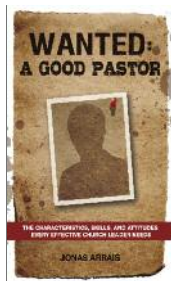
tragic, "while at the same time they are remarkable," shares author Peggy Curtice Harris, a member of Chesapeake Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church. In the end, all of their experi-

ences remind us that "in God's time, He brings us into circumstances that prepare us for times ahead of us," she clarifies. Order a copy from amazon.com.



Wanted: A Good Pastor Jonas Arrais

According to Jonas Arrais, an associate secretary of the Ministerial Association, "Being a pastor isn't a job; it's a lifestyle." He proposes that all effective church leaders hold certain skills and attitudes, and he hopes his observations will reveal what



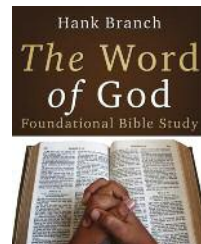
characteristics are sometimes missing. "By focusing on essential, practical aspects of an effective pastoral ministry, you will discover or be reminded of what it means to be a good pastor," challenges this member of Chesapeake Conference's Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Md. Order a copy at ministerialassociation.com/wanted.

The Word of God Foundational Bible Study Hank Branch

Is the Bible true? Who is the Holy Spirit? What is sin? These are just a few topics Hank Branch, Personal Ministries director at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., tackles in this introduction to Jesus Christ and His Word. The Potomac Conference member hopes to help new and young Christians



build a firm foundation in their faith. "I learned it is by faith, trusting and accepting the Bible, that the study of Scripture illuminates Christ in my life," he explains. Purchase a copy at the Potomac ABC.



Keeping Score

2011 Adventists InStep for Life Award Winners

The Columbia Union claimed the most participants (1,229) in the North American Division (NAD) and the highest number of community gardens (39). Now, here are winners within our union:

116,357

Most miles logged by a healthcare system—Kettering Adventist HealthCare

77,373

Most miles logged by a conference—Allegheny East

4,498

Most miles logged by a church—Pine Forge (Pa.) Church

739

Most miles logged by a school—Shenandoah Valley Academy

395

Most InStep conference participants—Allegheny East

31

Most community gardens in a conference—Allegheny East

*Source: NAD Health Ministries
(adventistsinstepforlife.org)*

On the Web

Retweets >

Paterson SDA Church



Join us every day at 5:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. for our prayer meeting.

Dial (605) 475-4875. Enter pin 273901.—*Paterson, N.J.*

Mission2theMany



Did you know that 80% of the population of the U.S. lives in urban areas?

Wow! What an opportunity to share Christ!—*Mission to the Many, Pennsylvania Conference*

Christopher Holland



Why is it that we often find the need to use language to make the gospel far

more complicated than it is. Jesus saves.—*Hagerstown (Md.) Church*

Blogged >



There's a story in the Bible where Jacob wrestles with God. Afterward, the

Bible states that he walked with a limp. There are many in this world who walk with a limp. A limp signifies: a deeper wisdom attained, a higher level of consciousness, a spirituality that doesn't need quick and easy answers, a mindset that shuns the trite and cliché. Faith with a limp understands Christ is here somewhere in this mess.—*Justin Yang, Virginia Korean Church, Manassas, Va. (justinyang.tumblr.com)*

In the Spotlight >
Creative Global Relief



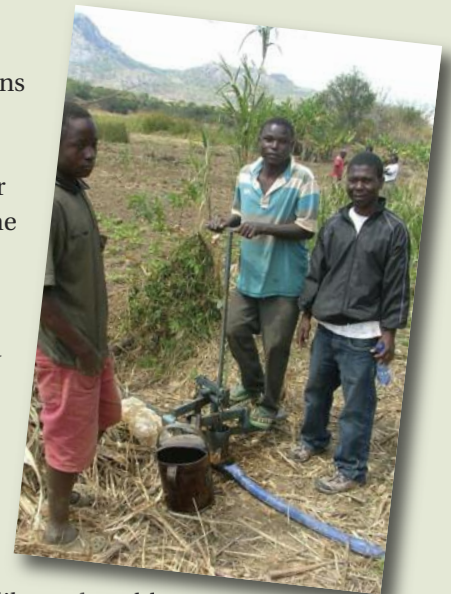
During a trip to Malawi in 2004 with a pastor-friend, a seed got planted in Jimmy Strickland's heart. Touched by the abject poverty and the simultaneous joy he witnessed, Strickland desired to make a difference. Once back home, he and his wife, Gale, worked to transform that desire into reality.

The couple, members of Potomac Conference's Norfolk (Va.) church, formed Creative Global Relief (OGR), a nonprofit organization with a singular mission: to help the people of Malawi help themselves. This mission is manifested in several ways, including farming tool donations and supplying their organization's Malawi branch with funds to purchase maize mills.

A foot-powered irrigation pump was their first project and tool donation. Since then the Stricklands (pictured with some handmade toys from Malawi) and Anne Ouellette, their graphic designer, have seen how the pumps are helping villager gardens to flourish. Now residents are able to do more than put food on the table for their families. The more bountiful harvests leave extra produce, which can be sold to provide income!

The three maize mills they recently obtained for donation will serve the villages of Luwazi, Kasweswe and Mbawatalika and enable villagers to grind their own corn to make nsima, a staple food. Ouellette learned about the process of raising and grinding maize during a 2011 trip to the landlocked country in southeast Africa. She learned that the local village mills would reduce the travel time and cost to process nsima.

Creative Global Relief will visit Malawi again in August, and they welcome volunteers! To learn about their active, \$25 a month child-sponsorship program, evangelism efforts, micro-enterprise assistance and other projects, visit creativeglobalrelief.org or email cgr@stricklandandjones.com.—*Liz Anderson*



OASIS IN A FOOD

The Southeast church in Cleveland is situated in the middle of a desert. Not sun-baked land surrounded by windswept sand dunes, but in an urban area now commonly referred to as a “food desert”—where grocery stores are few, and those with good quality fruits and vegetables are even fewer. And organic produce? Not a chance—until now.

DIGGING IN

Making food available to those in need is a familiar notion to members leading Southeast’s Community Services Department. The Allegheny West congregation started enthusiastically serving local residents through their Food Bank program about 25 years ago. So, when a representative for the city’s Ward 1 Community Health Initiative (CHI) approached them in early 2010 to start a community garden project, they believed the two would go hand in hand—and just happened to fit nicely into Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” initiative. CHI

promised to support Southeast’s garden through HEAL Cleveland, their initiative with Kaiser Permanente, which aims to make an impact on obesity in the district and reduce preventable diseases in children and adults. Ward 1, the district where Southeast is located, was one of nine areas they chose to educate, train and provide resources to promote healthier lifestyles and better nutrition.

John Reynolds, a longtime Southeast member, was at that meeting with CHI. “I had the audacity to open up my mouth and ask the question, ‘How would something like this get started?’” he remembers. “And the rest, as they say, is history!” Although Reynolds was born in a rural area, he has been a city dweller since age 8 or 9. Save for the times he gathered collard and kale greens from his brother’s garden, Reynolds, now a grandfather, was very unfamiliar with gardening. “That first year [of the community garden project], the magic word was ‘Google!’” he infectiously laughs. Later he and others attended Dig In—a nine-week gardening class offered by The Ohio State University Extension—



DESERT

Story by **Debra Banks**

Illustrations by **Randy Lyhus**

Cuyahoga County. “This has been such a learning experience!” he adds. “We have enjoyed ourselves to no end!”

READY TO ROLL

While about five of the current gardeners are from the community, most of the 22 families tending to plots are Southeast church members and their grandchildren. Eighty-seven years young, Gertrude Dunham, a Southeast elder and stewardship committee member, is particularly passionate about her garden plot. Despite a disability, Dunham “rolls around” on her stool to tend to her various veggies. “I’m already getting seeds together. As soon as the weather breaks, I’m ready to roll!” she gleefully adds. The benefits for Dunham are not only physical, but also emotional and spiritual. “The vigor, vitality, both mental and emotional; it’s my pleasure, my enjoyment!” Dunham elaborates. “I also value the fellowship with people—giving the neighbors items from my garden ... I often call out to people passing by on the street, ‘Would you like a couple of tomatoes?’”

Initially, the church acquired a nearby, large vacant lot through a local land bank program. The actual garden area—a 90 by 120-foot rectangle—is divided grid-style for individuals and families to plant and maintain. Newcomers to the program are assigned a 10 by 10-foot plot. Those who get gardening fever, like Bette C. Robinson, a former Sabbath School superintendent at Southeast, may request larger areas. “I absolutely fell in love with this,” she excitedly shares. “And it’s still not enough; there’s so much more I want to do!” The church has since acquired another lot.

BOUNTIFUL GIVING

Each month CHI organizers—who also provided the church with tools, a gardening shed, plants and seeds—routinely ask participants in these urban gardens to give 10 percent of their yield back to the community. Carol Boddy, CHI program coordinator

Southeast church's
community
garden grows
their relationships



The 1-2-3 of Starting a Garden

Eyeing the field next to your church? Before you clear the land or plow your first furrow, the American Community Garden Association (communitygarden.org) has some tips:

Form a planning committee. Then designate a coordinator and make a list of what needs to be done.

Choose a site. Make sure it gets at least six hours of direct sunlight and is near a water source.

Prepare and develop your site. Determine the amount and size of usable area.

Organize the garden. Discuss membership and maintenance.

Get insurance. Liability insurance is essential. Do your homework for best rates.

Learn how to manage your garden. Consider creating a list of rules or guidelines.

Troubleshoot. Brainstorm ways to minimize vandalism and complaints from neighbors.

Get and provide resources. Tap into local agencies and organizations.



for Ward 1, is impressed with the generosity of Southeast's gardeners. "Southeast takes approximately 40 percent of its food and gives it back to the community," she stresses. Last year, Ward 1 recognized the church's generosity with an award for donating 700 pounds of produce over a two-year

period through their Food Bank. Boddy emphasizes the importance of such a luxury—fresh, organically grown produce—in the community. "We are trying to encourage healthy eating in our neighborhood, but it's difficult. There is only one grocery store on the north side of Ward 1, and on the south side, you have small corner stores that sell very few fruits and veggies, let alone good quality, organic produce."

Keeping an eye on the garden and providing necessary assistance to these active gardeners has



I also value the fellowship with people—giving the neighbors items from my garden ... I often call out to people passing by on the street, "Would you like a couple of tomatoes?"

—Gertrude Dunham

helped church members form friendly ties with neighbors. “A family next door has become friends of the garden,” shares Robinson, as she explains how they help keep an eye on things. Although asking is preferred, Reynolds emphasizes, “We don’t have a fence around [the garden].” The urban gardeners report only one “robbery,” when a woman helped herself to a large, ripe watermelon. She unwittingly learned of her error while attending prayer meeting at Southeast one week. Shocked and embarrassed, she cried out, “I didn’t know! I took it!” All shared in a good laugh and Southeast has since gained another community friend and frequent visitor.

GROWING TOGETHER

Reynolds, Dunham and Robinson are all itching to get their hands back into the soil, to embark on new plans and to make new memories. Reynolds even croons, “*I miss my time with you, those moments together. ...*” He adds, “Gardening has grown us, as a group, closer together.”

