

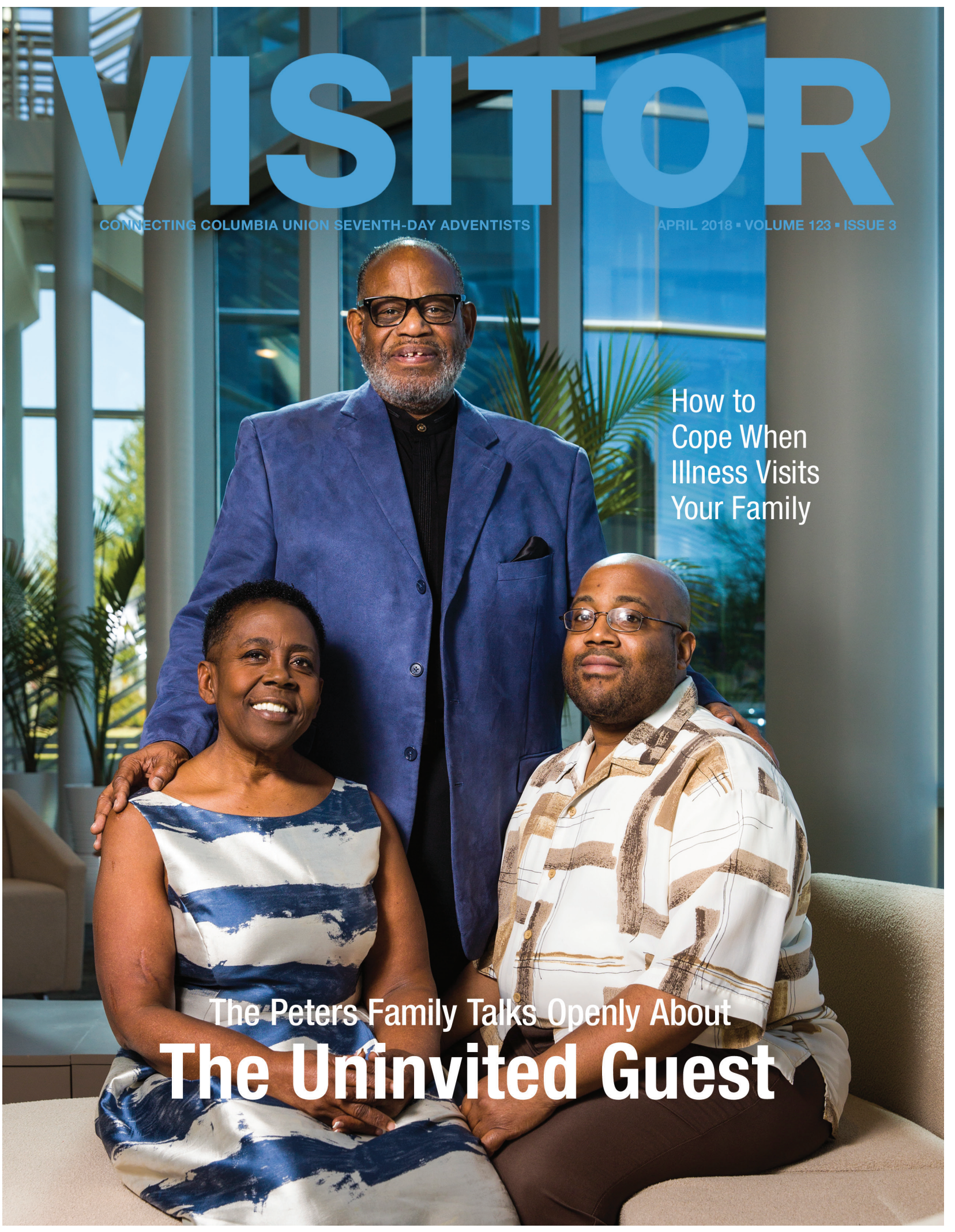
VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

APRIL 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 3

How to
Cope When
Illness Visits
Your Family

The Peters Family Talks Openly About
The Uninvited Guest



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The Uninvited Guest

Liz Anderson

At some point, the unexpected guest of illness will visit most families, and increasingly so as the Baby Boomer Generation ages. See how three Columbia Union families coped when illness struck, and what they learned through their experiences.

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About the Cover: Lois and Leroy Peters, and their son, Leroy, were photographed in Columbia, Md., by Joshua Roberts/AP Images.

ON THE WEB



LEADERS EHUDDLE FOR INSPIRATION

More than 200 church leaders, local pastors and institutional leaders from across the Seventh-day

Adventist Church in North America recently gathered at eHuddle, the North American Division's (NAD) Evangelism Visioning and Leadership team meeting.

Several Columbia Union Conference leaders spoke, including David Franklin (pictured), pastor of Allegheny East Conference's Miracle City church in Baltimore. Franklin shared that his church is working toward renovating 50 spaces in their local community. "What can we do to improve the structures of our community for generations?" he challenged the group. "The local church is the last hope of the world."

Watch all of the presentations on NAD's Facebook page, facebook.com/nadadventist.

FOOL'S PRAYER

Ethan Madding, a senior at Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.), recently showed his film, *Fool's Prayer*, at the 2018 Sonscreen Film Festival at the North American Division Headquarters in Columbia, Md. The film is an adaptation of Marvin Moore's book, *Witnesses*



Through Trial, a story about two German SS (Schutzstaffel) officers who deal with a prisoner who won't work on the Sabbath. Watch the film at columbiaunionvisitor.com/foolsprayer.



BABYSITTING LEADS TO BAPTISM

Maribel

Romero needed a babysitter while at work. Wendy Morales, a member of Potomac

Conference's Gaithersburg (Md.) Spanish church, agreed to babysit for Romero, and, over time, they built a friendship. This relationship was part of Romero's journey to baptism that occurred in December during Columbia Union Conference's Vivangelismo. Watch more of Romero's story at columbiaunionvisitor.com/romero.

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“Though He Slay Me”

My mother was born and bred in Brooklyn, N.Y., during the Great Depression. She often went to bed hungry and rejoiced when she was given a penny to buy an orange for supper. At 14 she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and began a faith journey with Jesus that sustained her throughout life. She always had a sanguine smile on her face and praise to God on her lips. So, you’d never know that she buried two children, got divorced after 50 years of marriage and struggled to make ends meet.



And then, at 84, just after she learned that I was expecting her first blood grandchild (She “adopted” many of the children in church as her grandkids.), my mother, who’d never been ill or hospitalized in her vegetarian life, turned up with pancreatic cancer.

I cried. I panicked. I was inconsolable!

But just as she’d done with every crisis in her life, she dropped to her knees and prayed like Job: “‘Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him’” (Job 13:15, KJV).

A few weeks later, on the morning she passed, my baby kicked me for the first time.

STORMS WILL COME

When the uninvited guest of illness attacks our families—whether biological, church, school, work, etc.—we experience a form of crisis that comes with many side effects: stress, change, financial strain, a myriad of emotions and sometimes loss.



Our *Visitor* team has been through some tough times together. One of the most difficult experiences was losing our friend Beth Michaels, who served with us for 10 years, her last two as editor. From the day she told us about her health challenge right up to the moment she went to sleep in Jesus, we joined with others in praying, supporting, listening, making and delivering meals, going to appointments and doing whatever we could to help. It was a tough time, but no one complained because she was our family, and we loved her.

Jesus never said we wouldn’t go through storms, but, thankfully, He promised to be with us in them. As we journey to the kingdom, we will go through crises with loved ones, and they will go through difficult times with us.

We’re thankful this month for the three families who candidly share their journeys with illness, how they made it through their storms and what they learned along the way. We pray you’ll gain helpful insights for when storms come your way.

We’re thankful this month for the three families who candidly share their journeys with illness, how they made it through their storms and what they learned along the way. We pray you’ll gain helpful insights for when storms come your way.

Celeste Ryan Blyden serves the Columbia Union Conference as vice president for strategic communication and public relations and as editor and publisher of the Visitor.

Newsline



OHIO CONFERENCE WELCOMES NEW TREASURER

The Ohio Conference Executive Committee recently appointed Michael D. Gilkey as conference treasurer. He and his wife, Joanne, joined the conference team in February.

Gilkey met several times with conference leadership and the Ohio Conference Personnel Committee. “He has held senior level executive positions in many organizations which will equip him for his role as treasurer,” says Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president. “We believe his skill set as a proven problem solver, experience with large budgets and projects and expertise with technology will benefit the conference.”

Read more about Gilkey in the Ohio Conference newsletter on page 25.—*Heidi Shoemaker*

UNION RETURNS \$400,000 IN TITHE TO CONFERENCES

During the March Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee meeting, members

voted a tithe reversion of \$400,000 to the conferences for mission and evangelism. The union executive officers presented each conference president a check for \$50,000.

Emmanuel Asiedu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, says the funds come from a tithe increase in 2017 “due to the faithfulness of our constituent churches.” He adds that he hopes the funds will be “used to expand the kingdom of God through the mission and priorities of our conferences.” —*Visitor Staff*

CHURCH ADOPTS NEW IDENTITY SYSTEM

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recently unveiled a new global visual identity system and a new “Advent Sans” font. The system, including an updated logo, will allow church entities to use the same font in 91 languages. The color palette includes several options organizations may choose depending on their local culture and customs.

As part of the new system, leaders designed the “creation grid,” a seven-column layout structure for design projects. The first six columns are for graphics, text and other content to communicate ideas. But the seventh column, the “Sabbath column,” is intentionally set apart from the rest of the space as a visual reminder of the church’s prophetic identity.

“The ultimate goal of this visual identity guideline system is to help people know we are all Seventh-day Adventists. We are

Sometimes we think it’s more glamorous to cross the ocean than to cross the street to share the Gospel. ... A missionary life is more about who you are than what you do.

—*Carlos Charnichart, Pennsylvania Conference treasurer, shared during a recent conference worship and posted on their Facebook page.*



excited about the beauty that is soon to come,” said a spokesperson for the General Conference Communication.

For more information about how your organization can implement the new system, visit identity.adventist.org.—*V. Michelle Bernard*

Conference presidents flank the Columbia Union executive officers after receiving \$50,000 checks: Carlos Charnichart (representing Gary Gibbs), Mike Hewitt, Ron Halvorsen Jr., Jorge Aguero, Emmanuel Asiedu, Dave Weigley, Rob Vandeman, Bill Miller, William T. Cox Sr., Rick Remmers and Henry J. Fordham III.

PERSPECTIVES: HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR SCHOOLS SAFE?

According to the Washington Post, during the first three months of 2018 there were at least 11 school shooting incidents nationwide, including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 were killed. We asked three Columbia Union educators what they think we should do to keep our schools safe:



We have safety guidelines and procedures that promote safety on our campus. I have meetings with my staff and students to prepare them for certain types of emergency situations. We also have started to collaborate with the police department from our town to make sure our procedures are effective. ... But, ultimately, we always put ourselves in the hands of the Lord. We start every day with prayer, asking for God's protection.—*Dulce Gabriel, principal of New Jersey Conference's Vine Haven Adventist School in Vineland*



Besides making sure that our buildings are safe from individuals on the exterior and interior, we talk through survival and safety methods with our teachers during in-service. ... Running through the drills with children and teachers allows the students to know what to do so they aren't in shock and will know what to do in the case of an emergency. ... We also monitor cameras and are thinking about installing an emergency button.—*Jack McCrary, superintendent of Allegheny West Conference schools*



The best way for us to keep our kids safe in our schools is making sure we have significant, deep relationships with our students so we know when they are struggling. We can then be proactive and encouraging when they need encouragement, listen when they need someone to listen and be there as a mentor when needed. ... I think many of the problems that stem deep down from the recent [shooting] incidences are because students felt like nobody cared, nobody loved them. They were reaching out in the worst possible way to let everyone know they were hurting.—*Michael Jakobs, associate superintendent of Chesapeake Conference schools*

571

The number of people baptized in the Chesapeake Conference in 2017, a 31 percent increase over 2016.

