WWU Welcomes More than 2,000 to Longest Table

Lasagna, enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, gluten steaks, and more Sabbath dinner favorites drew scores of hungry Walla Walla University students to "The Longest Table," an annual event held after the first church service of the school year. More than 2,000 students, University Church members, and area residents, ate at 176 tables placed at the center of a five-block long stretch of College Avenue, the street that intersects the College Place campus. "The Longest Table is a celebration of community and the new school year," says Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University Church senior pastor. Bryan initiated the event in 2009, soon after he joined the church’s pastoral staff. Read more HERE. Check out the event photo gallery on Facebook HERE. Watch a news report from the Tri-Cities NBC affiliate, KNDU, HERE.

Upper Columbia Conference Announces Leadership Transitions

The Upper Columbia Conference Executive Committee has selected Richard Parker (pictured here) as the new UCC human resources director and office manager. Parker has served as the director of youth ministries and Camp MiVoden for the past 16 years. He replaces Bill Skidmore who retired Sept. 30. Read more from the UCC website HERE. The executive committee also voted to invite Wendy Eberhardt to replace Parker as director of youth ministries. Eberhardt, who is currently the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference director for youth ministries, has accepted the invitation and will begin her new responsibilities in mid-October. Read more HERE.

World Church Leaders to Gather for Annual Council

More than 300 world church leaders, pastors and lay members will gather Oct. 7–12 at the world church headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., for this year’s Annual Council. Although the official agenda is not finalized until the beginning of the business session, observers expect the group to vote on a possible restructuring of church operations in the Middle East, and a location for the 2020 General Conference session. Ted N.C. Wilson, world church president, is also expected to encourage an urban-area evangelism initiative during a special Oct. 8 sermon. Read more from the

Looking Ahead

October
7–9: Mont. Women’s Retreat
7–9: UCA Alumni Weekend
14–16: OR Women’s Retreat
20: Dec. Ad/Article Deadline

November
6: Daylight Saving Time Ends
11: Veterans’ Day
17: Jan. 2012 Ad/Article Deadline
24: Thanksgiving Day

December
9: WWU Christmas Concert
25: Christmas Day
31: New Year's Eve

GLEANER Blogs

- Cheri Corder
- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let’s Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet
Evangelistic Meetings Get Underway Throughout the Northwest

Many Seventh-day Adventist churches are sponsoring evangelistic meetings this month. The Butte, Great Northern, Hamilton, Helena, Hot Springs, Ronan, Stevensville and Townsend churches in the Montana Conference are presenting the satellite-fed Prophecies Decoded series with Ron Clouzet, speaker. More than 80 locations in the Washington Conference are featuring Unlocking Revelation seminars. The new Lynnwood group reports 77 people, including 57 community guests, attended opening night.

Adventist News Network Debuts Video Report

Since 1994, the Adventist News Network has provided news and information about the worldwide church to both members and the public. Now it has begun a regular video newscast available on the ANN website. The first edition includes news updates, features on religious freedom, publishing and chaplaincy ministries, highlights of church-related social media and several technology tips. The online newscast can be watched through its entire 20-minute length, or selectively, via a segment menu. Watch it now on the main page of the ANN website.

October’s GLEANER features Adventist Health and its sacred calling. To read how Adventist Health shares God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing, click.
The Longest Table Kicks off School Year

2,000+ people enjoy the biggest meal of the year

By: Rosa Jimenez

Lasagna, enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, gluten steaks, and more Sabbath dinner favorites drew scores of hungry university students to “The Longest Table,” an annual event held after the first church service of the school year.

More than 2,000 students, University Church members, and area residents, ate at 176 tables placed at the center of a 5-block long stretch of College Avenue, the street that intersects the College Place campus.

“The Longest Table is a celebration of community and the new school year,” says Alex Bryan, senior pastor of the Walla Walla University Church. Bryan initiated the event in 2009, soon after he joined the church’s pastoral staff. Each year, more have attended, and Bryan expects the event to draw even more attendees next year.

Church and community members pitch in to make the event successful by signing up for tables beforehand and bringing enough food for guests that will find places at those tables.

“It’s a great way to catch up with friends at the beginning of the year,” says one student. “I think it’s one of the best events of the school year.”

“We enjoy meeting the students and welcoming them to College Place,” says Hitomi Johnson, a member of the University Church. At Johnson’s table, sushi, rice, cabbage salad and other accompaniments drew several students, who also enjoyed sampling enchiladas, rice, and beans from the neighboring table.