The opportunity to introduce the neighborhood to another side of Southeast church life is not lost on Reynolds either. “Most people look at Seventh-day Adventists as ‘those people who go to church on Saturday,’” he states. He also notes that because as much as 98 percent of Southeast’s members don’t live in the neighborhood, the community doesn’t “know who we are. Now they can see the garden, visit the garden, eat from the garden; this is *their* community garden. And now they can see that ‘those people’ are trying to be helpful in the community. They’re doing this *for* the community.”

Debra McKinney Banks writes from Hancock, Md.



**Watch a video
about this story at
columbiaunion.org/videos**

Produce-ing Results Across the Mid-Atlantic


Several other congregations in the Columbia Union have adopted the use of gardens as a means to reach the community:

- ❖ The garden at Ohio Conference’s **Ashtabula church** is approaching its third birthday. Not only did Ashtabula members open the 16 plots adjacent to their house of worship for members and neighbors to utilize, but they also supply the water. And the church’s annual ice cream social gives them yet another way to interact with their cultivation partners.
- ❖ The garden started by Pennsylvania Conference’s **Honesdale church** has gone through several expansions since it opened in 2010 as more neighbors gain interest. Not even a tornado more than a year ago could deter their efforts—both the church and garden were unscathed. They next plan to incorporate the produce into a weekly vegetarian supper club to educate the public about positive lifestyle changes.
- ❖ The **Emmanuel-Brinklow church** in Ashton, Md., utilizes produce from their 27-acre plot for food demonstrations they give during lifestyle seminars. Since connecting with their local health department, this Allegheny East Conference church has made 33 additional community contacts.

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Allegheny East “Movvves” Its Way to Two Health Awards

Last year, as a part of the Adventists InStep for Life initiative (adventistsinstepforlife.org), Katia Reinert, North American Division Health Ministries director, challenged the entire division to participate in “Let’s Move” Day. It was one day in September when all the Seventh-day Adventist churches, schools, hospitals and their friends engaged in physical activity. The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) responded enthusiastically and won in two categories at the recent InStep for Life awards in Florida for having the highest participation rates, most community gardens and most physical activity miles across the Columbia Union.

A. Leah Scott, AEC’s Health Ministries director, said she was only too happy to get her conference involved. Around the conference, Scott was a spokesperson for

“Let’s Move” Day, and one of the program’s staunchest disciples. She is up early to jog, walk and exercise and finishes her day by rounding off her steps. She feels she has to get about 15,000 steps a day or about 7.5 miles most days of the week.

Having developed the slogan “Allegheny East on the Movvve!” in 2007 to challenge the conference constituency, she also encouraged employees to keep track of their steps and work toward incentives as a part of an employee wellness program. By tracking their miles for the employee wellness program, the Allegheny East team contributed greatly to Reinert’s 1 million-mile challenge.

Scott was called to the podium on two occasions to receive awards for the support given to the “Let’s Move” initiative. The Pine Forge (Pa.) church was also awarded for being the church with the most miles.

Scott is already planning for this year’s “Let’s Move” Day, which will last a week in the conference. “I know that Allegheny East Conference will be well represented again,” Scott said. “We are encouraging our members and our employees to keep moving. Allegheny East Conference is still on the Movvve!—Robert Booker

A. Leah Scott (center), the conference’s Health Ministries director, accepts one of three health awards with Donna Richardson Joyner (left), a member of the President’s Council of Sports, Fitness and Nutrition; and Regina Benjamin, MD, U.S. Surgeon General.



New Jersey Ghanaian Church Baptizes Seven

The New Jersey Ghanaian church in Hillside, N.J., recently held their annual revival and netted seven new members through baptism. The pastor of the church, Amofah A. Asamoah, led a series of revival topics, including “Where are You?”, “Where is Your Brother?”, “Why do You Cry to Me?” and “What do You Want Me to do for You?” Members were also asked to fast and pray for revival and reformation during the week.

The newly baptized members (pictured in the front row, from left to right) are Frank Fosuhene, Afia Asamoah, Perpetual Fosuhene, Josephine Thambi, Stephen Yeboah and Evelyn Mensah. Ellen Oppong is not pictured. Fosuhene said she got baptized because she has accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and she wants to live a good life.



Calvary Members Equipped, Empowered to Evangelize

It is rare for a craftsman to teach others his craft without some type of compensation. Although rare, this is exactly what recently happened at the Calvary church in Newport News, Va. Pastor Trevor Kinlock taught roughly 100 of his members, from teenagers to seasoned adults, how to build and deliver a sermon of substance that will appeal to the soul of those hungry for the Word. So it is safe to say Pastor Kinlock's compensation may be in the form of saved souls for the kingdom of God.

Seminar attendees learned the definition of preaching, that God uses every person to communicate His message and that prayer is the time to inquire about God's divine instruction. They also learned the four types of sermons: expository, topical, narrative and textual. The

members really got excited when they learned some tricks of the trade without ever taking a Hebrew or Greek class. They learned how they, too, can be more knowledgeable about the Bible's original language.

Kinlock says, "It's important for Christians to understand that true ministry doesn't start and end with the professional clergy. Christ's disciples, as well as most of the New Testament believers, had no formal ministerial training, however, they were passionately committed to sharing Christ's gospel with those around them."

This preaching seminar is the first of a series of training sessions for Calvary members. Following the church's theme, "The Full Grown Church: Equipped & Empowered to Evangelize," each member will be



Pastor Trevor Kinlock shows members how to use a biblical concordance.

equipped and given the opportunity to evangelize throughout 2012.—*Makeba Garrison*

PHOTO BY DAVID GARRISON

Salem French Church Building is a Blessing to Many

Just last year, the Salem French church in East Orange, N.J., dedicated its new sanctuary to the Lord with great joy and warm praises. AEC officers confessed that it was rare to see so crowded and joyful a church on dedication day. "We give praise to the Lord for

being so generous to the North Jersey Haitian community," said Yveniel St-Luc, the church's pastor.

Since that grand opening, the church continues to share the Lord's love with the community and His plan for their salvation. Their first crusade in that facility yielded

14 new members through baptism and they are planning to reach even more for Christ.

"This building is a blessing, not only for the Haitian community, but for everyone," St-Luc said. He points to the many uses for the church, which includes a daycare, four different Sunday churches, a multichurch soup kitchen and a multipurpose room that serves as a gym, banquet hall and concert hall.



Left to right: Yveniel St-Luc, Salem French pastor; Orlando Moncrieffe, North New Jersey area leader; and Charles Cheatham, AEC president

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

Ramah Revives Community Garden Educational Program

Ramah Junior Academy in Cleveland is reviving its community garden program this spring. Started three years ago by former principal Mary Conwell, the garden has gone through many transitions and changes. This year, however, Elva Battle, a member of the nearby Southeast church and former Ramah librarian, has high hopes that the garden will continue to be a great learning opportunity for those Ramah students who choose to participate.

They have enough space for 10 raised plots in the campus garden, which is open to students of all grades to learn about growing fruits and vegetables. Battle reports that the students will soon begin meeting once



Students Matthew Anderson, John Parmer, Shaniya Hughes, McKenna Cameron, Montrece Spain and Camden Edmonds (back) are eager to learn how to grow their own food.



PHOTOS BY SIMONE CAMERON

Elva Battle, flanked by Ramah students Rayna Reid and Ronice Simms, is excited to revive the school's community garden program.

a week to start the seedlings. All produce they grow will be used in the school lunch program, taken home to their families and/or donated to the senior citizens in the complex across the street.

"So many of our urban children see things in boxes or cans or as frozen food, so this will get them a chance to grow their own; to see it from seed to harvest. It also gives them a chance to see how wonderfully God has created this Earth," comments Battle, who admits her own experience in growing produce is related to her plot in Southeast church's garden.—Beth Michaels

Miracle of Faith Hosts International Day of Prayer

It was a high day for the Miracle of Faith church in Waynesboro, Va., where the Virginia/West Virginia Women's Ministries (VA/WV) Department hosted its first International Day of Prayer. Jean Mills, VA/WV Women's Ministries director, initiated the special Sabbath in collaboration with Bryant Smith, pastor of the Miracle of Faith and Bethel churches, and Joan Carpenter, the Miracle of Faith Women's Ministries leader. Members from four other area churches all joined in the day of worship, prayer and meditation as they sought God's guidance and strength to do their part in spreading the message of God's love.

Pastor Smith's wife, Amanda, prepared attendees for worship with her soul-stirring selections. Then, guest speaker Hermania Ferguson (right), first elder at the Melrose Avenue church in nearby Roanoke, drew everyone to a more defined commitment to the Lord. She reminded attendees that, despite the crucible or situation they may be experiencing, Jesus Christ is "More Than Enough" to guide them through. A vegetarian meal by the host church concluded the prayerful day.—Joan Carpenter



New Tapestry Fellowship Flock Starts Better Living Club

Shiloah church members who lived a good distance from the Cincinnati-based church used to meet in a member's home in Mason for prayer service led by Pastor Michael Murrell. In 2010 Fredrick Russell, then conference president, approached Murrell to consider initiating a church planting endeavor in the area. Members felt convicted by the Holy Spirit to put action to Russell's suggestion. They decided to start a non-traditional church plant addressing the practical needs of the community. They planted Tapestry Fellowship, which now claims mission status.

Soon Tapestry members adapted their first outreach endeavor: a NEWSTART health ministry. They formed a volunteer team, which included several skilled professionals, and in June 2011, launched the NEWSTART Better Living Club Seminar at the local community center. During the eight-week session, members performed screenings and analysis for blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and other health conditions. They also distributed a NEWSTART questionnaire and presented the eight principles of health followed by food demonstrations and tastings. Each week participants walked at a nearby track. Members even went so far as to provide child care and award door prizes. They concluded the



Attendees at Cincinnati's Midwest Black Family Reunion crowd the NEWSTART team's booth to get health information and participate in important screenings.

event by providing attendees with Better Living Plans (BLP) to achieve the NEWSTART principles.

One of the group's first participants, 80-year-old Robert Lumpkin, claims the program changed his life. "I changed my diet and, when I was tested by my doctor after going through NEWSTART, my results were phenomenal," he proclaimed. "I no longer need several medications that had been prescribed. Now I eat healthy foods as my medication to support my healthy lifestyle."

In August 2011, Tapestry's NEWSTART volunteers served 230 people at the Midwest Black Family Reunion, an annual local event. Again, they provided health screenings and gave participants the BLP. NEWSTART volunteers even phoned or emailed participants after

the reunion to encourage their continued use of the BLP. The following month, members wrapped up their ministry endeavor with a celebratory dinner, where they served a delicious vegan meal.

Through God's leading earlier this year, Tapestry's NEWSTART team located office space in Blue Ash equipped with training and conference rooms. With their own financial contributions plus donor funds, Tapestry members have even been able to establish a health food store within the office space.

In the new facility, the church volunteers recently kicked off their third seminar titled "Learn to Live Well... Learn to Live Longer." The volunteers initiated that session with an interactive spiritual discussion and vegan lunch. They also started conducting *Amazing Facts* Bible studies and are engaging past participants in weekly studies.—*Karen M. Williams, Racquel Henry and Kimberly V. Garner*

A Tapestry NEWSTART volunteer provides a mother and daughter with their biometric measurements.



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awconf.org ■ President, William Cox
Editor, Bryant Taylor

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

APRIL 2012

Watch! Part 1

Jesus instructed His followers on numerous occasions to “watch.” This is more than simply being aware of events taking place around us, but calls for an active resolve of how we will respond to events. He repeats the admonition most often in the closing verses of Mark 13. “Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch” (verses 33-34, NKJV).

