

# VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OCTOBER 2017 • VOLUME 122 • ISSUE 8

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

## Called

Meet 40  
Women Pastors  
Serving in the  
Columbia  
Union

Plus: See How  
God is Using  
Women in  
Leadership  
Around  
the World



❖ Ann Roda

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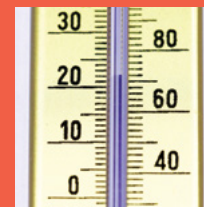
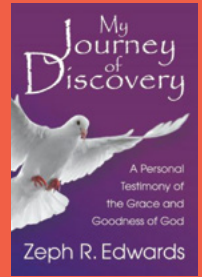
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**About the Cover:** Brian Patrick Tagalog photographed Ann Roda at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville, Md.

## ON THE WEB

### A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

During Zeph Edwards' life, he says he's dealt with racism, adjusting to new cultures, financial hardship and other difficulties. But during these struggles, he learned more about God's plan for his life and discovered that God was real. Read more about this Chesapeake Conference's Westminster (Md.) church member's journey in his new book, *My Journey of Discovery*, at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/discovery](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/discovery).



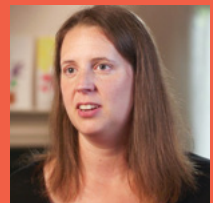
### NOTHING CAN SEPARATE

In his latest blog, Rob Vandeman writes how Psalm 121 can help prevent us from making the mistake of supposing that

God's interest in us waxes and wanes in response to our spiritual temperature. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/journeythroughpsalms).

### FILM CHRONICLES PASTORS' JOURNEYS

"It was fascinating to learn their stories and see their determination to serve," says David Brillhart, director and co-writer of a 2016 documentary about four women pastors and their journeys to find acceptance in the churches they were called to serve. Among them is Heather Crews (pictured), pastor of Potomac Conference's Courthouse Road church in North Chesterfield, Va.



The film was the brainchild of Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry, chaired by Beverly Habada, a member of Potomac's Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., who wants to help "break down barriers for women in ministry." Find a link to the documentary by visiting [columbiaunionvisitor.com/called](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com/called).



# VISITOR

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## Thank You, Pastors!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a time when we have the opportunity to recognize and affirm the work and ministry of our pastoral workforce who have accepted the call to be “co-laborers” with Christ. What an awesome team of ministers we have across the Columbia Union Conference, and what a joy and privilege it is to serve with them in ministry. *Let’s pray for them and encourage them—this month and every month.*



This year our *Visitor* team chose to highlight women clergy\* who serve in our union as pastors, chaplains, religion professors and ministry leaders. In 2012 there were about 20; today there are 40. It’s so inspiring to see how God is working in and through them as they use their unique gifts and talents to build the citizenship of heaven (see pp. 6-9).

This growth is not isolated. In Africa, for example, I learned about a woman who leads a seven-church district. In Southeast Asia, another woman pastors a multi-church district. In China, I recently met a woman who leads a team that has baptized 8,000 souls for Christ (see pp. 10-11). *Wow!*

And there’s more to come. There are 130 women enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Mich.), and more in seminary programs at schools around the world. More than 150 women work as pastors across North America, and many more serve in other world fields. In addition, during the last five years, a number of outstanding women have been elected to lead ministries and organizations (see pp. 12-13).

When I learned about this growth, and in light of the conversation our church has been having that has created both affirmation and consternation, I was reminded of the counsel of Gamaliel.

### IS IT OF GOD?

As far as we know, Gamaliel wasn’t a disciple of Christ. We have no record of him professing a belief in Jesus, yet he is significant to our Christian heritage for his counsel on how the authorities should handle Christ’s followers. In Acts 5:34-39, we find his counsel relating to the movement of the disciples in Jerusalem: “If this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God” (NKJV). The other leaders listened to his prudent counsel, and the work of God moved forward through the labor of the dedicated workers of the early church, and it grew and prospered.

We are the beneficiaries of their service and sacrifice, and as I think about the many women who today are also accepting Christ’s call and doing their part at all levels of ministry to help finish the work, I am encouraged and thankful. It’s evident, at least to me, that God is moving and working, and we are witnessing the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-29.

In these last moments of earth’s history, as we prayerfully seek the best way to advance Christ’s mission—and mission is what matters most—may His Spirit of grace and discernment continually be our guide.

*Dave Weigley serves as president of the Columbia Union Conference.*

*\*According to Seventh-day Adventist Church policy, women may serve as elders (voted in 1975, 1985 and reaffirmed in 2010) and pastors (voted in 1990).*



**New Leaders:** Delegates of New Jersey Conference's 40th Constituency Meeting recently voted Jorge Agüero (center) as president, Mario Thorp as executive secretary and re-elected Joel D. Tompkins as treasurer. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com).

## MEMBERS ASSIST HURRICANE VICTIMS

Columbia Union Conference members across the territory have worked with the union's Adventist Community Services (ACS)/Disaster Response team to aid those impacted by the recent hurricanes.

Members, students and staff from Allegheny East Conference's Pine Forge Academy and Jessie R. Wagner Adventist schools in Pine Forge, Pa., and Pennsylvania Conference's Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg and Reading Junior Academy gathered at Pine

Forge Academy and packed 9,600 personal care kits, supplied by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Members from six churches in New Jersey Conference assembled 325 additional kits.

At its Executive Committee meeting last month, Columbia Union leaders designated \$10,000 to cover travel costs for authorized members serving on disaster response teams. Read more at [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com).

—V. Michelle Bernard

## COLUMBIA UNION BIDS FAREWELL TO TREASURER

The Columbia Union Conference recently said goodbye to Seth Bardu, who served as treasurer for nearly 12 years. "More than managing money and processing payroll, he promoted treasury as a resource center for ministry and mission," says Dave Weigley, president. "Bardu has given stellar service to the Columbia Union. Without a doubt, he is one of the most gifted treasurers I have had the pleasure to know."



Bardu joined the union officer team in 2006 and previously worked in treasury positions at Northeastern Conference, the Southern Union Conference, Adventist Health System and South Central Conference.

Bardu resigned August 31. At its September meeting, members of the union's Executive Committee approved a search committee to begin the process of finding a new treasurer.—VMB

## UNION LEADERS HONOR JOSÉ CORTÉS

José H. Cortés Sr. (pictured below, left), president of New Jersey Conference for the past 10 years, will soon retire.

At the September union Executive Committee, President Dave Weigley recognized Cortés for 50 years of service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including 30 in New Jersey. "You have been a champion for mission and soul winning," said Weigley. "Thank you for many years of excellent service."—VMB



*Pine Forge Academy students help pack bags containing personal care items for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.*



PHOTOS BY LATASHA HEWITT AND JORGE PILLOO



## MIEMBROS DE LA UNIÓN AYUDAN A VÍCTIMAS DEL HURACÁN HARVEY

Los miembros de la Unión de Columbia en todo el territorio han trabajado con el equipo de Servicios Comunitarios Adventistas de la Unión (ACS) / Respuesta a Desastres para ayudar a los afectados por los recientes huracanes.



*Estudiantes de la Academia Pine Forge, PA de la Conferencia de Allegheny East y de la Academia de Reading de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania preparan kits de cuidado personal.*

Miembros, estudiantes y personal de las conferencias de Allegheny East y Pensilvania se reunieron en la Academia de Pine Forge, PA, y embalaron 9.600 kits de cuidado personal, suministrados por ADRA para los afectados por el huracán Harvey en Texas. Miembros de seis iglesias en la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey también montaron 325 kits.

Los líderes de la Unión también designaron \$10,000 para cubrir los

gastos de viaje de los miembros autorizados que prestan servicios en grupos de respuesta a desastres. Lea más en [columbiaunionvisitor.com](http://columbiaunionvisitor.com).—V. Michelle Bernard

## LA UNIÓN DE COLUMBIA SE DESPIDE DE SU TESORERO

La Unión de Columbia se despidió de Seth Bardu, quien sirvió como tesorero de la Unión durante casi 12 años. “Más que administrar el dinero y procesar la nómina, promovió la tesorería como un centro de recursos para el ministerio y la misión”, dijo Dave Weigley, presidente, en un comunicado oficial.

Bardu se unió al equipo de oficiales de la Unión en 2006 y anteriormente trabajó en la tesorería de la Conferencia del Noreste, la Unión del Sur, el Sistema de Salud Adventista y la Conferencia Central del Sur.

Bardu renunció el 31 de agosto. En su reunión de septiembre, Weigley pidió al Comité Ejecutivo de la Unión de Columbia que seleccionara un comité de búsqueda para comenzar el proceso de encontrar un nuevo tesorero.—VMB



## REGÍSTRESE PARA VIVANGELISMO

Vivangelismo, una celebración del ministerio 2017 en las iglesias hispanas a través de la Unión de Columbia, se llevará a cabo del 8 al 10 de diciembre en el Centro de Convenciones de Ocean City (Md.). Visite [vivangelismo.com](http://vivangelismo.com) para obtener información sobre hoteles y registración.—VMB

## LA UNIÓN AGRADECE A JOSÉ CORTÉS POR SU SERVICIO



José H. Cortés padre, presidente de la Conferencia de Nueva Jersey durante los últimos 10 años, se retira. Los líderes de la Unión, en la reunión de septiembre del Comité Ejecutivo, le dieron un reconocimiento a Cortés por sus 50 años de servicio a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, 30 de los cuales fueron en la Unión de Columbia.

Cortés ha sido un campeón de la misión y la ganancia de almas, dice Weigley. “Gracias por sus años de excelente servicio.”—VMB

## LA CONFERENCIA DE OHIO CELEBRA SU CAMPESTRE HISPANO

Más de 750 personas asistieron recientemente al campestre Hispano de la Conferencia de Ohio en el Campamento Mohaven en Danville, con el lema “Enciende una luz”. Los asistentes celebraron las recientes victorias en la conferencia, entre ellas, 103 personas que eligieron el bautismo en un solo día, una nueva iglesia organizada, proyectos de plantar nuevas iglesias y una ofrenda de \$19,000 que superó el objetivo de \$15,000, informa Peter Simpson (en la foto con jóvenes en los eventos del domingo), Coordinador de los Ministerios Hispánicos de la Conferencia de Ohio.—VMB



Over the past five years, the number of women in pastoral ministry within the Columbia Union Conference has grown to 40. Meet six women pastors who reflect on their call to ministry, as well as their challenges, successes and blessings.

*Oksana Wetmore*

# PRELIMES



**HEATHER CREWS**  
Mentored for Ministry

Growing up in a dual pastors' family, Heather Crews was no stranger to a pastor's lifestyle. As a 9-year-old heading from one church service to another, she recalls being a strong-willed pastor's kid, grabbing at every chance to delve into challenging Bible discussions with her father. "It was a joy to travel with my dad on the open road between Bible studies," she says.

By age 11, she boldly told her parents that she was no longer going to attend the junior Sabbath School class. Her motivation? The teacher didn't follow through on a reward for the daily lesson study, a task she had accomplished. Her parents gave her two choices: attend Sabbath School or get a job. She opted to help teach a kindergarten class.

Crews' desire to teach others about God never dissipated, and through the mentorship of her parents, who often pointed out new angles to consider when she faced challenges, she was able to find her own path. "The [Seventh-day] Adventist Church became more deeply 'my' church as I invested and served," Crews says. Her childhood experiences in ministry

and parents' mentorship were the "bedrock that became more concrete as I accepted my own call to gospel ministry."

However, following through on that call wasn't easy. The Adventist college she attended wouldn't allow women to study theology, which forced her to transfer. After graduating, she interned with a pastor who said, "Don't allow that woman to step foot on that platform." Still, she persisted.

After 18 years in ministry, Crews, who has a doctorate in ministry, says she is proud to lead Potomac Conference's Courthouse Road church near Richmond, Va., and work in a conference that "celebrates our successes."



**MARLEENA DEBROUGH**  
Obedient to the Call

Marleena Debrough, pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Prentis Park church in Portsmouth, Va., thought she was destined to be a physical therapist, until one day she felt God ordering her steps.

In 2002 at her graduation from physical therapy school, Debrough gave the class speech. The speech was such a success that many encouraged her to either become a politician or a preacher. She had no



desire to become either at the time, but the idea resurfaced after many elders at her church also encouraged her to pursue ministry. Now she sees this struggle as a positive. "I am strengthened in my ministry by knowing that my resistance [to becoming a pastor], and then finally consenting, has paid off," she says.

Her encouragement to other women who want to get involved in ministry is to be obedient to the call of God. "It is an honor to serve the Lord in any capacity," DeBrough says. "Knowing that God has called us, when He could have called anyone else, is a privilege."

Obedience to the call also means a strong evangelism focus. "Evangelism has become our culture," she explains. This culture "takes prayer meeting to the streets," offers youth prayer meetings to nurture younger generations and has established a five-tier ministry in which all parts of the team—including disciple-builders and leaders—are welcoming and nurturing.

### **M. ALEXANDRIA HARTER** Coming Full Circle

I didn't have any desire to be in pastoral ministry," admits M. Alexandria Harter. "I always wanted to teach." That changed in 2005 when she was called to be the pastor for young adults at the Azure Hills (Calif.) church, a 2,100-member congregation.

