

VISITOR

CONNECTING COLUMBIA UNION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

JUNE 2018 • VOLUME 123 • ISSUE 5

Growth Spurt

How Demographic Shifts
Are Impacting How We Minister



Members of Maryland's Atholton Church Represent a Growing Trend

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Growth Spurt

How Demographic Shifts are Impacting How We Minister

Edwin Manuel Garcia

Charles Rutt remembers when churches in his beloved Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, were booming, then dying. He prayed for revival, and God answered in an unexpected way.

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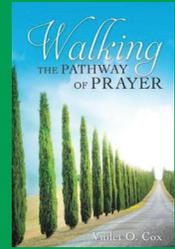
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About the Cover: Members from Chesapeake Conference's Atholton church—Sarah and Anna Singalla, Janet Keng Asare, Pastor Shawn Paris, Jasmin Elliott and Jair Parada—were photographed by Brian Patrick Tagalog in Columbia, Md. **Above:** A larger group of Atholton's members were photographed on the church steps by Beth Villanueva.

ON THE WEB

WALK THE PATHWAY OF PRAYER

In her book, *Walking the Pathway of Prayer*, Violet Cox, Prayer Ministries director for the Allegheny West Conference, invites readers to journey with her and discover a more meaningful prayer life. Read more about her book and how she incorporates prayer into her everyday life at columbiaunionvisitor.com/pathwayofprayer.



IT'S CAMP MEETING SEASON

Get an extra dose of biblical sermons and workshops this June at one of the Columbia Union Conference camp meetings. If you can't make it in person, watch many of the general session meetings online. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/2018campmeetings for details on where to watch the available livestreams.



PRAYING GOD'S HEART

Through her book, *One Thing I Ask*, Debbie Luther Howell wants to lead Christians back to knowing God through His Word. "I want them to have a passion for the Bible because

when they open its pages they sense His very presence," says the member of the Chesapeake Conference's New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Read our interview with Howell, and learn more about her book at columbiaunionvisitor.com/one thingiask.

10 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS SHAPING AMERICA

Did you know that Asia has replaced Latin America (including Mexico) as the biggest source of new immigrants to the U.S.? This and nine other trends highlighted by the Pew Research Center are shaping the demographics of the U.S. Visit columbiaunionvisitor.com/10demographicstrends to see the other trends. (They could impact your local church!)



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The *Visitor* is a monthly publication of the Columbia Union Conference reaching approximately 63,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in the mid-Atlantic area. The *Visitor* provides news and information, inspiration for effective ministry and insight on issues with a spiritual focus to help engage members in experiencing the mission.

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Printed at Pacific Press® Publishing Association in Nampa, Idaho.

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Volume 123 ■ Issue 5

“Master, Don’t You Care?”

As Christians, we possess the head knowledge about God’s promises and plans for our lives. We understand that all things work together for good, as indicated in Romans 8:28. However, many times our belief in His care and protection doesn’t translate into our *response* to life’s difficulties.

The disciples witnessed Jesus heal the sick, cast out demons and perform other miracles, yet, when it came time to exercise faith, head knowledge and formal training couldn’t help them. In Mark 4:38-40, we read that a fierce storm arose on the sea, rocking their boat so badly that the disciples feared they would perish. They tried to battle the storm using their own strength, skill and experience, but could not keep the boat afloat. *Finally*, they turned to Jesus, who was asleep in the stern of the boat. Waking him in desperation, they cried, “Master, don’t You care that we perish?” In that moment, fear revealed their unbelief.

Of the incident, Ellen White wrote, “How often the disciples’ experience is ours! When the ... waves sweep over us, we battle with the storm

alone, forgetting that there is One who can help us. We trust to our own strength till our hope is lost, and we are ready to perish. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not cry in vain” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 336).

As followers of Jesus, we know He is omniscient, omnipotent, loving and compassionate. Yet, in times of trouble, just like the disciples, we still wonder whether He cares if we perish.



I’VE BEEN THERE

In 2004 I arrived in the U.S. from Ghana—with only \$500 and one small bag of luggage—to pursue an MBA in accounting at La Sierra University (Calif.). To my utter shock, dismay and naivete, the taxi ride from Los Angeles to the school cost \$500, and I arrived on campus with no family, friends, student-loan help or money. For the first time in my life, I was truly on my own.

Then I remembered the promise my grandma made me recite when I was a young boy: “For with God, nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37, NKJV). I decided to trust the Lord, and, though life wasn’t easy, He saw me through. By the time I completed the program, the university owed me \$500. *Praise the Lord!*

My friends, when we face pressing circumstances or uncertainty, let’s trust Jesus. He should be our *first* point of contact, not our last resort.

Emmanuel Asiedu serves as treasurer for the Columbia Union Conference.

Newsline



Liana Livergood enjoys the 1,000 pinwheels placed on the lawn of Chesapeake Conference's Martinsburg (W.Va.) church to represent those who have been impacted by child abuse. Read the full story in the Chesapeake Conference's July/August newsletter.

OHIO CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP RE-ELECTED



Constituents to the 42nd Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference recently selected officers for the 2018-22 quinquennial term. Delegates re-elected both President Ron Halvorsen Jr. (pictured center) and Executive Secretary Oswaldo Magaña (left), and elected Michael D. Gilkey (right) as treasurer and chief financial officer.

"It hasn't been an easy journey these past four years, but God has been with us," Halvorsen shared. "We need to bring help to the local churches. ... I see small churches

dying. ... I'm tired of seeing us lose the younger generation. ... We need to focus more money and energies on youth and young adults ... get them involved in the ministry of our church," continued Halvorsen.

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

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE SELECTS NEW TREASURER

The Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee recently elected Jermaine Jackson as the new chief financial officer. Jackson previously served as vice president and CFO for Adventist Risk



Management, Inc., and Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont. He fills the position left vacant by H. Candace Nurse, who recently became the secretary/treasurer for the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. Read more about Jackson on page 17.—V. Michelle Bernard

KETTERING COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50TH COMMENCEMENT

Kettering College (Ohio) recently celebrated its 50th commencement and conferred degrees and certificates to 227 students. Twenty of the graduates were from the school's first Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program cohort, which began in the fall of 2015 and is the school's first doctoral program.

Keynote speaker Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA (Adventist



Graduates from Kettering College's Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program, who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the community at large, celebrate their accomplishment.

Development and Relief Agency), presented during the ceremony at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center in Dayton.—VMB

REACH GRADUATES FIRST CLASS AT WAU

The REACH Center for Urban Evangelism recently graduated its first class at its new home on the campus of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. They were included in the university's



Students from the REACH Center for Urban Evangelism embrace after their graduation.

graduation ceremony where some 218 students received degrees.

Tiffany Brown, director, says the program gave the graduates tools to help them be effective in soul winning and personal evangelism in whatever professions they choose.

“The preacher can only reach the people who are in church, but if you’re a dentist, psychologist or another profession, you can reach people who God brings to you in your sphere of influence,” adds Brown. “Coming to this program will teach you to be effective in soul winning,” especially in an urban setting.

The fall semester starts August 27. Register at reachcolumbiaunion.org.

Read more about WAU’s graduation ceremonies in the July/August Washington Adventist University newsletter.—VMB

UNION PUBLISHES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

More than 10,000 people joined the Columbia Union Conference family during the last two years, including 5,316 in 2017. Members gave \$133.9 million in tithe, a 3.06 percent increase over 2016, and more than \$2.1 million in world mission offerings. In addition, enrollment reached nearly 9,000 in the union’s 78 schools.

These are just a few highlights from the Columbia Union Conference 2017 Annual Report, themed “Great Is Your

“We can’t mess up so much that God gives up on us. He already knew we would. His love and faithfulness are beyond our comprehension.”



—Tamyra Horst, during a devotional at the Pennsylvania Conference’s Outdoor School at Laurel Lake Camp in Rossiter, Pa.

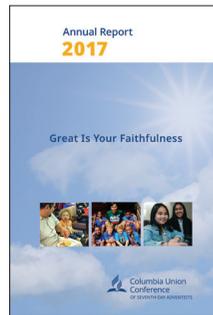
Faithfulness.”

The 24-page report also highlights how leaders addressed the union’s priorities, partnered to serve and support ministry at the local and global church levels and advanced mission in the eight-state mid-Atlantic territory.

“I am encouraged by the many ways we can see God moving and working in and through our dedicated members and ministry leaders,” shares President Dave Weigley. Read the report at columbiaunionvisitor.com/2017annualreport.—Celeste Ryan Blyden

WHITE OAK MEDICAL CENTER HALFWAY COMPLETE

Construction of the new Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center (Md.) has officially hit the halfway mark, with a record



500-member crew on site daily. With the exterior enclosed, the crew has begun installing windows, working on the stonemasonry and framing out the interior walls. Work has also begun on the parking garage, and construction will begin next month on the adjacent medical office building.

Stay up-to-date on the progress, and watch live construction cameras at ourcommunitytransformed.org.—Maura Zehr

NEW VBX PROGRAM RELEASED

Gearing up for Vacation Bible Xperience (VBX) at your local church? Many churches across the union can use AdventSource’s newest VBX program, “Sea of Miracles Vacation Bible Xperience.” Using Christ-centered activities, staff at the North American Division Children’s Ministries department designed the program to help kids explore Jesus’ life in Galilee.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has released a VBX (similar to VBS) program annually since 2013, and AdventSource reports that around 50 percent of Adventist churches conduct VBS programs each year.

Sea of Miracles is available in English and Spanish. For more information, visit adventistvb.com.—VMB



Noticias



Myca Bauler disfruta de los 1.000 molinetes colocados en el césped de la iglesia de Martinsburg (WV) de la Conferencia de Chesapeake para representar a aquellos que han sido afectados por el abuso infantil. Lea la historia completa en el boletín de julio/agosto de la Conferencia de Chesapeake.

PRESIDENTE DE LA CONFERENCIA DE OHIO REELEGIDO



Los miembros de la 42a Junta constituyente de la Conferencia de Ohio recientemente eligieron oficiales para el período quinquenal 2018-22. Los delegados reeligieron a Ron Halvorsen Jr., presidente (en el medio) y Oswaldo Magaña (a la izquierda), secretario, y eligieron a Michael D. Gilkey (a la derecha), tesorero y director financiero.

“No ha sido un viaje fácil estos últimos cuatro años, pero Dios ha estado con nosotros”, compartió Halvorsen. “Necesitamos ayudar a las iglesias locales. ... Veo que

mueren iglesias pequeñas. ... Estoy cansado de ver perder a las generaciones jóvenes. ... Necesitamos concentrar más dinero y energías en jóvenes y adultos jóvenes. ... Involúcrenlos en el ministerio de nuestra iglesia”, continuó Halvorsen, como parte del informe de la conferencia.

Lea más en el boletín de la Conferencia de Ohio en la página 25.—Heidi Shoemaker

KETTERING COLLEGE CELEBRA SU 50A GRADUACIÓN

Kettering College (Ohio) recientemente celebró su 50a ceremonia



de graduación y confirió títulos a 227 estudiantes. Veinte de los graduados forman parte del primer programa de doctorado en terapia ocupacional, que comenzó en el otoño de 2015 y es el primer programa de doctorado.

El orador principal fue Jonathan Duffy, presidente de ADRA (Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales), y la ceremonia tuvo lugar en el Centro de Artes Escénicas Benjamin y Marian Schuster en Dayton.

—V. Michelle Bernard

PRIMERA GRADUACIÓN DE REACH EN WAU

REACH, la centro de evangelismo urbano graduó recientemente su primera clase en el nuevo centro de la escuela en el campus de la Universidad Adventista de Washington



Jessica Quiñones es una de los primeros estudiantes de REACH (Center for Urban Evangelism) en graduarse en la nueva ubicación de la escuela en el campus de la Universidad Adventista de Washington.

en Takoma Park, Maryland. Estuvieron entre los 218 graduados de la ceremonia de graduación de la Universidad.

Tiffany Brown, directora, dice que el programa les dio a los graduados las herramientas para ayudarlos a ser efectivos en la ganancia de almas y la evangelización personal en cualquier profesión que elijan.

“El predicador sólo puede llegar a las personas que están en la

iglesia, pero si usted es dentista, psicólogo o tiene otra profesión, puede comunicarse con las personas que Dios le brinda en su esfera de influencia”, agrega Brown. “Llegar a este programa te enseñará a ser efectivo para ganar almas”, especialmente en un entorno urbano.

