Spencerville Members Tour Their LEED-Certified School

“That we are now gathered here in front of this beautiful new facility is irrefutable evidence that by Divine Providence, patience, hard work and sacrifice, dreams really can come true!” Jerry Lutz, senior pastor of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., ecstatically declared. “We are truly blessed and must therefore return to God the praise and thanksgiving that He so very much deserves. For without His leading and guidance, this would likely be an empty field where we are now standing. But instead, look at what our Lord God has made possible!”

Lutz spoke Sunday to 500 of Chesapeake Conference’s Spencerville church members and friends who came together for their first look at the new Spencerville Adventist Academy on Route 198 in Silver Spring. Having just been awarded its occupancy permit three days before, the church family wanted to take this time to praise God for the realization of a dream a decade and a half in the making.

At a total cost of $22 million, which includes the price of the 31 acres it sits on, the 100,000-sq.-ft school is less than a mile from the old property and took 19 months to complete. With only grading for a ball field
and the storm-water management pond remaining, the school will open August 22 to 350 students.—Barbara Carreno

READ MORE AND SEE SLIDESHOW

ACS Gives Away 300 Computers, Offers Classes

The Potomac Conference’s Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW) located in Silver Spring, Md., has expanded their services to meet the community’s needs. One of those services involves providing computer classes in tandem with distributing computers to families in need. When the Montgomery County School Board upgraded their computers recently, ACSGW solicited the old ones, which numbered around 300. Then “under the leadership of our co-directors of education and training programs, we refurbished the computers and made them available to senior citizens and poverty-level families with children who are starting to take computer classes,” said Ron Wylie, ACSGW executive director.

The packages are valued at around $750 each. ACSGW distributed the remaining computers to their seven constituent churches. Pictured are students at ACSGW’s “Beginning Computer” class.—Taashi Rowe

Potomac Teens Unite at Bible Conference

Every year the Potomac Conference’s Movimiento Joven Adventista (MJA), which connects the conference’s Spanish-speaking youth, hosts a teen Bible retreat in the spring, and the English-speaking teens have their Bible retreat in the fall. This year teens of all ethnicities and languages came together for a teen Bible retreat held July 21-24 at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va.

After a slow start to registrations, 180 teens of
all ethnicities from around the conference poured on to the Shenandoah Valley Academy campus. Through small groups, worship and seminars geared at tackling real issues, students were able to learn what it meant to be a “21st Century Teen” in this world. Speakers included Pastor Denny Grady, conference Youth Ministries director; Ed Garcia; Pastor Sylvia Urrutia; Courtney D’Avilar and Pastor Eliasib Fajardo.—Sylvia Urrutia

READ MORE AND SEE SLIDESHOW

Noticias en Español: Los Adolescentes de Potomac se Unen en un Retiro Espiritual

Cada año la conferencia del Potomac realiza un retiro para adolescentes hispanos (teens) en la primavera, y realiza otro retiro para adolescentes (teens) de habla inglesa en el otoño. Este año el departamento de jóvenes de la conferencia del Potomac en conjunto con MJA (Movimiento Joven Adventista, un grupo de líderes hispanos que apoyan al ministerio Joven Hispano de la conferencia del Potomac) decidieron combinar estos dos eventos en un solo retiro.

El evento se realizó en la academia adventista de Shenandoah (SVA) en New Market, Va., el 21 al 24 de julio; aproximadamente asistieron 180 adolescentes de toda la conferencia. El retiro tenía como título Adolescentes del Siglo XXI – 21st Century Teen- el objetivo era resaltar las cualidades que un joven Cristiano debe tener en estos tiempos, y como estar listos para afrontar los retos de este siglo; se realizaron seminarios con diversos temas de interés para los adolescentes y al mismo tiempo pequeños grupos para el estudio de la Biblia. Los predicadores para este evento fueron: pastor Denny Grady, Director de Jóvenes de la conferencia del Potomac, Ed Garcia, Sylvia Urrutia, Courtney D’Avilar y el pastor Eliasib Fajardo, coordinador de jóvenes hispanos de la conferencia del Potomac.—Sylvia Urrutia