STEM PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW IN COLUMBIA UNION

Robert Kennedy, a sixth-grader at Allegheny East Conference's (AEC) G. E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., (pictured pondering his next move in a game of Trouble as he waits for results at the conference's Regional STEM Fair), is one of the many students in the Columbia Union Conference who attend an Adventist school that is growing their STEM programs. "STEM activities have become increasingly important in 21st century education because our society faces the benefits and challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based society," says Ileana Espinosa, associate director of education for the Columbia Union. "As members of such a complex society, our students need to develop knowledge and skills to help solve the tough problems they face and will continue to face in the future."

Read more about AEC's recent STEM Fair on page 15.—*VMB*



PHOTO BY DAVID TURNER

Noticias



PROGRAMAS STEM CONTINÚAN CRECIENDO

El estudiante de séptimo grado Carlos Portanova y el estudiante de sexto grado James Finol, estudiantes de la Academia Juvenil Meadow View de la Asociación de Nueva Jersey en Chesterfield, ensamblaron un robot. Se encuentran entre los estudiantes de la Unión de Columbia que asisten a una escuela adventista que está ampliando su programa STEM.

“Las actividades de STEM se han vuelto cada vez más importantes en la educación del siglo 21 porque nuestra sociedad enfrenta los beneficios y desafíos de la globalización y una sociedad basada en el conocimiento”, dice Ileana Espinosa, directora asociada de educación de la Unión de Columbia. “Como miembros de una sociedad tan compleja, nuestros estudiantes necesitan desarrollar conocimiento y habilidades para ayudar a resolver los problemas difíciles que enfrentamos y que seguiremos enfrentando en el futuro... Sin lugar a dudas, nuestro enfoque principal en la educación adventista es involucrar y fomentar un personal y un encuentro íntimo con Jesús en cada uno de nuestros estudiantes, sin embargo, también es nuestro deber prepararlos para servir mejor en sus comunidades locales y más allá”.

ASOCIACIÓN DE OHIO DA LA BIENVENIDA AL NUEVO TESORERO

El Comité Ejecutivo de la Asociación de Ohio recientemente nombró a Michael D. Gilkey como tesorero de la asociación. Él y su esposa, Joanne, se unieron al equipo de la asociación en febrero.

Gilkey se reunió varias veces con los líderes de la asociación y el Comité de Personal de la Asociación de Ohio. “Él ha ocupado cargos ejecutivos de alto nivel en muchas organizaciones que lo capacitan para su papel como

tesorero”, dice Ron Halvorsen Jr., presidente de la Asociación de Ohio. “Creemos que su capacidad



como experimentado solucionador de problemas, experiencia con grandes presupuestos y proyectos, y la experiencia con la tecnología beneficiarán a la asociación”.

Lea más sobre Gilkey en el boletín informativo de la Asociación de Ohio en la página 25.—Heidi Shoemaker

LA IGLESIA ADOPTA UN NUEVO SISTEMA DE IDENTIDAD VISUAL

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día recientemente dio a conocer un nuevo sistema de identidad visual global y una nueva tipografía “Advent Sans”. El sistema, que incluye un logotipo actualizado, permitirá a las entidades de la iglesia usar la misma fuente en 91 idiomas. La paleta de colores incluye varias opciones que las organizaciones pueden elegir dependiendo de su cultura y costumbres locales.



Columbia Union Conference

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Como parte del nuevo sistema, los líderes diseñaron la “Grilla de la Creación”, una estructura de diseño de siete columnas para proyectos de diseño. Las primeras seis columnas son para gráficos, texto y otro contenido para comunicar ideas. Pero la séptima columna, la “columna del Sábado”, se aparta intencionalmente del resto del espacio como un recordatorio visual de la identidad profética de la iglesia.

“El objetivo final de este sistema de pautas de identidad visual es ayudar a las personas a saber que todos somos adventistas del séptimo día. Somos diferentes, pero estamos entusiasmados con la belleza que está por venir”, dijo un portavoz de la Conferencia General Departamento de Comunicación.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo su organización puede implementar el nuevo sistema, visite identity.adventist.org.
—V. Michelle Bernard

LÍDERES SE INSPIRAN EN EHuddle

Más de 200 líderes de iglesias, pastores locales y líderes institucionales de toda la División Norteamericana (NAD) de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día se reunieron recientemente en eHuddle, la conferencia del equipo de Evangelismo, Visión y Liderazgo de la NAD.

“Discutimos los desafíos que enfrentamos y asistimos a presentaciones de las mejores prácticas que se llevan a cabo en algunas de nuestras iglesias locales, escuelas y hospitales”, dice el organizador del evento, Jose Cortes Jr., director asociado de evangelismo de NAD.

Hablaron carios líderes de la Unión de Columbia, incluyendo David Franklin (en la foto), pastor de la iglesia Ciudad Milagro (Miracle City) de la Asociación del Este de Allegheny en Baltimore.



Franklin compartió que su iglesia está trabajando para renovar 50 espacios en su comunidad local. “¿Qué podemos hacer para mejorar las estructuras de nuestra comunidad por generaciones?” desafió al grupo. “La iglesia local es la última esperanza del mundo”.

Mire todas las presentaciones en la página de Facebook de NAD, facebook.com/nadadventist.—VMB

UNA NIÑERA CONDUCE AL BAUTISMO

Maribel Romero (en la foto con el pastor de la Asociación de Potomac, Fismed Omar) necesitaba una niñera mientras

ella trabajaba. Wendy Morales, miembro de la iglesia española Gaithersburg (Md.) de la Asociación de Potomac, acordó ser la niñera de los Romero y, con el tiempo, construyeron una amistad. Esta relación fue parte camino bautismo para Maribel, que tuvo lugar en Diciembre durante Vivangelismo de la Unión de Columbia. Vea más de la historia de Romero en columbiaunionvisitor.com/romero, y conozca sobre la iglesia de ellas en la edición de este mes.—VMB



LA IGLESIA HISPANA DE ALLENTOWN CELEBRA LA GRAN INAUGURACIÓN

Casi 400 miembros e invitados se reunieron recientemente para la gran apertura de la iglesia hispana de Allentown de la Asociación de Pensilvania. La celebración incluyó tres bautismos y una ceremonia de inauguración con líderes locales, de asociaciones, uniones y de la Conferencia General.

La iglesia se fusionó recientemente con otras dos iglesias de Pensilvania: Bethlehem Hispanic y Luces de Sion Hispanic Company en Allentown. Juntos compraron y renovaron un edificio que satisfará sus crecientes necesidades. El pastor principal Fernando Rocha dirige la iglesia combinada con la ayuda del pastor laico Edwin DePaula. Lea más en el boletín de junio de la Asociación de Pensilvania.—Brenda DePaula



FOTOS POR JORGE PILLCO Y PIETER DAMSTEEGT

THE UNINVITED GUEST

Liz Anderson



“WE CAN’T LIVE LIKE THIS”

Leroy and Lois Peters’ roller coaster experience with mental illness started when their son, Leroy, “snapped” following a humiliating incident while stationed at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Lois remembers the moment she and her husband learned that something was terribly wrong.

“We got a call that he was in a hospital, in a psych unit,” she says, “and that he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and [was] prescribed meds.”

Once diagnosed, Leroy, then age 29, was honorably discharged, returned home to Maryland, and, for a while, lived with his family, longtime members of Allegheny East Conference’s Emmanuel Brinklow church in Ashton, Md. After some time, he moved to Montana to go to college, and found a church to attend. At this church, Leroy would approach the



*As a mother,
I struggled
with knowing
how to fix it,
how to help.*

pastor and “confess” all the things he had done during the week.

“Unrepeatable things,” Lois says.

Afraid the young man would end up in trouble, the pastor of the church called Lois and Leroy while they were on a business trip in Russia. They cut their trip short so they could retrieve the younger Leroy from Montana.

They later learned he had stopped taking his medicine.

They brought their son back to Maryland and admitted him to Adventist HealthCare’s Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., where he stayed for a week, got the help he needed and improved.

“Once he got back on his medication, he stabilized, but as soon as he got off the medication, he would go up and down and up and down and up and down,” says Lois, who added her son started to exhibit hate toward her. “We got to the place where we had to lock our bedroom doors at night.”

Another challenge they faced was balancing the desire to include their son in family functions with the need to protect younger members. Due to the illness, Leroy could be too harsh without realizing it. Family members constantly monitored him to make sure he wasn’t too severe when interacting with the younger ones.

Sometimes among adults, too, he would become disagreeable during discussions and dominate group interactions. In those cases, the elder Leroy would have to escort his son out of the room or event.

“It was just a whole life of not knowing when he was going to show up and disrupt everything, and yet, not trying to be harsh [with] him,” Lois explains. “It was overwhelming and painful, and, as a mother, I struggled with knowing how to fix it, how to help.”

Beyond the emotional toll, there was a financial strain. The Peters had to help their son pay back money he had been swindled out of, after warning him

*Prentiss Williams,
Leroy Peters, LaKeisha
Dickerson, Milan Scott,
Lois and Leroy Peters
gather during a 2006
family vacation.*



*You're tired,
you can't sleep well,
you're not eating the
way you should.*

that some new “friends” who seemed generous were actually up to no good. Wanting to help her son, but frustrated and overwhelmed, Lois finally admitted, “We can’t live like this.”

While they haven’t stopped loving and caring for their son, Lois says the family learned to love with limits—including even making the decision to not step in to stop the natural consequences of his actions.

Maya Pandit, who attends Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park (Md.) church, is a marriage and family therapist who specializes in medical therapy. She helps families navigate life during illness, work through family



dynamics that arise because of illness and cope with the inevitable and residual feelings and realities that come with their experiences. She often reminds her clients about the importance of setting boundaries.

“If we get so wrapped up in [the situation we can’t control], it can be overwhelming, it can take over the family life” and become “all that anybody thinks about,” she says. This uninvited guest can “eat up all your stuff, all your resources, not just your food and money. Everything about the life that you built is now being sucked into this vacuum. It gets really difficult for these families, not just the individuals.”

As the Peters and their son learned to set healthy boundaries and to cope with his illness, and as he continued to stay on the regulating medications, they began to adapt to their “new normal.”

After what Lois describes as a “Jesus experience,” Leroy, almost 40, gained a helpful roommate, started regularly taking his medication, received full disability benefits, started exercising and is now doing well.

“My child is a living testament that medication works, prayer works, doctors work,” Lois says.

In 2017 the Peters were honored at their church for talking about their son’s illness. With his permission, Lois hopes that sharing their story will help other families.

THE TOLL OF ROLE REVERSAL

Sometimes when illness occurs, the parent/child roles are reversed. This was the experience of Fred and Heidi Shoemaker (pictured left), who serve in the Ohio Conference—he as pastor of the Mount Vernon Hill church, and she as conference communication and Women’s Ministries director. Five years ago, at Thanksgiving time, this couple suddenly found themselves serving as caregivers for Fred’s aging parents.

During their final years, Fred’s parents, Rosalie and Fred J. Shoemaker (pictured right), lived in the house they raised him in about an hour from Mount Vernon. The family enjoyed getting together often, either at the old homestead or in Mount Vernon.