El semestre de otoño comienza el 27 de agosto. Regístrate en reachcolumbiaunion.org.

Lea más sobre las ceremonias de graduación de WAU en el boletín de julio/agosto de la Universidad Adventista de Washington.—*VMB*

WHITE OAK MEDICAL CENTER A MEDIO CAMINO

La construcción del nuevo centro médico White Oak de Adventist HealthCare (MD) ha llegado oficialmente a la mitad de camino, con un equipo de 500 miembros trabajando todos los días. Con el exterior cerrado, los trabajadores han comenzado a instalar ventanas, a trabajar en la mampostería de piedra y enmarcar las paredes interiores. También se comenzó a trabajar en el estacionamiento y el próximo mes comenzará la construcción del edificio de oficinas médicas contiguo.

Manténgase actualizado sobre el progreso y vea cámaras de construcción en vivo en ourcommunitytransformed.org.—*Maura Zehr*



LANZAMIENTO DEL NUEVO PROGRAMA VBX

¿Estás preparando Vacation Bible Xperience (VBX) (Experiencia Bíblica de Vacaciones) en tu iglesia local? Muchas iglesias de todo

“No podemos fracasar lo suficiente como para que Dios se dé por vencido y nos abandone. Él ya sabía que lo haríamos. Su amor y fidelidad están más allá de nuestra comprensión.”



—*Tamyra Horst, durante un devocional en la Escuela al aire libre de la Conferencia de Pennsylvania en Laurel Lake Camp en Rossiter, PA.*



la Unión pueden usar el nuevo programa VBX de AdventSource, “Sea of Miracles Vacation Bible Xperience” (Mar de Milagros). Utilizando actividades centradas en Cristo, el personal del departamento de Ministerios Infantiles de la División Norteamericana diseñó el programa para ayudar a los niños a explorar la vida de Jesús en Galilea.

La Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día ha lanzado un programa VBX (anteriormente a VBS) anualmente desde 2013, y AdventSource informa que alrededor del 50 por ciento de las iglesias adventistas realizan programas VBS cada año.

Mar de Milagros está disponible en inglés y español. Para obtener más información, visite adventist-vbx.com.—*VMB*

LA UNIÓN PUBLICA EL INFORME ANUAL 2017

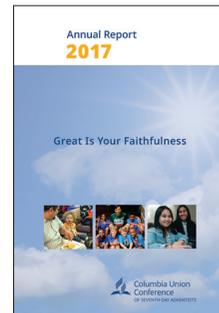
Más de 10,000 personas se unieron a la familia de la unión de Columbia durante los últimos dos

años, incluyendo 5,300 en 2017. Los miembros dieron \$133.9 millones en diezmos, un aumento de 3.06 por ciento en comparación con 2016 y más de \$2.1 en ofrendas para la misión mundial. Además, la inscripción llegó a casi 9,000 en las 78 escuelas de la Unión.

Estos son solo algunos aspectos destacados del Informe Anual 2017 de la Conferencia de la Unión de Columbia, con el tema “Grande es su fidelidad”.

El informe de 24 páginas también destaca cómo los líderes abordaron las prioridades de la unión, se unieron para servir y apoyar el ministerio a nivel de iglesia local y global y adelantar la misión en los ocho estados que comprenden el territorio de la Unión.

“Me siento animado por las muchas maneras en que podemos ver a Dios moviéndose y trabajando en y a través de nuestros dedicados miembros y líderes ministeriales”, comparte el presidente Dave Weigley. Lea el informe en columbiaunionvisitor.com/2017annualreport.—*Celeste Ryan Blyden*



GROWTH SPURT

*How
Demographic
Shifts are
Impacting
How We
Minister*

BY EDWIN MANUEL GARCIA

The picturesque Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania, where Charles Rutt has worshiped for most of his life, had enjoyed a strong Adventist presence for decades. In fact, in the 1960s, his Bethlehem Seventh-day Adventist Church outgrew itself and spawned two more congregations.

But by the late 1990s, most of the members had disappeared from his beloved Pennsylvania Conference church. “All the people I had grown up with were dying off, and the church was basically praying that something would happen, that someone would come in and we would get some new life,” says Rutt, a 67-year-old retired Adventist educator.

Their prayers were answered.

In the past 10-plus years, a stream of Adventists from Kenya joined what had been an all-Caucasian church and populated the vast majority of the once-empty pews with lively, young families. They also brought a more upbeat worship style to the platform, introduced new foods at potlucks and generated spirited church-board-level discussions about cultural/religious issues.

The church now also shares the space with a Spanish-language group that meets in the afternoon.

What the Bethlehem church experienced is becoming more common across the Columbia Union Conference, where congregations, large and small, rural and urban, are learning how to navigate into their future by embracing rapidly changing demographics.

In the short term, thanks largely to immigration of Adventists from other parts of the world, there’s been a 2.5 percent annual membership growth rate in North America. The emerging population of refugees and immigrants from many places around the globe are a boon to the Adventist Church here, which, in 2014, Pew Research Center identified as the most racially and ethnically diverse U.S. religious group.

“The Adventist Church is no longer a majority white church; it’s a multiethnic, very diverse church,” says Monte Sahlin, a former Columbia Union Conference vice president and longtime Adventist researcher. A groundbreaking survey he conducted in 2008 for the North American Division also confirmed that Adventism is not only browning but also graying. “There are fewer and fewer white, young people,” Sahlin says. “The Adventist population under 18 is about 60 percent ethnic minorities.”

This demographic shift has caught the attention of some church leaders who wonder if Adventist churches in cities such as Bethlehem can meet the needs of the majority population *and* immigrants in the territory. For example, Kenyans now comprise about 75 percent of the church membership in a city of 75,000 that is roughly 61 percent Caucasian, 28 percent Hispanic, six percent African/African-American/Caribbean and nearly three percent Asian.

They point to Great Britain, where immigrant-fueled growth has completely transformed the face of the church; the vast majority of the members in London are black, yet more than 70 percent of the city population is white—and are not joining the church.

If the church in North America doesn’t look at this shift strategically, how will we fulfill the gospel commission among current and future generations? asks Gary Gibbs, who became president of the Pennsylvania Conference a year ago. “How will we effectively minister to the spiritual needs of every segment of the population of our territory?”



Thomas Makini, Charles Rutt, Fred Omwega, Eileen Fritz and Abner Onsinyo worship together at the Bethlehem church, where members reflect the Adventist Church’s changing demographics.





Ahead of the Curve

“The Adventist population is the future of the American population,” says Monte Sahlin, a longtime Adventist researcher who shared that in a 2008 survey, precisely half of the Seventh-day Adventist population of North America was made up of the white ethnic majority, with the other half of other ethnicities. **“The percentage of Adventists who are immigrants is two to three times that of the general population. And the percentage of African-American and black self-identified people in the Adventist Church is about three times the average in the U.S.”**

Sahlin says that in about 20 years or so, that same threshold will be crossed by the entire American population.

Snapshots of Adventism

The following information about Adventists in North America was gleaned from Sahlin’s research:

- ▶ Of the 1.3 million Adventist members in North America, roughly 55 percent belong to only about 600 of the 5,500 local churches. The largest chunk of churches contain less than 20 percent of the membership.
- ▶ Young Adventists have higher rates of interethnic marriage than the general population.
- ▶ Adventist adults are more likely to be educated than the general population.
- ▶ Members who grew up Adventist are more likely to drop out of the church than newly baptized members.

The Learning Curve

At the churches in Bethlehem and nearby Allentown, in an area known for a colonial industrial past and its Moravian founders, the demographic change has been welcomed, yet it’s taken some adjusting for the few remaining Caucasian families.

Self-proclaimed sticklers for punctuality, Charles Rutt and his wife, Barbara, fondly remember when programs would start on time and end on time. They don’t complain, though. “The young families have brought new life,” Rutt says, “and that has been very beneficial.”

For the newcomers, stepping into Adventist church culture in America has also been a learning experience, says Thomas Makini, a church elder and father of four girls. He and his wife moved from Kenya to New Jersey and then to Bethlehem 10 years ago because it was near Adventist schools and was a good place to raise a family.

He recalls when he realized that certain mannerisms, such as the level and tone of his voice, could unnerve people who thought he was yelling. “We didn’t know that a small thing like that can offend somebody,” he says.

Then there was the Christmas tree situation. In Kenya, Makini says Adventist churches

recognize Christmas “in passing,” but it’s not typically celebrated. Yet the Bethlehem church had enjoyed a long tradition to mark the holiday each December by placing a tree on the platform. The Kenyans, though, objected. Both groups held firm to their beliefs about why the tree should or shouldn’t be in church.

After much discussion, members decided that the annual tree would be replaced by poinsettias.

Making Room for Growth

After 70 years in existence, regional conferences are experiencing profound changes, too. Some years ago, the Allegheny East Conference changed its mission statement to “Te Ethnae,” which means “to all people groups” and now includes thriving Spanish, French, Indonesian and Korean-speaking congregations.

And, just five years ago, the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) had eight multicultural congregations. Today there are 28, including five Hispanic churches flourishing in the Cincinnati area. One of the most thriving congregations, called La Esperanza, or, “The Hope,” started four years ago with one family meeting in a house. Today the church claims more than 100 members, mostly from Guatemala, and has its own building.

“The Hispanics are bringing their enthusiasm and hardworking spirit, and that is contagious for the English-speaking churches,” says Sergio Romero, AWC’s Multicultural Ministries director.

AWC’s Central church in Columbus, Ohio, houses a Spanish-language congregation and an African-American congregation under one roof, with noontime Sabbath worship services in two parts of the building. To help introduce the multicultural congregation to the immediate neighborhood, members canvassed the streets with fliers in English and Spanish, inviting families for free burgers, bounce houses and face painting in the church parking lot.

A little more than two hours away, another AWC church is facing its future by intentionally taking measures to lower its membership age to ensure that the congregation avoids extinction. Pastor MyRon Edmonds and members moved the former Glenville church from Cleveland to nearby Euclid, Ohio, and changed the name to Grace Community church. They did so to prioritize the needs of a multicultural, underserved community whose population of 48,000 is about 60 percent black and 37 percent white.

They host a kids' church three times a month and keep the focus outward—by feeding homeless people and holding an evangelistic-style service each week. Plans include refurbishing an old Kmart building, starting a school

Pastor MyRon Edmonds (center) says Grace Community church draws young converts through their strong YouTube presence.



Worship director Carlos Paz (pictured left) and Pastor Williams Ovalle (right) minister to and with second- and third-generation Latino members like Jasmin Guevara and Saraí del Cid at the Manassas Spanish and Manassas II Spanish churches in Northern Virginia.

to serve grades nine through the first two years of college and continuing to enjoy a strong YouTube presence. Edmonds says YouTube has already drawn young converts who moved from far-away cities to join the congregation, comprised of mostly single-parent Generation Xers and Millennials.

Edmonds states attendance is growing due to a lot of children and teens from the community. "I think it's important that people understand that the foundation of what we're doing is the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy," he says. "We're not just trying to be cool and cutting edge because it's 2018."

Shifting Demographics/ Shifting Ministries

Some churches in the Columbia Union are realizing that successful ministry in a time of shifting demographics means offering different programming to parents and their children.

In the Potomac Conference, for example, many children of Central American immigrants, who settled in and around the District of Columbia during the past two decades, are proud of their cultural roots, yet aren't embracing their parents' native Spanish. Having been born in the U.S., English comes more natural to them.

The church's solution: congregations, such as the Arise Hispanic-American church in Silver Spring, Md., cater to second- and third-generation Latinos with sermons, Bible study and socialization in English.

Other churches are trying to move in a similar direction.

Williams Ovalle, pastor of the Manassas Spanish church and the Manassas II Spanish Company, both in Northern Virginia, dreams of offering his second- and third-generation youth their own church with English programming, because many of the young members, he says, "live between two worlds" and "church doesn't necessarily fill their needs." As a result, the youth abandon the church, or attend, but don't pay attention.

His vision has been met with resistance by parents and even church board members who insist children must be taught in Spanish.



After receiving permission from the church boards in his pastoral district, which also includes the Reston and Centerville (Va.) churches, Ovalle started the monthly English service, which the youth loved. However, when word got back to church leaders that the youth were singing worship songs that weren't from the hymnal, the permission was rescinded, he says.