LEA MAS Y VEA FOTOS
Cumberland, Frostburg Churches Host Health Expo

The Mountain View Conference’s Cumberland and Frostburg churches in Maryland recently completed their first health expo at the Country Club Mall in LaVale, Md. For five hours, 25 volunteers taught approximately 60 people about God’s natural health laws. They also utilized interactive booths to encourage positive lifestyle choices. Each booth provided information and literature about one of the eight laws of health: nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest and trust in God.

Team members also measured the participants’ height, weight, body mass index, body fat percentage, blood pressure and glucose levels. Each booth also offered an activity. Heart rates were tested in conjunction with a three-minute step test at the exercise booth. Participants learned of the hazards of drinking alcohol by wearing impaired goggles and trying to walk a straight line. Volunteers demonstrated the benefits of hydrotherapy at the water booth. Cumberland church members Mary Kasekamp (pictured left) and Michelle Deetz (right) gave backrubs.

“All members did a great job working together,” said Brenda Owens, a nurse practitioner. “Spirits were high, and it was truly God’s work being done. It was a great day of witnessing for God.”—Jessica Martin

Shady Grove Hospital Welcomes New Mission, Spiritual Care Director

Adventist HealthCare, based in Rockville, Md., recently welcomed Shelvan Arunan, DMin, as the new executive director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care on their Shady Grove Adventist campus. The Shady Grove campus in Rockville includes Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland and Adventist Behavioral Health.

Arunan, an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has 33 years of experience in working with the church and Adventist health systems. Prior to joining Adventist HealthCare, he served as the regional director of Mission and Ministries of Midwest Adventist Health System and director of Reconciliation.
Ministry for the Ohio Conference. He was also the producer and host of *Spirit Alive*, a Christian radio talk show, and The Collective Echo Television Ministries in Ohio.—*Adventist HealthCare*

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**Former Visitor Editor Passes Away**

Don A. Roth, 84, long considered the “PR person” for the Adventist Church for the past 60 years and a former Columbia Union *Visitor* editor, recently passed away. He worked at every level of the organization—from his local congregation to the world church—and edited the *Visitor* from 1954 to 1965, while also serving as the Columbia Union Conference public relations and radio-TV secretary. “I spent 15 happy years in the Columbia Union Conference,” Roth wrote last year in a letter to the current *Visitor* editor Celeste Ryan Blyden. “We had a great team at the union office, and I thoroughly enjoyed those years.”

In 2009 the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) recognized his contributions with their Lifetime Achievement Award. He is pictured with Blyden, then SAC president, who presented the award.

**READ MORE**

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**Frank Hale, Civil Rights Pioneer, Dies**

Frank Hale Jr., PhD, 84, a beloved member of the Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, died last Wednesday after an extended illness.

“The Allegheny West Conference was blessed to have had a stalwart giant in education, civil rights and our denominational community in our midst,” said Robert Moore, AWC executive secretary. “There will be a void of his leadership, wisdom and community influence. He will be greatly missed in our conference territory.”—*Bryant Taylor*
G.E. Peters Names New Principal

Meet John C. Alberty, new principal of the Allegheny East Conference's G.E. Peters Adventist School, at an open house August 4, 6-8 p.m., at 6303 Riggs Road in Hyattsville, Md. View the upgraded facilities and register for fall classes.

August Visitor Highlights

This month we feature a story about the Columbia Union Conference’s first motorcycle camp meeting. The story shares more about the men and women who identify themselves as motorcycle enthusiasts who also love the Lord.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW A VIDEO FROM THE EVENT

Columbia Union Members in the Media
• Mansfield Church Feeds 100

• Senate Chaplain Barry Black Featured in the Washington Post

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Spencerville Members Get First Look at Their LEED-Certified School

Story by Barbara Carreno
Photos by Kelly Coe

This past Sunday afternoon in Silver Spring, Md., more than 500 of Chesapeake Conference's Spencerville church members and friends came together for their first look at the new Spencerville Adventist Academy on Route 198, just outside Burtonsville. Having just been awarded its occupancy permit three days before, the church family wanted to take this time to praise God for the realization of a dream a decade and a half in the making.