Through her work and focus on the Sabbath School program with her own two children, Gisela and Niko, she began to realize that her attention was shifting to Children's Ministries. Harter's passion for working with families and children led her to Ohio Conference's Kettering church, where she currently serves as the associate pastor for Children and Family Ministries.

There she made several changes and improvements, adding a bell choir, string orchestra, live nativity and Easter program; enhancing Vacation Bible School; and starting a day camp that involved families



within the community. Harter advises other women who aspire to be leaders to strive to be teachable. "Don't be the person that always thinks, 'I know it, I got it, and I don't need anyone else's help,'" she says.

After nearly 12 years in pastoral ministry, her passion to teach has almost come full circle. She hopes to write several books with families in mind, including a book inspired by her father, whom she says speaks with a heavy Argentinian accent. Titled, *Let Me Explain You Dis*, the book will share a daughter's take of her father's love and the things that helped her to become who she is today. Harter also wants to write curriculum for Sabbath School that focuses on intergenerational and collective worship.

### **SHIRLENE MCCLENDON** Prepared for This Moment

With five generations of Seventh-day Adventists before her, Shirlene McClendon was not new to the idea of ministering to members of a church or community. However, the idea of serving as an official pastor never entered her mind until three years ago, when she and her husband, Bill, accepted the call to co-pastor Chesapeake Conference's Ellicott City (Md.) church.

McClendon spent much of her early career as an elementary school teacher after studying music in college. Once she recognized that ministering to children was her God-given gift, she knew it would complement her husband's focus on adults. "Our passion together is the mission of God's church," she says. When the opportunity came to lead the Children's Ministries program at Ellicott City, she knew she was the right person for the job. "All the things that I have done in my life, including Adventurers, Pathfinders, music and teaching, have opened a whole world in pastoral ministry," she says. "It is everything that my heart wants to do."

She quickly saw the needs of the church and created KIDZFEST—a fun-filled, activity-driven special Sabbath for children ages 4-12. What started as a small program with five kids, grew to be a favorite, with attendance blooming to 85-90 children.

McClendon, alongside her husband, also actively works to mentor and train members through leadership retreats, church growth practicum and Chesapeake's Restore conferences, which highlight strategies that help revive churches. After three years, it's already made a difference at Ellicott City. The



church has grown by more than 200 members, and nearly 70 percent of those members are actively involved in church.

When asked how she mentors and motivates others to be involved in ministry, she adds, “You have to take people at whatever point they are, figure out their skills and talents, support them and praise their successes.”

### **TACYANA NIXON** Lifted By a Few to Serve Many

**T**acyana Nixon remembers the Sabbath she stood at the pulpit of her Princeton (N.J.) church and preached her heart out to the congregants, shortly after the 2015 vote on whether divisions could decide about women’s ordination. At the end of her sermon, she noticed several church elders, her husband and their 2-year-old daughter begin to approach the rostrum. She stood in awe as they laid hands on her and prayed over her ministry. “The people I serve saw the spirit working in me, and there was no difficulty that could overshadow the beauty of that moment,” she says.

Nearly four years ago, Nixon began her pastoral ministry in the New Jersey Conference at the



age of 22, making her one of the youngest female lead pastors in the North American Division (NAD). Through the encouragement of her family, church and mentors like Esther Knott, associate director for the NAD Ministerial department, she was ready to face the challenge.

“Pastor Tacyana brings many pastoral gifts to her ministry. I’ve seen her exhibit courage, sensitivity toward others, unselfishness and deep devotion through study and preaching,” Knott says.

Nixon works to bridge the generational gap within her multicultural church and also opens her home to the Princeton students. “I have learned the importance of sitting around a table with students, getting to know them better and breaking bread together,” she says, or in their case, digging into haystacks.

**Editor’s Note:** At press time, Nixon had recently completed her service in New Jersey Conference and moved to Michigan with her husband, Michael, who recently began serving as vice president for diversity and inclusion at Andrews University.

### **ANN RODA** Finding the Sweet Spot

**A**fter spending nearly 10 years as a pastor at Chesapeake Conference’s New Hope church in Fulton, Md., and now serving as the vice president for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at Adventist HealthCare, headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md., Ann Roda can look back at her career and see that “this is a continuum of the goal that God has given me,” she says.

She started her ministry journey in Georgia-Cumberland Conference as a young pastor. During that time, women pastors were hardly recognized. Roda had to overcome the challenge of being the only female pastor in the room and not being clumped with the pastors’ wives. For her it was hard to find a role model and a community.



Despite the hardships, she believed that God called her for a reason. “There was a higher calling for me to open doors for women and to help congregations understand what ministry is like [for] a woman leader,” she says. “It is difficult when people are telling you that you are living a life of disobedience by being a female pastor, but you must face the skepticism.”

Fellow workers tested her skills and abilities, yet she had one constant supporter in her corner—her husband, Jose Hernandez, a chaplain. “He was 110 percent supportive of my pastoral ministry experience and did not allow for gender inequality to get in the way,” Roda says.

The challenges of being a female pastor have also come with rewards. To Roda, young kids showing that they want to serve Jesus and someday become pastors themselves is the greatest affirmation. She also believes that the most rewarding aspect of ministry is absolute surrender and dependence on God, something she learned after leaving a lucrative nursing career to enter the ministry. “What I love most about ministry is what I dislike the most about it as well,” she says. “It is difficult to let go. However, there is a sweet spot in surrendering.”



## CO-LABORERS WITH CHRIST

Within the Columbia Union Conference, 40 women clergy serve as pastors, chaplains, religion professors and ministry leaders. In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, we recognize and applaud their dedication to advancing Christ's mission.



**Adventist HealthCare** > Stephanie Grant, Shady Grove Medical Center; Jean Ibanez, Shady Grove Medical Center; Judith Mufuh, Shady Grove Medical Center; Denny Rengifo, Washington Adventist Hospital; Ann Roda,\* Vice President for Mission Integration and Spiritual Care ❖ **Allegheny East Conference** > Marleena Debrough,\* Prentis Park, Portsmouth, Va.; Lisa Smith-Reid, First Church of Seventh-day Adventists, Washington, D.C.; Novella Smith, Metropolitan, Hyattsville, Md. ❖ **Allegheny West Conference** > Kim Bulgin, Grace Community, Euclid, Ohio; Regina Johnson, Grace Community, Euclid, Ohio ❖ **Chesapeake Conference** > Lerone Carson, Spencerville, Silver Spring, Md.; Andrea Jakobson, Spencerville, Silver Spring, Md.; Shirlene McClendon,\* Ellicott City (Md.); Marilyn Scott, New Hope, Fulton, Md.; Darnisha Thomas, New Hope, Fulton, Md.; Kandace Zollman, Williamsport (Md.) ❖ **Kettering College** > Anne Collier-Freed, Religion Professor ❖ **Kettering Adventist HealthCare** > Shanel Jacques, Spiritual Services; Mariya Marton, Southview Medical Center; Linda Farley-Meyer, Kettering Medical Center; Keren Pagan, Kettering 60; Richa Stevens, Ministry Care Line ❖ **New Jersey Conference** > Tacyana Nixon,\* most recently at Princeton (N.J.) ❖ **Ohio Conference** > Lori Farr, Miamisburg (Ohio); Buffy Halvorsen, Director of Family Ministries for the Ohio Conference; M. Alexandria Harter,\* Kettering (Ohio) ❖ **Pennsylvania Conference** > Angel Smith, REACH Philadelphia (Pa.) ❖ **Potomac Conference** > Elaine Arthur, Community Praise, Alexandria, Va.; Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, Sligo, Takoma Park, Md.; Therezinha Barbalho, seminary; Heather Crews,\* Courthouse Road, North Chesterfield, Va.; Jennifer Deans, Living Faith, Sterling, Va.; Debbie Eisele, Mega-district; Pranitha Fielder, Sligo, Takoma Park, Md.; Taylor Laurie, most recently at Restoration Praise Center, Bowie, Md.; Sheryllyn O'Ffil, Associate Youth Ministries director for the Potomac Conference; Sonia Perez, Beltsville (Md.); Renee Stepp, Williamsburg (Va.) district ❖ **Washington Adventist University** > Tiffany Brown, Director, REACH Urban Evangelism Center; Olive Hemmings, Professor of Religion and Ethics

\* Featured profiles

# Just Like Her Mother

Hao Ya Jie never imagined she would grow up to help establish a strong Adventist presence in her native mainland China, much less lead a 7,000-member church district.

*V. Michelle Bernard*

**H**ao Ya Jie thought her mother was ridiculous because, whenever she met someone new, she would start preaching and sharing the gospel with them. But after reading several of Ellen White's books herself, she became convinced her mother was doing the right thing.

Growing up in a Seventh-day Adventist home in Shenyang, China, Hao felt uncomfortable every time she passed the former Adventist church. During 1957–1979, the government closed down all the Christian churches, and the Adventists lost the building. Later on a Sunday-keeping church started using it.



Hao says her family and a few other families worshiped secretly in an apartment. When asked why the other churches could meet openly, while the Adventists had to meet in secret, she explains, “Because there was nobody to stand up for the rights of the Adventist people. ... After the great Cultural Revolution, some of the pastors died; other leaders passed away, too.” Little did she know she would one day help to establish a strong Adventist presence in her native city and protect one of the church's long-owned properties.

Just like her mother, Hao always felt the desire to minister to others, but several times resisted switching to full-time ministry. She wanted to keep her well-paid job as a cashier for the government so she could financially support the elderly. But after many visits to senior members, she realized what they needed was a caring person, not money or gifts. Recognizing the need for a paid minister, Hao placed cash in an envelope for a local church elder and wrote a note encouraging him to get further ministerial training. He didn't take the suggestion, and the need for a ministry presence remained.

“I felt there were so many people who needed the gospel. The more I visited people, the stronger feeling I had that I should serve them,” says Hao, who then decided to take off several days so she could minister to members. Those days off turned into more than a year of leave from her well-paid job with benefits. After struggling with the decision to work in ministry full-time, she prayed about an illness she was dealing with that made her weak and caused her to lose her voice. “Please heal me,” she prayed. “If you don't choose me to be in ministry, then you don't need to heal me.”

After that time, whenever she taught or preached, her pain lessened. Then, after speaking, she would lose her voice again. Once she became a full-time pastor, the pain left and did not return, even when she preached multiple times in a day. Finally, she felt assured that God was calling her to ministry.

## Bathed in Prayer

In 1986 Hao started working full-time in ministry. She and a group of other young workers, mostly women,



bathed their work in prayer. “At that time, we had no other method. We were so young,” she says. What started as 10 people meeting secretly in a crowded apartment has now blossomed into a thriving Adventist community. Hao prayed that God would bless her ministry and multiply the church. And He did. She and her team have baptized more than 8,000 new believers, and she now leads the 7,000-member Beiguan District. The district includes 126 churches and church plants, including the 2,000-member Beiguan mother church, the largest Adventist church in China, and employs 140 full-time pastors and Bible workers. Constituents support a kindergarten that serves the local community, nursing homes to care for the elderly, a 10-day program that teaches the community how to adopt healthy lifestyle habits and more.

There is also a vigorous ministry training program that 75 students have completed. Each year Hao and her team also host a 10-day training program for church ministry leaders. “Afterwards they are motivated to go and do the work,” she says.

Rebekah Liu, a pastor in Shanghai, has known Hao since 1999 and says that she is a good leader because of self-sacrifice. Liu shared a story from 2008 when she says Hao slept on a wet floor after bringing earthquake relief funds to another church. But, Liu continued, the key to Hao’s success in Shenyang is preaching Jesus Christ. She adds, many people try to use church strategies without the meat, the content [of the gospel], “but it is the only thing the church can really offer.”

## The Church in China

Due to government requirements that prohibit foreign influence, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has limited oversight in mainland China, yet the work continues to flourish. According to the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* for 2017, there are 429,000 Adventist members and 1,176 churches in China. Local leaders say the pastoral workforce includes some 300 women.

## Power of Prayer

Prayer has played an important role in Hao’s ministry, especially in 2013, when her church had a financial dispute with the local government about one of its long-owned downtown properties. In addition to members praying in their homes, two designated members met at church and prayed about the situation every hour around the clock. Others protested the government’s refusal to pay the agreed amount for use of the property. As the situation escalated, Hao and others were arrested and jailed.

The imprisoned Adventists prayed and fasted for five days. Hao says prayers from believers across the country helped lead to their release. But during her imprisonment, Hao used her time wisely. She preached the gospel to her fellow prison inmates and questioners, just like her mother might have done.



# Forward in Faith

Six women leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church reflect on their journeys to ministry and leadership lessons learned along the way.

By Elizabeth Anderson

## 1 Teresa Ferreira Executive Secretary, Maritime Conference

“A year ago, if someone would have told me I’d be here, I would have said, ‘No way!’” says Teresa Ferreira, who recently assumed a trifold role with Canada’s Maritime Conference as executive secretary, education superintendent and director of Camp Ministries. “But when I received the call, I was humbled,” she adds. “[My husband and I] prayed and stepped forward in faith.”

Growing up on a farm in New Brunswick, Ferreira planned to become a lawyer, but later felt called to education. And more than once, when she felt ready to leave that field, “God sent people to encourage me to stick with it,” she says. Her work led her to Asia and eventually to Alberta, where she most recently served as principal of Coralwood Adventist Academy. “I have a vision for Adventist education and the spiritual development of each child,” she explains.