But as his dad’s health declined some, “they couldn’t really come up here to see us like they used to, so we would always go down there to be with them, and very often on Sabbaths after church,” Fred recalls. “... Any time we would have big family [gatherings], Heidi would [cook and get] everything set so mom could relax. Those were special times,” Fred reminisces.

On Thanksgiving morning in 2013, Fred’s dad fell out of the bed and fractured several ribs. At the hospital, they found out that the elder Fred and Rosalie had pneumonia. So they spent Thanksgiving together—in the hospital.

Over the next two years, Heidi and Fred, who became Adventist later in life, cared for his parents. The couple cooked and cleaned, helped them get to appointments, found them in-home care and eventually

Step by Step

Maya Pandit, a marriage and family therapist in Baltimore, says that illness joining the family can also lead couples to talk about deeper feelings, even when their relationships have been fairly surface in the past. This can upset the previously negotiated communication structures of the pair, but professional counseling is one way to work through it.

Conversely, “even a couple that has great communication skills can have a difficult time talking about one of them passing away. ... So it can be very difficult to adjust to everyone’s type of coping style. One of the things that I like to tell my couples and my families is it’s not just one conversation. You’ve got to be able to talk about these things slowly, and over a longer period of time.”

moved them into an assisted care facility. Rosalie died in November 2015 and Fred J. in January 2017.

Before he passed, Heidi took care of her father-in-law by washing and lotioning his legs, giving him haircuts, trimming his toenails. Fred would help by cleaning his dad and wheeling him around. “To be able to do that and be able to share stories at the same time, that was just very humbling, and it was a privilege,” says Heidi. Fred adds, “It was a great gift to help my parents who helped me all my life.”

Thanks to a supportive conference, Heidi and Fred felt like they could make family their first priority, but, for Heidi, that meant several times working until midnight. It was also tiring because they didn’t get enough sleep and were away from home a lot. The physical exhaustion



was most difficult of all, says Heidi. “You’re tired, you can’t sleep well, you’re not eating the way you should, you’re not exercising the way you should.”

This is common for caregivers. “Sometimes family stress or conflict can tax a family so much that they can’t even attend to what needs to be done,” says Pandit, who adds that caregivers provide better care when they are doing well themselves.

One of the ways Heidi coped was to ask for help. “Don’t be afraid to ask for help from your church family, from your friends, from your immediate family,” she says. “You’ll be amazed at how many people are willing to help if you give them a specific task.”

The need for adult children to care for aging parents in the U.S. will continue to increase. Data from a United Nations report shows that the average life expectancy in America is higher today than any other period in history. The percentage of adults over 65 has grown from 8 percent in 1959 to 12 percent in 2000, and is expected to rise to 20 percent by 2050. This means many more adult children will take on caregiving roles and become part of the growing “sandwich” generation that’s raising children while also caring for aging parents.

*Good things
come out of facing
such challenges
together.*



“GOD DID NOT LEAVE US ALONE”

Sometimes it’s not the parents who face illness, but a spouse. At age 14, Paul Riley was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. While dating and in their early days of marriage, Marilyn Riley (above), a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., says she was starry-eyed and assumed that their life together would be without complications. “However, I soon realized that there were many things we would not be doing—nature walks, camping, outdoor sports, long walks of any kind, anything physical,” she says.

“His decline came gradually with one thing going wrong, then another, then another. It was a progressive decline, but a slow one,” says Marilyn. She adds that “[in] the long run, there was considerable financial strain for medical treatments and expenses.”

After 24 years of marriage, he died from a blood clot in his lung and a stroke occurring at the same time.

Marilyn says the illness was a challenge for her and her two sons, but it also taught them that faith in God was important. She adds, “We also learned a lot about compassion. [As a result], I believe our children grew up in a closer and more nurturing environment.”

She adds, “I believe the challenges we faced helped each of us become stronger spiritually and better people, generally. Good things come out of facing such challenges together. God did not leave us alone—He was a tremendous support, and we could see His help all along the way.”



Marilyn, Paul, Philip and Chandler Riley pose for a family portrait in 1989.

PHOTOS BY: JOSH ROBERTS/AP IMAGES, TY WRIGHT/AP IMAGES AND KEVIN MANUEL; FAMILY PHOTOS PROVIDED

Facing the **CHALLENGE**

Maya Pandit, a marriage and family therapist in Baltimore, helps families navigate the ills of illness. “Now more than ever, I see family members and caregivers willing to address their own struggles and need for self-care. It’s very important that these conversations be allowed to happen so caregivers can not only get the help and support they need. ... They have more patience, compassion and generally more to give when they take the time to fill their own well of needs.”

She suggests the following tips when families face the mental challenges that come with a chronic illness:



EXTERNALIZE: Separate the person from the illness. They oftentimes get merged into one.

EXPRESS: Expression is about more than words; it’s about the act. One of the ways to really show your loved one that you care is to put aside tasks associated with caring for the illness. It can be hard for caregivers to carve out undivided attention when they have a mile-long list of tasks to be accomplished. Put the dishes down. Put the bills away. Make eye contact. Give your loved ones that something we all need—attention.

ENRICH: Enrich your life physically—eat healthy, exercise, do what you can for yourself. Psychologically or emotionally—talk to someone. Open up, draw or do art—whatever you can do for your mental and emotional health. Pandit says spiritual enrichment is what really makes you find purpose and meaning in life. “For

us Adventists, it’s God. It’s Sabbath hours. It’s taking time to pray and meditate on Scripture. Really take it seriously to spiritually rejuvenate yourself.”

GET SOCIAL: Isolation is one of the worst things we can experience. The uninvited guest of illness does not want anyone else taking our attention. We’ve got to be able to have a social life because we cannot do it on our own.

CREATE BOUNDARIES: Expressing boundaries is critical. This means putting the illness in its place and not letting it run roughshod over the entire family. “If we get so wrapped up in it, it can be overwhelming, it can take over the family life and it can become the uninvited guest that is all anybody thinks about,” Pandit says. That could mean taking a soak in the bathtub, or taking some other type of “me time” as a respite from all the duties that are necessary due to the illness.



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G. E. Peters School Hosts Annual STEM Fair



Elementary winners Madison Haughton, Jalen Andrews and Lilian Tyler hold their medals during the annual Regional STEM Fair.



Abigail Moore, Kayleigh Grant and Leashley Oldfield display their primary-category medals after presenting their projects to a panel of judges.



Middle-school winners Cielito Athinez, Brandon Lewis and Tony Scott proudly show their “bling” from the competition.

The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) Office of Education recently held its annual Regional STEM Fair, hosted by the George E. Peters Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md.

The first place winner of the middle-school category not only brought home the gold, but earned the opportunity for their school to host the next AEC Regional STEM Fair. “We are proud of the phenomenal job our [40] students did at this year’s STEM fair,” says John Alberty, superintendent of schools. “The projects were innovative, the students presented well and the judges were excited; all indicative of the bright future our students have in science-based careers.”

Educators also chose select freshmen and sophomores from Pine Forge Academy (Pa.) to defend science projects based on their placement in an AEC local school science fair. Twelve members had the opportunity to present their projects to a judging panel comprised of individuals from a variety of occupational fields.

The AEC Regional STEM Fair winners by category are as follows:

Elementary

- 1st: Madison Haughton (Dupont Park in Washington, D.C.)
- 2nd: Lilian Tyler (Sharon Temple in Wilmington, Del.)
- 3rd: Jalen Andrews (G. E. Peters in Hyattsville, Md.)

Primary

- 1st: Abigail Moore (Baltimore Junior Academy)
- 2nd: Leashley Oldfield (Wilbert F. Mays in Teaneck, N.J.)
- 3rd: Kayleigh Grant (Trinity Temple Academy in Newark, N.J.)

Middle

- 1st: Tony Scott (Baltimore Junior Academy)
- 2nd: Brandon Lewis (Trinity Temple Academy)
- 3rd: Cielito Athinez (G. E. Peters)

Conference Mourns Pastor's Death



The Allegheny East Conference (AEC) family mourns the recent death of Pastor Beverly Miles. Prior to his call to ministry, Miles served as an elder for several years at Miracle Temple Church (now Miracle City) in Baltimore, Md. He was a member of the AEC Executive Committee from 1996-2001.

Miles completed his Master of Divinity degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and became pastor of the Serenity church in Martinsburg, W.Va., in 2012. In January 2017, he transitioned to the Berea Temple church in Baltimore, where he served as assistant pastor.

As a trained artist, Miles had a career in art education before pastoring. Several painted murals—including at AEC's Church of the Oranges in Orange, N.J., and Miracle City—bear his signature.

"Pastor Miles was a true team player who was warm, kind-hearted and committed to hastening the Lord's second coming. He loved his own family as well as his church family. He will certainly be missed," says Maurice Taylor, senior pastor of Berea.

Miles is survived by his wife, Angela, and two adult daughters, Melody Haynes (husband, Curtis) and Fayth.

Richmond's Ephesus Church Celebrates 110 Years

The Ephesus church recently celebrated 110 years of ministry in the Richmond, Va., area. Organizers Gene M. Donaldson, former Ephesus pastor, member Sandra Rollins and the anniversary committee chose "110 Years of God's Faithfulness" as the theme for the event.

The Ephesus Anniversary Mass Choir set the tone for guest speaker Alvin M. Kibble, vice president for the North American Division and former AEC president, who congratulated the church on their accomplishments and challenged them to learn the joy of celebrating in the Lord.

The evening activities began with a concert by the Three Tenors of Washington, D.C., and concluded with a commemorative banquet. Evening entertainment included a re-enactment of 110 years of church history under four different conferences (Virginia, Potomac, Allegheny and Allegheny East), 23 pastors and five locations. Coordinators highlighted Charles Kinney, the church's third pastor and the first African-American pastor ordained in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Various new members expressed they were excited to be a part of a fellowship with such a rich history. Long-time members shared they grew nostalgic when hearing familiar names and listening to songs by the Ephesonians recorded on vinyl records 50 years ago.

Surprised children displayed awe as they learned that senior citizens were once Pathfinder leaders and that parents once attended Ephesus Junior Academy where they learn today.

Doris Johnson, Ephesus member, shares, "It was exciting to see members of long ago. It was just a blessed day and a great celebration."



Founding members of the Ephesus church gather in the early 1900s.

Grace Community Holds 2nd Annual Ministry Conference

Grace Community members in Cleveland recently held their second annual Ministry Conference. Leaders and ministry volunteers worshiped, fellowshiped and studied around the theme, “This is Church.” Pastors encouraged attendees to rediscover what God intended the church to be in order to take ministry to higher levels. MyRon Edmonds, lead pastor, envisioned the weekend conference to empower participants to



be the hands and feet of Jesus, helping them “to fully embrace our calling as the body of Christ.”

Praise leader Jillian Lawrence led the participants in music. “It was refreshing to experience the transparent, spirit-filled leadership found in Jillian,” states Kimberly Bulgin, worship pastor. “Our hearts and minds were prepared to receive a word from the Lord.”

Guest speaker Kymone Hinds, pastor of the Overton Park church in Memphis, Tenn., and Journey Fellowship, a new church plant in Cordova, Tenn., challenged members to advance the kingdom by being recognized for living out grace. He invited everyone to uphold the ministry of reconciliation in reaching lost communities, and reminded them that “the gospel is the heart of the Church that will lead lost souls to Christ.”

In conclusion, he used 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 to make his point: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation” (NKJV).

Kymone Hinds, pastor of two churches in Tennessee, shares the importance of “being the church” with Ministry Conference attendees.