The role of a doorkeeper or watchman is to determine who will get in and who must stay out. Part of watching is paying attention to who and what is trying to influence your mind and life. Jesus charges us with acting decisively and choosing to give access only to those influences that will bring us closer to Him. To do this effectively, we must be spiritually awake. “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming” (verse 35).

Just as it is easy to get physically drowsy and begin to nod off, the same can happen in our spiritual life. We begin to rely on yesterday’s experience, our time in the Word begins to taper off, our prayers become repetitive and we are too busy to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The call is to wakeful watchfulness. Guard your life and your home against the intrusions that are detrimental to a walk with Jesus. Stay awake and alert each day to the fresh revelations He has for you.



Rick Remmers
President

King Honors Former World Church President



PHOTO BY MEGAN BRAUNER

His Majesty King Harald V of Norway has appointed Jan Paulsen, DTh, Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit according to a recent media release from the Royal Palace. Paulsen, who served as General Conference president from 1998-2010, said the announcement was a “complete surprise. What warms my heart is the accolade that came with the recognition—‘Service for the good of humanity’” said the member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. “That is what the life of Christian service is all about.”

According to Tor Tjeransen, communication director of the Norwegian Union Conference, the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was founded by King Olav V in 1985 and is conferred on foreign and Norwegian nationals as a reward for their outstanding service in the interest of Norway.

Paulsen, 77, a native of Norway, and his wife, Kari, will “go home” for the presentation ceremony, which will take place on June 2 at camp meeting in East Norway. Their three adult children and their grandchildren will witness the presentation.

This focus on the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a country where the national faith is Lutheran will be noticed. Reidar J. Kvinge, president of the Norwegian Conference, said, “It is a great honor for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Norway that the global service of Dr. Paulsen has been recognized in this way.”

Fire Guts Chestertown Sanctuary

Ten area fire companies recently responded to a two-alarm blaze at the Chestertown (Md.) church about 6:30 a.m. on February 21. Police smelled smoke and went looking for the source, said Kevin McDaniel, the church's pastor.

Fire gutted the sanctuary and damaged the older portion of the church. A newer section of the church sustained smoke damage, but can be repaired.

"Members have shed a lot of tears," said McDaniel, "but the good news is that no one was hurt. The building can be replaced, but people can't."

There is adequate insurance coverage for rebuilding. Local clergy and a funeral home have shown kindness by offering the use of their facilities for worship services until repairs are completed later this year. The congregation plans to

worship with the nearby Rock Hall church for the time being, and will move services to the Chestertown fellowship hall following clean up of the smoke damage.



The Chestertown (Md.) church is ablaze before firefighters arrive on the scene.

The sanctuary was destroyed by an electrical fire that investigators believe originated in the electric organ.

New Hope Kids Appear on Hope Channel

Eight-year-old Marissa Chappell and 9-year-old Lauren Gantman of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., along with Ann Roda, New Hope's associate pastor, were recent guests on the Hope Channel's newly launched, live show *Let's Pray*. The interactive television program allows viewers to submit prayer requests by phone, Facebook and Twitter, and to ask other viewers to pray for them.

During the broadcast, Roda discussed the importance of teaching children about prayer, citing examples of what is modeled at New Hope's Kids Church, such as prayer postures, praying the names of God and providing an environment where children can be themselves while praying.

Chappell and Gantman both shared the importance of prayer in their lives. Referring to prayer positions, Chappell said, "When we open our arms during prayer, we are receiving God and letting Him fill our bodies. When we lie down (prostrate prayer), we are giving ourselves to God."

Gantman talked about keeping a prayer journal and read some entries from her own prayer journal. Both girls prayed for the individuals who called in with their prayer requests. "It was amazing to see how these young girls prayed for these strangers and their prayer needs with absolutely no hesitation—praying for them by name and mentioning their individual needs," said Roda.

The children of the New Hope church experience intercessory prayer by praying for people who post requests on the Hope Channel's *Let's Pray* Facebook page.



New Hope church members Marissa Chappell and Lauren Gantman prayed for callers on the Hope Channel's *Let's Pray* broadcast.

The Challenge is published in the *Visitor* by the Chesapeake Conference 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044 Phone: (410) 995-1910 ■ ccosda.org President, Rick Remmers Editor, Samantha Young

Yearning for Community Outreach

Growing up with a spiritual warrior—my mother, a lay pastor of the Emmanuel church in Reading, Pa.—taught me by example. Our family participated in ingathering, weekly Bible study sessions, Prison Ministries and literature evangelism. I recall one winter when there was more than five feet of snow outside. I thought, “Great. We are going to stay home today.” But since the city sweepers cleared the streets, my mom cleared a path for us to walk to the church. I asked, “Who do you think is going to come out in this weather?” She answered, “I don’t know, but I have to open the doors for those who need to be there.”

Like my mother, the Holy Spirit has placed a yearning in my spirit about community outreach and evangelism at Highland View Academy (HVA). True education only comes from God. Ellen White told us, “The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God’s Word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate the soul with spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation. The words of truth will grow in importance, and assume a breadth and fullness of meaning of which we have never dreamed” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 132).

At HVA, we strive to cultivate an environment where students are educated about God’s call to serve and the great commission. Please join us as we pray to be the training ground God has called us to be.



Deborah Treviño
Principal

Academies Participate in President’s Day Invitational

Highland View Academy recently hosted its Inaugural President’s Day Invitational Middle School Basketball Tournament. Athletics is a part of the school’s curriculum and an integral part of the academy program. However, the primary goal of the game is to develop a Spirit-filled tournament that provides examples of Christian character and informs students about the pursuit of spiritual, academic and athletic excellence.

The fun-filled weekend started Sabbath evening with vespers by Steve Gatz, a member at the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Deborah Treviño, HVA principal, and Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president, also shared messages with the students Sunday and Monday mornings, respectively.

Following the sundown worship, the games commenced and continued until the championships on Monday afternoon. Students from seven area schools



PHOTOS BY RICHARD J. GORDON

formed the six boy teams and five girl teams: Mt. Aetna Adventist School, Frederick Adventist Academy (FAS), G.E. Peters Adventist School, Atholton Adventist Academy, John Nevins Andrews Adventist School (JNA), Sligo Adventist School and Beltsville Adventist School (BSS).

In the girls’ division, JNA was the winner, while BSS ranked second and Sligo third. In the boys’ division, JNA again took first place, then Sligo second and FAS third. JNA students Cameron Stowe and Kaila Charles were the tournament’s most valuable players and awarded scholarships to HVA.—*Tina Nipe*



Adventist Christian Theatre Team Connects Teens

And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). This text has been the single focus of the Adventist Christian Theatre (ACT), a nationally touring drama team that is now based at Highland View Academy.

Brett Hadley, HVA’s chaplain, started the ACT drama company in 1992 when he gathered 21 students at Madison Academy (Ala.), where he used to teach, to see what they could do. They discovered that God really means it when He says, “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived, are the things God has prepared for

those who love Him” (I Cor. 2:9).

“We never could have guessed the places God would take this ministry, nor the explosion of spiritual energy that would go with us,” says Hadley, who revived the ministry at HVA. During the past 19 years, ACT has performed all across North America at churches of all denominations, colleges, universities, high schools and camp meetings—for audiences of 50 to 50,000.

There are three main elements to the ACT program: drama, workshops and small groups.

Drama: The ACT performances are specifically structured to take the audience on a thoughtful and emotional journey. The actors realize that to really make a lasting impact on a person, they must reach them on as many levels as possible—mind, heart and spirit.

Workshops: ACT participants conduct workshops on teen-related issues. They make each session focus on a life issue relevant to teenagers, offering them skills and tools to help them deal with life. These workshops are especially powerful because they are conducted by teens, says Hadley.

Small Groups: Each ACT team member is also trained as a peer counselor and small group leader. “The reason for this element is a



Freshman Carmen Cruz and sophomores Kabrina Perkins and Jeriah Ahlfeld bring life to the skit “The Gentle Healer.”

personal belief of mine that performing simply for the sake of performing is not enough reason for a drama ministry,” comments Hadley. “If you really want to make an impact on your audience, you need to interact with them either one on one or in a small group setting. Therefore, after our performances, we invite the audience to stay by and participate in a small group led by team members.”

Although they relay important messages to their audiences, Adventist Christian Theatre also meets the needs of its own members. Providing a vehicle for teens to be part of a group united in a common cause can help them experience synergy and success, explains Hadley. He adds, “The unity, camaraderie and energy that is the natural atmosphere of theater, can be a powerful environment to learn how we are all part of the body of Christ and have a unique calling in God’s work.”



Alumni Weekend to Offer Spirituality, Fun

HVA friends and current and former students are invited to Alumni Weekend May 4-6, which will begin with HVA’s music program. The school’s drama team will then host vespers on Friday evening. On Sabbath Tina Nipe (’87) will present the Sabbath message followed by an afternoon benefit concert with Alfred Deynes (’85). On Saturday evening, the school will host its traditional basketball tournament, then Sunday morning, there will a volleyball game for the gals and a soccer game for the guys. Join the school for a wonderful celebration and time of worship!

Highlander is published in the *Visitor* by the Highland View Academy 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 ■ Phone: (301) 739-8480 Fax: (301) 733-4770 ■ hva-edu.com Principal and Editor, Deborah Treviño

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

APRIL 2012

Mountaintop Participates in Literacy Project

Dianne Hancock, Simon Trembly's (below) teacher, wants him to learn to recognize the lower and upper case letters of the alphabet while learning the various phonetic sounds of each of the letters as he is developing early computer skills. The program he is working with is very interactive at a child's pre-school level.

Developing literacy in a community in Appalachia is one of the goals of Simon's school, the Mountaintop Adventist School in Oakland, Md. The goal requires a joint effort of the departments of the local church, Campaign for Community, Adventist Community Services and the community of Oakland, which together have created the Appalachian Literacy Through Technology Project.



"Many students in this Appalachian area come from homes where the parents are either undereducated or underemployed and receive some form of public assistance," says J. Wayne Hancock, EdD, Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response director for the Mountain View Conference. "In these homes, the literacy levels of the children are at-risk and many drop out before completing high school."

By implementing reading and technology together, to promote a life-long love for learning, the Appalachian Literacy Through Technology Project, operated by the Mountaintop Adventist School, hopes to break the cycle of illiteracy that leads to poverty and a lack of job opportunities.

Young Adults Invited to Prayer Conference

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to attend a prayer conference April 27-29 at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The conference is free to attend and will include child care. Geoff Starr, Mountain View Conference's Youth Ministries director, shares his thoughts about the conference below:

The Viewpoint: How did you come up with the theme "The Great Invitation?"

Geoff Starr: "The Great Invitation" comes from all of the places in Scripture where God invites us to pray and have a relationship with Him. We get caught up in our lives and all the things that we need to get done and we forget about the great invitation from Him. This will be a time to come together and recommit, or maybe commit for the first time, to real and meaningful prayer.

V: Tell us about the workshops. What can we expect?

GS: The workshops at the conference will be focused

on two things: how we can grow closer to Christ and what tools we can take back to our local churches to reach others.

V: Who is the speaker and why did you choose him?

GS: Our speaker is Victor Martinez (below) who ministers to youth in the Potomac Conference. He has been volunteering for eight years serving youth and young adults in his local church. He has a deep passion for young people to know Jesus. Victor has this passion because he accepted Jesus when he was a young adult.