Because service to the Lord is her soul’s lifeblood, along with a passion to keep conference parishioners on fire for God, she challenges others to remember Acts 2, which discusses the gifts God bestows, and Psalm 16:8, which admonishes unwavering faith. On leadership, she says, “Too often we are hard-hearted and soft-headed, but we need to be hard-headed and soft-headed—grounded in biblical principal and able to stand for truth, but everything we do and say should be bathed in love.”



## 2 Marianne Dyrud Kolkmann Executive Secretary, Danish Union

“I never thought I was going to work for the church in any capacity,” says Pastor Marianne Dyrud Kolkmann, who has served in her current role since 2016. “My call to the ministry was not something that came crystal clear, but a struggle—hesitant resistance on my part. In my head, God must have better candidates than me.”

Though she planned to become a nurse like her mother, her work history includes roles in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, ranging from secretary to youth pastor, chaplain, pastor and youth director.

Kolkmann, who says she “poured out to God what was in my heart and all the questions I was struggling with,” also expresses appreciation for the people who “took me out of my comfort zone to stretch me.”

That growth included church leadership. Even though Kolkmann has turned down some positions because the timing wasn’t right, she says, “My trust in [God’s] timing has given me peace in that He prepares my heart, skills and personality. He will see to it that I will have the tug in the heart and feel it to be the right timing. ... God, Who leads and challenges my life and ministry, also equips for the call.”



## 3 Andrea Luxton President, Andrews University

“I wanted to be a secondary school teacher,” says Andrea Luxton, who has a doctorate in English, and recently completed her first year as the sixth president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s flagship university, based in Michigan. “I have had a philosophy that I will always leave doors open, look at the possibilities and pray about it, and if God wants me to go somewhere, those doors will open for me.”

Luxton’s career path includes teaching and heading the English department at Newbold College (England) and later serving as president. She also served as British Union education director, associate director of education for the General Conference, president of





Canadian University College (now Burman University), and provost of Andrews.

She says Psalm 139 has guided her way of looking at leadership. "I think that when the hardest times come, when you just don't know if you can do something, or you don't know where things are going, that [you] need to just step back and listen to God and make sure."

## 4 Sandra Roberts President, Southeastern California Conf.

“A zig-zaggy path and a lot of different opportunities,” is how Pastor Sandra Roberts describes her career track, which includes roles as campus chaplain, youth pastor and executive secretary. Her work for church-run summer camps lit her passion for ministry. She didn't expect to find full-time church employment and studied dietetics in college. However, Roberts landed an academy teaching job right out of school and has worked for the church ever since.

“There are times in our lives where [God] converges our various experiences,” she says, reflecting on the role she's held since 2013. “I'm so happy I have the education background because now I work with an education

system that's big and complex. I am grateful for my medical background now that I sit in on Adventist Health meetings. And even as pastor ... in every experience, I can look back and see how it converges at this moment.”

Regarding leadership, Roberts cites Joshua 3. As God's people prepared to cross the Jordan River,

they're told to watch and follow the Ark of the Covenant into unknown lands. And today, she says, when wading into uncharted territory, “the answer is to keep our eyes on the Holy One. Watch the Ark and when the Spirit of God moves, you move.”

## 5 Ella Simmons General Vice President, General Conference

“When I grew up, there was not a lot of support for little girls going into physical sciences, which was my preference,” recalls Ella Simmons, who has a doctorate in education. “I loved the notion of being a teacher as well, so it wasn't a big deal for me.”

Her accomplishments have book-ended the educational spectrum from pre-kindergarten to post graduate school. “In every instance ... the Lord snatched me up and put me in a leadership role,” she says. At the 2005 General Conference Session in St. Louis, Mo., she was



elected to serve as the first woman vice president for the worldwide Adventist Church. “The invitation to be considered [and] the nomination getting through committee [was a surprise]. And then I was completely blown away at the affirmative vote,” she admits. Now in her third, five-year term, she serves on

several educational boards and committees, including the International Board of Education and Adventist Accrediting Association.

On leadership she says, “You're always going to face challenges. ... No matter what happens ... it still always comes back to just remembering this is God's work. He has it, and He has me, and I need to keep my mind on Him in order to do what He would have me do, and to have peace while I'm doing it.”

## 6 Maximina Contreras President, Peruvian Union University

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:9, NKJV). Throughout her life, these words have been a source of guidance and encouragement for Maximina Contreras, president of Peruvian Union University.

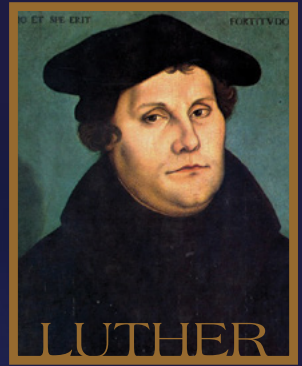
Contreras, who has a doctorate in administration, is a professional nurse with more than 30 years of experience in nursing, administration, teaching and management. Since 2013 she has been privileged to lead the Adventist university in her home country, which enrolls 13,000 students on three campuses and will celebrate its centennial in 2019. Within the community, Contreras and her university are known for their Seventh-day Adventist faith, values-centered teaching, community outreach and strong focus on health and service. “I have witnessed the Lord guiding many times through difficult circumstances leading to developments in favor of His educational institution,” she says.

Speaking about leadership, she adds, “My leadership hides in Christ.” Isaiah 49:16 articulates what this means: “Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands.” Contreras places all her trust and decisions in God's hands because “He always leads ... and will continue to do so until the end.”



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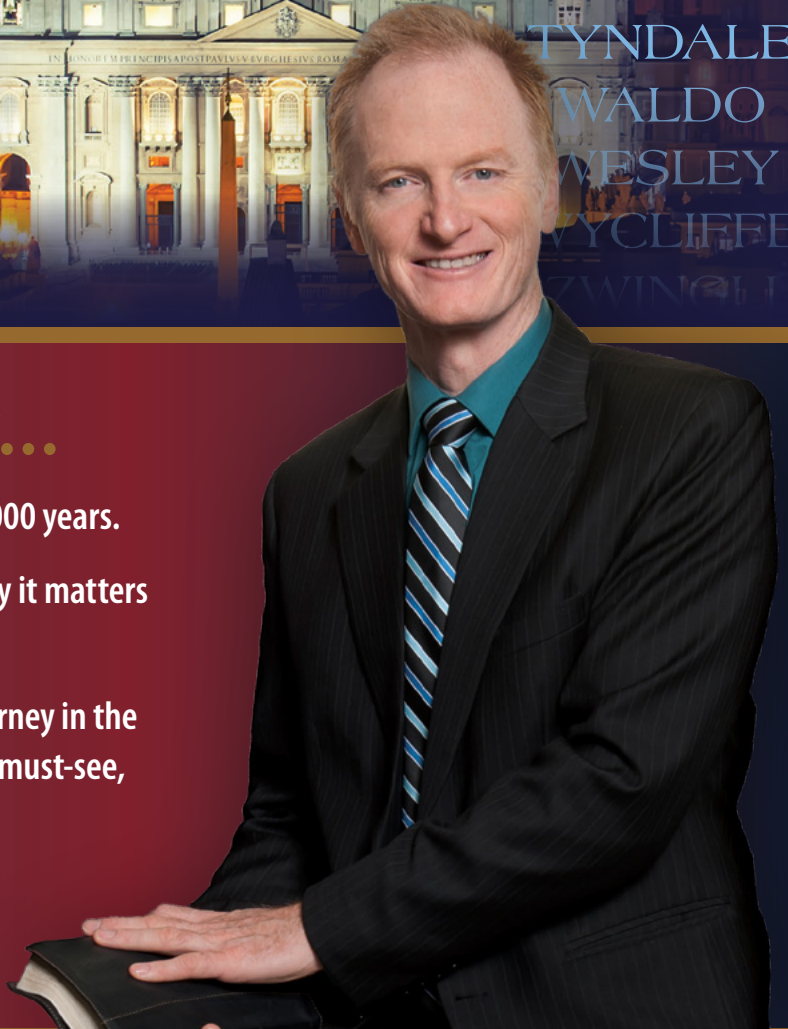
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# ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

## Conference Celebrates 50 Years

This year Allegheny East Conference (AEC) celebrates its 50th year. It was originally part of the Allegheny Conference, established in 1945. After a constituency session in May 1966, two committees were formed to address the needs of the growing conference. As a result of those meetings, Allegheny Conference divided its territory into east and west, effective January 1, 1967.

Since then, AEC has experienced exponential growth in its region, which covers portions of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia and West Virginia. In the past 50 years, AEC has expanded to over 40,000 members, more than 160 churches, missions and companies and an annual tithe base of \$33, 653,616. “It is because of the faithfulness of our constituents that God has blessed this conference to be able to prosper the way it has,” shares Lawrance E. Martin, vice president for finance.

Much of the growth can be attributed to the addition of several ethnic groups, including Haitian, African, Korean and Hispanic congregations. “We are committed to AEC’s mission of spreading the gospel ‘ta ethne’ (to all people



Current AEC administrators, Marcellus Robinson, vice president for administration; Henry J. Fordham III, president; and Lawrance E. Martin, vice president for finance, are honored to be part of the conference’s historical 50th anniversary.

groups) and welcome individuals from all language groups,” says Marcellus T. Robinson, vice president for administration.

Henry J. Fordham III, conference president, selected the theme “Standing on the Promises” for the conference during this anniversary year. “I believe the Allegheny East Conference has only come this far by relying on the promises of God, and it is also what will sustain us in the future,” Fordham says. To highlight this theme, the conference has been sharing daily Bible promises on social media, covering topics such as peace, finances, families and eternal life.



This 1962 article details the establishment of Allegheny East and West conferences.

PHOTO BY JOSHUA MARTIN

## North Philadelphia Hosts Free Health Clinic

The North Philadelphia (Pa.) church recently opened its doors to the community through Avenues of the Soul, a free vision and dental clinic. The weekend event was made possible through partnership with the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN). Volunteers traveled from California and Texas to provide eye exams and dental care, including tooth extractions. Doctors and volunteers served nearly 215 walk-in patients.

The church reserved Sabbath for worship and health

education, and set up informational stations, offering guidance on topics such as exercise, water and temperance. Two food trucks provided free vegan meals. Guests enjoyed an afternoon concert, featuring local personality and recording artist Jermaine Dolly.

“We are extremely proud and excited to say that this church did something that has never been done [here],” says Marquis Johns, pastor.

This project was part of the church’s SERVivors series, which promotes serving others.—*Emeraude Victorin*

## Wilbert F. Mays Holds Fifth Annual Awards Gala

The Wilbert F. Mays Adventist School (WFM) in Englewood, N.J., recently held its fifth annual Jewel of the Nile Awards Gala. The theme for the gala was “Achieving Greatness.” This annual event raises funds for responsible expansion and scholarships and promotes community awareness for the school. This year’s funds will also be used for physical and technological upgrades to support STEM and math enrichment programs, and the expansion of the physical education program.

Each year the school leaders recognize individuals who have made contributions to their community. This year they presented the Philanthropic Award to Darlene Cox, a local hospital administrator, and the Community Service Award to Renee Forte-Clarke, an academic support counselor at a public high school.

Keynote speaker Milton Brown, a member of the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., is the first African-American to earn a doctorate in Organic Chemistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He shared that God has designed each individual’s purpose in their DNA.

Lively Praise, a group of WFM students, provided entertainment, recent alum Kashawn Broomfield sang and the Soulful Sounds Band provided music.

The WFM was established in 1999. Consistent with the founder’s vision, it remains disciplined in its commitment to develop students to be responsible citizens,



*During the Jewel of the Nile Awards Gala, Wilbert F. Mays II (left) and Benjamin R. Mays, receive a photo of their grandfather and school’s namesake, Wilbert F. Mays.*

who will positively influence and elevate communities.

“This event energizes and mobilizes people from all aspects of our society,” shares Cox. “It provides an incredibly unique opportunity for them to come together to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments of the school, its students, those who give tireless service, and, most importantly, to contribute to the school’s continued success.”

## Community Services Director Honored



The Women’s League for Minority Education of Chester County, Pa., recently presented its prestigious Pillar of the Community Award to Minnie McNeil, Allegheny East Conference’s Adventist Community Services (ACS) director. The award recognizes McNeil as a positive role model whose contributions to the community are so extensive they are deemed a “pillar” on which the community rests.

Among the many contributions that she was cited for is the establishment, along with her husband, Andrew, of the W. C. Atkinson Memorial Service Center (WCAMSC) in Coatesville, Pa. She is currently the advisor to the WCAMSC board.

She also serves as coordinator of the Columbia Union ACS/Disaster Response, and serves on the Board of Directors of the North American Division ACS. Following the Katrina and Rita hurricanes in Louisiana, she was chosen to lead the Katrina Rebuild Project, in which volunteers repaired or rebuilt more than 100 homes.



## Conference Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry

This year the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) celebrates 50 years of history, ministry and exemplary service. As AWC continues to mark this momentous milestone, here is their story—a story of beginnings and blessings, love and legacy:

AWC was rooted in the creation of regional or black conferences. It was April 10, 1944, when the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to organize nine such conferences in North America to better address the needs of African-Americans and the opportunities for growth in their communities.