Eventually the boards relented, and about 80 youth, ages 12-22, now meet at a Manassas community center every third Sabbath.

"I just hope that I can help create a safe environment to help young people connect with God, not feel judged and have a relationship with Jesus," Ovalle says. "That's all we're trying to achieve."

Breaking Language Barriers

In the New Jersey Conference, meanwhile, the First Bilingual church in Middlesex has found its own best practice of including Spanish- and English-speaking worshippers: the church's three interpreters translate every announcement, prayer, testimony and sermon. Worship songs alternate, one English, one Spanish.

In neighboring Philadelphia, Boulevard church interpreters translate sermons into Swahili and Ukrainian, beamed into headphones on congregants' ears. Members of Italian and German heritage first populated



the Pennsylvania Conference church, which opened in 1955. Later, Pastor Buddy Goodwin says refugees arrived from the Congo, then members from the Caribbean islands and then people from Eastern Europe.

"Every day it is an opportunity to see how God is working to pull His people together because we deal with so many diverse groups of people in one local setting," Goodwin says.



The Ohio Conference has undergone significant change in recent years in areas that for the longest time were majority Caucasian, which has prompted some Adventists to experience learn-as-you-go cultural education.

The population at the Worthington church, just outside Columbus, which was nearly all Caucasian around the year 2000, has dipped to about 50 percent, with people from 32 nations filling the rest of the congregation.

On numerous occasions, lead pastor Yuliy Filipov, who was born in Bulgaria and speaks several languages, has stepped in and helped people of different ethnic origins to better understand each other's culture.

Of note was a memorial service held in the Nigerian tradition, which started in the sanctuary in the afternoon and ended in the gym at 4 a.m. Prior to the service, Filipov advised the African families not to be offended if Caucasian families left the program before it ended, because they're not accustomed to staying that long at a memorial service.

"Having diversity makes the church vibrant," Filipov says, and it serves as an evangelism tool. "It gives the church a flavor that makes it palpable to people who are not related to Adventism."

Some schools in Ohio are seeing a surge in diversity, in part because of refugee resettlement. Two schools on opposite ends of the state—Mayfair Christian School in Akron and Spring Valley Academy in Centerville—have upwards of 80 students from refugee families, says Richard Bianco, the Ohio Conference superintendent of Education.

The growth also is attributed to the state's voucher law, which has made Adventist education more accessible to families of color.

In other regions, including those near the District of Columbia,

Olena and Myron Androshchuk (pictured left) help translate a sermon into Ukrainian for other members of the Boulevard church like Victor and Lilia Stolyar, Galyna Androshchuk, Olha Dluri, Diana Akela and Bohdan Mandrusiak (pictured above).

How Diverse Are We? >>>

The Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study in 2014 noted that Seventh-day Adventists are among the most racially and ethnically diverse American religious groups.

37% White
32% Black
15% Hispanic

8% Asian
8% Another Race or Mixed Race



institutions like Adventist HealthCare have experienced diversity up-close for years.

The integrated network of hospitals and other healthcare facilities serves Montgomery County, Maryland, where more than 50 percent of the population of a million people identifies with an ethnic or racial minority group. Based on its Community Health Needs Assessments and the changing patient population, the health system has implemented a number of programs and services to spread the message of good health and promote health equity.

Among the more significant activities at the Adventist HealthCare Center for Health Equity & Wellness are partnerships with safety-net clinics, a robust diabetes self-management education program and cultural competency training for staff. In addition, the Center has trained qualified bilingual staff interpreters across the system, and their number has more than tripled since the program began.

Ligia Sandor, R.N., is a member of Washington Adventist Hospital's qualified bilingual staff.



Multiculturalism has also been a mainstay at several Chesapeake Conference churches, and pastors there say that having an open mind and being good listeners is essential for avoiding the kind of cultural clashes that can otherwise tear apart a congregation.

The administration plans to start tracking demographic information voluntarily offered by members, to ensure that its churches are reaching every segment of their community, says Shawn Paris, pastor of the Atholton church in Columbia, Md., whose 600 members are comprised of 68 nationalities.

When Paris first arrived at Atholton, a couple of members gave him a stark warning about a new group of worshipers they thought would “take over” the church.

Five years in, Paris has not found that to be the case. “On a regular basis from the pulpit, we talk about how we love our diversity,” he says. “We made a conscious choice that this is who we are.”

Other pastors have been pushed into the role of mediator at fellowship luncheons, listening to immigrants explain that it was acceptable to eat fish or chicken at potluck in their country of origin, while also hearing from longtime American Adventists who prefer vegetarian fare at the buffet table.

Waldorf (Md.) church Pastor Dan Darrikhuma, whose congregation has shifted from 90 percent white to less than 10 percent in the past 15 years in a community that is 53 percent black and 35 percent white, encourages members to move out of their comfort zones and get to know each other better. “One of the things I’ve asked members to do is to be intentional to invite [other members] to lunch or to sit with them in potluck,” Darrikhuma says. “Sometimes it takes a little educating and reducing fear.”

Mike Speegle, senior pastor of the New Hope church in Fulton, Md., believes churches in the Columbia Union should think intentionally about how to reach their communities, with an eye toward with whom we are going to spend eternity.

“You go from D.C., to Baltimore, to Philadelphia, to New Jersey and Ohio, a lot of that has a rich multi-ethnic makeup; it’s part of who the community is,” he says, “and the community we will ultimately live in.”

COLUMBIA UNION REVOLVING FUND

MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

After serving the community for almost 30 years, the Summersville (W.Va) Seventh-day Adventist Church's Friends-R-Fun Child Development Center in the Mountain View Conference needed room to grow. With a loan from CURF, they added a two-story addition, entry area, stairs and an outdoor porch to their facility adjacent to the church. Now there's more room in the Baby Bungalow, the toddler's quarters and the kindergarten readiness program.

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CURF

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ALLEGHENY EAST *Exposé*

Hundreds Attend Play at Breath of Life Church

This spring, members of the Breath of Life church in Fort Washington, Md., welcomed more than 700 guests for “No Greater Love,” its first annual interactive production on the life of Jesus. More than 100 church members worked for eight weeks to bring the story of Jesus to life. In addition, President Henry J. Fordham III and the Allegheny East Conference provided support to make this event possible.

The production took attendees on an interactive journey through an outdoor Jerusalem marketplace, around the table at the Last Supper, in the garden as Jesus agonized, at the foot of the cross and finally at the resurrection.

Church member Jason Banks, who played Barabbas, shares, “Although I knew what was going to happen, I was overcome with emotion as I saw Jesus exit the tomb.”

Melissa Jakes, production coordinator, adds, “To witness more than 700 people visit our church and watch the story of Jesus come to life brought tears to my eyes.”

Director Coleen Quinn emphasizes, “Part of our mission as a church this year is to make 40,000 connections with the community. I knew that a production like this would help us reach that goal.”



Members of Breath of Life re-enact the story of Jesus and Simon of Cyrene.

This year the church celebrates 40 years. Planted as a result of evangelism by the late C. D. Brooks, former speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Ministries, Pastor Pierre Quinn says, “This congregation seeks ... to share the gospel, even if it means dressing up to retell the greatest story ever told.”

PHOTO BY MIGUEL SERRANT

Pennsylvania Schools Engage in Engineers Convention

Students from the Jessie R. Wagner Adventist School (JRW) in Boyertown, Pa., and Pine Forge Academy (PFA), also in Pennsylvania, recently



Third-grader Omara Hewitt and fourth-grader Nicholas Cooper II, JRW robotic team members, present projects at the FIRST® LEGO® League Junior Robotics Showcase.

participated in the National Society of Black Engineers Convention in Pittsburgh. Two teams from JRW participated in the FIRST® LEGO® League Junior Robotics Showcase and five PFA students were exposed to career possibilities in the engineering field.

“It was fun engaging with the judges and other robotics teams,” says fourth-grader Nicholas Cooper II. All seven JRW students received medals for participating, and the school received a \$5,000 grant to support their robotics program. Future goals include forming additional teams, recruiting more volunteers and hosting their FIRST LEGO league tournament.

As part of an ongoing partnership, TE Connectivity, a company that designs and manufactures sensor products, sponsored five PFA students to attend the convention. TE members explained various aspects of the convention, from exhibitions to robot construction.

“The most exciting part of the event was spending time with the TE Connectivity team,” says Cole Mattox, PFA junior.

Students From Three Elementary Schools Attend X-STEM

Students from the Calvary Adventist School in Newport News, Va., the Dupont Park Adventist School in Washington, D.C., and the G. E. Peters (GEP) Adventist School in Hyattsville, Md., recently attended the X-STEM USA Science & Engineering Festival, held at the Washington Convention Center in D.C. The festival's website states that X-STEM is a "day-long extreme STEM symposium for middle through high school students, featuring interactive presentations to empower and inspire kids about careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

The "students enjoyed [X-STEM] and wished they could have stayed longer," says Myrna James, vice principal of GEP.



Students and sponsors from the Calvary and G. E. Peters schools attend the X-STEM festival in Washington, D.C.

Mizpah Church Expands Community Service Efforts

Mizpah church in Philadelphia recently became an outreach site for their neighborhood's "Frankford Week of Service" initiative, in partnership with the Frankford Community Development Cooperation.

Led by the Mizpah church members, 18 volunteers from Marymount Manhattan College (N.Y.) spent their spring break working on several projects. Throughout the week, the volunteers participated with Mizpah in several activities, including the church's weekly community service outreach of preparing and distributing food items to community members.

Mizpah members and volunteers also cleaned trash from sidewalks and streets several blocks from the



Mizpah community service leader Vernessa Wilson addresses community members who have come for their weekly food distribution.



Students from Marymount Manhattan College participate in Mizpah church's food distribution during the "Frankford Week of Service."

church. Additionally, they constructed six raised beds for the church's new community garden. In total, the team assisted more than 50 people during the week of service.

"We built relationships with our community members and leaders, and, as a church, demonstrated our commitment to serving our community," says Donald McKinnie, pastor. "We were also able to facilitate a service opportunity for students, helping them experience the joy of serving."

Mizpah church members plan to continue participating in service initiatives sponsored by their community leaders and service projects within their church.

Executive Committee Elects New CFO

Members from the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) Executive Committee recently elected Jermaine Jackson as the new chief financial officer (CFO), effective June 1. Prior to joining AWC, Jackson worked for Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM), starting in 2009 as senior accountant, and promoted to controller shortly thereafter. In 2014 he was elected vice president and CFO for ARM and the Gencon



The Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee welcomes Jermaine Jackson (pictured with his family) as the new CFO, beginning June 1.

Insurance Company of Vermont (GICV). In that role, Jackson oversaw the financial operations of ARM and GICV and its subsidiaries in Brazil and Gibraltar.

“I am extremely delighted to join the Allegheny West family. It has always been my desire to be on purpose and in purpose for God,” Jackson states. “We are pleased and excited to have Jermaine join our team,” says William T. Cox Sr., president.

Jackson has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Oakwood University (Ala.), a Master of Business Administration from Baker University (Kan.) and a Graduate Certification of Accounting from DeVry University (Va.).

Local conference work isn’t new to Jackson, as he served from 2003–09 as an accountant in the Central States Conference (Kan.). His passion is to empower families in their quest for financial freedom. He has presented various financial seminars, including “Establishing Family Budgets” and “How to Manage the King’s Money: Strength, Security and Stability.”

Jackson adds, “My career has allowed me to marry my passion for God and mission with my overall desire to ensure that church organizations and families in general are financially secure. I’m pleased to continue my passion here.”

Jackson’s wife, D’Andria, is a licensed clinical psychologist. They have a 6-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.—Ricardo Bacchus

Conference Settles in New Office

The Allegheny West Conference has a new home. For years William T. Cox Sr., president, and his team set their sights on moving from their old building to a newer and bigger facility to fit the vision and growth of the conference. Purchased in February 2014, the 21,600-square-foot building is located in the business district of the Polaris area in Columbus, Ohio, and is nestled among other businesses and hotels.

After they sold their former headquarters, the conference team officially moved into their new facility earlier this year. The new conference office comprises 32 rooms (including four conference rooms), two dining areas, a workout facility, a chapel, a communication studio and a fully-functional kitchen—a significant upgrade from the house the conference called home the past 50 years. The new conference building now provides a venue for seminars, workshops and special events.