For more information, to register or volunteer your musical talents, call (304) 422-4581.



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Mountain View Conference

SPIRIT

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY

APRIL 2012

April Madness

April is the most hectic month out of a very busy school year at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA). We start with the Spring Week of Prayer, host the Elementary Music Festival for the Ohio Conference and share the MVA Experience with seventh- and eighth-grade students during Academy Days. We finish up the month with a very important accreditation evaluation and the senior class trip.

So much rides on successful programming in April! If things go well, we could potentially baptize 10-12 young people during graduation weekend. The students who attend music festival and the seventh- and eighth-graders will fall in love with MVA. We prayerfully look forward to another six-year term of accreditation and helping our seniors prepare for MVA's 119th graduation.

Because we love God and are called for His purpose, we know that all of our planning, praying and hard work will pay off. We know this because, at MVA, we live by faith and know that God is in control as we strive to have Mount Vernon Academy be the school He wants it to be.



Robert Stevenson
Principal

NEWS



Junior Wins Essay Competition

Each year Knox County, Ohio's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Martin Luther King Jr. Society challenges students to submit essays on the importance of King's legacy. MVA students have won the essay contest three times. This year junior Jordan Price won the contest and a \$100 savings bond.

Students Serve in Guatemala

Mount Vernon Academy recently sponsored a mission trip to the International Child

Care orphanage in Las Pinos, Guatemala. The students spent the week painting the classrooms, halls and offices of the school and orphanage. They also worshiped, played soccer and made friends with the Guatemalan children.

The work was challenging and the bugs were real but, after all the work, students had a fun trip to the

lost city of Tikal and the resort town of Flores. "We strive to make missions real for our MVA students," said Robert Stevenson, principal, "to help them see that service for Christ is not always a walk on the beach but a trip to the wild side."



Spirit is published in the *Visitor* by Mount Vernon Academy
525 Wooster Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 ■ Phone: (740) 397-5411
mvacademy.org ■ Principal, Robert Stevenson ■ Editor, Tina Stevenson

Academy Days is scheduled for April 15-16. Come and enjoy Christian education at its best through acrobatics, classes, dorm life, friends, music, sports and time with God. For more information, email tstevenson@mvacademy.org.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY_{.ORG}

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

APRIL 2012

Board of Trustees Honors Long Serving Member



The Spring Valley Academy (SVA) Board of Trustees recently honored Warren Muth, MD, with the presentation of a special plaque noting his many years of dedication and service to Spring Valley Academy. He served on the board for 17 years, nine of which he was the board chairman.

Muth was also one of the founding directors of the Spring Valley Fund established in 1991, and still serves as president of that corporation. In fact, their support allowed SVA to maintain a much expanded mission program as well as technology upgrades for students *and* a very robust music program, which has been the trademark of education at SVA for so many years. Frank Perez, current board chair, told Muth, "None of this would have been possible without your extraordinary support! We are indebted to you and your foundation members for allowing us to perpetuate outstanding [Seventh-day] Adventist education in our community."

NEWS

Seniors Dedicated at Special Vespers

Spring Valley Academy recently held their Senior Dedication Vespers at the Centerville (Ohio) church. "This event is held each year to uplift our seniors before their family and friends in a special dedication service for their future," explained Vicki Swetnam, who manages recruitment and marketing for the school.

Pastor London Lee gave the message "Steps to Life" followed by prayers of dedication by senior parents, Vicki Briley and George Scheuermann, and a spiritual challenge by Chaplain Ken Knudsen. Special music was also provided. Seniors include Taylor Bartram, Michael Briley, MacKenzie Brockman, Austin Cassell, Joey Eugene, Ariana Gatton, Sigi Li, Isheanesu Mazani, Michelle Nieb, Aaron Oglesby, Toni Ann Ross and Greg Scheuermann.



Keep the Chain of Kindness Going

One month prior to being the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings, Rachel Scott wrote: "I have this theory, if one person will go out of their way to show compassion, it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go. You may just start a chain reaction."

At SVA's recent follow-up visit (above) from Rachel's Challenge, students were issued a special card that they may share in an act of random kindness for any person they choose. Recipients of such cards can visit rachelschallenge.org, enter the card number and acknowledge the good deed. Keep this chain going by doing an act of kindness for another, and watch this card travel the globe!

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Principal, Jeff Bovee ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam

NEWS

NEW JERSEY

APRIL 2012

Do You Know How to be a True Friend?

A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18: 24, NKJV).

This wise expression has to be a reality in our approach to Mission Caleb. Mission Caleb works within the philosophy of small groups, and the very essence of the small group is to offer a warm atmosphere, a sense of belonging and genuine friendship. The director of the group must be a reliable, friendly person in front of whom his brothers can think aloud and discuss their problems without fear that the next day their discussions will become public. This applies to each member of the Mission Caleb group. By the grace of God, this same spirit of friendship and confidentiality should become a reality in every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Studies have shown that when a new convert is brought into the congregation, it is very essential for them to find friends. Some specialists recommend a minimum of seven friends, so that the believer will be consolidated and never leave the fold. Good leaders of small groups must learn to feel and share the friendship of Jesus for their new disciples.

True friendship engenders friends who exhibit the same qualities: a healthy camaraderie, unity of purpose and peace of mind that results in emotional stability and spiritual growth. True friendship and loving care impacts the entire congregation, bringing health to the mother church and reducing criticism—thus the members come to support each other as what they are: real brothers in Jesus. Please, no attacks on the fallen! Instead lift them up, encourage them and get to know them as a friend! This is what Jesus did.



José H. Cortés
President

Youth, Leaders Leave Convention Fired Up

The conference’s recent Youth Leadership Convention and Teen Retreat attracted some 300 people from across New Jersey. The three-day event was held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center (TVRC) in Tranquility.

Not even the snow was a barrier for the participants. While the youth leaders attended leadership classes, the teens participated in a spiritual program that the New Jersey youth team led. Bernie Anderson, who pastors the Wasatch Hills church in Utah, was



the guest speaker. On Sabbath morning, the Luzo-Brazilian worship team led the worship service and Pastor Paulo Macena, conference Youth Ministries director, shared an inspiring sermon.

To complete this big event, more than 30 leaders graduated as Master Guides and received the Pathfinder Leadership Award and Pathfinder Instructor’s Award. Leaders and teens finished the weekend fired up and ready to continue serving the Lord in their local churches.



Youth participate in a breakout discussion.

Rahway Spanish Church Purchases Historic Building



Under the leadership of Pastor Charles Gonzalez, the Rahway Spanish congregation recently purchased the Second Presbyterian Church. For more than 20 years, the Seventh-day Adventist church rented the building for their worship services. Then, through a series of miraculous leadings of the Lord, the Rahway Spanish congregation learned that due to declining membership, the Presbyterians were considering selling the historic building and merging with the First Presbyterian Church of Rahway.

They learned that the Presbyterians were planning to list the building for \$1.6 million. However, the Rahway Spanish church only had about \$300,000 in their building fund and could not qualify for a loan for the balance of the asking price. Before the building was officially listed on the market, the New Jersey Conference, Rahway Spanish church and Second Presbyterian Church leaders met and negotiated a reduced purchase price of \$970,000. This reduced price still left a balance of about \$700,000 that needed financing. Still, based on their tithe, the Rahway Spanish church could not qualify for a loan. However, God impressed the hearts of the Presbyterian leadership to agree to

carry the financing of the balance of the price at a 4 percent interest rate!

The building (left) is historic and located in downtown Rahway across from the city hall complex. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 600 and also has a large pipe organ that is fully functional. Because of the large size of the building, there are several other chapels and meeting rooms as well as a large kitchen and fellowship hall.

There are five other groups (Alcoholics Anonymous, Feed the Poor and several other congregations) who also rent the building, thus helping the Rahway Spanish church to pay the mortgage.

Gonzalez Passes Away

Weeks after securing their new building, Rahway Spanish members were saddened by the passing of their pastor on February 5. Pastor Charles Gonzalez's (below) funeral service was held in the new church building. More than 500 people filled the sanctuary for the service. Although Pastor Gonzalez was able to attend the signing of the papers for the purchase of the building in December, his failing health prevented him from conducting the first worship service in the newly refurbished church home. Pastor Gonzalez leaves behind his wife, Tamara, daughter, Edith Crystal, and son, Carlos Daniel.



April

- 1** Children's Ministries (Spanish) Training, Zone 7
Vineland Spanish Church
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 5** Children's Ministries (Spanish) Training, Zone 3, *West New York Spanish Church*
6:30-10 p.m.
- 7** Church Clerk Training (Spanish), *Conference Office*
3-7 p.m.
- 13-15** English Elders, Deacons & Deaconess Retreat, *TVRC*
- 14** All-Day Youth Rally, Zones 5-7
Vineland Spanish Church
Kids 4 Jesus Tour, *North New Jersey*, 5-7 p.m.
- 15** Adventist Community Services Advisory Board
Conference Office
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 19** Children's Ministries (Spanish) Training, Zone 3, *West New York Spanish Church*
6:30-10 p.m.
- 20** Central New Jersey Prayer & Praise Night, *Conference Office*, 7-9 p.m.
- 20-22** Spanish Women's Retreat
Hamilton Park
- 21** Children's Ministries (English) Training, Zones 5 & 6
Laurelwood English Church
3-6 p.m.
- 26** Children's Ministries (Spanish) Training, Zone 3
Guttenberg Spanish Church
6:30-9:30 p.m.
- 27-28** Music Ministries Festival & Training, *TVRC*
- 28** All-Day Youth Rally
Zones 1-4, *TVRC*
Children's Ministries
Transformed Conference
Conference Office
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Campus Ministries Outreach Continues to Grow

Campus Ministries started its second full year in Ohio last fall. The program, which placed Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) chaplains at three state universities—Ohio University in Athens, The Ohio State University in Columbus and Wright State University in Dayton—continues to flourish.

The group at Ohio University held their annual Back-2-School BBQ Bash, welcoming back students from summer vacation. They also hosted a fall spiritual retreat as a “time to detach from our lives and reflect on God’s presence in our past, present and future.” At their first fall festival, more than 40 students decked out in cowboy outfits celebrated an early Thanksgiving holiday meal, a sing along to



David Almeda-Arrieta, a student at The Ohio State University; Sabrina Araiza, a chaplain at Wright State University; Justin Fess, a student at Sinclair Community College; and (back row) Darrin Thurber, a chaplain at Ohio University, enjoy some down time during the ENGAGE conference.



Kaylea Blackburn (third from right), the new chaplain at Ashland University, gets to know some of her ACF counterparts.

classic hymns and country folk songs and more. The chaplains at Wright State University and The Ohio State University also continued their campus programs, which included Bible studies, sacred vespers concerts, campus fairs and social gatherings.

Last fall at the ENGAGE Conference, ACF chaplains and students from across Ohio (pictured) enjoyed a weekend of fellowship, community service, praise and worship and assorted workshops. The three-day event focused on how students in ACF can “engage God, themselves and their campuses.” Attendees included those from the new ACF chapters at Ashland University, led by Chaplain Kaylea Blackburn, and the University of Akron, led by Chaplain Eskedar Meshesha. Blackburn works closely with the Mansfield church and community, and Meshesha

with the Akron First church and community.

Read more about the Ohio ACF chaplains and their efforts to network and expand their areas of influence at <http://ohioacf.blogspot.com>, or visit their Facebook page, Ohio Conference Adventist Christian Fellowship. To learn more about this outreach, contact Steve Carlson at the Ohio Conference at (740) 397-4665, ext. 122, or email youth@ohioadventist.org. Donations can be mailed to The Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, c/o Campus Connections, P.O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, OH 43050.