On January 1, 1945, the Columbia Union Conference officially established the Allegheny Conference to work within its eight-state territory of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Because the territory was so large, leaders decided to divide the conference into two regions—east and west. In May 1966, delegates from across the Allegheny Conference voted to name the new conferences Allegheny East and Allegheny West. They determined that the new conference in the western part of the union would be headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, and focus on growing the church's work in Ohio, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, specific sections of Virginia and the northwest portion of Maryland.

That year members of the newly formed AWC met in Columbus and elected Walter A. Starks to serve as their first president and Aaron N. Brogden to serve as their first secretary-treasurer. They also elected several departmental directors.

The conference started with 4,339 members and 30 churches. Today there are nearly 18,000 members, 72 organizations comprised of 57 churches, six companies, five mission groups, four church plants, two schools and an annual tithes of more than \$6.9 million dollars.

On January 8, 2012, members elected William T. Cox Sr. to serve as the ninth president of AWC. Today President Cox, Executive Secretary Marvin Brown and



*Executive Officers (left to right) William T. Cox Sr., president; H. Candace Nurse, treasurer; Marvin Brown, executive secretary; and departmental directors celebrate Allegheny West Conference's 50th anniversary.*

Treasurer H. Candace Nurse are passionate about the work in AWC and have sought to move "Ministry Beyond the Walls."

Cox recently shared what that means: "During the last four years, our vision has been to move from membership to discipleship; grow membership through evangelism, church planting and small groups; improve our financial position; and improve communication within our diverse and growing church family."

Cox continues, "Our dedicated and faithful members have embraced this concept, and it has become more than a theme; it has become part of who we are: 'Ministry Beyond the Walls.' From Cincinnati to Cleveland, Wilkinsburg to Lynchburg, Danville to Zanesville, and all points between, we are seeing the blessings of the Lord in Allegheny West."



## Young Adults Grow at iTRUST Retreat

Fourteen years ago, Carla Valles, wife of Steven Valles, pastor of the Parkwood Avenue Temple in Toledo, Ohio, had a vision of creating a spiritual retreat geared toward young people. Recently inspired by the theme “iTRUST” that her son, Justin, created, Carla organized an inspirational weekend in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Thirty-six people from five different churches throughout Allegheny West Conference (AWC), and one person from Atlanta enjoyed this quiet retreat in the mountains.

During the week, attendees took part in leadership-building activities, worship and team-building skills. H. Candace Nurse, conference treasurer, presented a seminar on the importance of budgeting. Each young person received a “paycheck” to take to the “banker” for cash. For some young adults, it was their first time filling out a deposit slip or even thinking about a savings account. With the cash in hand, they had the choice to spend it on various stations, such as travel, insurance, home, entertainment and church. Afterward, the group discussed budgeting and the importance and meaning of tithes and offerings.

In another session, Richard Langford, CEO of the Frederick Douglass Community Association, spoke to the young adults about entrepreneurship and job opportunities for those with or without college degrees.

For fun during the week, the young adults explored tourist attractions, shopped and played miniature golf.

On Friday night, leaders prepared an agape feast and communion. They transformed the cabins to fit the part, including tablecloths and goblets. Together, young and old sang songs and read the story of The Last Supper, followed by foot-washing and a communion service. The evening ended with a powerful testimony service.

“The retreat was an awesome success and brought these young people closer to God and each other,” says Carla. “Many came not really knowing each other well, but left as family. They are looking forward to next year’s retreat—themed iLIVE.”



Jessica Holcomb, a member of Hilltop Community Worship Center in Columbus, Ohio, and Marquis Hawthorne, a member of Ephesus church, also in Columbus, attend the iTRUST retreat in Tennessee.

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE 50th Anniversary

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# THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

## Sola Scriptura

This fall marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. While Martin Luther was not the first reformer, his posting and printing of the 95 Theses, or complaints against the Catholic Church, are considered the launching point of the reformation.

One of the foundational doctrines of the reformation was sola scriptura—a recognition that the Bible alone is to be our source of doctrines and practice. Rather than accepting church tradition or other kinds of authority, we must look to the Bible as the reliable source of God’s teaching and direction for our lives.

The power of God’s Word is evident in this passage: “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:15-17, NKJV).

Through the Bible, God teaches us, corrects us, equips us and brings an understanding of salvation through faith in Jesus. His Word is truly comprehensive in its scope.

This anniversary is a good time to reflect on the need for reformation. Our human heart and the culture around us are continually trying to pull us away from the solid anchor of God’s Word. Are you needing to rediscover sola scriptura in your personal life? Are there areas where the teachings or practices of the Bible need to be re-established as the authority by which you evaluate what you do and believe? We each need a daily reformation to the guidance of the Scriptures.



**Rick Remmers**  
*President*

## Klinedinst New Church Growth and Evangelism Director



David Klinedinst joins the Chesapeake Conference as director of Church Growth and Evangelism, filling the vacancy created when Gary Gibbs accepted the call to serve as president of the Pennsylvania Conference earlier this year. “Pastor Klinedinst has a solid foundation in pastoral and evangelistic experience,” says Rick Remmers, president. “He has earned a reputation for church planting and development of pastoral teams that will help us pursue our mission.”

Klinedinst has more than 20 years of ministry experience, most recently serving as evangelist and lay-ministry trainer for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. Klinedinst also worked as Personal Ministries director for Christian Record Services for the Blind in Lincoln, Neb., and as a district pastor for the Pennsylvania Conference from 1997-2005.

“My desire is to see a Christ-centered, mission-driven, lay-led church reaching the world for Christ,” Klinedinst says.

He is married to Marquita, a registered nurse. The couple has two daughters, Melaney, 13, and Emiley, 9.

## Spencerville Academy Chaplain Ordained

**T**im Soper, chaplain and religion teacher at Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), was recently ordained to the gospel ministry at Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. In his homily, Rick Remmers, president of Chesapeake Conference, said, “Tim, I encourage you to remember that Jesus Himself called you. He will equip you, He will empower you.”

Addressing the congregation, Soper shared, “In every step of my life, God has seen fit to demonstrate His love in my life through you.”

Before coming to SAA three years ago, Soper ministered as a Bible teacher and chaplain at Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio and Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md. He holds a Master of Arts in Religion and Ethical Leadership from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.



*During his ordination, Tim Soper pays tribute to his family for their positive influence in his life.*

## “Courageous” Campers Converge for Camporee

**M**ore than 550 Pathfinders, leaders and volunteers representing clubs from four conferences—Allegheny East, Chesapeake, Pennsylvania and Potomac—recently participated in Chesapeake Conference’s 2017 Courageous Invitational Camporee. The five-day event took place on the Highland View Academy campus in Hagerstown, Md.

“What made this camporee unique was that it took place during the summer, giving Pathfinders the

opportunity to enjoy activities such as water-skiing, swimming and the slip-and-slide,” says Carl Rodriguez, Chesapeake Conference Youth Ministries director. He says camporees typically take place in the fall when the weather is too cool for water sports.

Unlike the annual Classoree, which focuses primarily on honors classes and spiritual development, the camporee emphasized recreation and worship. Clubs joined in drilling and marching exercises, a flag synchronization contest, drama presentations, community service projects and Bible intelligence competitions. Activities included horseback riding, archery, basketball, mountain-boarding, a ropes challenge course and playing on the giant inflatables, supplied by Playground Ministries.

“The camporee was wonderful! The kids were happy and the instructors were really good,” says Ellen Samalio, Pathfinder area-coordinator and member of the Martinsburg (W.Va.) church.

Richard Aguilera, “The Mud Guy,” a pastor and popular speaker at youth events, spoke to the juniors-age group. Alvin Payne, a pastor and owner of Playground Ministries, spoke to the teens. Javier Mendez, a lay-pastor from Pennsylvania, led the staff in worship and leadership workshops.

See more photos at [facebook.com/chesapeakeconference](https://facebook.com/chesapeakeconference).



*Fortress Dwellers Pathfinders from the Lawndale Spanish (Pa.) church win first place in the Fancy Drill Team category.*

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA YOUNG AND ROSANG PUJA



# MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

## Boulevard Church Reaches Out to Community

Outreach at the Boulevard church in Charleston, W.Va., involves training and equipping ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the name of Jesus, so that all might see, hear and experience God's love in tangible ways," says Dawn Wadsworth, a member of Charleston church.

For the past two years, the church has hosted five Peruvian missionaries to help reach the local Hispanic community. Practicing Christ's method, they met people where they were—walking the neighborhood, joining soccer games, attending ESL classes and eating at Mexican restaurants—and made friends in the process. Recently, the missionaries returned to Peru, having completed their allotted time in the U.S. Gustavo Parada, a newly hired pastor, continues to develop the work the missionaries began.

The Adventurer club meets in an adjacent room during a Spanish service held in the church. This works out well for families with children who are looking for fun, educational opportunities for their children. "I really feel a sense of togetherness when, after the club activity, the Adventurer group and the Spanish folks share a simple meal together. I feel very blessed to have their friendship and to serve their children," says Adventurer leader Laura Hoffman.

The church also reached community families with a science program. Hoffman received training through the NASA educators program allowing her to borrow LEGO®



*Walter Cardenas, Hispanic Ministries coordinator, speaks at the newly established Spanish service, held bi-monthly in the Boulevard church in Charleston, W.Va.*

robotic kits from the NASA Center of West Virginia. She, along with the missionaries, recently hosted a six-week-long class. Two morning classes accommodated up to 20 children, in addition to parents watching, assisting and visiting. Some of the children were from Boulevard Adventist Academy, while others were from homeschool families. This scenario was repeated in the evening in Spanish with the missionaries leading out. Sixty-two children attended the six week program. "Every week I received calls from people who had heard about the class and were asking to join," Hoffman comments.

To make the event spiritually-oriented, each robotics class started with prayer and a lesson that introduced a scientific question the students were to solve that day. At the end of class, students tested their creations and modified their designs. Then the children waited with anticipation to see whose name would be drawn for a LEGO prize. To qualify for the drawing, the children brought a completed *Amazing Adventures* Bible lesson distributed the week before. It was a wonderful way for parents to partner with their children in Bible study.

"The world is broken and in need of a Savior," says Savior," says Wadsworth. "The call is for everyone to combine their time, talents and treasures, and in unity, touch lives for Jesus."



*Children eagerly participate in the robotics classes led by Adventurer leader, Laura Hoffman, with help from several Peruvian missionaries.*

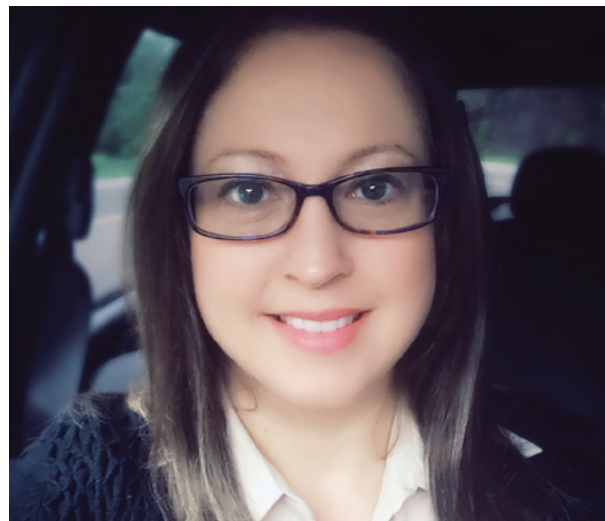
## Williamson Women Reach Out With Compassion

**K**ay Thaxton, Women's Ministries director at the Williamson (W.Va.) church, has been conducting women's meetings for at least a decade.

As Thaxton, a hospital precertification clerk, intermittently hears of coworker's troubles, she reaches out tangibly by collecting necessary donations and soliciting prayers from her church family for heart-breaking situations that people have shared with her. She is also shining her light in new ways, by inviting people to Women's Ministries events. "I never was one to invite the public, but that's what Women's Ministries is about, and people actually come when you extend the invitation!" Thaxton says. "This is the first year that I have stepped out of my comfort zone and invited others—besides church members—to come and partake, to learn more about God, to fellowship with other women."

Thaxton continues, "The women who are a part of the Williamson group want to touch their community. They want God to lead them in their goals rather than trying to rubber stamp an idea of their own that might not be His will."

In the spring of this year, the women made what Thaxton calls "Blessing Bags." These consist of a bag filled with a few personal care items, a GLOW tract and



*Kay Thaxton, Women's Ministries director for the Williamson (W.Va.) church, works to not only minister to the women in her church, but to also reach others that the Lord places in her path.*



*To minister in their community, Williamson Women's Ministries members distribute "Blessing Bags" to nourish the body and soul.*

granola bars. The name of the church is signed on the bag. These Blessing Bags are simple to keep in the car and give to a homeless person, a hitchhiker or anyone in need. They not only ease physical hunger but hopefully stir people's spiritual thirst, too.

Russell Murnighan, pastor of the Williamson and Logan (W.Va.) congregations, shares, "Williamson Women's Ministries wonderfully embodies the spirit of Total Member Involvement, especially because it is seen by the members as an outreach ministry and not just a club."