Young Adults Organize Community Conference

The Allegheny West Conference's (AWC) Young Adult Ministries department recently partnered with AWC's Community Service Director Jerome Hurst, the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP and the People for the United Way African American Ministers Leadership Council to host "The 'I' in Social Justice,"



a conversation on the church's role in community activism. Organized by Hurst, the weekend-long series included a justice and community conference, titled "Moving From Disparity to Equity." Coordinators designed the conference to equip attendees to respond to the issues they encounter in their communities and nation.

Fifty years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., we "are still struggling with many of the ills of that day," says Charde' (Hurst) Hollins, AWC's Young Adult Ministries director. "As a church body, we must be a voice for the voiceless and a safe haven for those who are alienated from society. ... The churches' presence in their communities should be more than on Sabbath during service hours."

"Moving From Disparity to Equity" presenters and organizers combine forces to talk about the role churches have in community activism.

Columbus Churches Host GYC Event

The Columbus Central (Ohio) church and the Eastwood church in Westerville, Ohio, recently hosted the first GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) mini-conference in Columbus. Themed "These Are They: Rev. 14:12," organizers Samuel Thomas, Jr., senior pastor of Columbus Central, and Pastor Taylor Hinkle, vice president of GYC, centered the conference around the question, "What does it mean to be a Seventh-day Adventist young person today?"

Steve Conway, pastor of the Detroit Northwest church, preached on Friday, reminding the more than 450 participants that one's purpose in life is found on the path of service to others. Sabbath morning Sebastian Braxton, CEO and owner of The New Life Challenge, encouraged status quo congregations to become vibrant centers of evangelistic outreach and intercultural collaboration. Braxton called for, and received, commitments from attendees to become missionaries of change.

Sabbath afternoon, Tara Vang, vice president of evangelism for GYC, and Michael Long, associate director of the SOULS West ministry, led a witnessing training session. Attendees knocked on doors, offered prayer and Bible study and distributed tracts. Individuals later gave testimonies about their outreach experiences.



Taylor Hinkle, vice president of GYC, and David Pano, assistant director of GYC's Literature Ministries, speak to more than 450 attendees at "These Are They: Rev. 14:12."

GYC President Moise Ratsara ended the weekend with a testimony of how the hand of Christ protected him and his family while missionaries in Zaire. He charged attendees to rethink their relationship with Christ and their individual commitment to witnessing.
—Pamela J. Burks

THE CHALLENGE

chesapeake conference newsletter

Sharing the Word

Each day you and I use thousands of words; we share sentences to express our thoughts and feelings. Our intended messages, however, can sometimes get lost in translation. It is estimated that in the Scots language, spoken in the winter wonderland of the northern United Kingdom, there are more than 400 words for “snow.” I live in Maryland, where we make a big deal about *any* winter precipitation. In fact, it seems like our only term for snow is “School’s closed!” If Scots-speaking people tried to teach me about their snowfall without me experiencing it personally, their lesson would probably get lost in translation.

A lot was at stake in Jesus’ ministry—if His message got lost, His hearers could end up eternally lost. He often used metaphors, similes and parables to convey the truth about the kingdom of God. Jesus intentionally structured His message so that individuals who desired truth could hear and understand. He also combined His teaching with healing, feeding and encouraging others with the hope found in salvation. Jesus knew what to say and how to live so people would listen and apply the truth He shared to their lives.

In these end-times, Revelation 14:6 reveals the everlasting gospel being shared with every person throughout the world. It sounds like God is calling us to become expert communicators! As we attempt to reach unbelievers, today’s generation and generations to come, we must prayerfully consider how to best impact them with the message of our soon-returning King. We should not only be students of the written Word, but imitators of the incarnate Word, who became the living translation of the character of God. Let us share and model the everlasting gospel message in a way that precious kernels of truth can be received by anyone who is open to His calling.



Andre Hastick
*Communication
Director*

Connection Community Becomes Company

After recognizing the need for a renewed Adventist presence in Laurel, Md., the Chesapeake Conference recently made it a priority to plant a church in the Laurel area. Thus, conference administrators strategically launched the Connection Community church, formally referred to as the Laurel church plant, to reach new people in the area. The 40-charter member congregation is now an organized company.

In November of 2013, members of the Laurel church plant began meeting regularly as a small group. Six months later, they officially launched their first Sabbath morning service, with nearly 70 in attendance. Through prayer, multiple evangelistic meetings and innovative community outreach, the church plant has seen growth.

“My hope is to see the Lord add to and multiply our congregation,” says Pedro Sauder, pastor. “The church has been planted with a purpose to be a different kind of church. Not just to be a church plant, but to be a planter of other churches—sending missionaries into

neighboring communities with little Adventist presence. That’s what we are training our members to do.”



Charter members of the Connection Community congregation sign an official document as they transition to company status.

Members Share Hope on Global Youth Day

Scores of youth throughout the Chesapeake Conference were galvanized to “Be the Sermon” on Global Youth Day this past spring. Synchronizing their efforts in tandem with Adventist youth worldwide, Chesapeake youth contributed to the global impact of the day through local outreach activities. As they took to the streets in their communities to connect and encourage others in various ways, their presence served as a bridge and lighthouse to their neighbors.

Javier Scharon, the Youth Ministries leader of the Dover (Del.) church, and his youth group went to downtown Dover to bring the message of church to the community. Providing free donuts and hot chocolate, they were able to connect with local residents who visited their booth. Conversations quickly transitioned from breakfast items to deep, spiritual matters. The group prompted children and adults of all ages to share prayer requests with them, including God’s intervention for friends and family, healing, financial help and salvation of loved ones. This opened the door for the youth to pray with them. “There is no better way to preach the



During their community service event, youth in the western Chesapeake region show appreciation to a local fire department.

gospel than to go to the streets and be a living example of Jesus Christ,” says Scharon.

Another youth group from the Westminster (Md.) church also participated in Global Youth Day. Rain thwarted their initial plan. This, however, did not deter the army of youth from serving their community.

“We collected [and attached Scripture promises to] canned goods and other nonperishable items for the local food bank, Carroll County Food Sunday,” says Chelsy Tyler, Youth Ministries leader. “United in prayer and the Holy Spirit, we were overjoyed with the many donations we received.”

At FaithStep, a community center in Hagerstown, Md., youth groups from the Hagerstown, Highland View, Williamsport and Frederick churches—all based in the western Chesapeake region—combined their efforts to maximize impact. They organized and served breakfast, led in worship service and served lunch on location. Additionally, they delivered 15 “Thank you” baskets to the Funkstown Volunteer Fire Company (Md.) and prayed with the firefighters for safety in their line of duty.

“We finished the day with vespers, debriefing and sharing testimonies ..., and everyone especially liked how it involved youth from several churches,” says Ray Valenzuela, associate pastor of the Hagerstown (Md.) church.

Many youth leaders throughout the conference felt the positive impact and momentum of Global Youth Day, and have begun planning for future outreach efforts. “I have already spoken with the directors of FaithStep, and we plan on providing a monthly meal for the community,” Valenzuela says.



Youth leader Kent Kelly of the Hagerstown church (right) prays with a community member at FaithStep.



Youth from the Dover church pray with community members during Global Youth Day.

PHOTOS BY GWYNNE HOFFEKER AND MARTA TORRES

MOUNTAIN VIEWPOINT

A Testimony of Providence, Not Coincidence



Spencer (W.Va.) church member Keisha May feels heartbroken, but grateful every time she hears about a school shooting—grateful because in God’s providence, He spared her life during a horrific experience:

I am a graduate from the Appalachian School of Law (Va.). On January 16, 2002, a classmate and acquaintance of mine, fueled by the news that he had been suspended, stormed through the law school with a handgun. He shot the academic dean, a professor and a first-year student. Three other students were wounded and hospitalized, but survived.

After an enjoyable Christmas holiday at home, I decided to return to school early to prepare for the new semester. About 35 miles from school, a car rear-ended me at a red light. The driver jumped out of her vehicle, profusely apologized and told me that she did not know how she had crashed into me. She had seen my car and brake lights, but still drove into my Chevy.

Following the accident, I called my parents to discuss car options. My father was leaving in less than two days for an out-of-state trip, and if I wanted him to help me purchase a car, I’d have to return home immediately. I felt I had no choice but to go home. Little did I know God was working behind the scenes.

As I was driving back home, my dad received a call that his trip had been rescheduled, giving me extra time to shop for a car.

Later that day, after a frustrating time at car dealerships and returning home without a new car, my father and I found several missed calls on the home phone. *What could possibly be so important to warrant 20-plus missed calls?* I wondered.

After speaking to my boyfriend and turning on the TV, I learned what had happened. Had I been at school at the time of the shooting, I would have been in the commons area as my classmate was making his rounds. The significance of my return trip home suddenly became clear.

I purchased a car the next day and returned to school to share in the grief with my fellow students. While I was in a school meeting, I saw a woman staring at me and crying. As she approached me, I recognized that she was the woman who had rear-ended me. She was one of the grief counselors brought in to talk to the students. She heard that one of the victims was a blond female and feared it was me. We hugged and acknowledged the grace of God’s plan in this upside-down situation.

I am no more special, no more loved, no more thought of than any of the victims or those who witnessed this horrific event. I believe it was providence—the protection of God for reasons only God knows. He loves all equally, but for whatever reason, I was granted His protection on that day, and I will forever be humbly grateful.

Parkersburg Seniors Connect

Inspired to reach out to the older generation, Daniel Morikone, pastor of the Parkersburg (W.Va.) church, recently held a social gathering just for senior members and their friends. During the event, Morikone asked participants to write something about themselves that was not common knowledge. He then read aloud each submission, and they had to guess what “unknown” information pertained to whom.

Morikone also had them discuss various topics with one another, including their pets, favorite teachers or a story about their living or deceased spouses. This noontime social, sponsored by the church, included pizza, fruit, ice cream and other snacks.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the enthusiasm among the seniors,” says Morikone. “Their energy was contagious.”

During a senior social held at the Parkersburg church, members Lyle Hamel, 95, and James Wiseman, 90, share a common love of working with wood.



Beckley Members Find Ways to Plant Seeds

When Naomi Tricomi, Mountain View Conference Bible worker, arrived at Beckley (W.Va.) church, she introduced the members to the Total Member Involvement (TMI) initiative.

Following a series held by evangelist Richard Halverson, Beckley church members designated the first Sabbath of each month as TMI Sabbath, in which members come together and share how they have reached out to others during the previous month.

On TMI Sabbath, the church group worked on friendship baskets. They tucked items such as tissues, pens, sticky note pads, mints, a packet of seeds and a Bible verse into the baskets and delivered them to homebound people or anyone needing encouragement.

“We continue to look for ways to keep in touch with others, to interact with those [around] us,” says Lori Worix, a Beckley member.



Beckley members create friendship baskets for homebound people or those needing encouragement.

Wheeling Youth Group Hosts Dinner

The Wheeling (W.Va.) church’s youth group recently hosted “A Night Out,” with more than 40 people in attendance. The youth invited members and their family and friends to a dinner prepared and served entirely by them. Under the guidance of church member Bridgett Lewis, they organized the event as a fundraiser to help furnish the newly created youth room. Meetings are held every Tuesday evening for worship, songs and fun activities.

“My husband and I have been members for more than 35 years, and this was the first time the youth have hosted a dinner,” says church member Donna



Youth member Coltin Rogers takes orders from guests during a recent youth-hosted dinner.



Larry Murphy, pastor of the Wheeling church, and 11-year-old Wes Starcher battle for their team’s chance to play a round of Family Feud, as Bridgett Lewis, emcee and event coordinator, referees.

Buchanan. “It’s wonderful to see our [youth] stepping up and leading with activities like these. They’re the future of our church, and we want to continue to encourage their ideas and enthusiasm.”

Though the dinner was free, attendees tipped their young waiters and waitresses. Andrew Garvick and Logan Ritchea, the youth group co-leaders and chefs for the night, couldn’t believe it when the tips were counted, and they had raised \$415! They say it shows that others are really interested in the youth and their contribution to the church.—Amy Garvick

news

NEW JERSEY

There's Room for Everyone to Serve

In a previous issue, we featured a group identified as chaplains. This raised questions about the role and function of members and chaplains, and I want to clarify.

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, chaplains are ministers with conference-issued credentials who are granted ecclesiastical endorsement to serve in specialized ministries on school campuses, in corrections and healthcare facilities, the military, the workplace and community. Whether salaried or volunteer, before using the title chaplain, a person must complete required training and fieldwork.