NEWS

The **Walk of Faith Community Center** received their second award, this time from the city of Cleveland and the First District Police/Community Relations Committee. The award is to recognize “their contribution toward making the city a better place to live.”

Camp Mohaven recently held an official ground breaking for their two new bathhouses. The structures, to



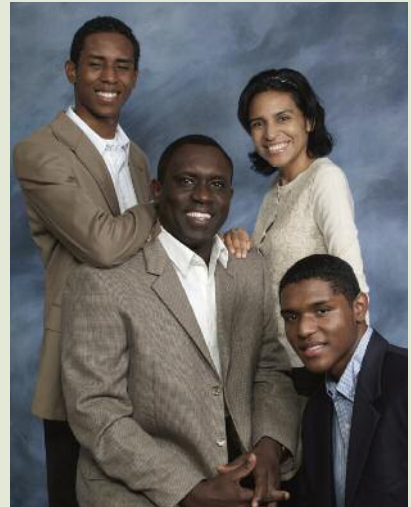
be located at the horse and ropes and pool areas, will provide additional toilets, showers and tornado shelters. Donations can be sent to Camp Mohaven, 18744 Turkey Ridge Road, Danville, OH 43014.

The Ohio Conference welcomes Peter Simpson, DMin, as pastor of the Cleveland Hispanic district, which includes the Ebenezer, Willard and First Cleveland Hispanic churches. Simpson replaces Oswaldo Magaña, who now serves the conference as director of Clergy Care and Leadership Development.

Greater Dayton area churches are busily preparing for an upcoming series of evangelistic meetings. John Bradshaw, the

Conference leaders break ground for one of two new bathhouses at Camp Mohaven in Danville.

speaker-director for *It Is Written*, will preach at the Dayton Masonic Center September 28-October 27.



Peter and Carolina Simpson, with support from their sons, Roy (front) and Ryan, are now leading the Cleveland Hispanic district.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Renowned Speaker Returns for Fall Conference

Elizabeth Talbot (left), co-host of *Voice of Prophecy* daily broadcasts, returns to Ohio this fall for the event “A New Hope: The Mega Joy of the Redeemed Heart.” All are welcome to experience this year’s largest gathering of Ohio Adventists September 22 at the



Roberts Centre in Wilmington. Hear one of the most compelling voices within the Seventh-day Adventist Church tell the story of the carpenter’s Son from Nazareth! Revel in the message from the Gospel of Luke,

where the common response to the revelation of the good news is to praise God! Like the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem, trade doubts and fears for the mega joy of the redeemed heart!

The program, which runs 10 a.m.-5 p.m., will feature inspirational praise music, four sessions on the Gospel of Luke, a gift copy of Talbot’s book *Luke: Salvation for All*, and dynamic age-appropriate programs for children. This program will have strong appeal to your friends and family who are not Adventists. To learn more or register for a free lunch, visit ohioadventist.org or call (740) 397-4665, ext 111.

Men Invited to Spiritual Retreat

A weekend for men full of spiritual activities, work and play, designed around the theme “Manhood in a Christian Context,” will be held

Grace Notes will provide special music for the fall conference in Wilmington.

at Camp Mohaven May 18-20. Pastor Kevin Kuehmichel (below)

of the Walk of Faith Fellowship in Cleveland will be the speaker. The event is for men of all faiths or no faith, 18 years of age and older. The program includes frank discussions on some of the tough issues men face today. Lodging begins at \$5 per person, per night; meals are \$10. To make reservations, contact Dave Robinson at Camp Mohaven: campmohavenman@gmail.com or (740) 599-6111. For further details, a complete price list and schedule, visit ohioadventist.org.



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Pennsylvania Pen

APRIL 2012

The Call to Go Into the Cities

Recently I learned that 60 percent of all those living in the United States reside in just 50 cities or urban centers. And here in Pennsylvania, we have two of those large populated areas. In light of this, what is God's call to us as Seventh-day Adventists for His mission?

Ellen White heard God's call. Over and over God spoke through her telling conferences that they are to make a concentrated and organized effort to make working in the cities a priority. She wrote in a letter to A.G. Daniels and W.W. Prescott: "No longer are the multitudes to be passed by ... He forbids the continued expenditure of large sums of money in a few places where the message is already firmly established, when comparatively nothing is being done in many other places fully as needy as were those where so much has been done" (*Letter 28, 1910*).

What a sobering and solemn thought. How about God's people in Pennsylvania? Let us be willing to rise to follow the counsel of God in this matter. Let us pray for the work in our cities. Let us support every effort to reach the masses in our cities. And let us take up the work at our home church and in our home community, so that together we can hear the Savior say to us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21).



Ray Hartwell
President

Conference Initiative Addresses Urban Need

After much prayer and study of God's Word and Spirit of Prophecy, leadership of the Pennsylvania Conference created Mission to the Many (M2M), a movement specifically designed to intentionally reach



the cities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Wes Via (left), a graduate of the Amazing Facts School of Evangelism, will coordinate the movement, working with churches and the missionaries. Via has worked with outreach ministries for Adventist-laymen Services and Industries and Generation of Youth for Christ.

This year the team will work with urban churches to find opportunities in nearby communities. They will also recruit and train young adult missionaries, with two teams placed in two urban settings where they will work to identify needs and begin to meet those needs. While needs assessments happen, medical missionary work will also begin, meeting more needs and looking for those whose hearts are receptive to hearing the gospel. Eventually, mission centers or centers of influence will be opened to permanently serve the community and become a place of worship. The goal of the entire process—from assessing needs to meeting needs to evangelism—is to win the hearts of people for Christ.

Grants, personal donations and sponsors will fund this ministry. To sponsor a young adult missionary, contact Jeffrey McAuliffe at jmcauliffe@paconference.org.—*Jeffrey McAuliffe*

66 Graduate From School of Discipleship

Sixty-six people from 12 churches graduated from the Escuela de Teología Para Discípulos (School of Discipleship) at a special service during the Festival de Evangelismo Hispano (Hispanic Evangelism Festival) in Harrisburg. The Pennsylvania Conference in conjunction with Andrews University (Mich.) sponsored the eight-month course, with classes one Sunday a month, reading and homework assignments plus hands-on projects. This year's emphasis was on serving as a pastoral administrative assistant with graduates receiving a Church Leadership Professional Certificate.

Graduate Nicholas Martinez, a member of the Allentown Hispanic church, has attended all four years of the program and is putting what he has learned to use as he leads a team planting a church in northern Bethlehem. Juana Rosa from the Philadelphia Hispanic II church

got up each morning at 5 to complete her reading assignments. She serves as the Personal Ministries director for the South Philadelphia Hispanic company, assisting Pastor Gabriel Montalvo in reaching their community. Rosa and Montalvo recently knocked on the doors of a dozen Bible study interests and took them bags of groceries on New Year's Eve. All are beginning Bible studies with

several already attending church.

Evangelist Alejandro Bullón challenged the nearly 300 people attending the weekend festival to see their communities as opportunities for sharing Christ and the gospel. Pastor Juan López, conference Hispanic Ministries director, along with his pastors, organize this annual event. See more photos at columbiaunion.org/PAHispanicFestival.

—Daisy Lopez



Youth Learn to Live Out Loud for God

PHOTO BY JONATHAN RINGER

More than 350 young people from across Pennsylvania attended the LOL4G (Live Out Loud for God) spiritual youth retreat held at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg earlier this year. Pastor Greg Nelson challenged attendees to trust God and constantly allow

God to use them to share His love and message with others. "The most important thing I learned was that LOL4G is not just being a good Christian yourself," shared Gianni Zanatta, "but teaching others about God and bringing them to God."

It wasn't just young people who were impacted. "This event has changed me more than I thought possible," youth leader Richard Easley wrote on his evaluation sheet. "I learned that God wants to have me where I'm at to use me for His cause."

Eight young people came forward to commit their lives in baptism. The weekend also featured a "job fair" with booths representing summer mission opportunities available in Pennsylvania for youth and young adults. Attendees could talk to staff, watch video testimonies

from past participants and pick up an application.

"This was an amazing weekend full of God's Holy Spirit," shared Leandro Robinson, the conference's Youth and Young Adult Ministries director. "It is my prayer that the youth of our conference would take the time to make the adjustments, so that what their life is saying out loud is something they can be proud of, but most of all God can be proud of."



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Potomac People

APRIL 2012

Richmond Congregation Eliminates \$50,000 Debt

Just nine months after setting out to eliminate a looming \$50,000 debt, the Richmond Evangelistic Center congregation in Richmond, Va., got out of the red! “Any plan that starts in His name will end in prosperity,” commented Pastor Obed Rosette. “We knew we had to trust in God’s promises and make that our first step to a new beginning.”

The second step involved asking church members to commit to the Lord and give a \$1,000 offering in response to their confidence in Him. Rosette and his family gave the first \$1,000. “I believe that for a project to succeed, the leader must set an example,” said Rosette. The offerings soon flowed in, allowing the church to complete the first stage of their faith project—raising \$17,000.

With continued emphasis on returning tithes and offerings, the members began relying more on God and increased their giving. With sharpened focus and motivation, the congregation sold food at Spanish camp meeting and during social activities to generate profit and continue shrinking the debt, which was largely their mortgage.

Finally, during a special day set aside for thanksgiving, the church reached their goal and collected enough to pay off the remaining debt and cover the church’s present needs. “God is real and ready to reward you in the same way you trust Him,” conveyed Rosette. “His power is infinite and inexhaustible.”

Pastor Obed Rosette of the Richmond Evangelistic Center encourages members to trust in the Lord’s blessings as they set out to pay off their debt.



Radford Members Value God’s Gifts in the Church

God sends gifts to our church in the form of visitors,” says Corinne Rawlins, elder at the Radford (Va.) church. “He has a purpose for sending them to specific churches; we shouldn’t be nonchalant about that.”

Since reading a high-profile book about getting guests to return to a church, Vincent Maclsaac, the former pastor, and Radford elders implemented a program to better connect with first-time visitors. “I thought we knew who the visitors were and [that] if we

had a good church service, they would come back, but it’s much more than that,” admitted Maclsaac.

Members now seat their visitors, and at the end of the divine service, give each one a cup containing the pastor’s business card, a church pen and packet of hot chocolate. The following Monday, they also mail visitors a coupon for a free Bible and a handwritten letter expressing how happy it made the church family to worship with them.

Attendees are also encouraged to fill out a card placed inside the bulletin, marking if they are a member or visitor, if they would like to join various groups, start a Bible study or transfer their membership. Rawlins says it has been a valuable tool to keep track of visitors and missing members.

Since beginning the process last April, to be more intentional and pay closer attention to the gifts God sends, the Radford church has experienced a new level of connectivity and has seen retention improve. To read more and view a sample of the visitor card, visit pcsd.org.—Tiffany Doss



Radford members Karin Gravely and Win Howell personalize cards to be sent to first-time visitors.

Potomac People

Young People “ARISE” and Worship at Youthfest 2012

At Potomac Conference’s Youthfest 2012 at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., leaders challenged some 800 young people to arise and awaken in their search to discover God’s love and use their spiritual gifts to tell the story. During an outbreak session titled The Youth Artist Showcase, youth shared their stories through music.