All ladies of the church are invited to be involved in Women's Ministries meetings, and visitors are welcome. One guest shares that "having the support of a group of women that deals with similar issues in their spiritual walk is such a blessing. ... I'm definitely coming back." Thaxton's mother-in-law, Nancy, who lives more than an hour away, has been attending and expresses, "I've enjoyed it ... I love spending time with you all!" Another guest comments, "I have been blessed the last two times I've come to the Women's Ministries ... I've needed it."—*Chloe Murnighan*



# NEWS NEW JERSEY

## Cling to Jesus

**W**e live in a world that seems to spin much faster than we want it to, with each day accelerating a little more. We feel overwhelmed, tired and often discouraged because we want to produce and accomplish more goals than we did the day before. Months and years go by, leaving us feeling defeated.

Jesus says, “But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful” (Mark 4:19, NIV). It is during these very times that we must remember to hold onto the promises of our Heavenly Father revealed in the pages of His Word. If you are tired and frustrated, cling to Jesus’ promise: “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28-29, KJV). In the light of His Word, He will teach you—as He did in the Sermon on the Mount—to ask for the bread that you need to faithfully serve Him in your family, work, church and community.

I can imagine His reassuring whispers: “Come my dear son, my dear daughter; do not worry about tomorrow; the storehouse of heaven is open for you; remember that silver and gold, power and glory are mine; I depose kings and place others; wait on me; rest under my wings, the wings of the Most High.”

Come and sit at the table with Jesus and receive the rest, peace and security that only He can supply.



**Patricia Monteiro**  
*Executive Assistant to  
the President*

## 60 Teens Participate in Newark Mission Trip



*Sixty teens participate in My City, My Passion, a mission trip serving their local community.*

**F**or the third consecutive year, the Youth Ministries department participated in My City, My Passion, a local mission trip. Sixty teenagers spent nine days at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Tranquility, where they were trained in leadership and then served the neighborhood of Ironbound in Newark. The teens cleaned the streets, planned activities for local kids, distributed 70 lunch bags to homeless people, prayed with individuals and collaborated with Mantena Global Care, an organization that assists the community.

Jorge Coxaj, pastor of the Passaic Spanish I and Passaic Spanish II churches, brought powerful messages each night, and the youth left spiritually renewed and inspired. “I’m changing my life for God from now on because of what I have experienced here,” says Erick Silva, a member of the Waterbury (Conn.) church.

“We started this project with 14 teens, then the second year we had 35. This year we had 60! We hope in 2018 we will reach 100!” says Paulo Macena, Youth Ministries director.

PHOTO BY JORGE PILLCO

## Bergenfield Mission Caleb Celebrates 1st Anniversary



Church members pack the house to celebrate Bergenfield Mission Caleb Group's first anniversary.

The Bergenfield Mission Caleb Group recently celebrated its first-founding anniversary, themed “Going Deeper, Reaching Higher & Growing Stronger in Christ.” Members of the First Filipino church and the Filipino English church, as well as neighboring churches, attended this anniversary.

The packed Sabbath started at 9:30 a.m. with Sabbath School. For the divine service, guest speaker Mike Gill, conference executive secretary, delivered the message, titled “Why are We Here?” Separate worship services for children, youth and young adults were also available. The afternoon included musical concerts, and the evening concluded at 10 p.m. with a celebration of thanksgiving for the baptisms scheduled for the following Sabbath.

“By God’s leading alone, we have reached here thus far. Through these humble beginnings, the Lord is accomplishing His mission,” says Emmanuel Jardiniano, pastor of the Filipino churches. “Our district now [includes] three churches.”

## Collaborative Effort Results in 10 Baptisms

Church leaders recently baptized 10 individuals as a result of a combined effort from the Collingwood Park church in Tinton Falls and its daughter church, The Grace Place Mission Caleb in Lakewood. Vencot Dyer, an international pastor who hails from Jamaica, richly blessed attendees with powerful messages. He led a three-week evangelistic series themed “Let’s Follow Jesus.” Each night Dyer presented the message of hope and a new life in Christ. He also shared basic health messages, tips on financial independence and family life nuggets.

It took both churches months of prayer and preparation to get ready for this evangelistic series, with the laypeople and team members doing much of the work. “We praise God for the sacrificial collaborative work of Pastor Dyer, his Bible worker and the entire Collingwood Park and The Grace Place churches. Most of all, we thank God for the 10 precious souls who gave their lives to Christ through baptism,” says Jasmine Stephens, Collingwood Park church member.

Leaders from the Collingwood Park church and The Grace Place celebrate with baptismal candidates: (back row) Juliana Marson, lay pastor of The Grace Place; Enock Bouzy, lay pastor of Collingwood Park; Pastor Vencot Dyer, guest speaker from Jamaica; and Bible worker Robert McDonald; (middle row) baptismal candidates Josephine Okyere, Getrude Okyere, Sherlet Baboual Joseph, Joan Burton Gregory, Joseph Doeh Bryant, Viscount George Gregory and Astley “Kevin” Gregory; (front row) Gabbana Warren. Not pictured: Hershey Tamayo and Jacqueline Lewis.





## Worthington Celebrates 8th International Sabbath

Earlier this year, the Worthington church community gathered to celebrate their 8th annual International Sabbath. Invited guests, friends and community partners assembled with church members from more than 40 nations to worship the God of all nations. “Such an occasion is a reminder of the hope of the Second Advent. All God’s people from every ethnic grouping will unite in one accord in praise, and worship as one family,” shares Yuliyán Filipov, senior pastor.

Participants marched into the sanctuary, carrying flags of each nation represented at the church. Many embraced their culture by wearing flamboyant traditional clothing from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Pacific and Caribbean islands. Just as at the Day of Pentecost, participants read the last recorded prayer of Jesus in John 17 in an assortment of languages. Jeremy Wong, youth pastor, captivated children by relating a story of how God protected his own grandfather.

Two young adults, Matthew Sconce and Esther Pascal, performed musical selections on the flute and saxophone. They joined invited musical guests Columbus Ambassadors for Christ, as the choir sang the familiar hymn, “Blessed Assurance,” in English, Tamil, Malayam and Hindi.



Members and visitors represent more than 40 nations during Worthington church’s International Sabbath celebration.

Emmanuel Samuthram, longtime Worthington member, presented an inspiring, soul-stirring sermon. “Chaplain Sam,” as he is affectionately called in the Madison Correctional Facility, spoke on the prison culture and the story of the Prodigal Son. This is the same correctional facility the Worthington church serves through their yearly Health Expo. Tucked into his sermon were several ministry experiences and testimonies about his flock at the correctional facility. Samuthram issued an urgent call to listeners and encouraged them to serve those individuals who are underserved, disregarded and ostracized from society. As attendees sang “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord,” Samuthram’s words rang in their ears: “If you can accept the Prodigal Son, you can accept the neighbor beside you.”

After the worship service, members and guests sampled international cuisine, while others learned new customs, traditions and little-known facts. Worthington member Kelvin Thompson says, “It was a blessed day, one with expectations of future gatherings, as we await the ‘Great Gathering.’”—Miriam Thompson



During Worthington church’s International Sabbath, Senior Pastor Yuliyán Filipov (in suit on right) and community guests sample international cuisine.

PHOTO BY WORTHINGTON CHURCH STAFF

## New Pastor Joins Columbus Eastwood

For the past two years, retired pastoral couple Milton and Patti Pruitt have served in an interim position at Columbus Eastwood church. This summer the Pruitt's decided it was time to retire—again.

After an extensive search for potential candidates, the name of one young pastor continued to come forward—Kyle Baldwin, who just so happens to be the son of Winston Baldwin, the pastor of the Centerville church.

Baldwin graduated from Southern Adventist University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He later returned to school and graduated in 2008 with a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.). For the past nine years, he pastored in Texico Conference.

Baldwin believes that ministry is a calling from the Lord and feels honored to work with God's people to hasten the soon coming of Jesus. "I am looking forward to getting to know the members of the Columbus Eastwood church, as well as the greater Ohio Conference family! he exclaims.

Baldwin and his wife, Liz, have four children: Matthew, 18; Alexander, 9; Isabella, 5; and Olivia, 3.



## Clergy to Attend Mental Health Conference

From 1955 to 1990, the Harding Hospital and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.) jointly sponsored an Institute on Mental Health for pastors and clergy. More than 700 clergy and their spouses attended these conferences in Worthington.

Nearly 30 years later, Harding Heritage Foundation is partnering with Kettering Adventist HealthCare, Ministry Care Line and the North American Division (NAD) to present a conference, October 15-17. Designed for pastors, chaplains, teachers, administrators and their spouses, this conference addresses



today's most current challenges regarding psychological health, discusses creative approaches to mental well-being and equips clergy to be more effective caregivers.

Scheduled presenters are Ivan Williams (left), director of the Ministerial Association for NAD; Tim Jennings, M.D., author and psychiatrist; Sandy

Johnson, MOL, RN; Carlos Fayard, assistant director of mental health for the Health Ministries department of the General Conference; and George Harding (right), professor of Psychology at Loma Linda University (Calif.)

Ohio Conference leadership sees incredible value in this discussion; they've shifted their usual ministerial meetings to accommodate this training. In a statement to pastors, Ron Halvorsen Jr., conference president, shares, "In support of Harding Heritage Foundation, our longtime partner in ministry, and because of the desire to find training that will strengthen and nurture you, your families and your ministry for God, we have shifted our usual December pastors meeting to this October symposium."

Visit [ministrycare.org/conference.cfm](http://ministrycare.org/conference.cfm) to register, or contact Nestor Bruno at (937) 694-7823 or [nestor.bruno@ketteringhealth.org](mailto:nestor.bruno@ketteringhealth.org).





# Pennsylvania Pen

## Donor Helps Kids Attend Summer Camp

As I was bringing a group of kids home from summer camp, I asked them what they liked best about Laurel Lake Camp,” shares John Kent, pastor of the Greater Pittsburgh Metro ministries. “I fully expected them to respond by focusing on the go-carts, swimming, boating, etc. I was so amazed when one shared that his favorite part was his camp counselor. I realized that for many, just having a loving, safe person who demonstrated that they cared for each kid made a huge impression.”

Every Sunday in July, Kent transported children from Carnegie, one of the metro areas surrounding Pittsburgh, to and from Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter. Twenty-one city kids who have never had the chance to attend summer camp—many of whom have never even traveled outside their neighborhoods—not only experienced the fun of camp, but learned that there is a God who cares deeply for them.

A generous gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor made this opportunity possible. That donation, the nearly 300 young people who attended camp and more than half a dozen baptisms are answers to the prayers of Executive Committee members and conference leadership who prayed each evening for 40 days, asking God to bless this important ministry.

This is one more way God is answering our prayers in Pennsylvania. If you haven't already, please join your executive committee in an exciting faith-adventure by praying for our five prayer initiatives:

1. The blessing of the Holy Spirit in our conference
2. Our Faith for Families outreach to lead people to Jesus
3. Blue Mountain Academy's mission to grow leaders
4. Laurel Lake Camp to bless young and old
5. Unity of heart and mission throughout the conference

God changes lives and provides opportunities for people—young and old—to discover His transforming love and grace in answer to our prayers.



**Gary Gibbs**  
*President*

## Blue Mountain Elementary Rebuilds After Tornado

Two years ago, teachers, students, family and friends gathered to view the devastation left in the path of an F2 tornado that destroyed Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School (BME) in Hamburg. This close-knit community knew that weather couldn't keep BME from their mission to provide young people with strong academics taught with an Adventist Christian foundation.

After two years of holding classes in rooms across the street at Blue Mountain Academy, staff, students, family and local community representatives gathered again to dedicate and tour a new school facility.

This school year began with excited children filling new classrooms—outfitted with the latest in technology and safety—and continues the more than 65 year-legacy of Adventist education in the Hamburg community.



*Linda Johnson stands inside her new Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom at Blue Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School.*

## Christman Retires After 43 Years of Ministry

**R**on Christman has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor, academy business manager, mission appointee, treasurer, auditor, executive secretary/treasurer and vice president for finance in Texas, Kentucky/Tennessee, South America, Florida and Pennsylvania. He has worked for conferences, divisions, Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries and the General Conference.

Born to Adventist missionaries, Christman grew up helping his parents in ministry in Brazil, Peru and Hawaii. His family had a small orchestra and were constantly performing at church services, weddings, graduations services and evangelistic meetings. He wanted to be a pastor at such an early age that he can't remember exactly when he made the decision.

"I have been inspired by the faithfulness of God's people, their sacrificial living for the sake of blessing others and their commitment to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," states Christman. "As a minister and church employee, I have enjoyed a front seat view into the God-centered lives of His saints."

After 43 years of service, including treasurer for Pennsylvania since 2009, Christman retired September 30. His wife, Joyce, recently retired from Adventist WholeHealth Network in Reading, where she worked as coordinator for the Congregational Health Ministries. The couple will remain in Pennsylvania, enjoying time



with their grandchildren, giving Bible studies, remodeling their home and supporting their local church.

"Seven years ago, Ron came to our conference with a wealth of experience as a pastor, missionary and treasurer," states Gary Gibbs, conference president. "Pennsylvania has been immensely blessed by his expertise. Today we are very sorry to see him retire, but we know that he goes with God's blessings for his many faithful years of service to God's work. We wish Ron and Joyce the very best in their retirement years!"