Greater Faith Celebrates a “New Start”

The Greater Faith church in Martinsville, Va., began 2018 in a unique way. Instead of making New Year’s resolutions, they implemented NEWSTART. The church put on a special program inviting friends, family and community guests to participate in an event highlighting the benefits of NEWSTART: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God.

Thomas Betts, elder and member, spoke on the acronym of NEWSTART. The program also featured musical numbers, including selections from Detra Betts, a guest from North Carolina, and Danny Swanson, a Greater Faith member. Rose Knight, also from Greater Faith, stunned the crowd by using a saw as an instrument.

The event closed with individual testimonies. Following the service, attendees fellowshiped together, eating haystacks and peanut butter carob nuggets. To get a copy of the popular dessert recipe, email claverne7@gmail.com.



Carol and Thomas Betts, organizers of Greater Faith’s NEWSTART event, praise God that He used them to introduce this program to the church members.



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THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Jesus Had a Mess on His Hands

All you have to do is look at the list of disciples Jesus picked to know He had a mess on His hands. Two particular people, Matthew and Simon, had the potential to be immersed in conflict. Matthew, a Mokhes tax collector, was an enemy of the Jewish nation. Although Jesus knew everything about him, He still invited him to “Follow Me” (see Matt. 9:9). What was Jesus thinking?

Jesus also invited Simon the Zealot to follow Him. A zealot was someone who hated Romans and traitors. So, we have Matthew in one corner, a traitor of the nation, and, in the opposite corner, Simon, a patriot willing to kill for his nation. Can you feel the tension? It was messy!

Tensions among the disciples remained throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry. However, everything changes in Acts 1 and 2. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, prayed earnestly, became one in purpose, allowed the Holy Spirit to fill them and started to serve one another.

If we look at our church today, we might think *Jesus still has a mess on His hands*. Notwithstanding, God knows what He is doing. Let’s trust the Lord’s plan, follow the model of the early church, seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and, together, experience genuine transformation and oneness in Christ.



Eli Rojas
Ministerial Director

STEM Grant Opens New Opportunities

The Chesapeake Conference Office of Education received a \$15,000 STEM grant from an anonymous, private foundation to fund the purchase and training for 20 Engineering is Elementary (EiE) kits for schools throughout the conference.

EiE is a prestigious inquiry-based curriculum developed by the Museum of Science in Boston. The program is built around the Engineering Design Process, which is a critical component of the Next Generation

Science Standards. Aerospace, biochemical and mechanical engineering are among the many topics covered in the kits. The fundamentals of engineering teach students critical thinking and reasoning skills needed to solve problems systematically and successfully. This program provides a unique interdisciplinary opportunity for students, as it integrates engineering, literacy and geography in the context of addressing global engineering challenges.

Conference teachers have started training and implementing this program in various schools. The students who have engaged in the program have gained valuable lab experiences in cutting-edge areas such as robotics.

Recently conference leaders birthed several STEM-related after-school programs, summer camps, lectures and certificate programs. Ophelia Barizo, STEM coordinator for the conference, has trained many teachers to utilize STEM in their classrooms. “Students have been participating in more STEM field trips,” says Barizo. “Highland View Academy offers students the opportunity to earn a high school STEM certificate. ... The Spencerville Adventist Academy board has just approved offering a STEM certificate for their students starting next year. In a nutshell, students are getting more inquiry-based, project-based and hands-on learning experiences.”



Third-graders at Spencerville Adventist Academy build a tower from index cards that can hold a teddy bear for at least 10 seconds.

PHOTO BY OPHELIA BARIZO

THE CHALLENGE

Washington Ghanaian Congregation Finds New Home

After seven years renting and praying for a new facility, the Washington Ghanaian congregation newly purchased a church building at 6080 Foreland Garth Road in Columbia, Md. Most recently, the church met at Spencerville Adventist Academy's (Md.) auditorium.

Ebenezer Asiem, head elder, took on a key role in the church transition, as the congregation is currently without formal pastoral leadership. "Our move to Columbia was a strategic one," he says. "After extensive demographic studies in our church, we discovered that 88.1 percent of our membership lived either within the city of Columbia or the neighboring cities, and there is an influx of Ghanaian population within the Columbia area. Church growth through evangelism is our top priority, therefore we deemed it necessary to purchase a church building in the Columbia area."

Since the move, Washington Ghanaian has already seen a membership growth, totaling 259. Weekly visitor volume has increased and many have expressed interest in joining. The youth of the church are particularly pleased, as the new facility provides space for youth



President Rick Remmers leads in a dedicatory prayer for the Washington Ghanaian leadership and church.

ministry fellowship and activities. Asiem concludes, "As a result of this property acquisition, the members of Washington Ghanaian now have their own church building to freely worship, conduct ministry and engage in community outreach."

Baltimore Centro Organizes as a Church

The Baltimore Centro—La Esperanza congregation recently officially organized as a church with 63 members. Over the years, the congregation has seen the Lord increase their fledgling group into an established church with potential for continued growth.

In April of 2014, 16 members began meeting together in small groups in individual's homes. Different

lay-leaders/families oversaw each group and Pastor Ramon Croussett visited the groups to keep the membership spiritually encouraged. As the groups continued to grow, members began meeting collectively for Sabbath School, worship, prayer meeting and youth meetings. In November 2015, the congregation was organized as a company with 32 members. The church now averages 70 each Sabbath. One key to the continued growth is the tradition of holding two evangelistic campaigns annually.

The Sanchez family is a living testimony of how God has been at work in this congregation. Early on, Douglas Sanchez took Bible studies when the church first started meeting. About four months later, he chose to be baptized, along with his wife, two sons and daughter. A few months later, another daughter immigrated from El Salvador, got married and also chose baptism, along with her husband.

Croussett can think of many ways He has seen the Lord bless the congregation. "Our dream is to have a permanent church home someday soon," he says. "We would like to reach out more to our cross-cultural community through food banks and assist in recovery ministries for those battling with addictions."



Chesapeake officers join with the Baltimore Centro congregation to celebrate the official organizing of the church.

PHOTO BY SELVIN VELAZQUEZ

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MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

Now Is the Time

Before becoming a pastor, I was a police officer. I spent the last few years of police work serving as a traffic officer—I drove an unmarked police car and wrote traffic tickets eight hours a day. I also served as a fatality investigator when someone died from a car accident. Some facets of accident reconstruction were engaging, but the most difficult part was seeing deceased people in their mangled vehicles. Each accident I worked made a lasting impression on me because it forced me to realize that life is uncertain and each day is a precious gift from God. It also forced me to ask myself the question, *Were the casualties ready to meet Jesus?* It made me cringe to think



that some of them—maybe many of them—were not ready. I began to realize instead of asking myself that question, a much better idea would be to help them get ready for heaven while they were still alive and could make a change.

People all around us don't know Jesus and are searching for what is missing in their lives. Many are looking for that missing link in all the wrong places: alcohol, drugs, careers, money, etc. These searching people need someone like you and me to befriend them and introduce them to Jesus. He, and He alone, is who they are really searching for. This is where we come in.

If we don't share Jesus with our friends and neighbors now, when will we? God can really use us to lead people to Himself. Ellen White writes, "Many have gone down to ruin who might have been saved if their neighbors, common men and women, had put forth personal effort for them. Many are

waiting to be personally addressed. In the very family, the neighborhood, the town, where we live, there is work for us to do as missionaries for Christ. If we are Christians, this work will be our delight. No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 141).

Now is the time to let the truth of Jesus be known to people around us, so we don't end up wondering—after it is too late—if we could've been the difference in someone's life. Now is the time, today is the day, when we can lead someone to Jesus, to eternal life. Jesus is coming soon; let's get busy!—*Mike Hewitt, President*

East Pea Ridge Men Cook Up Healthy Recipes



Three members from the East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va., recently presented a vegan, plant-based cooking class for church members and visitors. Members David Kloman, Tony Walker and Pastor Jared Briggman gave demonstrations and shared recipes for breakfast, lunch, appetizers, dinner and desserts.

Member Peggy Criddle states that Briggman's "bacon" recipe was one of her favorites. "[The class] was professionally done, funny and doable," says Judy Ronk, another church member. "I truly enjoyed presenting. It was a blast," concludes Briggman.—*Kathy Plybon*

Tony Walker, head elder of the East Pea Ridge church, shares his love of healthy cooking with an attentive audience.



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news

NEW JERSEY

Stewards of God's Grace

As Christians, being stewards of God's grace should be exciting. This is one of the greatest blessings our Creator could give us. Often, when we speak of our stewardship responsibilities to God, we dwell on the material, the tangible aspects of His blessings. But I believe the spiritual, the intangible grace of God should be priority.

Many Christians believe that the material, tangible things of life are our own because we've worked for it. We then speak in terms of our tithes and offerings being our own, and conclude that if we give them to the church, we have rights to certain benefits or recognition. If God says in Malachi 3:8 that Israel robbed Him in tithes and offerings, *He* must be the real Owner, not us. In the spiritual realm, we accept God's gift of grace in gratitude, but in the material realm, we have a greater struggle with self.

Let's remember we receive salvation as a free gift of God's grace; this is the spiritual, intangible realm. And we are stewards in both the spiritual and material gifts. Since we receive both, we should give both. Second

Corinthians 5:18-20 states: "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ... Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ" (NKJV).

John 4:6-42 illustrates the power of the intangible over the tangible. Around midday Jesus is hungry and thirsty. He is seated at Jacob's well near the Samaritan city of Sychar, when



Jesus is Coming!

a Samaritan woman comes with her waterpot to collect water. Jesus asks her for a drink, then offers her living water. The conversation concludes by Jesus identifying Himself as the Messiah. The Samaritan woman accepts Him as God's Anointed One. At this junction, the disciples return and offer Jesus food. He tells them He has food they know nothing about. He explains: "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34, NKJV). Meanwhile the Samaritan woman has left her waterpot and invited her acquaintances to come and meet the Messiah—the man who changed her life.

Jesus' passion and ministry of being a steward cannot be overlooked. Sharing God's grace with the woman was so important to Jesus that material, tangible food became secondary. The Samaritan woman was so filled with the intangible, spiritual living water of eternal life that she left her tangible waterpot, and, as a good steward of God's grace, invited others to meet Jesus.

The new administration of the New Jersey Conference has inspired us with the theme: "Sharing hope; Jesus is coming!" May we be continually inspired to be faithful stewards of God's intangible and tangible grace.



Leonel Pottinger
*Ministerial and
Stewardship Director*

1,000 Attend Youth Convention, Teen Retreat

More than 1,000 youth and leaders recently gathered at the newly remodeled gym of Tranquil Valley Retreat Center in Andover, N.J., to praise and worship at New Jersey Conference's annual Youth Convention and Teen Retreat. The theme, "Generation 28:19," focused on Matthew 28:19: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Paulo Macena, Youth Ministries director, explains, "We wanted to emphasize discipleship with our youth. We wanted them to understand that each one of them is responsible in sharing the news with their friends, at school, with their neighbors and through their social media. We want to see them involved in proclaiming the good news and being proud of being part of Generation 28:19."

Leaders presented seminars, discussion panels and encouraged young adults to be true disciples of Jesus. The Youth Ministries leaders also received training to better serve in their local churches. "Guest speaker David McKenzie, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, brought beautiful messages



Paulo Macena, Youth Ministries director, introduces David McKenzie, Northeastern Conference Youth Ministries director, the main speaker at the Youth Convention and Teen Retreat.

and encouraged the crowd to be part of Generation 28:19—a generation of power!" says Macena.