“It was amazing to see these gifted individuals play for a large, public worship event, giving their all

to God,” commented Denny Grady, Potomac Conference youth director. “Behind the scenes, I saw almost every group bow their heads and ask the Lord to calm their nerves and give the audience a blessing.”

The top three performance groups at the two-day event have been given the opportunity to record a performance in the Hope Channel studio in Silver Spring, Md., for possible broadcasting. Inspiration (below) is a group of six boys from Shenandoah Valley

Academy in New Market, Va.; Vivian Raimundo and Bruno Santos are a duet from Richmond Academy in Richmond, Va.; and Hands of Praise are a signing group from the Seabrook (Md.) church. Inspiration, the grand-prize winner, also got selected to perform at Just Claim It 3, the recent North American Division (NAD) youth congress.

Service outreach projects during Youthfest also gave the youth a chance to experience communicating God’s love. Participants fed the homeless at local soup kitchens and created banners with messages of hope and affirmation for families at a local children’s hospital and for area servicemen and women.

James Black, NAD’s senior youth director, closed the weekend by sharing his desire for the young attendees to be strengthened by voices that encourage their potential and how God’s partnership offers courage and tenacity to accomplish anything.

PHOTO BY TONY VENTOURIS



2,500 Worship at 16th Hispanic Evangelism Festival

More than 2,500 people converged in Ocean City, Md., for the 16th annual Hispanic Evangelism Festival. Life-sized models of the Israelites’ sanctuary furniture provided a tangible illustration for this year’s theme, “The Sanctuary—A Place of Hope.” Juan Sanchez and Jose Ortiz, members of the Capital Spanish and Washington Spanish churches, respectively, built them.

PHOTOS BY TONY VENTOURIS



Speakers this year included Miguel Valdivia, an editor at the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho); Bill Miller, Potomac president; and pastors from California, Florida and Mexico. In addition to enjoying seminars, prayer sessions and performances, attendees also received a special evangelism box containing a Bible, books, Bible studies and other materials to help prepare them for sharing the gospel in their communities.

A festival highlight is the annual School of Theology graduation. This year 120 individuals finished the program and are ready to become pastoral assistants, evangelists, Bible instructors and home church leaders.

Jose Esposito, Potomac’s Hispanic Ministries director, uses the sanctuary models to illustrate his presentation during the annual festival.



Conference leaders say a prayer of consecration for this year’s School of Theology graduates.

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President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Director, Dan Jensen

Fostering a Sense of Community

Recently one of our faculty members got married. It was a simple and intimate service that was devoid of the bells and whistles that have become the norm today, but yet a most powerful and profound experience. Upon his return to school, the campus body greeted him with smiles and prayerful wishes.

It is this sense of community that continues to draw Takoma Academy's (TA) faculty, staff and students together and helps us fulfill our mission. We aim to prepare students for Jesus' return and for future academic success, and to teach them to be good citizens. As we, the school leaders, walk our hallways, sit in our classrooms or even shoot hoops in the gym, we continue to foster healthy relationships with God's youth, which significantly increases our potential of being successful in our mission. It is our relationship with each other, our strong sense of community, that makes sharing our love for Jesus with each other such a delight.



David Turner
Student Services
Director

Annual Banquet is a Night to Remember

Incredible. Amazing. Remarkable. Outstanding. TA students used these words to describe this year's Valentine's Day Banquet, where beautiful ladies in gorgeous dresses and handsome gentlemen in dazzling suits enjoyed a delicate, luxurious event just for them.

Excited welcomes from greeters reassured attendees that they were among friends. Then, fellow students provided the night's entertainment, with musical and comedic selections that revealed the student body's true talents. Many expressed that the entertainment coupled with the excellent food and decorations perfectly captured the "Black Diamond" theme that the Student Council selected.

"My first TA Valentine's Banquet was fun. The food was good and the entertainment was really engaging,"



Freshman Kelsey Starks enjoys the banquet with her guest Ricky Neal.



TA freshmen Adrianna Hayden, guest Starr Wells, Keirrah Beckett and DaNia Henry enjoy the Valentine's Day Banquet—a much-needed break from studying.

said freshman Shelley Ross. "I had a great time with my friends. It was a night that I believe I will never forget."

On the other hand, senior Kamesha Laurry attended her last banquet. "TA's banquet was outstanding this year. I was very surprised by how many people took an active role during the banquet by singing, acting, playing an instrument—even the emcees," she commented. "No one was afraid to showcase their true talents."

Takoma Academy is a high school where each student works vigorously and consistently every day to excel. The banquet is an annual event that allows the students a respite from the worries of finishing homework, perfecting projects or studying for tests. This year's Takoma Academy Valentine's Day Banquet truly was a night to remember.—*Jasmin Wilson*

Congressman, Civil Rights Activist Makes a Visit

Takoma Academy recently welcomed a man who walked with Martin Luther King Jr. as the nation prepared to address civil rights: U.S. Rep. John Lewis. After weeks of planning—an effort led by TA’s own Virginia Mathis, a teacher in the Applied Arts department—the congressman walked through the doors of TA’s chapel, where the student body greeted him with a thunderous applause. Once at the podium, Lewis graciously thanked graduating senior Courtney D’ Avilar and freshman Simone Kirlew for a wonderful and humbling introduction. He then addressed his waiting audience for just over an hour, and responded to questions posed by faculty and staff.

TA’s student body heard firsthand of the struggle and inequality the early activists endured, the justice they pursued and a nation that

seemed intent on prejudice. Lewis took the school on a journey from his small country home in Alabama, where his sharecropper parents sought to ensure that he and his siblings had a chance to do better than they, in a nation that was ripe with opportunity but still sowed the sour fruits of racial divide. It was during his attempt in 1957 to enter college that the “boy from Troy” encountered King and thus began his active role in the civil rights struggle.

According to Lewis, “We are better today because of the struggle.” During his powerful presentation, the audience only occasionally broke their silence to shout “Amen!” and “Hallelujah!” Graduating senior Seline Allen asked Lewis about his views on religion and Jesus. He stated, “Jesus was a man of peace. He came to save and redeem and, if we were to read and follow His words, we will be better human beings.” It is no wonder that Lewis is so well respected on both sides of the aisle in the U.S. Congress. Nancy Pelosi, the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, has referred to him as “the conscience of the U.S. Congress.”

As he closed, Lewis passionately pleaded with the students to “stay in school, and let your faith be your guide.” Before leaving, he invited TA’s choir (below), who had previously performed three songs under the direction of Lulu Mupfumbu, to share one more number. “It was the music that made a lot of the pain of the 50s,



Rachel Wagner and Jordan Graham wait to ask the congressman questions about his presentation.

and even today, bearable,” he stated.

Lewis took a seat as close to the choir as he could possibly get, then absorbed a moving rendition of “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho.” The event concluded with an invitation from principal David Daniels for faculty, parents and students to stand in-turn and thank Rep. Lewis for enduring through the journey.

—David Turner



Virginia Mathis, a teacher in Takoma Academy’s Applied Arts department, and David Daniels, TA principal, flank their special guest: U.S. Rep. John Lewis.



Calendar

April

- 9 Parent-Teacher Conferences—School Closed
- 16-20 Student Week of Prayer
- 27-28 Alumni Weekend
- 29 Spring Concert

May

- 4 Spring Picnic
- 14 PATA Career Day
- 28 Memorial Day—School Closed
- 29-31 Final Exams

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The Distinctive Washington Adventist University Graduate

What is distinctive about a Washington Adventist University (WAU) graduate? It is essential that we not only identify the desired behaviors and traits of the WAU graduate, but also model, teach, mentor and coach these behaviors to fulfill the vision of producing graduates who demonstrate competence and moral leadership to their communities. It is exciting to note and report that our faculty, staff and trustees are united about the identified desired outcomes of our graduates, which include demonstrating competencies in the following areas:

Spiritual Identity: Graduates will understand the basic spirituality that is the heart of the university's mission statement of community ethos. They will be committed to a belief and value system that results in responsible moral choices and the care of the body, mind and spirit.

Communication: They will be able to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking and listening and be proficient in the use of electronic modes of communication.

Analytical Skills and Information Literacy: They will be able to find, evaluate, absorb and synthesize information and solve problems through interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, explanation and self-awareness.

Effective Citizenship: They will be aware of the characteristics and needs of a diverse community, understand the value of contributing time and effort to achieve community goals and accept responsibility for personal actions.

Team Work: They will be able to participate either as a member or leader of a committee, task force, board or other group project in generating and achieving its collective goals.

Aesthetic Appreciation: They will be able to recognize and understand the value of fine and performing arts, as well as the aesthetic heritage found in a variety of cultures.

Discipline-Specific Competence: They will be able to show competency in a major field of study and understand the relationship of their particular discipline to the general education core of their liberal arts training.

These are the distinctive traits of the Washington Adventist University graduate.



Weymouth Spence
President

SIFE Chapter Wins Four Mini Grants

W AU's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter won four mini grants totaling \$6,000 this year, signaling a strong comeback for an organization after a five-year hiatus. The grants came from Sam's Club, HSBC Holdings, Wal-Mart and Johnson & Johnson.

"We wrote five mini grant proposals and thought that we would be awarded one, but we were awarded four," said Kimberly Pichot, faculty sponsor of WAU's SIFE chapter. "It's nice because [the] grant money ... allows the students to do a lot."

SIFE is an organization that brings students, academics and industry leaders together for the shared mission of creating a better, more sustainable world, through the positive power of business. Chapters operate on university campuses worldwide with the support of leading corporations. "The students have ... floored me with their enthusiasm, involvement and the quality of their results," Pichot said.—Kevin Manuel



Sophomore accounting major Brielyn Sampson helps out during a SIFE employment workshop.

President Testifies Before State Legislators

Weymouth Spence, EdD, WAU president, recently joined presidents of other Maryland private colleges and universities in Annapolis, Md., to press the state government for continued funding of these institutions. Administrators and students were in the state capital in observation of Maryland Independent Higher Education Day declared by Gov. Martin O'Malley in recognition of the vital role independent colleges and universities play in the state, which boasts one of the best-educated workforces in the nation.

In his testimony to the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Spence expressed thanks for the level of funding that the state has provided for Sellinger Aid in the fiscal 2013 budget and asked for continued funding of the program. He said that last year, WAU used 70 percent of its Sellinger Aid.

"WAU serves a financially needy

PHOTO BY BETH MAYER



President Weymouth Spence (second from right) and marketing assistant Andre Weston (third from left) pose with WAU students at Maryland Independent Higher Education Day in Annapolis. Left to right are: Juliana Baioni, Robert Machado, Alcira Groomes and Arlindo Dos Santos.

student population," he said. "Over 50 percent of our students are Pell Grant recipients. Ninety-eight percent of all our students need some form of financial aid. ... Without financial aid, this needy population would not have the opportunity to receive a college education in a small service-oriented setting."

He also reported, "Every year colleges and universities belonging to the Maryland Independent College and University Association serve 63,000 students, award about 30 percent of all degrees conferred by a Maryland four-year institution and attract \$2.4 billion in research grants."

Band Festival Allows Academies to Shine

Washington Adventist University's 2012 Honor Band Festival provided the campus and surrounding communities with a rich feast of musical activities served up by professional musicians and youngsters attempting to follow in their footsteps. Special performances were held at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md.

The festival also featured, for the first time, a concert by the Potomac Brass, a professional band directed by composer Stephen Bulla. The festival brought together students from all the academies in the Columbia Union Conference, and three schools from outside.