## New Laurel Lake Camp Staff Join Pennsylvania Team



**J**udy Ingram and her husband, Keith Ingram Sr., recently accepted the positions of camp manager and camp maintenance and grounds keeper, respectively, at the Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter. Their enthusiasm for service and experience in their respective areas will be a wonderful blessing to our conference!" shares Gary Gibbs, conference president. "Gary Moran, our previous Laurel Lake Camp director, has retired. We thank him for his faithful service these many years."

The Ingrams are moving from Whitakers, N.C., where they were active members of the Rocky Mount church. Keith comes with over 40 years of experience in maintenance and building. Judy has worked in several managerial roles and brings a wide variety of skills.

"Keith and I are so excited to serve the Pennsylvania family!" states Judy. "We are asking for prayers as the Holy Spirit leads. Laurel Lake, here we come!"



# Potomac People

## Sligo to Host Worship Conference

As a worship pastor for Sligo church, located in Takoma Park, Md., Cheryl Wilson-Bridges says she's always looking for resources to help answer the difficult questions pastors face. "People often ask about appropriate worship styles, song selections, instrumentation, liturgical worship traditions and more. It seems like we rarely have the right answers," she says. "Among the difficult questions we're asked, we have questions of our own. Most would agree that it's a sacred calling to be a pastor, minister of music or worship leader. Yet, after the call, we're often left wondering, 'What's next?' We need guidance from those who understand the successes and challenges we face."

The Consumed Worship Conference, which will take place November 1-4 at the Sligo church, seeks to provide biblical answers to those questions. The conference was developed by a team of pastors and music ministers, and is sponsored by Potomac's Cultivate initiative, Washington Adventist University and the North American Division. The event is open to all worshipers, pastors, ministers of music, worship leaders, praise team members, choir directors, singers and musicians.

Core training sessions, college credit and continuing education units will be offered with topics ranging from vocal coaching to worship evangelism. Acclaimed worship experts with proven biblical techniques will hold keynote sessions. A Saturday evening concert with worship leader and Billboard Artist Aaron Shust and the Consumed Worship Singers will close the event.

To register, go to [consumedworshipconference.com](http://consumedworshipconference.com) or [facebook.com/ConsumedWorshipConference](https://www.facebook.com/ConsumedWorshipConference).



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- Collaboration Sessions
- Networking
- Nightly Worship Experiences
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#ConsumedWorship17

## Lynchburg Offers "Lunchbox Makeover"

The Lynchburg (Va.) church recently hosted "Lunchbox Makeover," its second healthy cooking class. Attendees learned nutrition facts and tips for cooking easy, tasty vegan meals. In addition to cooking demonstrations, volunteers offered free blood pressure checks and literature.

Lynchburg member Patricia Richardson, M.D., MPH, opened the event by asking, "Why do we eat what we eat?" The predominant response? Convenience.

More than 40 attended the class for different reasons: "I need to lose weight," Jim Harmon said. "I am hoping to learn about [portion sizes] and also things that I can use on a daily basis," Luiza Martinez shared. Ten-year-old Miko attended because she wanted to "learn to cook healthier."

Members Liz McLennan and Nicole Toledo demonstrated healthy breakfast and lunch dishes and snacks. Presenters shared important information such as proper meal portions, plant-based sources of Omega-3 and remedies for those who struggle with uncomfortable gut issues.



Nicole Toledo, a Lynchburg (Va.) church member, demonstrates how to create healthier meals.

"There are so many ideas of 'healthy cooking,'" Martinez says, "but it's better to hear it from people who actually eat what they share!"—Shannon Kelly

# Potomac People

## Conference Initiative Cultivates Members, Visitors

My student and mentee, Romita Mandal, shared some of her troubles with me,” says Stephan Matthie, member of the Living Faith church in Dulles, Va., and participant in the church’s discipleship program. One day Mandal asked Matthie why he seemed so happy, even though he struggled with depression. “It opened an opportunity to tell her God was the key,” he says. “Romita reminded me that she was an atheist, but God spoke to me in that moment and gave me the perfect reply: ‘I know, but I feel you’re an atheist with questions.’ She said, ‘I think you’re right.’” That conversation sparked a start of a year-and-a-half discipleship journey.

They talked about life, God and biblical principles. “Romita has since completely fallen in love with God,” says Matthie. “She loves to pray and study the Bible and was recently baptized. She’s even begun discipling others in her life.”

Simone DeHaney had never attended an Adventist church. Her husband, Jason, a former Adventist, hadn’t attended for years. However, as a truck driver, he often passed Adventist churches. One Sabbath he



After a year-and-a-half discipleship journey, Stephan Matthie and Romita Mandal, who was once an atheist, worship together at the Living Faith church.

decided to stop and attend a worship service. This triggered his desire to look for a church whenever he was on the road. DeHaney began looking for churches near their home and started attending the Solid Rock church in Fairfax, Va. “They quickly became involved at the church,” says Pastor Vince MacIsaac. “They started Bible studies, and, soon after, the whole family was baptized.”

Shania Pride was always impressed by the character of her friend, Theron. “As I began to know more about his spirituality, I was even more impressed by his values,” she says. “His Adventist beliefs were similar to those I grew up with as a Hindu.”

Pride accompanied Theron to several churches and began studying the fundamental beliefs with Carlsen Griffith, a member of the Community Praise Church in Alexandria, Va.

“My studies with Elder Griffith helped deepen my understanding of the themes and values of the faith that resonated with me,” shares Pride. She was later baptized, and Theron decided to get re-baptized with her. The two later married.

“This is Cultivate,” says Peter Casillas, conference associate for Pastoral Ministries. “These stories accentuate how we can cultivate each day, by living our lives and grabbing on to opportunities. In 2015 we launched Cultivate, a reimagined way of conference-wide evangelism. It’s a movement, not a program. Let’s keep it moving.”



Impressed with her friend’s character, Shania Pride, a former Hindu, was recently baptized.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH ZELLER

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# Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

## BMA Leaders STEAM Up Their Campus

This summer marked the first International STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) camp on the campus of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). Students from the U.S., Africa, China, South Korea and India participated in the daily program that included critical thinking activities, as well as a geography class about unique locations in and around Pennsylvania. Participants also studied engineering failures such as the Kinzua Viaduct and Austin Dam, while learning about the construction success of the Empire State Building.

Principal Dave Morgan organized the two-week camp with help from Solomon Lazar, former math and science teacher, and Stephen Reese, vice principal for finance. Morgan utilized his 30 years of experience in the Pennsylvania Conference to take participants to unique locations such as coal mines, lumber mills and even the beach at Coney Island, N.Y.

Diana Engen, BMA's registrar, presented daily problem-solving activities—many used in BMA classrooms—to argue, debate and ultimately settle on a course of action to “solve” the challenge in front of them.

Lazar led an interactive science class with hands-on activities to explain physics, chemistry and the scientific method. Students made their own ice cream and learned about the principles of flight prior



*Diana Engen, BMA's registrar (right), and Jian Zhang, a translator from China, lead a critical thinking activity.*

*Right: Two STEAM camp participants work together to build a tower using spaghetti and candy.*



*During STEAM camp, students learn about the coal industry in Pennsylvania by going deep inside a mountain coal mine.*

to taking off on an airplane. “STEAM camp activities are a great way of introducing God to young minds in a tangible way,” says Lazar. “We were able to successfully communicate across the language barrier by using a Chinese translator.”

Jian Zhang, a young woman who translated for Morgan while he was in China, assisted with the camp. She was more than thrilled to travel from China to serve as the translator, teacher, supervisor and liaison between BMA and the Chinese students.

“In this awesome STEAM camp, kids were learning by doing, knowing and experiencing. Not only did the students learn a lot of scientific principles, they had a lot of fun in the process!” says Zhang. “For me it was a wonderful opportunity to understand the United States way of education versus how we teach in China.”

## HVA Hires New Staff, Renovates Dorms

This 2017-18 school year, the Highland View Academy (HVA) dormitories have a new look. Both the girls' and boys' dorms have been renovated, and two new faces have been detected in the hallways.

Originally from Portland, Ore., Jordan Skinner, the new assistant girls' dean, is completing a bachelor's degree in social work at Andrews University (Mich.), where she previously worked as a student dean in the women's dorm. Jordan especially enjoys having "conversations that can shape a person's mindset or even their future." For her, such conversations are a key part of "making connections like Jesus did," she says. "He's all about creating meaningful bonds with people. And that's what I aim to do. If I can show each girl even the slightest picture of Jesus, I believe I have accomplished what God has called me to do. I am His servant, and I pray that He uses me 100 percent of the time!"

Matthew Neall, the recently hired assistant boys' dean, comes to HVA from Orlando, Fla., where he worked in the hospitality industry. Prior to his arrival, Neall completed Arise, the Light Bearers' discipleship training program in Australia, and served as a Bible worker. "God has changed my life 110 percent," he says. "My goal is to help the guys in the dorm experience the same life-changing journey that I did." Neall's favorite part of "deaning" is dorm worship, where he gets "to have extremely real and honest chats with the guys about issues that are relevant to them."

*After summer renovations, the boys dorm rooms feature new paint, flooring and fixtures.*



*HVA welcomes two new assistant deans, Jordan Skinner and Matthew Neall.*

Both dorms have also benefited from renovations over the past year. Joey Rouse, the head boys' dean, says, "Last summer Hartle Hall received a small facelift with new paint, flooring and fixtures throughout the first and second floors." These repairs were completed before school began, but fundraising continues for more extensive repairs and updates, including closet systems, bed frames, water fountains, bathroom stalls, lobby furniture, chapel walls and third floor rooms.

"We are blessed to have Christ-centered deans in our dorms," says Erik Borges, principal. "And combined with the facility updates in the dorm and our strong academic program, our dorm students are benefiting spiritually, physically and mentally."

PHOTOS BY LORI ZERNE



# PFA POST



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## Seniors Set the Standard for 2017-18 School Year

This past summer, the University of Delaware Upward Bound Program selected Pine Forge Academy (PFA) senior Sierra Smith (below) for a pre-college campus summer institute. Upward Bound is a U.S. Department of Education initiative to support preparation for college entrance for students of color with high academic achievements and strong leadership skills.

The program confirmed Smith's college and career aspirations. She attributes her Upward Bound experience to "changing my academic and social life for the better. ... I am now ready to implement what I learned [on my high school campus]."

After graduating from PFA and the college of her choice, Smith aspires to become a meteorologist. She would like to be a role model for African-American women interested in STEM careers.

In many ways, Smith is already a role model on the PFA campus. As the 2017-18 United Student Movement (USM) president, she leads a team of students in organizing student-driven campus activities that are social, spiritual and service-oriented. Smith shares, "My vision for USM is simple. I want it to be a driving force of unity within the school; to help each student realize their potential while leaving the campus better than they found it."

Each year PFA students apply for Loma Linda University's Minority Introduction to the Health Sciences program (MITHS). MITHS is a challenging



three-week summer program designed to introduce students to careers in the health sciences.

This year MITHS selected PFA senior Lincoln Liburd, III (above) for the 2017 summer session. "MITHS exemplified the importance of academic excellence and helped me sharpen skills that I already developed at the illustrious Pine Forge Academy," says Liburd. "Most importantly, MITHS allowed me to meet like-minded students who aspire to become great in whatever career field they pursue." Liburd plans to attend Oakwood University where he intends to major in Chemistry and minor in vocal performance. After college, his career goals are to become a chemical engineer or a pharmaceutical scientist.

Liburd has demonstrated acute science competency and vocal performance leadership at PFA. He was one of the highest performing students in the school's dual-credit partnership with the local community college. He also serves as the Praise and Worship student leader for Wednesday night prayer meeting, Friday Forum, Sabbath's divine hour and many off-campus musical performances. Liburd believes music is ministry, and that "all choral leaders must have a spiritual connection with God, and, as leaders, it is our privilege to encourage the masses to have a spiritual connection with God as well."

Both Smith and Liburd are alumni of Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C., and attend AEC's Capital Hill church, also in D.C.



# Spotlight

## on Spencerville

*Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy*

### Teachers Attend Faith and Science Convention

During the summer recess, a number of educators, scientists and ministers attended the North American Division (NAD) Faith and Science Convention held in St. George, Utah. Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) teachers Nathan Hess and Tim Soper were among the attendees from the Chesapeake Conference.

Because of increasing confusion in our world regarding the intersection of faith and science, the convention sought to blend both topics into one connected unit. Each day attendees heard presentations from both scientists and theologians about a wide range of topics regarding faith and science. They gained a clear understanding of the biblical worldview across all disciplines of education and ministry. Field experiences to the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park allowed them to examine many of the concepts presented during the conference.

“It was inspiring to see the collaboration between the scientists and theologians of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” says Soper, SAA Bible teacher. “As a person who is responsible for helping young people find their spiritual bearings, the conference provided me with many useful tools and ideas that I will be able to implement in my classroom and conversations. It also further solidified my faith in the Word of God, as



*Dunbar Henri, Takoma Academy Religion teacher, and SAA teachers, Tim Soper and Nathan Hess, pause for a moment during their hike at Zion National Park.*

well as encouraged me in the mission of the church.”