Twenty-three years ago, when I enrolled in the Adventist chaplaincy program, I had already met the prerequisites: a master's degree in religion, at least two years of experience as a pastor and references confirming I was a member in good standing. After completing the curriculum required by the Clinical Pastoral Education Association to work as an Adventist chaplain, I also had to obtain approval from the Church's Chaplaincy Ministries department.

From this experience, I understand that a chaplain is a professional, trained to serve and minister in and on behalf of the Church. It takes years of education and experience and requires much more training than can be provided in one day or weekend. To learn more about current program requirements, visit nadadventistchaplains.org.

While not everyone wishes to pursue this specialized role in ministry, there's room for every member to participate in the mission of reaching people for Jesus Christ. *Let's keep working together, sharing hope!*



Jorge Aguero
President

Hay Espacio para cada persona que quiere Servir

En un número anterior, presentamos un grupo identificado como capellanes. Esto planteó preguntas sobre el papel y la función de los capellanes, y hoy quiero aclararlo.

En la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día, los capellanes son ministros con credenciales emitidas por la iglesia, a quienes se les concede respaldo eclesiástico para servir en ministerios especializados en escuelas, cárceles, centros de salud, el ejército, lugares de trabajo y en la comunidad. Ya sea asalariado o voluntario, antes de usar el título de capellán, una persona debe completar la capacitación requerida y tener la experiencia laboral.

Veintitrés años atrás, cuando me inscribí en el programa de capellanía adventista, yo había cumplido los requisitos previos para entrar en el programa: una maestría en religión, al menos dos años de experiencia como pastor y referencias que confirmaban que era un miembro en regla de la iglesia. Después de completar el plan de estudios requerido por la Asociación de Educación Clínica Pastoral, para trabajar como capellán Adventista, también tuve que obtener la aprobación del departamento de Ministerios de Capellanía de la Iglesia Adventista.

A partir de esta experiencia, entiendo que un capellán es un profesional capacitado para servir y ministrar en nombre y representación de la Iglesia. Se necesitan años de educación y experiencia, y se requiere mucho más capacitación de la que se puede brindar en un día o en un fin de semana. Para obtener más información sobre los requisitos actuales del programa, visite la página: nadadventistchaplains.org.

Si bien no todos desean seguir este ministerio especializado como capellán, hay espacio para que todos los miembros participen en la misión de alcanzar a las personas para Jesucristo. *¡Sigamos trabajando juntos, compartiendo esperanza!*—Jorge Aguero



“Sharing Hope: Jesus is Coming!”

Tranquil Valley Retreat Center, *Tranquility, N.J.*

English and Youth Camp Meetings: June 23

Hispanic Camp Meeting: June 30 ■ newjerseyconference.org

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING

Main Speaker



Robert Costa is the director/speaker of “Escrito Está,” a TV program that reaches 138 countries. Since 1980 Costa has served as a pastor in North and South America. Conducting more than 200 evangelistic campaigns in the last 10 years, his passion is to share the good news of God worldwide.

YOUTH SPEAKER

Jorge C. Coxaj pastors the Passaic church district. He is passionate about meeting the needs of his church and community members.



Coxaj and his wife, Alfredina, have two sons, Malachi, 4, and Michael, 2. Together they seek to lift up the cross of Christ and lead others to respond to God’s incredible love.

MUSICAL GUESTS

Sampaguita Bahena was born in Tijuana, Mexico, to a Mexican mother and Filipino father. For the

past 15 years, she has sung globally and recorded 11 Spanish albums. She currently resides in California with her husband and two children.



Christian Paul is an international violinist and songwriter. He fell in love with the violin at age 3, when he lived in Argentina and met Heinz, his German grandfather, who was a concert violinist. A few years ago,



Paul, with his friend Shane Smith, founded a music ministry called Give Glory 2 Him Productions. They have already recorded three albums and have released several music videos.

ENGLISH CAMP MEETING

Main Speaker

Homer Trecartin is the director of Global Mission Centers and Total Employment for the General Conference. Trecartin has served as a pastor, teacher,



principal, dean, treasurer and ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) worker in various parts of the world. He and his wife, Barbara, have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

YOUTH SPEAKER

Jason Ridley received his call to become a pastor at an early age and preached his first sermon at 13. Ridley has pastored various churches in the Allegheny West Conference (AWC) and currently serves as AWC’s director of Youth Ministries.



MUSICAL GUEST



Hadid Cortez was born in Montemorelos, Mexico, into a pastoral family. After receiving his secondary and high school education in

Montemorelos, in May 2018, Cortez graduated from Andrews University (Mich.) with bachelor’s degrees in music and religion.

Delegates Elect Conference Leadership Team

At the 42nd Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference, recently held at the Worthington church, a quorum of 289 delegates and 92 delegates-at-large met to elect officers for the 2018–22 quinquennial term and conduct church business. Delegates voted to re-elect both President Ron Halvorsen Jr., and Executive Secretary Oswaldo Magaña, and elected Michael D. Gilkey as treasurer and CFO.

“It hasn’t been an easy journey these past four years, but God has been with us,” Halvorsen shared. “We need to bring help to the local churches. ... I see small churches dying. ... I’m tired of seeing us lose the younger generation. ... We need to focus more money and energies on youth and young adults ... get them involved in the ministry of our church,” continued Halvorsen, as part of the conference report.

Delegates also voted to make the gifted \$3.2 million office building and furnishings in Dayton the principle headquarters for business transaction in the conference. As a result, the body voted to discontinue the use of the current conference office in Mount Vernon. Constituents granted authority to conference officers to work with both the finance and executive committees to take the necessary steps to sell the Mount Vernon property at fair market value.

Additionally, constituents voted four new churches into the sisterhood of the Ohio Conference: Dayton Korean church in Centerville; Springfield Spanish church; Prince of Peace Ghanaian church in Columbus; Hispanic church of Akron.

After a lengthy discussion about proposed changes by the Articles and Regulations Committee,



Ohio Conference officers and their wives celebrate their election to a five-year term: Executive Secretary Oswaldo Magaña and Herlinda; President Ron Halvorsen Jr. and Buffy; Treasurer and CFO Michael D. Gilkey and Joanne.



Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president; Laura Sherwin, recording secretary; and Ohio Conference delegates vote on the Nominating Committee report.



Constituents to the 42nd Regular Constituency Meeting of the Ohio Conference enter the Worthington church.

constituents accepted all revisions. Regular conference constituency sessions will now be on a quinquennial (five-year) basis rather than the current quadrennium (four-year) basis.

Unlike the constituency meeting four years ago, conference finances showed healthy and improved numbers. Halvorsen reported that working capital will once again be at 100 percent in the coming weeks and months. Gilkey reported that tithe for 2017 was at nearly \$11 million, up \$1.32 million from the last quadrennium in 2014. “That is a very substantial increase,” he said. In 2018 tithe so far is up 10 percent over last year. This earned a hearty “Amen!” by the delegates.

Conference Transitions Headquarters to Dayton

Nearly 400 delegates at the recent Ohio Conference constituency voted to make the \$3.2 million office building in Dayton the principle headquarters for conference business. In September 2017, local business owners gifted the building to the conference.

The conference spends \$80,000 annually to operate the office in Mount Vernon, which increases each year due to the aging of the building. Funds generated by leasing a portion of the new building to Kettering Adventist HealthCare could save the conference up to \$1 million in overhead. “These funds could help Ohio churches and schools fulfill their mission, vision, and ministry,” says Michael D. Gilkey, newly elected treasurer and CFO.

The new headquarters is 29,350-square-foot, sits on 2.6 acres and has 168 parking spaces. It has been renovated to include cosmetic changes and wired with a state-of-the-art fiberoptic network. “This will enable live video conferences directly from the new office,” Gilkey continues.

The large, shared meeting hall, which seats 150 people, will enable the use of technology to video conference with high-profile speakers and record meetings for those unable to attend. High-speed internet has allowed the conference to port over their existing phone number and extensions using advanced VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phones, facilitating better communication with constituents.

Earlier this spring, several conference ministry leaders met with a small school and church to offer communication and media support in order to increase their visibility within their community. This new technology gives them the ability to better serve churches and schools conference-wide.

Later this fall, conference leaders plan to deploy a new ministry initiative called “Disciple Ohio,” which seeks to assist pastors and congregations in providing skilled ministers to share their experience in being and making disciples. “All eight regions of the conference will have a full-time mentor or teacher to assist pastors to help members reach their full potential as



A large meeting hall will enable conference leaders to use technology to better communicate and provide training to constituents.

disciples for Jesus in the[ir] communities,” says Ron Halvorsen Jr., president.

Ministry departments and staff have gradually transitioned down to the new workplace. Conference personnel have designed an exit strategy from the Mount Vernon building to the one in Dayton that includes the transition of remaining personnel, digitization and movement of conference records and the official closing of the former office.

An open house for the new headquarters is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, from 2-6 p.m., with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. The office is located at 1251 E. Dorothy Lane in Dayton. Visit ohioadventist.org, or call (740) 397-4665 for more information.



The new Ohio Conference headquarters is 29,350-square-foot, sits on 2.6 acres and has 168 parking spaces.

Mission Ohio is published in the *Visitor* by the Ohio Conference ■ P. O. Box 1230, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: (740) 397-4665 ■ ohioadventist.org ■ President, Ron Halvorsen Jr. ■ Communication Director, Heidi Shoemaker

Pennsylvania Pen

Ministries Combine to Create New Hispanic Church

Earlier this year, the Bethlehem Hispanic church, led by volunteer Lay Pastor Juan Tavarez, and the Luces de Sion Hispanic Company in Allentown, led by lay members Luis Sanchez, Cruz Marquez and Jose Aleman Aquino, combined their churches and ministries to create the Allentown Hispanic church. This new congregation of more than 100 members purchased a building at 1109 West Linden Street in Allentown.

Fernando Rocha, lead pastor, and Edwin DePaula, volunteer lay pastor, oversaw the renovations and obtained proper city permits needed to officially open the building. They relied heavily on the strong dedication of church leaders and members who worked tirelessly to assure the building would be ready to open its doors to the public by the scheduled grand opening date.

Pennsylvania Conference officials, including Will Peterson, vice president for Mission and Administration; Carlos Charnichart, treasurer; and Saud Elias, Hispanic Ministries coordinator; along with Ron Christman, retired conference treasurer, participated in the services. Rubén Ramos, vice president of Multilingual Ministries for the Columbia Union Conference, and Williams Costa Jr., communication director for the General Conference, joined the Pennsylvania, local church and community leaders for the ribbon cutting ceremony that symbolized the collective official grand opening of the building.



Hispanic Ministries Coordinator Saud Elias (with microphone), encourages attendees to stay faithful to Jesus, as Ron Christman (fourth from left), Carlos Charnichart, Will Peterson, Rubén Ramos, Williams Costa Jr., and other church leaders cut a ribbon, symbolizing the grand opening of the new Allentown Hispanic church.

Nearly 400 people attended the opening and community benefit. Many donated items for Puerto Rican students and their families who recently relocated to Allentown after being affected by Hurricane Maria. This collective effort with the Allentown School District sparked interest by community organizations. More than 20 local community leaders joined the ceremony and expressed interest in engaging in future partnerships with the church to impact the community more effectively. These leaders included the city's mayor and representatives from the senator's office, police department, fire department, school district, the county's conference of churches and other faith-based outreach centers.

At the conclusion of the grand opening and community benefit, three individuals publicly expressed their desire to follow Jesus by choosing to be baptized. "This was a good way to use the new baptistry, and the congregation rejoiced with its new members," shares Rocha. "Truly the Lord's name was honored that day! Our prayer is to continue to provide spiritual, emotional and social support and to spread the Word of God in this great community."—Brenda DePaula



Volunteer Lay Pastor Edwin DePaula and his wife, Brenda, speak to the newly formed Allentown Hispanic church members during the building's grand opening, bringing two Hispanic congregations into one location and ministry.

Conference Welcomes Hall Family

The Pennsylvania Conference welcomed Pastor Dustin Hall and his wife, Kelly, to the ministry team this spring. Dustin will pastor the Grace Outlet church in Reading and serve as the conference Church Planting director. Kelly will assume the role of Family Ministries director.