Completed in 19 months, the 100,000-square-foot building occupies 31 acres of land less than a mile from the old school. Groundbreaking took place in November 2009 after 14 years of planning, 10 years of which were required to obtain the necessary state and county permits. With only grading for a ball field and the storm-water management pond remaining, the school will open for students on August 22. More than 350 students are expected this school year, with room for many more.

Participants in the opening ceremony included Jerry Lutz, Spencerville church’s senior pastor; Merle Poirier, building committee chair; Brian Kittleson, principal; Carole Smith, EdD, Chesapeake Conference’s superintendent of Schools; Bob Nitz, general contractor; and his on-site project manager, son, Dwayne Nitz.

“That we are now gathered here in front of this beautiful new facility is irrefutable evidence that by Divine Providence, patience, hard work and sacrifice, dreams really can come true!” Lutz ecstatically declared. “We are truly blessed and must therefore return to God the praise and thanksgiving that He so very much deserves. For without His leading and guidance, this would likely be an empty field where we are now standing. But instead, look at what our Lord God has made possible!”

Building committee members then unveiled the school’s engraved cornerstone, which had the inscription of a verse from Isaiah 2:3: “He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths” (NIV). After the ribbon cutting, each attendee received a commemorative pin of the event and went on a self-guided tour.

The old building had been in use since the school’s founding in 1943, with one teacher and six students. Spencerville church’s last surviving charter member, Christine Erickson, who attended...
the opening of the school in 1943, was present for this school's opening to the delight of the other attendees.

Built to house 400 pre-kindergarten-12th grade students (150 academy and 250 elementary), the new school has expandable interior space that can accommodate 150 more, a capacity that can serve nearly a hundredfold more students than the original student body.

The old school especially needed separation between the academy and elementary students, more storage and more bathrooms. Thus the new, two-story building, with 22 rest rooms, was cleverly designed to house the academy facilities on the east side and the pre-school, elementary and middle school facilities on the west, with common areas like the library and a fully-enclosed courtyard in the center. The academy and elementary sides each have their own entrances. An 8,000-square-foot basement provides storage.

Administrative offices span the front of the building. Across the rear are the music rooms, a dividable multipurpose room for elementary and middle school physical education and lunchroom that seats 500, a kitchen specifically designed for vegetarian cooking, a spacious gymnasium with locker rooms and laundry and an auditorium with its own entrance, which seats 345.

A unique feature of the school is a stage shared by the auditorium and multi-purpose room, which separates the two spaces and can be opened and closed to either room by adjusting the front and rear curtains and a moveable wall. The auditorium has sloping aisles with low-volt strip lights and wheelchair offsets throughout the room. Auditorium seats also have tablet arms for taking notes.

Said Steven Blondo ('09), a Spencerville Adventist Academy alumnus who toured the new school: “It is great that we have a new building for current and future students to learn in. As someone who went to public schools up until high school, it is exciting to see a building that I consider to be equal to or beyond a level of quality that I experienced. The new facilities such as the gym, auditorium and state-of-the-art kitchen are added perks to an already outstanding institution. The new school is really going to improve the learning experience tremendously.”

The building is LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), meaning it is a “green” building with environmental concerns taken into account from design and construction through operation and maintenance. “Green” features include a high-quality heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system that can be operated off-site via computer; a “cool” roof, high-performance glazing on the windows, motion-detecting light switches and low-flow toilets. Building materials include a high level of recycled content. The building is on target to be a silver-award winning LEED institution. In addition, the school is equipped with security cameras and buzz-in exterior doors and activity in all rooms except restrooms is viewable from the hall.