Director Bruce Wilson started the festival in 1998 when the Music Department consisted of 11 students;

it currently has 50. Wilson believes it is important to work with young people to develop their talents. "If we don't use our talent, we will lose them," he says.

Master classes were held for musicians on Friday. The band broke down into groups by instrument and the professional musicians offered their expertise to the young musicians.—Steven Del Rio

PHOTO BY RALPH VIEUX



Students from Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., perform at the Honor Band Festival.

The Gateway is published in the *Visitor* by the Washington Adventist University ■ 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 ■ Phone: (800) 835-4212 wau.edu ■ President, Weymouth Spence Communication Director, Grace Virtue

Profiles in Caring



William G. "Bill" Robertson speaks with Judy Lichty, Regional Director of Health & Wellness for Adventist HealthCare, at the February "Love Your Heart" Expo, where more than 260 people received free heart-related screenings



Washington Adventist Hospital
 Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
 Hackettstown Regional Medical Center
 Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital
 of Maryland
 Adventist Behavioral Health
 Adventist Home Care Services
 The Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants
 and Young Children
 Adventist Medical Group
 LifeWork Strategies
 Cytology Services of Maryland

The Focus

The words "serve" and "service" are among the busiest words in our language. There are so many definitions of serve and service that trying to understand what they mean feels like watching one of those animated movies where the camera starts in close on a point on the landscape and then pulls out wide to reveal the whole of earth floating in space and gets wider and wider until you've flown past the moon and planets and the sun—and the screen is filled with the vastness of the Milky Way.

These two words can mean to hold office, or perform a duty, or fulfill a function or purpose. They can mean to help someone with food or drink, or to be deeply devoted to something. They can mean to work for someone, or to deliver a warrant, or to be a part of the military. To serve can mean putting the ball in play. It can be about jail time. We sometimes say "serves you right," or even "you got served." Busy words, big ideas.

But at Adventist HealthCare the word "service" means something very specific. It is one of our core values, we define service this way: "We provide compassionate and attentive care in a manner that inspires confidence."

This is the exact opposite of the camera pulling out and revealing an ever-widening view. This is the camera pushing in past the sun and the planets, through the clouds of the atmosphere, right down into the world, zooming in on the landscape and then getting closer and closer until landmarks can be recognized, and faces come into the frame, and finally bringing into focus something very specific, very local, and very personal:

For us, service is what happens at the very moment of mission. It's in the very center of the frame. It is what we strive to keep in the clearest focus. Of the many possible definitions, this is the one that we have made our own, our calling: to be compassionate, attentive, and to inspire hope and confidence through the manner in which we conduct our work.

I am fond of a short statement from Albert Schweitzer: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." In compassionate, attentive care we have found the meaning of service. And we strive to ensure that this is our focus in all that we do.

William G. "Bill" Robertson
 President & CEO
 Adventist HealthCare



Washington Adventist Hospital Reduces Wait Times for Emergency Patients

When you are sick or in pain, the last thing you want to face is a long wait in a hospital's emergency department. At Washington Adventist Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), a doctor, nurse and medical technician are all involved in your care—right from the start. This coordinated care approach allows patients to receive quality care faster and return home, where they truly want to be.

Since 2009, Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park has significantly increased its efforts to decrease wait times and enhance the patient experience. This approach ensures patients with the most severe, life-threatening medical conditions get immediate attention, while at the same time those with minor illnesses and injuries are seen in a separate “fast-track” area where they can receive the tests and treatment they need quickly and efficiently.

“By having a physician, nurse and medical technician part of a patient's care early in the process, we're able to reduce wait times and tell our patients right away what they need to have done,” explains Drew White, M.D., medical director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Washington Adventist Hospital.

Washington Adventist Hospital has an average wait-to-see-a-physician time of 17 minutes.

“Even with limited space as a challenge, we have been able to make innovations that have put us ahead of national benchmarks in terms of patients who leave the ED without being treated, which usually happens because the wait is too long,” Dr. White says.

Washington Adventist Hospital's ED average for patients who leave without being treated is four times lower than national benchmarks, according to National Hospital

Ambulatory Medical Care Survey data. The hospital has also attained top rankings in the area of patient satisfaction of ED physicians, with physicians receiving an overall rating in the 99th percentile compared with other emergency departments across the nation.

Another achievement came in October 2011 when Washington Adventist Hospital celebrated its first full year of zero hours of yellow diversion for ambulances. During “yellow diversion,” ambulances are rerouted to the next nearest hospital because an emergency department cannot take any more patients by ambulance because of volume of patients or other situations in the hospital.

“Maintaining zero hours of yellow diversion serves as another example of our hospital's commitment to providing quality emergency care to our community and enhancing the patient experience,” says Joyce Newmyer, president of Washington Adventist Hospital.

Drew White, M.D., medical director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Washington Adventist Hospital, and Sunita Waddell, director of emergency nursing services, consult with a patient.



Adventist HealthCare In The News

Adventist HealthCare Marks Heart Month with Free Screenings

Adventist HealthCare, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital held its third annual Love Your Heart Expo in February, providing free heart health screenings and education to the public. The event took place at Westfield Montgomery Mall in North Bethesda.

“We are excited to offer these valuable screenings at no cost to the public in order to improve heart health in our community,” said Amy Carrier, Associate Vice President, Clinical Service Lines for Adventist HealthCare. More than 275 people received a variety of screenings, including; a cholesterol finger stick test, blood pressure, body composition, body mass index (BMI), waist-to-hip ratio and pulmonary function testing (PFT). After the screenings, clinical experts provided one-on-one personal counseling sessions to discuss participants’ results.

In addition to screenings, Love Your Heart included a heart healthy demonstration and education stage featuring lectures from Adventist HealthCare medical experts, heart healthy cooking demonstrations and exercise demonstrations.

Young Named President of Adventist Behavioral Health

Kevin Young has been named President of Adventist Behavioral Health, Adventist HealthCare’s behavioral health division. Young will provide executive leadership for one of the largest behavioral health providers in the region with several facilities in Maryland. He officially joined the organization in late 2011.



As President, Young, MHA, FACHE, will help the organization continue to focus on long-term growth, address unmet behavioral health needs, and deliver the highest standards of care to patients, residents, and their families.

“I am very excited to welcome Kevin to Adventist Behavioral Health because he shares our commitment to delivering compassionate, faith-based care to the mentally ill we serve,” said Terry Forde, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Adventist HealthCare.

Young joined Adventist Behavioral Health from Universal Health Services, Inc. where he served as chief executive officer for its 105-bed, inpatient/outpatient psychiatric facility in Missouri. Prior to this role, Young served as the executive director for Valley Health, a non-profit multi-hospital system that consists of six hospitals, 576 licensed inpatient beds, and 166 long-term care beds across Virginia and West Virginia. He was responsible for several acute-care areas including psychiatry.

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital Names New Vice President

Brent Reitz has joined Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland as the new Vice President and Administrator. In this position, Reitz will oversee the rehabilitation hospital, which is part of the Rockville-based Adventist HealthCare system.



“I am pleased to welcome Brent to Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital,” said Terry Forde, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Adventist HealthCare. “We are confident that his experience with rehabilitation facilities will help us continue to provide exceptional inpatient and outpatient services to the region.”

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital has inpatient locations in Rockville and Takoma Park and outpatient locations in Rockville and Silver Spring.

Reitz comes to Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital from Good Shepard Rehabilitation Network in Allentown, Pa., where he served as Vice President of Pediatrics. He brings more than 11 years of experience to his new role as well as a record of developing successful rehabilitation services in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including opening a new pediatric rehabilitation unit at Good Shepard.

Prior to his time at Good Shepard, Reitz served as director of operations for Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, N.J. In this role, Reitz was responsible for the operations of five rehabilitation departments in both the inpatient and outpatient service lines.

Adventist Medical Group Launches Joint Venture

Adventist HealthCare, Montgomery County’s first and largest health system, and The GW Medical Faculty Associates (MFA), the largest independent physician group in metropolitan Washington, announced a joint venture in November that will further their missions of improving the health of the communities they serve.

The new venture, which combines the strengths of the MFA and Adventist Medical Group, enables the organizations to more effectively and efficiently grow the number of Adventist’s employed physicians.

“Federal mandates for implementation of electronic patient health records, along with healthcare reform, are prompting consolidation in the health industry,” said MFA CEO Stephen L. Badger. “This joint venture strengthens both organizations financially and geographically and prepares us to deliver better quality healthcare to the rapidly growing population around the D.C. area.”

Adventist HealthCare

Celebra el Mes del Corazón con Evaluaciones Gratuitas



Kathy Coleman, coordinadora comunitaria de los servicios cardíacos y vasculares de Adventist HealthCare, y Melina Talavera, del departamento de Salud y Bienestar de Adventist HealthCare, fueron dos de los muchos voluntarios que se ayudaban con los evaluaciones y sesiones de asesoría personalizada para el público durante la exposición Ama a tu Corazón.

Adventist HealthCare, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital y Washington Adventist Hospital realizaron en febrero su tercera exposición anual Ama a tu Corazón (“Love Your Heart”), ofreciendo al público evaluaciones gratuitas e información acerca de la salud del corazón. El evento se llevó a cabo en Westfield Montgomery Mall en North Bethesda.

“Estamos emocionados de poder ofrecer estas valiosas evaluaciones sin costo para el público a fin de mejorar la salud cardíaca de nuestra comunidad”, señaló Amy Carrier, vicepresidenta asociada de líneas de servicios clínicos de Adventist HealthCare. Más de 275 personas recibieron una variedad de evaluaciones, incluidas la prueba de colesterol en la sangre tomada del dedo, prueba de presión arterial, composición corporal e índice de masa corporal (BMI, por sus siglas en inglés), relación cintura a cadera y examen de función pulmonar (PFT, por sus siglas en inglés). Después de las evaluaciones, los expertos clínicos ofrecieron sesiones de asesoría personalizada para analizar los resultados de los participantes.

Además de las evaluaciones, “Love Your Heart” incluyó una demostración de un

corazón saludable y conferencias educativas por parte de expertos médicos de Adventist HealthCare, cómo cocinar de manera saludable para el corazón y demostraciones de ejercicios.

Young fue nombrado Presidente de Adventist Behavioral Health

Kevin Young fue nombrado presidente de Adventist Behavioral Health, división de la salud del comportamiento de Adventist HealthCare. Young estará a cargo del liderazgo ejecutivo para uno de los proveedores más grandes de salud del comportamiento de la región con varias sedes en Maryland. Él se vinculó oficialmente a la organización a finales del año 2011.

Como presidente, Young, MHA, FACHE, ayudará a la organización a continuar su enfoque de crecimiento a largo plazo, a dirigir las necesidades no cubiertas en cuanto a salud del comportamiento y a ofrecer el más alto estándar en atención a pacientes, residentes y sus familias.

“Me llena de emoción dar la bienvenida a Kevin a Adventist Behavioral Health ya que él comparte nuestro compromiso de brindar atención médica compasiva, basada en la fe, a los enfermos mentales que atendemos”, afirmó Terry Forde, vicepresidente ejecutivo y director de operaciones de Adventist HealthCare.