"We are excited about joining the Pennsylvania Conference team," shares Dustin. "Kelly and I are both originally from Corning, N.Y., so we are familiar with the territory and the wonderful people of Pennsylvania. ... We can't wait to contextualize what we've learned [in past positions] to help grow our church and work together with other churches to plant new movements of believers who are dedicated to not just be a church *in* the community, but be a church *for* the community."

Dustin most recently pastored the Southview church in Minneapolis, Minn., welcoming more than 130 new members during his tenure. He previously pastored in New York, and has mentored youth, pastors and lay leaders to preach evangelistic series. Kelly homeschools



their four children, Deacon, Canaan, Ainsly and Adelle.

"Dustin and Kelly bring a wealth of experience and a passion for mission that will enable the Pennsylvania Conference to faithfully share the gospel of Christ and grow healthy churches that will impact their communities!" shares Gary Gibbs, president.

**Laurel Lake
summer camp**

2018 SCHEDULE

June 17-24
Adventurer Camp • 7-9yrs

June 24-July 1
Junior Camp • 10-12 yrs

July 1-8
Tween Camp • 12-14 yrs

July 8-15
Teen Camp • 14-17 yrs

At Laurel Lake Camp you can spend time with old friends and make new ones. We believe that you will be encouraged to grow and strengthen your relationship with Jesus, all while you enjoy nature, God's second book. Contact us for more info:

LaurelLakeSummerCamp.com summercamp@paconference.org
814-938-9440



Potomac People

Finding Unity in Mission

The book of Acts recounts the church's ability to function together, as well as the struggles and successes encountered when a church body attempts to fulfill the Great Commission. While their involvement took some prodding from the Holy Spirit, they became active agents for the mission of heaven. In *Acts of the Apostles*, Ellen White reminds us that "one common interest controlled them—the success of the mission entrusted to them" (p. 70).

As Christians, we exist because God called His church to go. To grow in Jesus, and for His kingdom to grow, one common interest must define us—the mission that God has entrusted to us within our territory. Potomac Conference "exists to grow healthy, disciple-making churches." With this as our mission statement and goal, all ministry and action taken in our offices, churches and schools works to push that mission forward. This mission gives purpose and unity.

How is the conference doing with the mission in which we have been challenged? How is your congregation responding to the call? Does one common interest control you as it did in Acts?

We recently completed video reports of how God's mission is being fulfilled in our conference. These videos, which can be viewed at pcsd.org/midterm-report, include updates from our administration, pastoral ministries, youth, education and treasury teams. These reports are meant to inform and inspire as we collectively move forward in mission. What better mission is there than working together to bring souls to the kingdom and glory to the Most High?



Bill Miller
President

Two Ordained to Gospel Ministry

This spring conference officials ordained two pastors into the gospel ministry—Renee Stepp, pastor of the Williamsburg, Newport News and Yale churches in Virginia; and Joel Almeida, pastor of the Clarksburg, Gaithersburg and National Brazilian churches in Maryland.

In her statement of faith, Stepp opened by saying, "If I could try to tell you what God has done for me, we'd be here awhile." Stepp first joined the Potomac Conference in 2013 as the associate pastor of the Vienna (Va.) church and began pastoring the Williamsburg district in 2017.

From 2004–09 Almeida served the Miami Central Brazilian church as an elder and opened his home to a small group that would later become a small church. "That was my first call to full-time ministry," says Almeida. In 2010 he attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Mich.), and, in 2013, he accepted the call to serve as associate pastor of the Community Praise church in Alexandria, Va. Two years ago, Almeida became pastor over his current district.



Potomac People

Video Conferencing Connects Inmates to Loved Ones

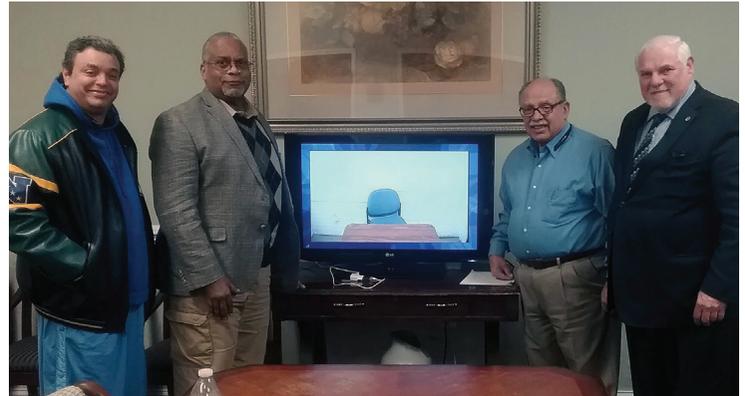
The Alexandria Spanish and Fredericksburg congregations in Virginia are currently connected to 18 Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) prisons, offering what possibly no other Adventist church in the world does—video conferencing to unite inmates with their loved ones.

Leaders from a Christian church in Richmond, Va., invited Ryland Holmes, the conference's director for Families and Re-entry programs, to witness prison video conferencing. "At the time, [that church] had serviced more than 2,000 families," explains Hector Cruz, senior coordinator for the Potomac Conference's Prison Ministries department. "Ryland was so excited he called me and said I needed to come down right away to see this for myself. He was really touched by what this church was doing—it was connecting families with Virginia Department of Corrections."

Through the Department of Corrections (DOC), officials work with leaders at participating entities to set up video-conferencing equipment. Inmates and families schedule a time to teleconference, then family members travel to a facility affiliated with the prison where their loved ones are held. In the designated room at participating locations, tablets compatible with DOC requirements are hooked up to TVs. Officials monitor conversations between inmates and family members and automatically cut the feed if there is any foul or inappropriate language, or if participants break a rule or regulation that is stated to them prior to the conversation. "The churches have a dedicated room comfortable for the families," explains Cruz. "We want them to feel welcome so they can get the most out of their visits."

Cruz has been involved with Prison Ministries since 1966, when his brother invited him, a 16-year-old, to visit a prison for youth inmates. "I didn't think much about God then," says Cruz. "When we went to the prison and spoke with this young man, I remember telling him to trust in the Lord, and when I came out of there, I was never the same." Cruz chose to be baptized three months later and has been involved with Prison Ministries ever since.

The conference's Prison Ministries department began in 1998 and now has a 60-member team.



Potomac Conference Prison Ministries leaders Moises Escalera, Hispanic Affairs coordinator; Ryland Holmes, Family, Re-entry and Video Conferencing coordinator; Hector Cruz, senior coordinator; and John Carmouche, coordinator, stand in a video-conferencing room that allows families and inmates to communicate.

Cruz works with Prison Ministries teams across the Columbia Union Conference and encourages pastors and leaders to implement video conferencing in their churches. "We are so happy that God has given us the privilege to enhance this ministry," says Cruz. "To our knowledge, we are the only ones denominationally providing this service. Right now only two churches are involved, but we hope more will join."

Calendar of Events

- June 8-9** Virginia Valley Region Impact Camp Meeting, New Market, Va.
- June 10** Adventist Youth Ministries' Olympic Games, Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Va.
- June 15-16** Hispanic Impact Camp Meeting, Washington, D.C.



Blue Mountain Academy COMMUNIQUE

BMA Opens Hospital Produce Stand

Arion Weber, Blue Mountain Academy's (BMA) director of operations, reports that the school's agriculture program has recently impacted the local community like never before. "BMA agriculture was invited to pilot a Farmer's Market in downtown's Reading St. Joseph's Hospital (Pa.)," Weber shares. "On May 1, BMA opened a produce stand in a renovated room close to the hospital's main entrance. During the growing season—and potentially year-round—they are open each Tuesday from 12:30-5 p.m. Hospital administrators are not only making this produce market available to patients participating in VeggieRx, a healthy food incentive program, but are encouraging staff to shop there and are advertising the stand to the community."

Weber reinvigorated the agriculture program six years ago, giving students the opportunity to return to BMA's roots when farmland covered nearly half of the 720 acres. Today you can find greenhouses, outdoor growing plots and even produce and eggs sold at a farm stand.

Weber describes several benefits to the hospital farm market. "It gives students an opportunity to



provide health-giving nutrition to community members. Students in the agriculture program see firsthand how their work of growing produce makes a real, positive impact in people's lives and will hopefully inspire them to continue to pursue agricultural studies," Weber says. "Students also have the potential to participate in health education by teaching cooking classes, presenting health workshops and more." As this program continues to grow, look for updates at facebook.com/bluemountainacademy.

In My Own Words



In her own words, senior Lorena Alves shares the purpose of a Christian education at Blue Mountain Academy:

It's just a true investment to put your kids or decide for yourself to choose a Christ-centered education. You're not just preparing yourself for the next 80 or 90 years you're going to have here; you're not just preparing yourself to be a teacher, a doctor, or a lawyer or whatever you want to be. You're preparing yourself for much more than that. You're preparing for eternity. That should be our main goal and so much more important than the things we can do in 80 or 90 years."

To view her full testimony, visit vimeo.com/261002084.

Students Benefit the World During Service Week

Highland View Academy (HVA) students and staff devoted a week of service this spring in what Principal Erik Borges plans to be an annual tradition. “Service is part of the Adventist curriculum, so we are being intentional about service-learning,” Borges notes.

Eight students, along with chaperones, traveled to Meru, Kenya, in collaboration with Maranatha, to build bathroom facilities at the Kiirua Seventh-day Adventist School. The Kiirua school provides a Christian education to more than 300 students from different socioeconomic backgrounds and religious beliefs. The new bathroom provided the girls’ dormitory with showers, toilets and a laundry washing station. “The trip was an eye-opening experience that really helped me to see the blessings



that we take for granted,” shares senior Bree Hurst.

In the States, 10 students and three faculty members traveled to

Yana Ruiz (standing), chaperone Andrew Choi, Bree Hurst (on left, sitting) and Valerie Akinyi, take a break from construction at the Kiirua Adventist School in Kenya.



Zyon Wiley, Kyra Wirsz, Ariana Neverson and Katie Seeders clean buckets before filling them with nonperishable necessities.



Liam Jeffers, Rebecca Pierce and Mariah Lee-Wong transplant seedlings that will be sold to raise money for a local center that serves individuals with disabilities.

Houston to help relief efforts for the Houston Spanish Little York church in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Pastor Saul Flores and his wife, Teresa, have spent the last nine months helping their community get back on its feet. With their guidance, HVA students worked on two major projects—the continued reconstruction of an elderly man’s home, and preparing, sorting and packaging supplies for the Adventist Community Services Disaster Response center the church manages. Freshman JoAnna Ketter says, “I want to be like [Pastor Saul and Teresa], doing service every day.”

The students who remained on campus participated in a variety of service projects throughout the community, including a local center that serves individuals with disabilities, a hospice inpatient unit, Frederick Adventist Academy (Md.) and the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., which underwent significant renovation. Junior Curtis Morris assisted in creating a science classroom at the Frederick academy. Morris says that as he aided in building the accommodation, he couldn’t help but think “about the possibility of a child finding a passion for science because of the new room.”

As Borges told the students, “Work during service week was not always comfortable or fun, but we have been called to serve, and this week gave us just a small glimpse of what service means.”

PFA POST



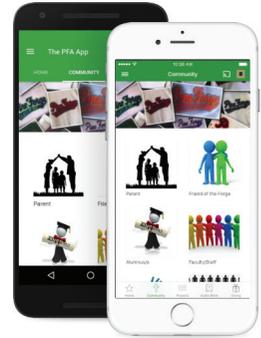
Visit us online at PINEFORGEACADEMY.ORG. Excellence is no accident.

Academy Reflects on a Bountiful Year

The Pine Forge Academy (PFA) enjoyed a blessed 2017–18 academic year. Here are a few highlights and accomplishments:



PFA's app, launched in July 2017, broadens reach and exposure, making new connections and increasing financial support.



During Parents' Weekend, seniors, including Colby Matlock, Jr. (pictured with his parents, Pastor Colby and Erica, and brother Juddah), publically thank their families and acknowledge their time at PFA.

Philadelphia's CBS-affiliate newscast features PFA's choir, campus and history during Black History Month.



The new PFA board, elected in the fall of 2017, will serve until 2022.



Academy Launches Online Application

Pine Forge Academy launched its online application for new and returning students in March 2018. This application streamlines the process for PFA, students and parents to submit student information. The application is also available on PFA's app. The combination of the online application and the app are great ways to use technology to reach more families interested in the "Legacy of Learning," experienced at PFA for more than 70 years.