Conference's First Class of Chaplains Graduate

The International Alliance of Chaplains and National Security Personnel, a division of the District of Columbia, recently graduated the first group of chaplains from the New Jersey Conference.

The chaplains' mission is to work with the community and follow in the footsteps of Christ by visiting "Jesus" in jails, hospitals, orphanages and nursing homes and to bring the love and compassion of Christ to those in need, as described in Matthew 25:35-40.

The chaplains are currently working with hospitals and orphanages throughout New Jersey to visit and bring Christ-centered programs to the underprivileged. This year they will begin working with Prison Ministries, under the direction of Eduardo Monteiro, conference Prison Ministries director. "These members of the New Jersey Conference accepted the call to share the hope that Jesus is coming soon," says Monteiro.



Thirteen graduates, including (top, left) Jesús Sepulveda, Passaic Spanish I; Gregorio Mendez, Clifton Spanish; Wilder Morris, Neptune English; Alberto Roldán, Passaic Spanish I; Major Moisés Escalera, Hyattsville Spanish; Jorge Coxaj, pastor of Passaic Spanish I; Lieutenant Coronel Héctor Cruz, Peninsula Spanish; Ricardo Trinidad, captain of the New Jersey area; Ana Trinidad, Dover Spanish; (front, left) Denia Sepulveda, Passaic Spanish I; Cathy Washington, Neptune English; Sarah Frodelly, Hackettstown English; Alicia Feliz, Passaic Spanish II; Njurka Zapata, Passaic Spanish I; Celeste Soto, Passaic Spanish I; and Jenill Emery, Neptune English display their chaplain certificates and credentials.

Conference Welcomes New Treasurer



After prayerful consideration, the Ohio Conference Executive Committee voted to approve Michael D. Gilkey, J.D., as new conference treasurer. He and his wife, Joanne, joined the conference team earlier this year.

Gilkey met several times with conference leadership and the Ohio Conference Personnel Committee. “While he has not served as a conference treasurer, he has held senior level executive positions in many organizations which will equip him for his role as treasurer,” says Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ohio Conference president. “We believe his skill set as a proven problem solver, experience with large budgets and projects and expertise with technology will benefit the conference.”

Gilkey, who recently served as director of Compliance and LEAN for the Lincoln County Health System in Tennessee, is an attorney with extensive executive experience in risk management. LEAN, developed by Toyota, is the process that analyzes work flow and eliminates unnecessary steps, reducing expenses and focusing on delivering quality services.

As the Ohio Conference transitions to their new office building in Dayton, Gilkey’s experience coordinating “virtual teams” with members located in different geographic regions will be valuable. “Michael communicates with clarity and purpose, supporting team members with resources,” says Halvorsen. “He has repeatedly brought people together to successfully achieve different tasks and meet big goals.”

Gilkey replaces Karen Senecal, who accepted a position last summer with the General Conference Auditing Service. Constituents can meet Gilkey at the upcoming April town hall meetings and at the May 6 constituency meeting in Worthington.

Ohio Youth Help Rebuild After Hurricane Maria

More than a dozen young people from across the conference recently joined youth director Edward Marton on a mission trip to Galateo, Puerto Rico, to help residents rebuild after deadly Hurricane Maria.

Working in cooperation with the local Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and José Roberto Rodríguez, president of the Puerto Rican Union, the youth repaired and rebuilt the roof at Elias Burgos, an Adventist camp. They also laid tile in a new home built by the local conference for two brothers and assisted a 96-year-old man by installing a FEMA-provided tarp over his severely damaged roof to prevent it from leaking.

“We started every day at 6:30 a.m. to maximize the cool weather. Then it would get hot, but God provided some cloud cover just when we needed it most,” says Jennifer Pomales, Ohio Conference’s associate Pathfinder director. The team brought toys and other gifts to share with children and families in area villages who lost everything during Hurricane Maria.



Edward Marton (right), Ohio Conference youth director, and his team repair and rebuild the roof at Elias Burgos, an Adventist camp in Puerto Rico.

Pastor Serves as Law Enforcement Chaplain

Last fall Heidi Shoemaker, communication director for the Ohio Conference, asked pastors and chaplains from across the conference if they had ministries at hospitals, prisons or with law enforcement/first responders. Marius E. Marton, senior pastor of the Elyria district, shares his story:

Lorain County Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti swore me in as a civilian deputy to serve as chaplain in March 2017.

The Lorain County Sheriff's office consists of different departments such as the traffic patrol unit, detective bureau, jail, etc. My duties include ride-alongs with the deputies in their patrol cars to know them better and to provide pastoral counseling as needed. I help them handle stress, balance family life with work schedules, listen to them, pray with them and make sure they are at their best performance spiritually and mentally. Sometimes I assist these deputies with death notifications, going with them as they notify the family of the deceased.

The jail is at the rear of the Sheriff's office. I listen to the correctional officers and offer pastoral counseling, pray with them and anything else that might



Marius Marton, pastor and law enforcement chaplain, spends his Mondays at the Lorain County Sheriff's Office, providing counseling and prayer with the employees.



Marius Marton (left) presents Lorain County Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti with a certificate of appreciation.

require chaplains' services. My most important responsibility is to be available for these deputies and officers when needed.

In November 2017, the Elyria church hosted a concert for the Lorain County Sheriff's office. With the help and support of the church, I hired 23 professional musicians, including a small chamber orchestra and four opera singers. The concert included old hymns arranged for this ensemble, old favorites from Vivaldi, Handel's "Messiah" and some personal compositions. During the concert, I had the opportunity to introduce law enforcement officials, musicians and guests to Ellen White's books and testimony. This mission opportunity allowed me to present a copy of *The Desire of Ages*, along with a certificate of appreciation, to Stammitti and Elyria Mayor Holly C. Brinda.

Every Monday when I get to my office at the Lorain County Sheriff's office, I begin the day praying for each employee—that God will keep them safe and provide me opportunities to pray with them and share God's love through my words and actions. Before I leave the office, I pray once more that God will keep them safe until I am back the following week. It is a privilege and joy for me to serve as a law enforcement chaplain.

Pennsylvania Pen

The Gospel—Integral to Healing

I've always had an interest in health and wellness. While in college, I served as a student missionary "health educator" for one year in Papua New Guinea. While living in remote jungle villages, I learned the devastating impact of malaria, dysentery, viruses and poor hygiene. I was grateful to provide the villagers with basic health education, as well as diagnose and treat (I'm not sure that was a good idea!) their various illnesses through natural remedies and medication. To my surprise, many of the villagers experienced improved physical health!

I also noticed that many of the same villagers struggled with deep-rooted health issues, such as anger, jealousy and various addictions. I quickly realized these issues were a result of their active engagement in worshipping evil spirits. There was only one remedy—Jesus! The Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation" (KJV). The word "salvation" in this text comes from the Greek word "sozo," which also means "healing" or "made whole." Only the good news of Jesus can bring everlasting wholeness and healing!

Ellen White asserts, "We should ever remember that the object of the medical missionary work is to point sin-sick men and women to the Man of Calvary, who taketh away the sin of the world. By beholding Him, they will be changed into His likeness. We are to encourage the sick and suffering to look to Jesus and live" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 144).



Rick Christman
Executive Director for
Adventist WholeHealth Network

Adventist WholeHealth Network Moving to BMA

Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) is not new to Pennsylvania. They have been providing resources and education to individuals, churches and organizations from their office in Reading, Pa., since 2002. Late this spring they will move their office to the campus of Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg, Pa., where AWHN can provide various health ministry training events, wellness camps and conferences, while offering attendees affordable overnight lodging and meals.

"This move will enable us to better fulfill our mission to train, mentor and support churches, centers of influence and schools toward holistic (physical, mental, social and spiritual) health," shares Rick Christman, executive director. "By moving to BMA, AWHN will save about \$35,000-40,000 per year, which can be used for health ministry grants and outreach in Pennsylvania. We also look forward to training and involving BMA students in community health outreach activities."

Upcoming Events:

Third Sundays—Join AWHN at the BMA Health Food Store for health screenings and seminars.

April 21—iServe Health Ministries Conference, sponsored by AWHN and the Pennsylvania Conference, will be held at BMA.

May 25-27—The first BMA seniors will graduate as part of the Green Cord achievement after learning Christ's method for reaching their community through simple and practical health outreach initiatives.

July 25-29—iThrive Wellness Camp features a team of wellness coaches, physicians and massage therapists who will educate and inspire participants on how to improve their health and maintain wellness.

For more information, visit awhn.org.

Dorms Receive Needed Renovation

Under staff guidance, Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) students recently began desperately-needed renovations in both dormitories.

With alumni financial support earmarked for materials, and additional support coming through Maranatha volunteers in April and October, students wanted to play a part in adding value to their BMA experience.

Student teams, under the direction of administrator and registrar Diana Engen, began tearing out the old furniture (closets and drawers), pulling up tile, placing down new flooring and assisting in the process of preparing



Diogenes Vargas, Maria Perez and Sofia Miquilena tear out closets and drawers during BMA's renovation process.



Penelope Vasquez and Wenfei Yu replace flooring in one of BMA's dorm rooms.

room walls for patching, sanding, painting, and, with volunteer Tom Sitler, installing new electrical outlets.

In the future, BMA students will install lighting and ceiling fans. BMA students might also be involved with the construction of room furniture. The expected completion date for the room renovations is December 2018.

To be part of a Maranatha team (either April or October) and help with the renovations, contact Steve Reese at sreese@bma.us for registration details.

—David Morgan

Students Focus On Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice



Student Charlie Richardson presents Bible prophecy during the opening night of Blue Mountain Academy's FOCUS week.

Chaplain Sang Hae Kim has invested time, prayer and insight into the development of spiritual leadership with students at Blue Mountain Academy (BMA). His goal is to enhance students' opportunities for key leadership roles in different aspects of spiritual life on campus.

This was evident during BMA's recent Week of Prayer, themed "Focus on Christ's Ultimate Sacrifice." This year student leaders from the spiritual leadership team presented a Daniel and Revelation seminar introducing students to distinct Seventh-day Adventist beliefs regarding Bible prophecy and the end times.

Students also led through music, scripture and other special presentations throughout the week—making "they shall be all taught of God," the original mission statement the founders of BMA instilled in their DNA, a reality!—DM

Potomac People

Communication Department Produces New Resource

Church communication directors now have a new resource guide providing keys to ministry engagement. *Communication Corner*, a newly produced booklet created by Potomac Conference's communication department, answers commonly asked questions and assists communication team members as they direct the flow of information from their local church.

Potomac's communication team shared this booklet, as well as other vital information for those just starting off as communication directors in local churches, during a seminar at EQUIP-HD, a training program to help lay members develop communication skills. "As communicators, you are an important part of the ministry by providing consistent and creative messages and recording the history of your church," said Debra Anderson, assistant to the president for communication. "Whether you're a part of your church's communication team, you are the team or want to start one, this guide will help ensure you're on the right track."

The booklet is available at pcsda.org or can be mailed upon request. It provides a job description for church communicators, writing tips, methods to reach out to local media outlets, ways to streamline



Communication Corner is a resource created by Potomac's communication team to help assist new church communicators.

communication among church members and details on how to submit content and share stories in *Leader2Leader*, Potomac's e-newsletter, *Potomac People*, Potomac's *Visitor* newsletter and pcsda.org.

Buena Vista Ramps Up Rockbridge

Members at the Buena Vista (Va.) church are working to "Ramp Up Rockbridge" County by building ramps for seniors and disabled persons in the area. As part of the church's cycle of evangelism, as well as its participation in the North American Division's Compassion 10 Million campaign, church members

committed to building four ramps within the next year.