After the event, students loaded take-out trays with leftovers, and not just from their own table. Some students walked the length of the 176 tables, happy to accept more offers of food from church and community members.

<- Back to: News
SPOKANE, Wash., September 27, 2011 -- Richard Parker accepted an invitation by the Upper Columbia Conference Executive Committee to be the new Human Resources director and Office Manager for the conference. Parker is currently the director of the Youth Ministries department and Camp MiVoden. He is replacing Bill Skidmore who is retiring this month.

In addition to pastoral duties, Parker has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 22 years in youth and camp ministry. For 16 of those years he has been the Youth and Camp MiVoden director for Upper Columbia Conference.

"I am excited about partnering with and serving the employees of the Upper Columbia Conference," Parker says of his new position. "It is a privilege to serve in this capacity with a family that is working hard every day to share Christ with our communities in the Inland Northwest."

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News You Need To Know (/newsletter)
UCC Youth Director Announced

by Jon Dalrymple

SPOKANE, Wash., September 27, 2011 - The Upper Columbia Conference Executive Committee voted to invite Wendy Eberhardt to be the new director of the Youth department and Camp MiVoden. Eberhardt, who is currently the Youth Ministries and Camp Director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, has accepted the invitation and will begin her new responsibilities in mid October. She replaces Richard Parker who has become the new Human Resources director and Office Manager for Upper Columbia Conference.

Eberhardt has over 25 years experience in youth work, in which she has worked as a camp director, camp manager, girls dean and an academy art teacher. She also was recently the president of the Association of Adventist Camp Professionals and teaches seminars on camp management, leadership training and marketing for summer camps.

"We are fortunate to have Wendy come to Upper Columbia," says Parker. "She is a consummate youth camp professional, she loves youth and has a real heart guiding them in their relationship with Jesus.

"It is a joy for me to work with youth and see their passion for Jesus Christ," says Eberhardt, "I love to help kids share their love for Jesus in effective ways and help them find out where they fit in our culture as Adventists. We are really excited to be coming to the Northwest and have clearly seen how the Lord has led us to accept this call."

Eberhardt and her husband, Ed, a builder and an academy teacher, have been married for 27 years. They both take the approach that youth ministry is a team effort. They have a son, John, who is currently a senior at Upper Columbia Academy.

Top Stories

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Possible Annual Council vote would change church’s operations in Middle East

Upcoming business meetings to include discussion of membership audits, urban evangelism launch; 2020 Session location

3 Oct 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
Ansel Oliver/ANN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s top officials next week are expected to vote on a slew of business items, including a possible structural change for operations in the Middle East, as well as the location for the 2020 General Conference Session.

Meeting for annual business meetings, the Adventist Church’s Executive Committee is also expected to witness the launch of a worldwide urban-area evangelism initiative, said Orville Parchment, assistant to Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson. Wilson will encourage participation in the initiative in each of the denomination’s 13 world divisions during his Sabbath sermon on October 8, Parchment said.

The committee is scheduled to conduct business meetings starting Sunday at Annual Council, which is set for October 7 through October 12. Meetings will be held at the denomination’s headquarters building in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States.

The committee is comprised of more than 300 world church executives, pastors and lay members.

An advance copy of the meeting agenda is not made public because it is not finalized until it is approved by the committee at the beginning of business.

Church officers confirmed that these items are set on the agenda, but specific details are not being released yet because of a need for committee members to hear of and vote on the items first, they said. Other potential agenda items include:

- A half-day of leadership development training.
- A demonstration of how some regions may require further membership analysis due to membership mortality rates being vastly different from local mortality rates of the general population.
- An announcement of research recently launched to guide future strategic planning. Studies will examine church employees, members and former members. Researchers will study their personal spiritual life patterns, as well as their views of the church and its operations.
- A discussion of the North American and Trans-European divisions’ request for a variance to the requirement that conference presidents be ordained ministers.
- A continued discussion from Spring Meeting in April on how church administration can be more transparent and accountable.

ANN World News Bulletin is a review of news issued by the Communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters and released as part of the service of Adventist News Network. For reproduction requirements, click here. The opinions expressed by Commentary authors and sources in ANN news stories do not necessarily reflect those of Adventist News Network® and/or the Seventh-day Adventist® Church.

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