“Rare now is a full PK-12 grade academy in the North American Division with a single-church
constituency, like this one,” said Lutz.

Poirier added, “This building stands as a testimony to the vision of a congregation that has a full commitment to Adventist education. Their sacrifice has allowed the completion of this $22-million project dedicated to sharing Christ with its students and the surround community with only a $5 million mortgage remaining. Truly, God has blessed us on this journey.”

There are many practical reasons why the Spencerville church built this new school, but for Poirier who cited Miriam Tymeson, a long-time Columbia Union educator during the opening: "A school must not be evaluated by bricks and mortar … [or] its expensive modern fixtures. … A school is to be judged by what happens to the children after they leave it.” Poirier summed up by saying, “That, my friends, is why we did this—not to have more space, better bathrooms or more storage, but to educate students for eternity.”

Read more about the school’s 2009 ground breaking.
Potomac Teens Unite at Bible Conference

Story by Sylvia Urrutia

Every year the Potomac Conference’s Movimiento Joven Adventista (MJA), which oversees the conference’s Spanish-speaking youth, hosts a teen Bible retreat in the spring, and the English-speaking teens have their Bible retreat in the fall. This year teens of all ethnicities and languages came together for a teen Bible retreat held July 21-24 at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va. After a slow start to registrations, 180 teens of all ethnicities from around the conference poured on to the Shenandoah Valley Academy campus. Through small groups, worship and seminars geared at tackling real issues, students were able to learn what it meant to be a “21st Century Teen” in this world. Among the speakers, were Pastor Denny Grady, conference Youth Ministries director; Ed Garcia, Sylvia Urrutia, Courtney D’Avilar and Pastor Eliasib Fajardo.

450 Participate in 10th Annual Olympics

The Sunday following the teen retreat, some 450 youth participated in MJA’s 10th annual Olympics. Normally aimed at the conference’s Spanish-speaking youth, this year MJA opened the program to all churches in an effort to unite young people from all cultures. The youth enjoyed men’s and women’s soccer, teen soccer, volleyball, basketball and a 5K race. Prior to the games, young people from across the conference form teams to represent their churches, and throughout the year, practice in anticipation of this event. The first- and second-place winners of each event received medals during awards ceremonies. Year after year, the soccer tournaments are the highlight of the Olympics, and the winning teams are presented with a trophy in addition to the medals.

“The purpose of this event is to provide an outlet for Christian fellowship, clean and safe competition and encourage physical activity,” said Carol Silva, an MJA leadership team member. “I really believe we were able to accomplish that.”
Former Visitor Editor Dies

Story by Visitor Staff

Don A. Roth, long considered the “PR person” for the Seventh-day Adventist church for the past 60 years and a former Visitor editor, passed away on Tuesday evening at his home in Loma Linda, Calif. “I spent 15 happy years in the Columbia Union Conference,” Roth wrote last year in a letter to the current Visitor editor. “We had a great team at the union office and I thoroughly enjoyed those years.”

Roth edited the Visitor from 1954 to 1965, while also serving as the Columbia Union Conference public relations and radio-TV secretary. In 2009 he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 20th annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention held in Newport Beach, Calif.

A reporter, editor, press relations specialist, book author, and special events organizer, he has worked at every level of the church organization, from his local congregation to the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 31, at the Calimesa Seventh-day Adventist Church at 391 Myrtlewood Drive, Calimesa, CA. The burial will be private, for family members and invited guests.

In lieu of flowers, Roth family members suggest donations to the Don Roth Deferred Mission Appointee Fund, which has been established at Loma Linda University (LLU). Make checks payable to LLU with “Don Roth” on the memo line and mail them to the Office of Philanthropy, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350. They will send a letter and receipt to each donor as well as a letter of notification to Elder Roth’s family.