Post is published in the *Visitor* by the Pine Forge Academy ■ P.O. Box 338, Pine Forge, PA 19548
Phone: (610) 326-5800 ■ Fax: (610) 326-5152 ■ pineforgeacademy.org ■ Principal, Nicole Hughes ■ Editor, Dinah Jordan

Spotlight

on Spencerville

Highlights from Spencerville Adventist Academy

Physics Students Launch Rockets, Collect Data

Spencerville Adventist Academy's (SAA) Physics class members, in partnership with engineers from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (Md.), built and launched a series of model rockets this year. Each group designed a payload container to allow a raw egg to survive the rocket launch and recovery. Prior to launch, students tested various materials and designs by subjecting the eggs to different types of accelerations and forces. Using the data, each group determined the final design of their payload container for launch. The rockets successfully launched and achieved a speed of more than 400 mph and a height of more than 5,000 feet.

The Maryland Delaware Rocketry Association allowed the students and other school groups to use their launch facilities on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Matt Welch wires the motor of his group's rocket in preparation for launch.



Ben Slack and Ryan Kuczma anticipate their turn to launch their rocket.

"It was fun to see other groups of high school and college students doing the same thing we were doing," says student Tanner Forde.

Two of the five rockets had parachute issues, hitting the ground at full speed. The other three functioned perfectly, and all of their payloads survived. Class member Ryan Injety says, "I learned that things don't always go the way you plan, so as an engineer, you need to prepare for the unexpected."

After the launch, the students reviewed the acceleration, velocity and altitude data they collected. They also compared the data to their predictions, based on equations they learned in class. The rocket project gave the students a hands-on opportunity to see physics in action.—Nathan Hess

PHOTOS BY NATHAN HESS

SAA Receives STEM Grant

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) recently received a \$10,000 grant from Versacare, Inc. SAA leaders have been outfitting a STEM lab over the past year and plan to continue growing their focus on STEM in PK-12. Administrators intend to use this grant to invest in robotics, engineering and app development, as well as establish a four-year STEM Certificate for high school students.

Spotlight is published in the *Visitor* by Spencerville Adventist Academy ■ 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD 20868
Phone: (301) 421-9101 ■ spencervilleacademy.org ■ Principal, Brian Kittleson ■ Editor, Heidi Wetmore

SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY.ORG

CONNECTIONS

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO KNOW FOLLOW SHARE JESUS

65 of Our Students Proclaim Christ in Kenya

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”—Mark Twain

At Spring Valley Academy (SVA), we want our students to acquire those “broad, wholesome, charitable views.” Even more so, we want them to embrace Jesus’ personal mission to proclaim “good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners, proclaim recovery of sight for the blind, proclaim liberation for the oppressed, proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18, paraphrase).

In line with Jesus’ mission, 65 SVA students, parents and Kettering Health Network (Ohio) medical professionals spent their spring break in the bush of the Masai territory in southwest Kenya. After a long journey from Dayton, Ohio, to the heart of Africa, ministry teams shined a “little kingdom” by meeting the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the Masai people. During this one-week trip, mobile dental, medical and vision teams treated more than 1,000 patients in the small villages. The Vacation Bible School team proclaimed the good news to more than 700 Masai students at the Kensington School in the Masai Mara. The construction crew built a dining hall for a new high school that allows indigenous students to continue their education past eighth grade. Finally, the water team distributed gravity water filter systems to 500 families. The systems will provide them with clean drinking water for at least 10 years.

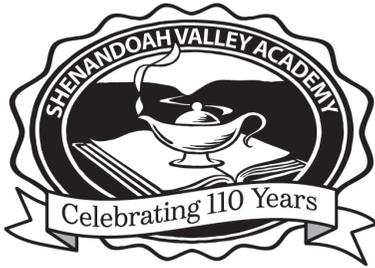


Bricklayer Nicole Mikov, a 10th-grader from SVA, displays the tools used to construct part of a new school in Masai Mara.

What a privilege it is to join Jesus in His ministry to the poor. What a blessing to learn lessons of simplicity and contentment from the people we serve. How humbling to discover that God can use us even though we are broken vessels. What a marvelous world of beauty He has created to show us His own face. We are blessed! To watch video highlights from our trip, visit springvalleyacademy.org/Kenya.
—Darren Wilkins, Principal



Connections is published in the *Visitor* by Spring Valley Academy ■ 1461 Spring Valley Pike, Centerville, OH 45458
Phone: (937) 433-0790 ■ springvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Darren Wilkins ■ Editor, Vicki Swetnam



Impact Shenandoah

Serve God – Value Knowledge – Accept a Life of Service

Students Spend Spring Break Serving God in Peru

Eighty-one students and 19 adults from Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) chose to serve God over spring break by ministering to natives in the Peruvian Andes Mountains. During the 10-day trip, the team combined their talents to build a church and offer free health clinics, evangelistic meetings and children's programming in the Cusco region.

Seventh-day Adventist residents of Cusco welcomed the group's arrival with Pathfinders and bands playing. Locals worked alongside the SVA team to build the first of two churches on a foundation previously laid by the Nuevo Huasao residents. The large group of 100 people made good progress on the second church.

Students learned about the impact of medical ministry as they worked alongside dedicated healthcare professionals, including pediatrician Ron Perkin (SVA's Anatomy and Physiology volunteer teacher), a local doctor, dentist and four registered nurses who traveled with the team. They served approximately 350 patients over four days at two mobile medical clinics.

Shane Anderson, pastor of the New Market (Va.) church on SVA's campus, and Hector Hernandez, pastor of the First Hispanic church in Cleveland, Tenn., held evangelistic meetings near the two church building sites. Concurrently, SVA students led Vacation Bible School programs for the children.

Rising before daybreak and journeying by train from the arid climate of Cusco into the high jungle, the group experienced a once-in-a-lifetime, daylong excursion to the Incan citadel of Machu Picchu—one of the wonders



SVA students lay blocks as they construct a church in Cusco, Peru.



of the world. The next day, it was back to work. The week culminated in a Sabbath worship service in the newly built church, constructed by the local residents and students.

The mission trip team prays that their work and care for the people of Cusco will equal the great blessing they themselves received by serving Jesus through serving others.—*Tim Harley*



The mission trip team and local church members celebrate Sabbath in the new church they built.

Impact is published in the *Visitor* by Shenandoah Valley Academy ■ 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844
Phone: (540) 740-3161 ■ shenandoahvalleyacademy.org ■ Principal, Donald Short ■ Editor, Janel Haas Ware

www.ta.edu TATODAY

News you can use from Takoma Academy

Chaplain Serves as Warrior for the Kingdom

Takoma Academy (TA) leaders hold a semi-regular meeting with the administrative core team to discuss and resolve vital issues in the school. During a recent meeting, the group needed definitive direction but saw no clear-cut answer. That's when Chaplain Shari Loveday, who joined via conference call, spoke up. "Her voice came in like a sound from heaven advising the team to 'pray about the issue,'" says Ronnie Mills, former director of institutional advancement. Suddenly, the discussion ceased, and the leaders prayed. Within 30 minutes, God sent an answer to what seemed like a hopeless situation.

"It is moments like these that it becomes self-evident that Loveday definitely has a relationship with God and a deep faith on how calling upon Him can move insurmountable mountains," shares Mills.

Loveday, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, has a passion for God and is never shy to share Him with others. "I firmly believe that if I honor God's call and leading in my life, He will open doors that others will not be able to shut," says Loveday. She states that she has constantly felt God's calling upon her life. As a child, she was always the first volunteer to respond when asked to pray or preach. "I was eager to go to the Lord with my thoughts," she says.



Shari Loveday, TA's chaplain, empowers students to choose God and follow His will.

And her eagerness continues. In March 2018, she showed Christ's compassion for those in severe need when she led a group of TA students and one staff member on a mission trip to Houston after the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey. Mikayla Roberts ('18) states that during the mission trip she was able to observe firsthand that "Chaplain Loveday was very humble" and has a "love of service [for] others."

When asked what vital issues youth face today, Loveday states, "The pivotal issues facing youth are overexposure to sexual immorality, bullying, fear and virtual living, as opposed to being [in the] present. ... Youth are searching for worth and purpose and looking for it in all the wrong places. I believe our young people are desensitized from music and other forms of media, and this has allowed ideas contrary to God's principles to take root in their lives."

She believes that the solution to this crisis is that "God has given us as parents, guardians, teachers and chaplains, the right to take every thought that seeks to exalt itself against the truth of God captive, casting down imaginations and rendering strongholds powerless. I believe we have been given the power to fight for our children, and that is exactly what I have committed to do in my life."



Shari Loveday (right) trains freshman Tashyanna Simpson on how to better her praise and worship leadership skills.

Buses and Bumpers Bring Encouragement

“Our goal has been to introduce people to God, to hope, to encouragement – through a bus sign or a bumper sticker that invites them to listen to WGTS 91.9. For some, it is their first time listening and, for others, seeing that sign or sticker is just what they need to remind them that today is going to be okay,” says general manager Kevin Krueger.

One listener recently shared, “I tuned into WGTS after seeing a bumper sticker on a neighbor’s car. Now I listen every day and am blessed every day.”

“Please pray with us that these bus signs or bumper stickers will be just the prompt for someone to begin listening and that it will come at just the right time when they need to hear the words of hope and encouragement to help them with whatever they might be going through,” says Krueger. “Pray with us that in that sacred moment, they will draw close to God, His love and His truth.”



hands and heart

Listeners Make a Difference at the Second Annual WGTS Fest

An evening of music with two well-known Christian artists. An opportunity to share food with people through the local Salvation Army. This was the way over 2,400 WGTS listeners celebrated the second annual WGTS Fest in March. Afternoon show hosts Johnny and Stacey Stone got the afternoon started with a live broadcast, featuring Britt Nicole and Matthew West. Johnny and Stacey Stone also shared their testimony on stage and invited listeners to make decisions for Christ.

Throughout the afternoon, listeners enjoyed food trucks outside the venue and played games at the WGTS booth. After intermission, Matthew West brought the crowd to their feet with incredible music and then an appeal from his dad to come to Christ. Hundreds of listeners dropped by the WGTS Prayer Booth for prayer with the prayer team.

WGTS listeners strongly supported our “Hands and Heart” project with a tremendous donation of over 1,300 nonperishable food items to the local Salvation Army, causing the organizers to return with a second truck to haul it all.

“It was kind of like a family reunion where everyone brought a gift. It was incredible to see so many people loving on the community by giving food to the Salvation Army,” says program director Brennan Wimbish.



Shredding Documents and Hunger

In just a few short hours, several hundred WGTS 91.9 listeners donated nearly a ton of food and brought documents to be shredded. Afternoon hosts Johnny and Stacey Stone were there along with our staff and volunteers from Thrivent Financial and the Fairfax County food banks for a live broadcast and to meet and talk with listeners.

“I was expecting that people would be more interested in getting their documents shredded for free. What surprised me is how listeners stepped up to also give almost one ton of food for Fairfax food banks. Thanks to our generous listeners,” says community engagement director Jitesh Ram.



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Securing a Future for WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Over the next twelve months, the Strategic Planning Committee will conduct a number of small group conversations with members of the Washington Adventist University learning community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, local, national and international community members.



**Weymouth
Spence**

The goal of these conversations is to get the input from all members of the learning community to strengthen the current strategic plan to grow and secure a future for WAU. “Growing with Excellence” continues to be the strategic theme in formulating action plans to make Washington Adventist University an excellent place for students to learn and for employees to work. The desired outcome of these conversations is to be proactive in energizing the members of the learning community to be creative and innovative in addressing the well-documented challenges impacting independent higher education. The conversations will begin with such questions as: Who are we? What do we do here? Where are we going? Make an effort to join in on the conversations to secure a future for Christian education in the nation’s capital.

This is Washington Adventist University.
—Weymouth Spence, President

MISSION TRIPS BEFORE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last summer I went on an amazing mission trip to El Salvador along with Washington Adventist University’s women’s basketball team. It was truly a powerful experience for me.

The Hogar Escuela Adventista is an orphanage school in the little town of San Juan Opico. The 20 or so children there were excited to see us, and could not wait to become friends with these new arrivals from the United States! We stayed on campus, and each morning after breakfast, with a little help from some of the boys at the school, we painted an entire dormitory building—inside and out.

In the evenings, we would go swimming with the kids, play soccer or basketball, and just hang out. You had to be there to understand the bonds we formed with the children and with each other.