Hess, one of SAA’s science teachers, shares, “It was a tremendous opportunity to hear directly from [Adventist] scientists and religious scholars on how integral creation is to our system of beliefs. I also appreciated hearing from scientists outside of the church. They spoke of their experiences as creationists in secular universities and share our commitment to producing cutting-edge science with a biblical foundation. It was a very worthwhile conference, and I’m anxious to share what I learned with my students.”



*Science teacher Nathan Hess tries to cool off from the heat in The Narrows at Zion National Park.*

#### Calendar of Events

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Oct. 1         | Latin American Festival          |
| Oct. 8         | Middle School Soccer Tournament  |
| Oct. 11        | PSAT                             |
| Oct. 20        | Grandparents’ Day                |
| Oct. 21        | Senior Dedication                |
| Oct. 22        | Fall Festival                    |
| Oct. 30–Nov. 3 | Week of Worship                  |
| Nov. 5         | National Honor Society Induction |



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

# CONNECTIONS

## INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

### SVA Welcomes Enrollment Increase and New Staff

For some time now, Spring Valley Academy (SVA) administrators have been praying that God would expand the impact of their ministry, just like He did for Jabez in the Old Testament. Last school year, divine providence delivered 40 new students from local Hispanic churches. This year 26 new students who are children of Adventist Rwandan refugees are carving out a new life at SVA. With an increase of over 100 students in two years, the SVA faculty and staff is expanding to fulfill the mission the Lord has laid upon them, by hiring four new team members for the 2017-18 academic year.

Justin Janetzko hails most recently from Atlanta Adventist Academy (Ga.), where he served as chaplain and Bible teacher. He is now filling that same role at SVA, his alma mater, where he graduated 13 years ago. "I have a big heart for the Lord, school and community," Janetzko says. He has developed a set of ministry skills, including music and worship leadership, mentorship, video and sound production and biblical preaching. "We are so excited to see what God will accomplish in the lives of our students through Janetzko's ministry," says Darren Wilkins, principal.

Jennifer Bianco brings a wealth of teaching experience and unfettered enthusiasm to the kindergarten program at SVA. Bianco has spent most of her 23-year teaching career in the Pennsylvania Conference where she taught in large and small schools and across all elementary grade levels. Notably, she is just months from completing her doctorate in differentiated instruction. Most importantly, Wilkins says, "Jennifer wraps all this experience and expertise with a ton of joy for her teaching craft and love for her students."

Hollie Macomber joins the SVA team as the middle school Social Studies and Bible teacher. Macomber is no stranger to SVA, having already served as a



*Abraham Jobson-Egodotaye, Jennifer Bianco, Hollie Macomber and Justin Janetzko are SVA's four new team members for 2017-18.*

part-time teacher and long-term sub. With degrees in history and photography and years of ministering to kids in summer camps, she brings a large toolbox of skills to her new assignment. "Macomber is a creative thinker who is determined to make learning fun and engaging for her students," says Wilkins.

Abraham Jobson-Egodotaye is stepping in to fill a last-minute need as SVA's enrollment growth necessitated an additional second-grade classroom. He previously taught at Clifton Christian Academy in Cincinnati, and is now taking on the challenge of teaching and mentoring a room of young SVA students. "It is evident that Jobson-Egodotaye has a bright career in teaching already in the works," Wilkins says. "We welcome aboard SVA's four up-and-coming, first-rate educators!"

**Correction:** In the September Connections, Spring Valley Academy wishes to acknowledge Christine Casson retired after 41 years, and not 31 years. We regret this error. We commend Casson for her outstanding dedication and commitment to Christian education, and wish her all the best in her retirement!



## What SVA Has Done for Me

Attending Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) for four years has taught me many things. I have made true friends and have had experiences I would not trade for the world. If it were not for SVA, this would not have happened:

When I first embarked on this high school journey, I was a soul unaware of my “lostness.” I did not know who I was, nor did I know God. If you had asked me what friendship was, I am quite sure I would have replied half-heartedly, because before attending SVA, I only knew half-hearted friendship.

Near the end of my freshman year, I realized I was lost. I felt stuck, not knowing how to find myself. I knew who I wanted to be, but felt like I would never become that person. I was oceans away from who I desired to be, and the unfaltering waves discouraged me. Slowly I began isolating myself from my friends, thinking I was not good enough for them. That is when I experienced full-hearted friendship.

My SVA friends did not let me be alone, yet they didn’t force me to open up. Instead, they opened up to me, showing they trusted and loved me enough to let themselves be vulnerable. I learned to trust them,



and their friendship saved me. They swam into the depths of my lostness and found me—it was as if they brought me back to life! Now, if you ask me what friendship is, I can say full-heartedly: it is trust.

At the same time, when I was sinking deeper and deeper into myself, God also found me. *My God searched for me and found me*, and I learned to trust Him. I did not think I was, or would ever be, good enough for Him. I didn’t understand why or how He could love someone like me. He said to me, “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28, KJV). And that is exactly what He has done. I can trust Him.

It would be nice to say I have not had “near-drowning” moments since, but that is not true. Sometimes it seems I am inhaling more water than air. I don’t know exactly where I am going or who I will be when I get there. But that is OK. Thanks to SVA, I have made full-hearted friendships, and because of my trust-worthy God who loves me enough to find me here, I am going to get there. I am learning how to swim.—Valerie Pichot



Valerie Pichot (second from right) and several classmates are “crowned” seniors at the Student Association Handshake.



# www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

## New Murals Showcase Faith and Education

Takoma Academy (TA) was founded in 1904, but relocated to its present location in Takoma, Md., in 1952. Initially the school consisted of two hallways and a multi-purpose room that housed the gym, cafeteria and auditorium.

God blessed the expansion of the campus to include a separate cafeteria and gym, and the multi-purpose room was converted to a chapel. The windows were removed, and a white granite structure was erected to conceal the outside window frames. For years TA leadership wanted to create something positive to cover that blank granite canvass.

Also, with construction of the new Takoma Academy Preparatory School (located in the former Sligo Adventist School building), a fresh mural was needed to replace the one at the entrance of the school's foyer.

As part of TA's strategic fundraising plan, the faculty chose a project to enhance the school facility. This initiative was chaired by science teacher Shaun Robinson ('89). Robinson joined forces with TA art teacher Toni Horne ('04), who recommended acclaimed artist Shawn Perkins, Horne's classmate at Howard University (Washington, D.C.).

Perkins looked at TA's huge, blank space and submitted a proposal to the TA faculty, who made some additional revisions and ultimately approved the overall project. In addition, the faculty and staff contributed to the total cost of TA's custom mural (below).

Perkins' artistic journey started humbly when he drew Bart Simpson on his grandmother's couch. He states that his desire to become an artist became more concrete after college. "After working over six months in my new job in graphic design, it started to become robotic,



*Toni Horne and Shaun Robinson celebrate the completion of the mural project with artist Shawn Perkins (center).*

and I was not feeling happy about my work. I spoke to my mother, and she stated that if I wasn't feeling fulfilled professionally, then I should go after my true passion." Perkins continues, "So I resigned from my job, got a job as a waiter and painted at night after work. I gave myself three years, and if I had not become self-sufficient as an artist by age 30, I would have quit."

Robinson says, "The mural project had been talked about for some time, but had never come to fruition. Finding Perkins was a blessing orchestrated by God. This mural [project] is a visual representation of what TA and Christian education stands for—the combination of faith and education."







*Kettering College students participate in various service projects in local, regional, national and global communities.*

## A PASSION FOR SERVICE

**By Lauren Brooks**

Kettering College's highest aim is to help students embrace their life calling to serve others. This emphasis on service is rooted in our Adventist faith, which encourages students to emulate qualities of Jesus Christ, who treated all people with kindness, compassion, and empathy.

Kettering College students have never waited until after graduation to live out this high calling. For example, in the school's early years, the Student Association organized and sponsored numerous service projects around the Miami Valley community.

The Anna May Vaughan-Winton Beaven Service Learning Leadership Program, embodies the school's emphasis on community service. Named for two pillars of Kettering College's founding and early

development, the program elevated the principle of community service, focus on mission, and development of skilled leadership to a high level academic endeavor. Students selected for the program participate in a course of study that explores and stimulates critical analysis of the service needs of the local, regional, national, and global communities. These mission trips positively impact our International Medical Missionary (IMM) program, which encourages all students to use the skills they are learning in the classroom to serve people in other countries who lack access to basic medical care.

Current Kettering College students recently participated in a health block party sponsored by the college, Kettering Health Network, and Kettering

Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with The Potter's House in Dayton. There, students, healthcare professionals, and local volunteers provide basic health services to more than 800 local residents.

Though we can't know how many lives have been touched by the nurses, radiographers, respiratory therapists, and others who received their medical training at Kettering College, one thing we do know: the values that are so deeply engrained in the college will continue to shape our students as they pursue satisfying lives of service.



## PRESIDENTIAL *Comprehensive Assessment*

In the spring of this year, the Board of Trustees and I supported and launched the best practice action to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the president. It was understood that the focus should not be narrowly on the president as a solitary individual, but rather on the wider organizational and social context in which the president operates.



**Weymouth  
Spence**

External consultants evaluated critical performance areas such as personal educational leadership and values, organizational management, strategic leadership, financial management, fundraising, internal and external

relationships. They collected data from administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, community leaders and trustees. They presented their report to me individually and to the Board of Trustees.

High marks came from students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and external community leaders on the critical performance areas and on the overall vision for the university. Areas for improvement were also identified such as infrastructure, customer service, operational efficiency and fundraising. The board came away from the assessment with a sharper sense of its own responsibility in shaping the future through its support of the president's efforts to improve the work of the office and the university.

My deep appreciation to Chairman Dave Weigley, the officers of the Board and its entire membership for giving my wife, Rebecca, and I the opportunity to wake up every morning for the past ten years to play a key role in transforming this university and the lives of our students. I have had the joyous opportunity to work with an amazing collection of faculty, staff, alumni, community leaders and trustees to make the WAU Vision to produce graduates who bring competence and moral leadership to their communities a successful reality.

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence, President

## WELCOMING BACK AN ALUMNA AS THE NEW HEALTH, WELLNESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Denise Hinds, Dr.P.H., has joined WAU as Chair and Assistant Professor of the Department of Health, Wellness and Physical Education. She is a WAU alumna who has more than 17 years of experience in health education and promotion, program planning, implementation, evaluation, and collaboration with community organizations.

She earned her doctorate in preventive care in 2011, and her master's degree in maternal and child health in 1999 – both from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

The child of Jamaican parents, Hinds spent her early years in New Jersey. She has a wide range of interests that include preventive health, maternal and child health, health disparities, African American health, and reproductive health.

In her leisure time, she enjoys reading, cooking vegan cuisines, traveling, participating in 5K races, and spending time with family and friends. Denise Hinds is someone who "loves the Lord, and desires to serve Him by encouraging spiritual, physical and mental health for all people."



**Denise Hinds, Chair of Health, Wellness and Physical Education**

## WAU IS FIRST ADVENTIST INSTITUTION IN NORTH AMERICA TO OFFER MUSIC THERAPY DEGREE PROGRAM

A new Music Therapy (BMT) degree at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is the first of its kind to be offered by an Adventist institution of higher learning in North America, and it is also the first to be offered by a four-year college or university in the State of Maryland.



The program prepares students to use music in the treatment of children and adults who have various psychiatric disorders, cognitive and developmental

disabilities, speech and hearing impairments, physical disabilities, and neurological impairments. Graduates often work in psychiatric hospitals, day care facilities, nursing homes, substance abuse programs, forensic facilities, hospice programs, schools, as well as in private practice.

"Music Therapy is a growing field that has seen miraculous results in a variety of settings," said Music Department Chair, Daniel Lau, D.M.A. "It is so gratifying to be able to offer this degree at WAU."

WAU's music therapy program is designed to build competencies in musical, clinical and music therapy foundations and principles, and it culminates with a student internship at a site approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) or one affiliated with Washington Adventist University. Graduates are eligible to take the music therapy national exam administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Those who pass are granted the "Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC)" credential, which confers on them the ability to practice as a music therapist within the CBMT scope of practice in the United States.

The program was approved by the National Association of Schools of Music, and implementation was recommended by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

"We are thrilled beyond measure to be gaining this important new program on our campus, as it prepares students to use music as a vehicle for service and outreach," said WAU Provost Cheryl Kisunzu, Ph.D. "It is a wonderful addition to this university, which has, for more than a century, functioned as a gateway to service for those who seek to help others."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Anna H. Wang Concert Series Saturday, November 11, 8 p.m.

The first concert in the Anna H. Wang Concert Series will feature a performance by Awadagin Pratt on piano. This concert, and others in the series, will be held in the Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center on campus. The next concert in the series is scheduled for Saturday, February 3 at 8 p.m., featuring a performance by Charles Castleman on violin. Be sure to mark your calendar!



### Christmas Concert Friday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

Washington Adventist University's annual Christmas Concert is a wonderful way to start the holiday season, and it is free and open to the public. The concert will be held on campus at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 7700 Carroll Avenue. The Music Department's talented faculty and students will perform traditional Christmas music that celebrates the season. Don't miss this popular event!





## The Empathetic Ear

One of the things I cherish most about my childhood is the number of stories and storytellers that filled my world.