"In a conversation with our county's Department of Social Services, they specifically mentioned that this is one of the biggest needs in our area," says Daniel Xisto, pastor. This need was emphasized when a church member fell and broke his hip. Members rallied to create a wooden ramp for him to maneuver in and out of his home.

"We decided to provide metal ramps that we could set up and tear down to reuse if the person moved or no longer had a need for the ramp," explains David Hall, the church's community outreach leader. So far they have installed two ramps.

"We are excited about this creative ministry and look forward to helping and addressing the needs of our community," Xisto says.



David Hall (green shirt), Buena Vista's community outreach leader, and church member Michael Hall install a ramp as part of the church's "Ramping Up Rockbridge" initiative.

Potomac People

Pastor Presses Reset Button, Introduces Storytelling

After seeing the success of nationwide storytelling competitions and exhibitions such as *The Moth*, a National Public Radio (NPR) show and podcast, last year Richard Castillo, an associate pastor of the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., set out to create a program built around storytelling.

Castillo says the concept is simple—get people to tell their stories in a curated 10-12 minute format, and then spark conversation with challenging questions. “The ultimate hope of the program—which we named Reset—was an environment where each attendee would feel a freedom to share their own stories, allowing attendees to grow deep relationships,” he explains. “If people attend a church because they love the community around them, what better way to inspire community than by giving people a venue to share like no other will allow?”

Castillo says topics are meant to extend into attendees’ everyday lives, challenging them to reach deep and find something to share, that, in some cases, they may have never shared before. Then it’s the responsibility of the question facilitator to put a spiritual bow on the conversations. “At Reset, every night is about



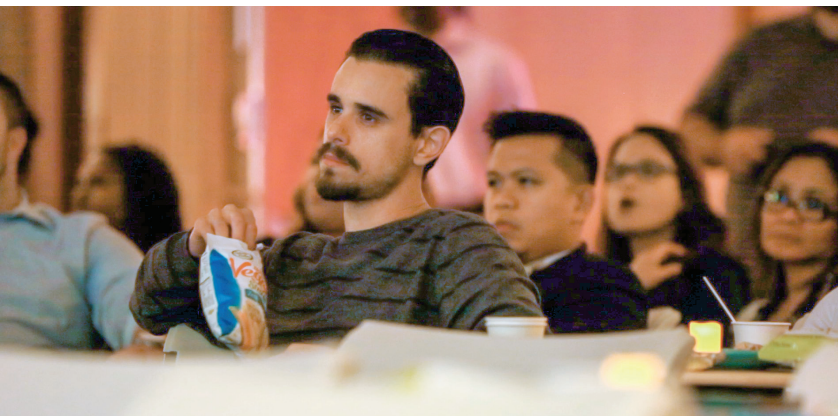
Kara Castillo, Sligo church member, shares her story with the Reset crowd.

Jesus and how our lives may be better if we take our stories and experiences and lay them at the cross,” says Castillo.

Almost a year later, Reset is holding its own and showing what happens when you bring people together to worship and share their lives in a way in which many church environments aren’t equipped.

Reset begins its program with the Reset band, an eclectic group that loves to tell stories and praise God. “If you come to Reset, you might hear great hymns like *Jesus Paid It All* and *Amazing Grace*,” says Castillo, “but [with] a Reset flavor.” The band is led by prolific singer Lupita Garza, who takes each song, and with her team, turns it into something special.

“Reset is purely what it says it is—a reset,” shares Castillo. “For many it has become a true balm and therapy for the week. We meet each Saturday at 5 p.m. in the chapel at Sligo church. We want to introduce everyone to a place where it is OK to laugh, cry, share and allow others to know who you are. So, like we say, at Reset, ‘What’s your story?’”



Attendee Victor Christiansen listens to a story told at Reset, a storytelling program intended for members to grow a deeper relationship with one another and God.

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE HOBBS AND ROSS PATTERSON

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Phone: (540) 886-0771 ■ pcsda.org ■ President, Bill Miller ■ Communication Assistant, Tiffany Doss



Blue Mountain Academy

COMMUNIQUE

BMA Says Goodbye, Hello to Staff Members

After six years of diligent service to Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Steve and Esther Reese (pictured, right, with kids) will be moving to Chattanooga, Tenn., this summer where Steve will be working in the Wills and Trust department of the Georgia Cumberland Conference. Steve ('93) served the campus as vice principal of finance after Dave Morgan ('81), principal, called him in 2012 and asked him to join the team. "I've known Stephen since my first year of teaching when he was an eighth-grader," shares Morgan. "I knew he came from a family that valued integrity, commitment to Christ and serving others. He and Esther were a perfect fit for ministry at BMA. They will be greatly missed!"

Esther, who worked as an assistant in BMA's Learning Center, and Steve say they were blessed to have their son, Brandon ('20), attend BMA and their twin girls, Ava and Ella, attend Blue Mountain Elementary, just across the street. The couple shares that they will take with them warm memories of staff, students and a satisfaction that God used them to help make BMA a school that fosters students' abilities to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually.

Of course with this recent announcement, the search began in earnest for someone to transition into the vice principal of finance position. The Lord answered, bringing Ruben Olm and his wife, Tania (pictured with family).



Ruben, born in Glendale, Calif., and raised in Brazil, is a fifth-generation Adventist. He received a Bachelor of Arts in law. He has more than 20 years of experience as a sales and strategy executive. For the past two years, Ruben has served as administrator of the Wildwood Lifestyle Center (Ga.)—a renowned supporting ministry of the Adventist Church.

Tania, also from Brazil, received her Bachelor of Arts in advertising, and started a career in retail and event promotion. Later she dedicated many years as a housewife and mother of two daughters before joining Ruben at Wildwood, first as a health evangelism student, later as the manager of the Wildwood Herb Shop and lastly as the dean of the girls' dorm.

Ruben and Tania's oldest daughter, Amanda Olm LaCamera, who received a degree in Chemical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute University (Mass.), works as a production engineer at the Dow Chemical Company (Del.). Amanda and her husband, Jack, are active members of the Providence church in Elkton, Md.

Their youngest daughter, Natalia Olm, graduated from Boston University (Mass.) with a business degree, and, since 2016, has worked as the assistant treasurer of the Northern New England Conference in Westbrook, Maine. She is passionate about church planting and Young Adult Ministries.



Academy Hosts Middle School Basketball Tournament

One hundred students from five schools in the Chesapeake and Potomac Conferences recently competed in the seventh annual Highland View Academy (HVA) middle school invitational basketball tournament. Participating teams came from the Rocky Knoll School in Martinsburg, W.Va., Frederick Adventist Academy (Md.), Spencerville Adventist Academy (Md.), Beltsville Adventist School (Md.) and Olney Adventist Preparatory School (Md.). The event took place in two gymnasiums—one at HVA and the other at the nearby Mt. Aetna Adventist School.

HVA staff, students and parents provided logistical support for the tournament. Bible teacher Omar Gomez and history teacher April Lutz led the teams in prayer prior to each game. Music teacher Andrew Lay made sure that each gymnasium was well stocked with Gatorade and other supplies. Cafeteria director Louann McCain and her staff fed the players and coaches. Freshmen Levi Walker and Angel Hernandez kept the score book and ran the scoreboard. Several parents



Prior to the championship game, HVA Bible teacher Omar Gomez prays with the Rocky Knoll and Beltsville basketball players.



The Olney Eagles and the Spencerville Lady Hornets compete in the girls' championship game.

and students helped sell concessions, and additional students and staff assisted with setup/cleanup before and after each game.

The Beltsville Bobcats defeated the Rocky Knoll Rockets to win the boys' tournament, and the Olney Eagles won the girls' tournament by beating the Spencerville Lady Hornets.

The tournament was successful for several reasons: schools who might not normally compete against each other had the opportunity to face off; players socialized off the court with students from other schools, making new friends; and players gained exposure to high school and college basketball coaches.

HVA staff and students enjoyed meeting the players, coaches and spectators. Erik Borges, principal and athletic director, says, "We appreciated having the opportunity to show what we have to offer to people who might otherwise not visit our campus."

PFA POST



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

Pine Forge Choir Charts Course for Ministry

The Pine Forge Academy (PFA) choir has been privileged to minister on numerous platforms this academic year, including the historic ringing of the Liberty Bell for MLK Day, the New Hanover Methodist MLK Day Celebration, the Southwest Philadelphia church, the Hillcrest church in Nashville, Tenn., the Decatur (Ga.) church and many more. Most recently the choir performed a concert as the featured guest of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in the main rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

During their time at the Capitol, students had an opportunity to individually talk with state representatives. Jordan Harris, state representative of the 186th



Pine Forge Academy's choir performs on the steps of the main rotunda in the Pennsylvania State Capitol.



PFA's choir sings at the Mt. Zion Baptist church in Philadelphia.

legislative district, invited them to visit his office, where he encouraged them and shared some words of advice. Students and faculty took a moment to pray for Harris.

After seeing the choir perform, State Representative Chris Rabb of the 200th legislative district proclaimed, "You all are what we have been waiting for!" Rabb allowed the students to sit in his seat and gave them advice on how to be successful, change the world around them and stay connected.

Every day Jarrett Roseborough, PFA's choir director, works tirelessly to ensure the students have the opportunity to minister on as many stages and platforms as time and God allows. He believes that the recent God-granted success of the choir is only the beginning of where He plans to take them.

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Student Leads Homeless Ministry

The foundational principle, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35, NIV), presents a stark contrast to the self-centered messages in today’s society. Finding joy and passion in giving to others is a radical attitude, especially for a teenager living in 2018. But Spencerville Adventist Academy’s (SAA) junior, Matthew Abrams, is leading the charge to bring the spirit of giving back into the light:

For a number of years, the SAA Campus Ministries team has distributed food and clothing to homeless people in Washington D.C. Abrams began participating as a freshman. He quickly became a nearly permanent fixture at Chaplain Tim Soper’s office, asking permission to add additional dates to the calendar to help those in need. As his passion for helping others became evident, Soper gave him the responsibility of planning, organizing and publicizing the ministry. “The excitement that he has for service has been infectious, and, with his help, the program is active and thriving, with many of his friends and classmates regularly volunteering and eager to do more,” says Soper.

Recently Abrams and fellow classmate, David Oliyide, decided that soup, fruit and bread—the usual fare—were not enough for those they were caring for, so they made a full breakfast entrée. Abrams made trays of scrambled eggs, while Oliyide flipped stacks of



Matthew Abrams (center, in blue) and other Campus Ministries members prepare material to provide food for homeless people in Washington, D.C.

pancakes. This wonderful home-cooked meal brought many smiles and compliments from the homeless.

“I love the immediate gratification I get from helping people and seeing the smiles on their faces,” Abrams shares. “I’ve always [tried being] an empathetic person. I remember giving what I had to help others even as a child. I just love helping the homeless.”

Soper expresses, “[Abrams] commonly brings large boxes of new clothing, such as socks and T-shirts, to distribute. While he may not consciously recognize it, he is imitating the example of Christ in giving what is new and best, not what is second hand.”



School Nurse Earns Certification

SAA’s school nurse, Kari Banks, BSN, RN, NCSN, recently passed the National Certification for School Nurses exam, which covers information regarding students in regular and special education, ages four to 21 years old. Currently there are only 57 nationally certified school nurses in Maryland.