Young se unió a Adventist Behavioral Health proveniente de Universal Health Services, Inc. donde desempeñó el cargo de director ejecutivo de un centro de psiquiatría con 105 camas para pacientes hospitalizados y ambulatorios en Missouri. Antes de este cargo, Young trabajó como director ejecutivo de Valley Health, un sistema multi-hospitalario sin fines de lucro formado por seis hospitales, 576 camas autorizadas para pacientes hospitalizados y 166 camas para atención de largo plazo, localizados a lo largo de Virginia y West Virginia. Estuvo a cargo de varias áreas de atención aguda incluida la psiquiatría.

Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital Nombra Nuevo Vicepresidente

Brent Reitz se ha unido a Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital de Maryland como el nuevo vicepresidente y administrador. Desde este cargo, Reitz supervisará el hospital de rehabilitación, el cual forma parte del sistema de Adventist HealthCare basado en Rockville.

“Me complace darle la bienvenida a Brent a Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital”, afirmó Terry Forde, vicepresidente ejecutivo y director de operaciones de Adventist HealthCare. “Tenemos confianza en que su experiencia con centros de rehabilitación nos ayudará a continuar ofreciendo servicios excepcionales para pacientes hospitalizados y pacientes ambulatorios en la región”.

Reitz viene a Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital proveniente de Good Shepard Rehabilitation Network en Allentown, Pa., donde se desempeñó como vicepresidente de pediatría. Trae más de 11 años de experiencia a su nuevo rol así como una trayectoria en el desarrollo exitoso de servicios de rehabilitación en Pennsylvania y New Jersey, que incluye la apertura de una nueva unidad de rehabilitación pediátrica en Good Shepard.

Antes de su trabajo en Good Shepard, Reitz se desempeñó como director de operaciones de Children’s Specialized Hospital en Mountainside, N.J. En dicho cargo, Reitz tuvo la responsabilidad de las operaciones de cinco departamentos de rehabilitación para las líneas de servicios de pacientes hospitalizados y ambulatorios.



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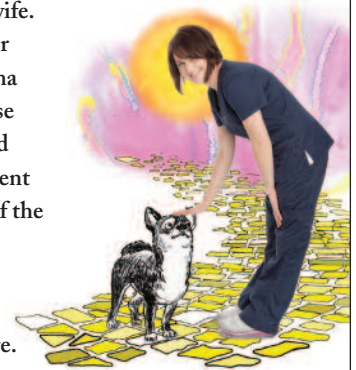
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Sarah Winder is a dog lover, a dedicated walker and a wife. She's also a valued member of the nursing staff at Loma Linda. She brings her sense of humor, her humility and commitment to every patient interaction. Sarah is one of the people that help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.



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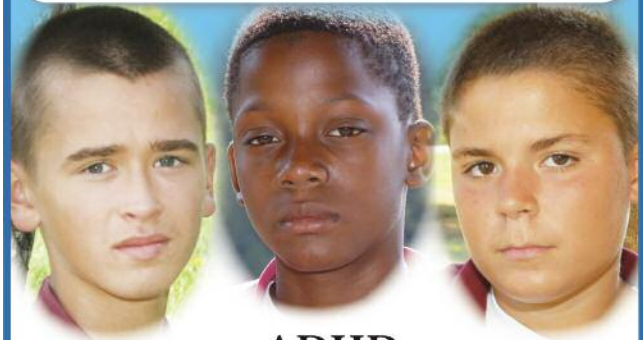
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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST

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LEGAL NOTICES:

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 20, 2012, in the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905. This meeting is held for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the session at that time.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Organizing Committee described in Article III, Section 1, of the bylaws will convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 15, 2012, at the conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, MD 21044, for the purpose of selecting the Nominating Committee for the regular session and nominating the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the next quinquennium. There will be one delegate chosen for the Organizing Committee for each constituent church, plus an additional delegate for each full 500 church members.

Rick Remmers, President
Kleyton Feitosa, Secretary

CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists shall be held in connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905, at 11 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees and officers, as well as to transact other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, President
Kleyton Feitosa, Secretary

HIGHLAND VIEW ACADEMY THIRD QUINQUENNIAL SESSION

Notice is hereby given that the third quinquennial session of Highland View Academy Incorporated will be held in

Sunset Calendar

	Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27	May 4
Baltimore	7:36	7:43	7:49	7:56	8:03
Cincinnati	8:07	8:14	8:21	8:28	8:34
Cleveland	7:58	8:05	8:13	8:21	8:28
Columbus	8:02	8:09	8:16	8:23	8:30
Jersey City	7:27	7:34	7:41	7:49	7:56
Norfolk	7:32	7:38	7:45	7:51	7:57
Parkersburg	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:16	8:23
Philadelphia	7:30	7:38	8:45	7:52	7:59
Pittsburgh	7:50	7:57	8:05	8:12	8:19
Reading	7:34	7:41	7:48	8:55	8:03
Richmond	7:38	7:44	7:50	7:57	8:03
Roanoke	7:47	7:54	8:00	8:06	8:12
Toledo	8:06	8:13	8:21	8:29	8:36
Trenton	7:29	7:36	7:43	7:51	7:58
Wash., D.C.	7:37	7:44	7:51	7:57	8:04

connection with the regular quinquennial session of the Chesapeake Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring MD, 20905, at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and transact any other business as may come before the session at that time. Delegates to this meeting shall be the delegates of the Chesapeake Conference session.

Rick Remmers, President
Deborah Trevino, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PODIATRISTS are now signing up on Facebook to network, dinner devotional at national meetings, advertise for associates/partnerships (position available in Maryland) and to sell practices. Please tell every Seventh-day Adventist podiatrist you know to visit our page and "like us" on Facebook at: *Seventh-day Adventist Podiatrists*, or email Podiatry11@yahoo.com.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST "UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ALUMNI WEEKEND," April 13-15. Join us for the grand opening of

the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center, April 14, at 8 p.m. Visit wau.edu/alumni for a list of events and activities, or call (301) 891-4133 for more information.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI present "Return to the 1990s" honoring the Class of 1992. This evening of music, fun and friends is for new and old alumni. This will be held April 14 from 8:30-10:30 p.m. in Morrison Hall Agape Café. Text to (614) 264-8865 for reserved seating.

UPCOMING SABBATH SUNDOWN SERENADE CONCERTS,

at the Hagerstown (Md.) church: April 7, 6:30 p.m., Carol Barron, vocalist, with Jemuel Anderson, concert pianist; April 14, at 6:30 p.m., Jim Ayer, VP for Adventist World Radio, producer and host of the TV series *Making Waves*, and co-host of AWR's "Mission Highlights" radio broadcast, will present an inspiring collection of fresh stories under the soul-winning banner "By His Power." April 28 at 7 p.m., The Cruz Sisters, known musically as 4 Christ, will be in concert; and May 5, at 7 p.m., Alexander Marte, a teen violinist, will be in concert. The list of events he has been invited to perform at reads like that of a successful seasoned artist. Everyone is welcome.

Bulletin Board

Church location: 11507 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown (21740). For additional information, call (301) 733-4411. To request a copy of the Winter-Spring 2012 Hagerstown Sabbath Serenade Concert Calendar, send your email address to office@hagerstownadventist.org.

FORMER GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) RISK MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES REUNION—April 18-19, Silver Spring, Md. Meet at the GC April 18 at 5 p.m. for dinner and social time at a nearby restaurant. Tour of the GC April 19. RSVP/details: Phyllis Morgan, (301) 434-7221, gmomgdad@verizon.net.

WEIMAR CENTER OF HEALTH & EDUCATION welcomes all Weimar Academy, College and staff alumni to the annual joint Homecoming Reunion for precious fellowship and spiritual enrichment, with several special speakers and events: April 13-15. Honor academy and college classes: '82, '87, '92 and '02. For more information: alumni@weimar.edu, (800) 525-9192.

LA SIERRA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS are cordially invited to attend La Sierra Academy 90th birthday celebration: 2012 Alumni Weekend, April 27-28. Honor

classes: 50+, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97 and '02. Friday morning golf tournament, evening reception, Sabbath morning alumni roll call, potluck and reunions, 9:30 LSA gym. (951) 351-1445, ext. 244; email: lsalumni@lsak12.com; website: lsak12.com/alumni.

THE MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING will be June 27-24, honoring classes: 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957 and 1962. Also invited are those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy, and the Anesthesia School. We will have activities and meals beginning Friday evening through Sunday morning at the Madison Academy campus. Henry Scoggins, president, (615) 919-7767, or Jim Culpepper, secretary/treasurer, (615) 415-1925.

TILLAMOOK ADVENTIST SCHOOL in Tillamook, Ore., invites past students, faculty and friends to a weekend celebration of 75 years of Christian education, May 18-20, at the school campus. Activities run Friday vespers through Sunday morning. Special rates at Ashley Inn: (503) 842-7599. Visit TillamookAdventistSchool.org, join Tillamook Adventist School Alumni Facebook group or call (503) 842-6533.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 8-10 for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1962 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net for further information.

OBITUARIES

KOPKO, Thomas M., born November 1, 1934, in Newark, N.J.; died November 30, 2010, in Roseville, Calif. He was a member of the Roseville (Calif.) church. He served as a pastor in the Atlantic, Columbia, Pacific, Southern and Southwestern unions. After retirement, he continued to serve as a pastor in the Pacific Union, along with being leader of a health ministry, publishing a newsletter called *God's Physicians*. Survivors: his wife, Doris; his son, Thomas; and two granddaughters, all of Roseville.

MITCHELL, Lee, born January 19, 1948, in Madison, S.D.; died May 22, 2011, in Howard, Ohio. He was a member of the Fredericktown (Ohio) church. Lee was very active in his church over the years, as

head elder, elder, deacon, Sabbath School superintendent, Sabbath School teacher, constituent delegate, member of Camp Mohaven Committee and a Mt. Vernon Elementary School Board member. He worked as administrator for Country Court Nursing Home in Mt. Vernon and served as a member of the Kiwanis Club and Knox County Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed sporting clays, golfing and especially fishing. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; sons, Chad (Nona) Mitchell and Chris Mitchell; a daughter Kimberly (Aaron) Myers; grandchildren: Rachel Mitchell and Noah and Nicholas Myers.

KOLIADKO, Joseph Isaiah, born March 25, 1925, in Chicago, Ill.; died June 10, 2011, in Hopewell, Va. He graduated from Washington Adventist University and Loma Linda School of Dentistry. He practiced dentistry in Hopewell for many years and was an active member of the Yale (Va.) church. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Bendall Koliadko of Hopewell; his son, Joseph (Carol) Koliadko Jr. of Palmer, Alaska; and his daughter, Charlene (Werner) Wiedemann of Luray, Va.; five grandchildren: Kelly Wiedemann of Chicago, Ill., Brody and Randy Wiedemann of Luray, and Katherine and Kristine Koliadko of Palmer; and a brother, Daniel Koliadko of Yale, Va.

COLUMBIA UNION STORY

Some 39 Seventh-day Adventist congregations across the Columbia Union will plant a community garden this spring. With each new crop, they are planting seeds of hope in their community and growing relationships. Learn more in this month's *Columbia Union Story* video titled "Oasis in a Food Desert."

columbiaunion.org/videos



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Columbia Union Revolving Fund

WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union is busy building the body of Christ through its many entities. As union membership increases, so does the need for churches, schools, conference offices and other structures.

The Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) is the organization hundreds of Adventist entities have depended on for 44 years to get low-interest funding to fix, purchase, expand or build. Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., bought a new property with a CURF loan. Ohio Conference's Worthington congregation built a new church and school with a loan from CURF. Since it started, CURF has provided some 1,800 loans to institutions in the Columbia Union.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY



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