I heard stories from my parents about our family heritage and experiences. I heard stories at church about people whose adventures are told in the Bible. I heard stories from my teachers about the heroes of our history, the triumphs of athletes and the discoveries of scientists and explorers. Stories surrounded me and filled my life.

But the best stories were the ones shared with friends – the stories we told each other about what was going on in our lives and about things we were doing, or about things that we wished we could do or wished were ours. I realize now that it was through stories that I came to understand what was happening in the world around me and how I fit in.

Stories continue to matter a great deal in our adult lives and in our work, especially at Adventist HealthCare, because it is through listening to each other that we develop the empathy that leads to understanding.

In fact, it is our capacity to empathize with those we serve that enables us to provide the healthcare that yields the best outcomes for our patients.

Why does empathy make a difference? Because empathy gives us the ability to share the feelings of another. Empathy builds trust. It opens up the connections needed for clarity and confidence in the care that we provide.

Creating healing connections requires time and energy, and there is no better place to start than with an empathetic ear, an open heart and mind, and a willingness to listen to someone else's story.



**Terry Forde**  
President & CEO  
Adventist HealthCare

## Adventist HealthCare Honored For High Quality and Safety

Adventist HealthCare's two acute-care hospitals in Montgomery County, Maryland have received numerous awards in 2017 for providing high-quality, safe care to the patients they serve, including:

### Heart Care Honors

The American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry honored Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center with the 2017 Platinum Performance Achievement Award and Adventist HealthCare Washington Adventist Hospital with the 2017 Silver Award. These awards recognize the hospitals' commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients.



The ACTION Registry establishes a national standard for treating high-risk patients and empowers healthcare providers to consistently treat heart-attack patients according to the most current, science-based guidelines. The treatment guidelines include administering proper medication upon both arrival and discharge, timely restoration of blood flow to the blocked artery, smoking cessation counseling and cardiac rehabilitation.

To achieve the awards, Shady Grove Medical Center and Washington Adventist Hospital consistently followed the treatment guidelines in the ACTION Registry and met stringent performance standard goals for eight and four consecutive quarters respectively.



### Safety Awards

This past spring, Shady Grove Medical Center and Washington Adventist Hospital were recognized by the Maryland Patient Safety Center for their commitment to quality and patient safety practices.

Both hospitals had projects in the top 20 submissions for the 2017 Patient Safety Innovation awards, which the center grants to organizations that make a demonstrable difference in safety through innovative solutions.

Recognition was given to work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center to reduce two serious illnesses that can affect babies. Other honors went to Adventist HealthCare projects to ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics and to increase compliance of biomarkers, which help evaluate heart function in patients with chest pain or other potential heart conditions.

Visit [AdventistHealthCare.com/Quality](http://AdventistHealthCare.com/Quality) for more information about the quality awards and recognitions we've received.

## Adventist HealthCare a Leader in Clinical Pastoral Education



*Chaplains Deborah Digel and Vladimir Corea meet with Chaplain Patrick Brown (far left) as part of Adventist HealthCare's Clinical Pastoral Education/Training program which helps mentor candidates interested in understanding themselves and supporting physical, mental and spiritual healing.*

For the past seven years, Adventist HealthCare has offered its chaplains and seminary students, as well as interested candidates from other organizations, instruction through our Clinical Pastoral Education/Training (CPE/T) program. Through this interfaith, graduate-level program, the organization's Spiritual Care team has successfully nurtured many candidates to help care for patients.

This year, Deborah Digel joined Adventist HealthCare to formally supervise the program. Under her leadership, the program has grown significantly – as seen in the record 18 interns presently enrolled. Furthermore, Adventist HealthCare has committed to sponsoring two candidates from each of our four local Adventist conferences with free tuition and fees. However, candidates come from a wide variety of faiths and often are not even chaplains.

"Participants enroll in the program because they are interested in learning about themselves through the challenges of this rigorous course of study," Chaplain Digel said. "The program is another way the Spiritual Care team helps Adventist HealthCare fulfill its mission to extend God's care through a ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing."

The CPE/T program is comprised of four units, each requiring 300 direct contact hours with patients, families and caregivers during the roughly four-month time frame. Candidates are required to pick a hospital unit or floor where they will take an in-depth look at an area that may especially resonate with them. Additionally, all interns must

help support the entire hospital by responding to requests for spiritual care. Their duties also include a full 12-hour night shift as well as a weekend shift in order to experience more of the full spectrum of our clinical care.

The interactions are fully analyzed during weekly coaching sessions with Chaplain Digel and through personal reflection documented in weekly written reports. In addition, interns confer with experienced staff chaplains who know our healthcare ministry well. Pastoral candidates also gain insight from reading an extensive amount of assigned materials, including discussions on clinical basics, theology, personality and educational theory. Finally, candidates attend weekly five-hour training seminars and sit for both mid-term and final analysis reviews.

The program is accredited by The College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), Inc., a full member of the Coalition on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS).

**If you are interested in learning more  
about Adventist HealthCare's  
Clinical Pastoral Education/Training program,**

- **Contact Chaplain Digel at  
DDigel@AdventistHealthCare.com**
- **Contact the Spiritual Care office  
at 240- 826-6112**



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# Bulletin Board

## EMPLOYMENT

### ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE:

Show your care and compassion as a registered nurse, and join the Adventist HealthCare family in Maryland. Bring your experience and passion to make a difference in the lives of our patients. For information and to apply, visit [jobs.adventisthealthcare.com](http://jobs.adventisthealthcare.com).

**DENTIST WANTED:** Loma Linda University School of Dentistry grad 2001 is looking for a partner to join an established, lucrative, two-doctor, general dentistry practice in southwestern Ohio. Small town with a peaceful country living feel, yet within an hour and a half of Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton. Looking to move out of the cities? Looking for unlimited ministry options? Check us out at [hillsborofamilydentistry.net](http://hillsborofamilydentistry.net) and on Facebook at Hillsboro Family Dentistry. If you have questions or would like to set up a time to come meet with Dr. Bryan Nickell, call (937) 241-8903.

**PSYCHIATRIST OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, PH.D., NEEDED** for rural health clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute, Weimar, Calif. Competitive pay and benefits. Call Dr. Randall Steffens, (615) 604-0142.

**UNION COLLEGE** in Lincoln, Neb., seeks a vice president for enrollment services. This person will be responsible for achieving the college's enrollment goals and managing financial aid to meet overall financial goals. For a full description, visit [ucollege.edu/staff-openings](http://ucollege.edu/staff-openings). Send application and résumé to Dr. Vinita Sauder, [vinita.sauder@ucollege.edu](mailto:vinita.sauder@ucollege.edu).

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks committed Adventist to direct its NCATE-accredited education program, effective December 2017. Doctorate preferred; master's required. Experience in K-12 church schools essential. For further information, visit [ucollege.edu/faculty-openings](http://ucollege.edu/faculty-openings). Apply and submit CV to Dr. Frankie Rose, academic dean, at [frankie.rose@ucollege.edu](mailto:frankie.rose@ucollege.edu).

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY** seeks full-time professor for graduate outdoor education courses. In addition to teaching, responsible for research, academic advising and serving on university committees. Qualifications include doctoral degree in leadership, education,

or other, and familiarity with online programming and willingness to obtain pertinent outdoor certifications. Send cover letter, CV, statement of philosophy relating to outdoor education and three references to Dr. John McCoy, Dean, School of Education and Psychology, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or via email, [jmccoy@southern.edu](mailto:jmccoy@southern.edu). For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY HISTORY AND POLITICAL STUDIES DEPT.

seeks part-time professor to teach American History, develop courses, advise/mentor students, engage in service activities, and sustain a research and professional growth agenda. Must be able to teach courses in Atlantic history, topics in African history, and African-American and/or Latin American pop culture; with a combination of expertise and strong knowledge in at least one of the two regional/cultural areas. Ph.D. in History preferred. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and three references to Dr. Mark Peach, [peach@southern.edu](mailto:peach@southern.edu), and Dr. Robert Young, [ryoung@southern.edu](mailto:ryoung@southern.edu); P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for Associate Vice President for Academic Administration. Leadership role providing direction with academics, academic strategic planning, policy exceptions, admission standards, graduation requirements, institutional research and online learning, committee leadership; and serving as liaison for accreditation (SACS-COC and AAA), program reviews, first-year experience, honors program and extension programs. Qualifications include doctoral degree, five years teaching in higher education, strong verbal and written communication and professional tact. Send letter of application, CV and three references via U.S. mail, or email Dr. Robert Young, Senior VP Academic Administration, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, [ryoung@southern.edu](mailto:ryoung@southern.edu). For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION** seeks professor to teach undergraduate courses and advise in journalism, with a focus in print, broadcast or new media ed. Master's degree required, doctorate is preferred, with five years of professional experience and three years of teaching

experience. To apply, send CV via U.S. mail or email to Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith, Dean for School of Journalism and Communication, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, [rwilliamssmith@southern.edu](mailto:rwilliamssmith@southern.edu). For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

seeks applicants to teach undergraduate methods and education courses; and graduate level education courses; provide academic advisement, serve on departmental/university committees and work with faculty to promote a nurturing learning environment. Requirements include doctorate in education or related field, commitment to Christian higher education and integration of faith and learning, experience with online learning, mathematics background, and experience teaching in public and denominational schools preferred. Send cover letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy and references to Dr. John McCoy, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, or email [jmccoy@southern.edu](mailto:jmccoy@southern.edu). For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY MODERN LANGUAGES DEPT.

seeks an adjunct instructor of German. Must be an experienced educator, hold an MA in German (with 18 graduate credit hours in German) and be familiar with ACFTL national language guidelines. Must also be willing to participate in professional development activities, ensuring awareness of goal-oriented and student-centered instruction. Send CV to Dr. Adrienne Royo, Chair, Modern Languages Department, via U.S. mail or email [aroyo@southern.edu](mailto:aroyo@southern.edu), P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, Attn: Dr. Adrienne Royo. For a full description, visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

### DOES A WARM, SUNNY CLIMATE ON COASTAL CENTRAL FLORIDA SOUND INTERESTING?

Our well-established practice of seven pathologists and two pathologist assistants are looking for a full-time AP/CP pathologist to join our group. Fellowship training is a must; surgical pathology is preferred. Interest in/or experience with Molecular Pathology and Blood Bank is a plus. Benefits include health and dental insurance, CME, malpractice insurance, 401K and relocation expenses. Desired start date of January 2018 through July 2018. Please send CV to [ECP@59nova.com](mailto:ECP@59nova.com).

### PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPT.

seeks a candidate for

Facilities Associate Director. Preference is experience in planning, budgeting, maintenance of college facilities, in addition to strong leadership/interpersonal skills/team leader. Responsibilities in roads, building safety, HVAC, water distribution/treatment, general building maintenance, compliance for hazardous materials, etc. For more information or to apply, please call (707) 965-6231, or visit [puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings](http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings).

### PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPT.

seeks full-time positions for a tradesman supervisor-painter, and a tradesman 1 carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting and carpentry. For painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, must be a team player and can handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call (707) 965-6231, or visit [puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings](http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings).

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returns January 10-20, 2018, with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more information and to sign up your church, visit [tendaysofprayer.org](http://tendaysofprayer.org).

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CONCERT**

**December 16 at 4 p.m.  
Frederick Adventist Church**

Performance by Brass Mosaic, a brass and percussion ensemble, formed from members of our nation's service bands, combined with a chamber choir conducted by Mark Willey.

Program includes  
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(301) 662-5254

## Sunset Calendar

|                     | Oct 6 | Oct 13 | Oct 20 | Oct 27 |
|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Baltimore</b>    | 6:42  | 6:31   | 6:21   | 6:12   |
| <b>Cincinnati</b>   | 7:14  | 7:03   | 6:53   | 6:44   |
| <b>Cleveland</b>    | 7:01  | 6:50   | 6:39   | 6:29   |
| <b>Columbus</b>     | 7:07  | 6:56   | 6:46   | 6:23   |
| <b>Jersey City</b>  | 6:31  | 6:20   | 6:10   | 6:00   |
| <b>Norfolk</b>      | 6:42  | 6:32   | 6:23   | 6:14   |
| <b>Parkersburg</b>  | 7:02  | 6:51   | 6:41   | 6:32   |
| <b>Philadelphia</b> | 6:36  | 6:25   | 6:15   | 6:05   |
| <b>Pittsburgh</b>   | 6:55  | 6:44   | 6:34   | 6:24   |
| <b>Reading</b>      | 6:39  | 6:28   | 6:17   | 6:08   |
| <b>Richmond</b>     | 6:47  | 6:36   | 6:27   | 6:18   |
| <b>Roanoke</b>      | 6:57  | 6:47   | 6:37   | 6:28   |
| <b>Toledo</b>       | 7:09  | 6:57   | 6:46   | 6:36   |
| <b>Trenton</b>      | 6:34  | 6:23   | 6:13   | 6:03   |
| <b>Wash., D.C.</b>  | 6:44  | 6:34   | 6:24   | 6:14   |

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**CONCERT** November 10

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**MISSION IN ACTION** November 11

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President of ADRA International

**CONCERT** November 11

### **Kettering Praise Orchestra**

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Led by **Donald Huff**



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