“Mrs. Banks brings compassion, caring and professionalism as she cares for the needs of the SAA student body,” says Brian Kittleson, principal. “We are so blessed to have her on our staff.”

Nurse Kari Banks, who recently passed the national exam to become a certified school nurse, offers an ice pack to an elementary student.

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

27 Seniors Honored at Annual Dedication Vespers

Spring Valley Academy recently held their 17th Annual Senior Dedication Vespers at the Centerville (Ohio) church, honoring 27 seniors and their families. Shona Macomber, art teacher, gave a message comparing various elements of art design to life.

Afterward, parents Robin Fritzsche, Julie Jackson and Christopher Johns led dedicatory prayers, and Saquib Rasheed Jr., class pastor, gave a response. Fritzsche shares, "This ceremony is especially meaningful [to parents] as we dedicate our sons and daughters to the Lord."

Chaplain Justin Janetzko concluded the service by presenting each senior with an imprinted personalized Bible commemorating the occasion.



Students Participate in Geography Bee

SVA students participated in the first round of a school-wide Geography Bee, preparing for the upcoming Geography Bee sponsored by the Ohio Conference Education Department. Select students in grades 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12 represented three divisions. The participants assembled in the gym, as Vice Principal Ali Jobson moderated and Principal Darren Wilkins kept score.

"There were many tie-breaker questions to determine the finalists, but I believe we were all winners in sharing their success!" shares Jobson. These finalists received money awards and represented SVA in the conference-wide Geography Bee.

Choir Tour Spreads Hope and Joy

Students who attended an Adventist academy probably have memories of music tour adventures: long bus rides, haystack meals, musical perfection fueled by



SVA Geography Bee division winners will advance to the Ohio Conference-wide Geography Bee later this month.

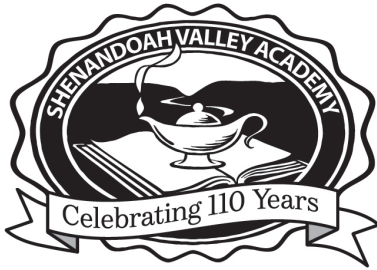
the repetition of singing in church after church. Taking music on the road is a major feature of the academy experience.

The choir recently headed south for a little warmth and a lot of singing. With a repertoire put to memory, they proclaimed Jesus' birth with soaring melodies and sweet harmonies. Students performed for listeners from every walk of life. Cristy Doria, choir director, swung her baton and the students lifted their voices in a shopping mall, a hotel lobby, a hospital atrium, Forest Lake Academy, a Filipino church and the big stage at Universal Orlando (Fla.).

SVA singers also participated in a music production workshop at Universal Orlando. The choir recorded a score and sound effects for a movie scene. The production team lauded the choir as the finest high school group with which they had worked. This experience gave students an inside look at the many careers open to those interested in music production.



Principal Darren Wilkins (front, left) and SVA choir members enjoy a break at a mall in Orlando, Fla.



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Welcome Home to Your Legacy!

This April 20-22, alumni will make their annual spring-time pilgrimage to the campus of Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) for Alumni Weekend. Here they will reunite with beloved classmates and will have the opportunity to connect with the wonderful students who attend SVA today. It is a brief and shining moment when the SVA family is complete this side of heaven and the significance of its legacy comes into focus.

Generations have experienced a legacy of loyalty and love at SVA. By definition, legacy is a gift of money or other personal property from an ancestor or predecessor passed on to someone. Legacy is powerful and valuable! *A legacy of values is even more precious than one of valuables.*

The Bible talks about the legacy we are to pass on to our children: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. Keep in your heart these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ... The Lord your God will bring you into the*



John Wagner ('57) and classmates enthusiastically singing "Where Shines the Big Virginia Sun ..." during Alumni Weekend.

land he promised to your ancestors. ... cities you did not build, houses full of good things you did not buy. ... Do not forget the Lord who has delivered you (Deut. 6:5-12, paraphrased).

Most students who attend SVA today are only able to become a part of the powerful legacy and blessing of SVA Adventist boarding school education because of the Alumni and Friends who generously make financial gifts to support them. Without regular gifts from hundreds upon hundreds of SVA Alumni, it would be impossible for most to attend. Thank you Alumni and Friends for your support of "Our SVA Kids," the next generation who will carry on your great and generous legacy. Thank you for giving back to your school—it exists today because of you!

It is my desire that Alumni Weekend will be a time when we will renew our values of love for God and each other. Consider giving back to your school in some way, or take time to connect with current students. They're excited to have you here! It is a special honor to have you return home to Shenandoah and to witness and experience the legacy you are generously gifting to the next generation. Welcome home to your legacy!
—Donald Short, Principal

2018 Alumni Weekend Schedule

April 20, Friday

- 8 a.m. Alumni Golf Benefit
- 6 p.m. Registration, Reception and Business Meeting
- 8 p.m. Vespers

April 21, Sabbath & Saturday Night

- 9 a.m. Registration
- 10 a.m. Church Service
- 12 p.m. Lunch
- 5 p.m. Alumni Vespers Concert
- 8 p.m. Alumni Basketball Game

April 22, Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Principal's View Breakfast
- RSVP: janel.ware@sva-va.org or (540) 740-2202

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www.ta.edu **TATODAY**

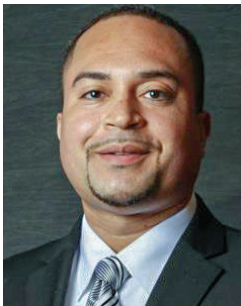
News you can use from Takoma Academy

Alumni “Prepare for His Coming”

Wars and rumors of wars, economic uncertainty, snow storms, hurricanes and tornadoes that have been labeled “once in a century” all point to one overriding conclusion: We are ever closer to the soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This significance has not been lost on the organizers of the 2018 Takoma Academy (TA) Alumni Reunion weekend, who chose the theme, “Preparing for His Coming.” This year the following classes will be honored: 1908, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013.

Scheduled activities for the weekend include the annual meeting that will take place before sunset on Friday, April 20, at 6:15 p.m. During the meeting, alumni elect new officers for the 2018-19 term. Current President Lynda Hodges Davis ('83) is excited about passing on the leadership baton to a new team who will help generate philanthropic support for TA's current students and administration.



Jason Banks, Honor Class of 1988 and one of the school's most ardent supporters, will be the guest speaker for Friday evening vespers. Banks, a star of the school's basketball team during his time at TA, established “The Mary Banks Scholarship Fund” in honor of his mother, to help provide financial assistance

for students who want to attend TA.

The Sabbath School service will begin at 9:30 a.m. on April 21, taught by Honor Class guest teacher Cecil Calliste ('93). Calliste has taken the training he received

while a student at TA and parlayed it into establishing youth programs at the Takoma Park (Md.) church where his TP Talk program is helping to develop strong and spiritually healthy young men.

Sabbath Service guest speaker Ted Wilson ('68), president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, celebrates his 50th graduation anniversary this year, along



with the Honor Class of 1968. Wilson was very involved as a student at TA and served as president of the Student Government. The divine service will take place in the J. P. Laurence Auditorium, named after TA's longest-serving principal, whose tenure spanned from 1947-1980.

Honor Class pictures will be taken at the conclusion of the divine Sabbath service, with a catered luncheon immediately following. Required meal tickets are \$16 per person, and can be purchased online at xpress-pay.com, or mail payment to Alumni Affairs Office, Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

After sunset on April 21 at 8 p.m. the annual Alumni Tennis Tournament will be hosted by TA alum Irving Westney ('81). The event will take place at the Fairland Tennis Bubble, 13950 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, MD 20707.

KETTERING COLLEGE

BOONSHOFT
CENTER FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



Kettering College students, faculty, and staff make fleece blankets and hats for the homeless in Dayton.

Kettering College Students and Staff Make Blankets and Hats for Homeless

By Lauren Brooks

With nightly temperatures reaching below freezing during the winter, Kettering College students and staff worked together to make fleece blankets and stocking caps for the homeless living in Dayton.

Over the last several years, the nursing department at Kettering College has partnered with the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church to make blankets and hats for the Good Neighbor House, a local non-profit organization that assists underserved individuals and families in Dayton.

"This was an initiative from the nursing department we wanted to support," said Steve Carlson, chaplain at Kettering College.

Carlson oversees the Student Life program, which provides opportunities for students to participate in local, regional, and international service projects.

The academic service projects that Student Life supports helps students get out of their own headspace and focus on others. These service projects also create unique ways for faculty and staff to connect with students. "Sitting at a table making blankets was a fun and unique way to connect with students in a manner I wouldn't have, normally," Carlson explained. "We had different conversations than the ones I usually have by passing them in the hallway."

One of those students was Kuda Gwasira, a pre-nursing student at Kettering College, who took part in this service project. He was also part of the group where they made a record 15 blankets in one night. "I'm studying to become a nurse, and one of the aspects is to be there for your patients," Gwasira said. "I'm learning to apply that aspect of being there for others to my life through service projects."

Student Life and the academic programs at Kettering College are working to create more service opportunities than ever this year for students to participate in.





FLOWERING CRABAPPLE TREES ON THE CAMPUS OF WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY.

Mid-Year Update

In a recent publication from Hanover Research (HEDWPO118), it stated that the pressure is on for higher education institutions. From every angle, presidents, deans, provosts, heads of enrollment, student affairs departments, advancement officers, CFOs, and vice presidents of marketing must coordinate to prove that, in the face of falling enrollment, their institutions are



Weymouth Spence

worth supporting. At Washington Adventist University our priorities continue to be on the six pillars of excellence—Quality, People, Finance, Growth, Service and Community. Across all departments we are continuing to measure academic excellence and focus on delivering the most in-demand program offerings. Given the intense pressure on enrollment we are implementing strategies such as improved articulation of brand value, maximized student matriculation and retention rates, identification and development of new enrollment markets, recruitment of out-of-state and international students, development of strategic partnerships with other organizations, and cultivation of services for traditional and non-traditional students, such as improved care and service to students. This dual focus on academic development and enrollment management will continue to be our strategic and operational priority.

This is Washington Adventist University.

—Weymouth Spence, President

WAU JOINS 17-MINUTE WALKOUT FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Over 100 Washington Adventist University students, faculty and staff braved stiff wintery gusts to participate in the National School Walkout marking one month since the Valentine's Day shooting that took the lives of 15 students and two staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

Led by Education students, themselves preparing for the teaching profession, the WAU students and employees spent 17 minutes on the University Commons—one minute for each of the Florida shooting victims. Students Josephine Burge, Jennyfer Gonzalez, Ashley Laing, Oto Njovu, Chloe Pettit, and Brooke Tucker reminded participants that parents have the right to send their children to school in the morning and expect them to return home safely at the end of the school day. They also called on Congress to address the ongoing crisis of repeated mass shootings in the U.S.

After 17 minutes of prayer, short messages, moments of silence, and chanting slogans, WAU students returned to their classes, and then on to the weekly Chapel service.

Back row:
Brooke Tucker;
Ashley Laing;
Dr. Jeanette Bryson,
Education Department chair;
Courtney Jenkins,
Student Association president

Kneeling:
Jennyfer Gonzalez,
Chloe Pettit

Photo by
WAU student
Osiry Joya



WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY—A GOOD NEIGHBOR IN TAKOMA PARK

The city of Takoma Park, MD highlighted Washington Adventist University's community-building efforts in its most recent monthly newsletter. Under the headline, "Local Organizations Get a Hand from WAU", the Takoma Park News reported on the work of WAU business students participating in the Enactus program.

Enactus is a global community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action for others to transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world.