During our 11-day trip, we also got to see the cities of Santa Anna and San Salvador. The WAU Lady Shock basketball team played an exhibition game with the country’s top professional team. We also had a special time together helping lead Sabbath services at the orphanage.

This was my first mission trip, and one I will never forget! Many of the children spoke with us and told us the heartbreaking stories of how they got there, bringing many of us to tears. But, as they finished their stories, they showed promise and hope for a better future.

Please pray for Washington Adventist University students participating in mission trips to the Philippines and Honduras this summer!

Esmeralda “Esme” Mathieu is a sophomore Music Education major at Washington Adventist University. She is currently serving a gap year program as a Volunteer EMS Provider at the Bethesda, Maryland Fire Department. She is a member of the Capital Spanish Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and served as a Campus Ministry leader last year.



OUTSTANDING WAU MUSICIANS MAKE THEIR MARK

It's been a big year for WAU graduate Jidong Zhong.

Jidong, the son of a Seventh-day Adventist minister in Beijing, showed early promise, winning international piano competitions by the age of twelve. His parents, Linda and Nathan Zhong, wanted him to attend a Christian secondary school, but that was not possible in China. They first made arrangements for Jidong to study in Washington state, then, with the help of Ruth and Nikolaus Satelmajer, Jidong traveled across the U.S. to Washington, DC to attend Takoma Academy (TA).

With just a year of English under his belt, Jidong finished his four years of academy in three years—ranking at the top of his class. It was at TA that Dr. Daniel Lau, now WAU Music Department chair, discovered him. Supported by WAU scholarships including the John Chang Scholarship Fund, Jidong graduated from WAU in the class of 2016 picking up not only top-of-class honors, but a bride as well, Ashley Butler, WAU class of 2014.

Now on a full scholarship to complete his Master of Music degree this Spring at the Eastman School of Music Conservatory in Rochester, NY, Jidong keeps winning competitions. Setting the stage by winning a New York state competition and an Eastern regional contest in West Virginia, Jidong took home a \$5,000 prize winning the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Piano Competition in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Please keep Jidong in your prayers as he commences doctoral studies this Fall.

WAU also congratulates two current piano majors, students of professor Mark Di Pinto. Aleksandra



Jidong Zhong, third from left, at the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Piano Competition.

Velgosha and Beatrice Serban earned first and second place respectively in the Maryland State Music Teachers Association's annual Elizabeth R. Davis Memorial Piano Competition held in April at WAU's Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center. The distinguished judges were Larissa Dedova and Charles Timbrell, professors of piano at the University of Maryland School of Music and Howard University, respectively. Velgosha received praise for her "very impressive, powerful performance," while Serban was congratulated for her "very serious and honest rendition of the work."

"These wins are a really big deal for us," Dr. Lau said. "Our instrumental and vocal ensembles receive a good deal of acclaim, and deservedly so, if I may say so. But this is a nice validation of the work we do with our individual performance majors."

UPCOMING EVENTS

WAU Offering: Sabbath, June 30

On behalf of your children, friends, and community members, we celebrate the Lord's mighty work at Washington Adventist University. Won't you be His helping hand on WAU Sabbath as together we engage minds and transform lives? Thank you for your support and the continued power of your prayers.

Fall Semester

- **New Student Orientation and Registration:** August 20-26
- **Last Day to Register for Fall 2018:** August 24
- **Classes Begin:** August 27

Anna H. Wang Presidential Concert Series: Saturday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.

Leroy and Lois Peters Music Center, featuring the Parker String Quartet

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 16

Visionaries Gala

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YOUR HEALING MINISTRY

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Breaking Ground for Hamilton Health Center on Main

By Christina Keresoma

Kettering Adventist HealthCare started construction on a new medical office building with a groundbreaking ceremony on a very cold spring day. Hamilton Health Center on Main will be built near Fort Hamilton Hospital in Hamilton, Ohio.

The 16,000-square-foot health center will house state-of-the-art machines and technology. It will offer outpatient services to meet the needs of the community, including imaging and lab services, primary care physicians, and space for additional specialty physicians in the future.



Kettering Adventist HealthCare and Community leaders came together to break ground. Left to right: Karl Haffner, George Lewis, Dan Bates, Joshua Smith, Fred Manchur, Michael Mewhirter, Pat Moeller.



Pat Moeller, Mayor of Hamilton, shares his appreciation toward Fort Hamilton Hospital and Kettering Adventist HealthCare for their continual support of community.



Kettering Adventist HealthCare continues to look for ways to partner with our communities to provide residents with quality healthcare services close to where they live. *"We are very pleased to partner with the Hamilton Community."*

Fred Manchur, CEO
Kettering Adventist HealthCare

THE NEWS

KETTERING ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER

Network Again Ranked as Great Place To Work

Kettering Adventist HealthCare has been named a Fortune Best Workplace in Health Care and Biopharma for the second year in a row. The network ranked number 15 on the list, which is based on surveys from more than 95,000 employees across the healthcare, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries.

The survey asked employees to rate pride in their organization's community impact, belief that their work makes a difference, and feeling their work has special meaning.



Joining the Fight Against Opioid Addiction

To reduce the spread of the opioid epidemic, Kettering Adventist HealthCare has created an innovative tool for healthcare providers and pharmacists. This tool has the potential to help clinicians be part of the solution by providing opioid-free pain management for chronic and benign pain.

Designed in collaboration with Pain Management and Addiction Medicine, the program offers reference materials for clinicians that show alternatives for opioids for five key types of chronic pain: headache, dental, neck and back, joint, and abdominal.

Nancy Pook, MD, medical director of the emergency department at Kettering Medical Center, developed the Pause program in response to the high number of patients who have been prescribed high doses of long-acting narcotics and the increased number of overdose deaths.

"Because of this need, we developed a program as a network-wide initiative at Kettering Adventist HealthCare," Dr. Pook explains. "We reinforced it by embedding it in electronic medical record education, providing laminated posters in the emergency departments, training our medical teams, and tracking reports of opiate prescribing within our electronic medical record. Each piece, individually and in total, has been essential to the results we are seeing today."



Dr. Nancy Pook and team lead the initiative against opioid addiction.

After implementing these steps, Kettering Adventist HealthCare's opiate use has dropped approximately 20 percent since 2013. Repeat emergency visits for minor pain complaints have decreased by more than 50 percent. "Even as we continue to see high acuity and high volume, we maintain our commitment to delivering compassionate health care," says Dr. Pook.

The Pause program is available for free to healthcare providers and pharmacists throughout the country at ketteringhealth.org/pause





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MISCELLANEOUS

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OBITUARY

DAVENPORT, Glenn, age 100. Born March 15, 1917, in Ringgold County, Iowa; died December 6, 2017, in Centerville, Ohio. He was a member of the Kettering (Ohio) church. Glenn was a principal, a teacher and served in many capacities in the Adventist educational system over the years. Survivors include his granddaughter, Kim (Kelley) Lunde and her husband Eric Lunde; his grandson, David Mark Kelley; and four great-grandchildren. His wife, Bonita (Cozad) Davenport, and his daughter, Veryl (Davenport) Kelley, predeceased him.

JONES, Lucille Russell, born November 29, 1924, in Liberty Center, Ohio; died February 7, 2017, in Napoleon, Ohio. She was a member of the Trinity church in Defiance, Ohio. Lucille grew up in Liberty Center and graduated from Mount Vernon Academy in 1943. She earned a teaching certificate from Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. After college she taught at the church school in LaGrange, Ohio, for one year. She then went back to Takoma Park, where she worked at the Review and Herald in the book-bindingery as a PBX operator and a receptionist until 1954. In June of 1954, she married Watt J. Jones, and they moved back to Liberty Center. In 1955 she was elected the Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Liberty Center and served in several increasing capacities until she retired after 30 years

in 1986. She stood up for her Christian beliefs and was well known for that in her community. For many years, Lucille served as the church treasurer in Liberty Center, then Napoleon, and, later the Defiance church. She was a strong supporter of Christian education. Survivors: her three sons: Jerry of Redlands, Calif., Ricky (Barb) of Delta, Ohio, and James (Sheila) of Liberty Center; her daughter, Sandy (Louis) Thomas of Laurel, Md.; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Wyatt, brothers, Melvin (Margaret) Russell of Oxford, Mass., and Warren (Vera) Russell of Van Vert, Ohio, preceded her in death. Her sister in-law, Margaretâ, passed away 10 days later.

SANFORD, Helen J., born December 12, 1933, in Atlantic City, N.J.; died April 28, 2017, at Montgomery Hospice Casey House in Rockville, Md. Helen attended Brigantine Elementary (N.J.); Atlantic City Junior High and Senior High schools (N.J.); Fletcher Nursing School, R.N., Ashville, N.C.; Washington Adventist University, BS degree, in Takoma Park, Md.; and University of Maryland, Master's in Community and Public Health, UMB School of Nursing, Baltimore, Md. Helen was employed as an R.N. and worked with Dr. Serao in Takoma Park, Md.; retired from Montgomery County Government Health Department as a public health nurse and nursing administrator for 23 years. She was a member of the Frederick (Md.) church. Her hobbies included crochet, needlepoint, crossword puzzles, video games, bowling, and sending greeting cards and correspondence by mail of Discover Bible School lessons. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Frederick E. Sanford; her daughters, Penny L. (David) Parsons and Debra S. (Jesse) Grimes; her grandchildren: Robert E. S. Parsons, Jillian M. Parsons (Mark) Roelkey, Jacob A. Grimes and Joshua W. Grimes.

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Obituaries are posted on a space-available basis, as a free service for church members of the Columbia Union, present or past.

Sunset Calendar

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Baltimore	8:26	8:31	8:34	8:36	8:37
Cincinnati	8:58	9:02	9:05	9:08	9:08
Cleveland	8:53	8:58	9:02	9:04	9:05
Columbus	8:54	8:59	9:02	9:04	9:05
Jersey City	8:20	8:25	8:29	8:31	8:31
Norfolk	8:18	8:22	8:26	8:28	8:28
Parkersburg	8:46	8:51	8:54	8:56	8:57
Philadelphia	8:23	8:27	8:31	8:33	8:33
Pittsburgh	8:43	8:48	8:52	8:54	8:54
Reading	8:27	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38
Richmond	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:34	8:35
Roanoke	8:34	8:38	8:41	8:44	8:44
Toledo	9:02	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:13
Trenton	8:22	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:33
Wash., D.C.	8:27	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38

SLIGO BY THE SEA 2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Join us in Ocean City, for a relaxed, inspiring Sabbath Service.

June 30	Charles A. Tapp
July 7	Dunbar Henri
July 14	Rick Remmers
July 21	Nathan Krause
July 28	Debbie Eisele
August 4	Anthony Kent
August 11	Morgan Kochenower
August 18	Nikolaus Satelmajer
August 25	Mike Speegle
September 1	Gerald Klingbeil
September 8	Ronald Halverson
September 15	Bonita J. Shields
September 22	Donald McFarlane

Sabbath School at 10 a.m. Worship Service at 11 a.m.

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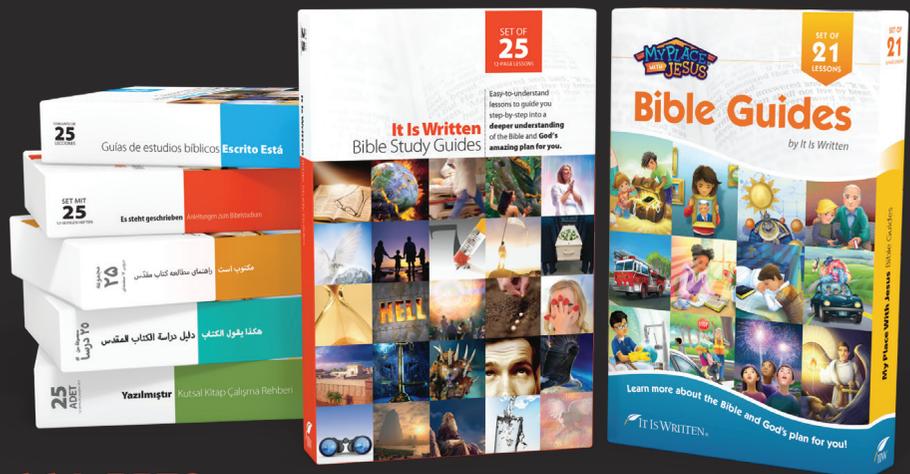


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