WAU's Enactus chapter is partnering with the Wings of Love Women's Ministry, a local non-profit that helps abused women find healing and recovery through the word of God. "We hope to reach more women and help transform their lives," Wings of Love director Karmen A. Booker told the Takoma Park News. Wings of Love Women's Ministry will collaborate with WAU's Women's Empowerment Project which helps at-risk women with interview and resume skills to help them get into the workforce.

WAU's Enactus is also partnering with Aster Tefera, proprietor of Natra's Tea Room located on the edge of WAU's campus. Dr. Andrea Baldwin, chair of WAU's Business and Communications Department explained to the News that, "We really want to increase visibility on Facebook and in the media." WAU students reached out to neighbors who said they hope to keep the little shop in the neighborhood.

The Enactus club continues its partnership with the neighboring Rainbow Coin Laundry where WAU students tutor the children of customers while they wash and dry their clothes.



Aster Tefera, owner of Natra's Tea Room, speaks at WAU Enactus business adoption event.

Photo by WAU student Abiola Adegnika.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Service Day

Wednesday, April 4, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church

Alumni Weekend

Thursday, April 12 through Sunday, April 15

Honoring the classes of 2013, 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988, 1983, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963, 1958, 1953 and 1948. The weekend includes a variety of special events for parents and alumni, and fun family activities. For more information, contact Tanya Sweeney, Exec. Director of Development, at **301-576-0105** or **tsweeney@wau.edu**.

Commencement Weekend

Friday, May 4 through Sunday, May 6

- **Consecration Service:** Friday, May 4, 7 p.m., Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Baccalaureate Service:** Saturday, May 5, 11:15 a.m., Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Commencement Ceremony:** Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m., The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro, Md.

YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Gaining New Perspective

A first-of-its-kind surgery gave Travis a new lease on life

By Emily Dahl

Travis Wells hadn't been able to look someone in the eye for years.

He had a severe neck deformity that caused his head to lean to the point where his ear touched his shoulder, making it impossible to walk upright, drive, or even work.

"I was in tremendous pain. I had a constant headache for more than three years," Travis recalls. "It was embarrassing to walk around staring at the ground and not be able to look people in the eyes."

The most common treatments for his condition, Ankylosing Spondylitis, didn't help his symptoms. He then sought help from surgeons throughout the state, but no one could help him. "I was actually considering going outside of the United States to search for treatment," says Travis. "And then I met Dr. Woods."

World-class brain and spine care

By performing a surgery that is the first of its kind, Kamal Woods, MD, literally changed Travis' outlook on life.

"When I first met Travis, one of the things that struck me right away was his faith," remembers Dr. Woods, medical director of the Brain & Spine team at Kettering Health Network. Travis believed meeting Dr. Woods was an answer to prayer.

"At first glance, I knew that this was going to be a huge challenge. I had never seen anything quite like it before. I found inspiration just thinking of what a difference successful surgery would make in this patient's life. We found a way and prayerfully and successfully executed the plan."

Dr. Woods decided to perform the surgery in three stages, intentionally breaking Travis' neck in four places to straighten his spine.



"I found inspiration just thinking of what a difference successful surgery would make in this patient's life."

Kamal Woods, MD
Neurosurgeon

"I was completely comforted before surgery," says Travis. "I knew the risk was there, but there is just something about Dr. Woods and his confidence that helped. I prayed about it every day and night."

An answer to prayer

The patient's condition improved immensely following the first one-of-a-kind procedure, which lasted 12 hours. "It was like night and day," Travis exclaims. "After I left the hospital, I saw new buildings, trees—things I hadn't seen in a long time. I was used to seeing the car dashboard. The whole experience was a gift from God; it was life changing."

While Travis has additional procedures planned with Dr. Woods to continue correcting his spinal condition, he is already experiencing a whole new perspective. Travis is now able to do things like attend a baseball game, see a movie, or eat at a restaurant. "I have a new lease on life," he says.

Our Brain & Spine team has a history of innovation, always on the leading edge of care. Learn more about services at ketteringhealth.org/neuro

By performing a surgery that is the first of its kind in the world, Dr. Woods literally gave Travis Wells a new outlook on life.



THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Reaching Beyond the Hospital

Part of Kettering Adventist HealthCare's mission is to improve the quality of life for people in the community, and employees are reaching beyond the hospitals by supporting Good Neighbor House.

Good Neighbor House is a Dayton-area nonprofit with a mission to help the underserved community with clothes, food, dental and medical care, health classes, and workshops. Many employees and physicians from Kettering Adventist HealthCare volunteer their time at the Good Neighbor House on a regular basis.

For employees who can't volunteer time but still want to give back, the network holds numerous donation drives at its facilities throughout the year to gather needed items, such as peanut butter and jelly, scarves, mittens, coats, blankets, and personal hygiene items. Annual public concerts sponsored by the network also collect a love offering that supports the Good Neighbor House. This partnership with the Good Neighbor House allows employees to extend the network's mission further in the community and help those in need, just as Jesus would have done.

If you would like to learn more about Good Neighbor House, visit goodneighborhouse.org or call (937) 224-3003.



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Bulletin Board

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EMPLOYMENT

CHILD IMPACT

INTERNATIONAL, previously Asian Aid USA, is seeking a CEO with senior management and organizational skills to lead the organization based in Collegedale, Tenn. Applicants must have a passion for education, orphans and underprivileged children; a proven track record in nonprofit or similar business experience; the capacity to motivate staff and lead this growing ministry in its mission. Applicant must have marketing and/or fundraising experience. Application deadline, April 30. Contact support@childimpact.org, for a detailed job description.

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in Nampa, Idaho, seeks an associate editor to join our Product Development team. Successful candidates will be creative, detail-oriented and self-directed with the ability to work independently and exercise excellent judgment. Educational requirements are a graduate degree in religion or theology. Course work in communication, English or journalism preferred. To submit an application or for more information, contact Michelle Sinigaglio, Human Resources Director, at (208) 465-2568 or email michelle.sinigaglio@pacificpress.com.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

OF HEALTH SCIENCES in Orlando, Fla., seeks candidates for a department chair, beginning this summer. Applicant must possess an academic doctoral degree (PhD, EdD or equivalent). Candidates need leadership, teaching and research experience in higher education, with six years of full-time higher education experience; three years in a physical therapy program; and eligibility for licensure as a physical therapist in Florida. Send CV to don.williams@adu.edu.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF

HEALTH SCIENCES seeks faculty for the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia program to be responsible for classroom, simulation and clinical instruction of students. Qualified candidates must be CRNAs with an appropriate doctoral degree and have three years of recent clinical practice as a CRNA, with current NBCRNA recertification and eligibility to obtain Florida ARNP licensure. The ideal candidate would also have experience in

nurse anesthesia education. Please send résumés to alescia.devasher@adu.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks underwriting director for WAUS, who is responsible for soliciting corporate support for WAUS. Responsibilities include cultivating relationships, maintaining accounts and following up with billing and renewals, writing copy and scheduling spots to air. Compensation consists of a base salary plus commissions. For more information, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job9.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Director of Human Resources (HR). The Director of Human Resources is the chief human resources officer of the university and serves as an advocate regarding benefits, policies and practices that would have a positive impact on employees, and as an advisor and strategic partner to university administration. The director also provides leadership through the management of a comprehensive HR department, ensuring that all HR programs and initiatives are integrated and effective in supporting the overall mission, goals and objectives of the institution. For more information, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_6.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Curriculum and Learning Design Specialist. This full-time staff position has half-time teaching responsibilities in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum. The Curriculum and Instructional Design Specialist for the Department of Digital Learning and Instructional Technology (DLIT) provides highly skilled professional service to meet the instructional design needs of online faculty by providing a) online teaching training and support; b) instructional and curriculum design for online and blended courses; and c) oversight of the learning design process. The Curriculum and Instructional Design Specialist will report to the online course manager in DLIT and to the chair in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum. For more information, visit andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Director of Clinical Education (DCE) for

the physical therapist assistant program. Must demonstrate competence in clinical education, teaching and curriculum development. Primary responsibilities: planning, administering and monitoring clinical education activities and in coordination with academic and clinical faculty. Contact Dr. Christopher Stewart, cbstewart@southern.edu, southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks professor for History/Political Studies, teaching American history. Must be able to teach Atlantic history, African history/African-American/Latin American. PhD in History preferred. Two openings available (one part-time and one full-time). When applying, please indicate preference. Contact Dr. Mark Peach, peach@southern.edu and Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu, southern.edu/jobs.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty for fall 2018. Prefer biology PhD to teach upper/lower division courses and coordinate all anatomy and physiology courses/labs. Desire Adventist biologist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and commitment to students in the classroom and guidance in research projects. Contact Keith Snyder, kasnyder@southern.edu, southern.edu/jobs.

UNION COLLEGE seeks an Adventist OTA Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. This faculty position is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining students' fieldwork education, and includes teaching responsibilities. An OTA degree with a minimum of three years of clinical experience is required. Send CV and references to Cami Hollins, camihollins@ucollege.edu. For further information, visit ucollege.edu/faculty-openings.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST

UNIVERSITY Nursing Department seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; MSN considered. Experience in medical/surgical or critical care nursing required. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenthal@swau.edu.

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MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, DAVID LEE, DDS, FAGD, AFAAID, FICOI, FAACP, has practices located in Silver Spring and Columbia, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/TMJ, sleep apnea treatment, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (301) 649-5001 or (410) 461-6655. Mention this ad and receive a 10 percent discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERT NOTICE, May 5 at 7 p.m., Javier Gonzalez, tenor; Paulette Jumalon and Karla Rivera, sopranos, will present a Sabbath Sundown Serenade concert at the Hagerstown (Md.) church. The focus of these professional musicians' voices at this concert is to remind us of the dire needs of Christian refugees who have lost so much at the hand of extremist regimes. Church address: 11507 Robinwood Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21760.

THE HAGERSTOWN AREA HOME SWEET HOME SCHOOL music groups will present their spring concert, May 19 at 7 p.m., at the Hagerstown (Md.) church. Adis Valera, their music director, indicates the young people are eager to present this concert for your pleasure and for God's Sweet Glory. Church address: 11507 Robinwood Dr., phone: (301) 331-0625.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, April 27-28. Mark your calendars. Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993 and 1998. To be held at N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch and afternoon musical program. *Your email addresses* are needed for communication purposes. Send questions and/or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com; call Dale Rollins, (224) 407-0233; or visit broadviewacademy.org.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 8-10 for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1938, 1948, 1958 and 1968. For further information, you may contact GLAA alumni office at (989) 427-5181, or visit glaa.net.

Sunset Calendar

	Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27
Baltimore	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:55
Cincinnati	8:06	8:13	8:19	8:26
Cleveland	7:56	8:04	8:12	8:19
Columbus	8:00	8:07	8:15	8:22
Jersey City	7:25	7:33	7:40	7:47
Norfolk	7:31	7:37	7:43	7:49
Parkersburg	7:54	8:01	8:08	8:15
Philadelphia	7:29	7:36	7:43	7:50
Pittsburgh	7:49	7:56	8:03	8:10
Reading	7:32	7:40	7:47	7:54
Richmond	7:36	7:43	7:49	7:55
Roanoke	7:46	7:52	7:58	8:05
Toledo	8:04	8:12	8:19	8:27
Trenton	7:28	7:35	7:42	7:49
Wash., D.C.	7:36	7:42	7:49	7:56



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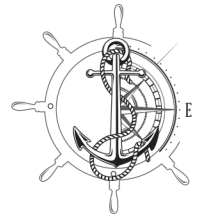


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