Cards and letters can be sent to Doris Roth and the family at 11075 Benton St., #116, Loma Linda, CA 92354.
Frank Hale Jr., PhD, spoke during the ceremony in which he was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Frank Hale, Civil Rights Pioneer, Dies
Story Courtesy of Oakwood University Public Relations

Frank Hale Jr., PhD, (84) a beloved member of the Allegheny West Conference’s (AWC) Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, died last Wednesday after an extended illness.

“The Allegheny West Conference was blessed to have had a stalwart giant in educational, civil rights and our denominational community in our midst,” said Robert Moore, AWC executive secretary. “There will be a void of his leadership, wisdom and community influence. He will be greatly missed in our conference territory.”

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Hale completed elementary and secondary schools in Topeka. He graduated from the University of Nebraska where he was awarded bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Communication, Political Science, and English in 1950. He received his Ph.D. in Communication and Political Science from The Ohio State University in 1955. He was a British Council postdoctoral fellow in English Literature at the University of London in 1960 and holds several honorary doctorate awards.

Serving in the field of higher education for 54 years (1951–2005), Hale has held full professorships at Central State University (Ohio), Oakwood College (Alabama) and The Ohio State University. He served as chairman and professor of the Department of English (1959-1966) at Central State University (Ohio). Before coming to Ohio State, he was president of Oakwood College (1966-1971) in Alabama. From 1971-1978, he was associate dean and chairman of the Fellowship Committee of the Graduate School of The Ohio State University. Hale was appointed vice provost for Minority Affairs in 1978, a position, which he held until his retirement from Ohio State in 1988. He also served as Special Assistant to the President of Kenyon College from 1989-1992. In the summer of 1995, he was visiting professor of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was appointed Distinguished University Representative and Consultant in the president’s office at The Ohio State University from 1999-2005, and has been named a professor emeritus. Last year he was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

He leaves behind his wife, Mignon; son, Frank Hale III; and daughters, Ifeoma Kwesi and Sherilyn Wilkins.

Bryant Taylor contributed to this story.
RESOURCES

2011 Calendar of Offerings

2012 Columbia Union Pathfinder Camporee

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A large crowd showed up for the second Annual "Sunday on the Square" free picnic-style meal served at the gazebo in Mansfield's Central Park.

The meal is served by the Grace Place Ministry at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Mansfield.

Community Outreach Team Leader Rhonda Riles says they served 100 meals in 35 minutes at the first free meal in June.

They will continue the free meals on the last Sunday of the month in both August and September.
As the Senate has mired itself in bickering and deadlock this week, there has been at least one voice reflecting the panic rising in the country. It’s been the deep, solemn intonations of the Senate’s chaplain, retired rear Adm. Barry C. Black.

A longtime Navy chaplain and Seventh-Day Adventist minister, Black opens Senate sessions with a brief prayer. Over the past few days — as the country slid closer to a national default — those prayers seem to have revealed Black as one of the most worried people in the chamber.

Back on July 20, Black was speaking only in hopeful generalities. In the prayer that began that session, he asked the Almighty to “give to our lawmakers the wisdom to know the role they should play, in keeping freedom’s holy light bright.”

But as the days passed by, it became apparent that the Senate was not showing any more wisdom than it had previously. By last Tuesday, Black’s request indicated that his senators might need more divine help.

“Keep them,” he prayed, “from the pit of disunity and discord. And empower them to build bridges of cooperation. Give them the courage and humility to do what is right, knowing that you are the only constituent they absolutely must please.”

But lawmakers only descended further into that pit of disunity.

So Black’s prayers began to warn of the consequences if the Senate did not straighten up and act right.

“Lord,” he prayed on Wednesday, “as our nation faces the potentially catastrophic, inspire our lawmakers to seek your counsel which will stand forever.”

Still nothing. The two sides remained far apart, and the “potentially catastrophic” crept closer.

On Friday, Black dialed it up another notch.
“Lord, help them to comprehend the global repercussions of some poor decisions, and the irreversibility of some tragic consequences,” he prayed. “Quicken their ears to hear. Their eyes to see. Their hearts to believe and their wills to obey you. Before...”

And here, Black slowed down his usual stately cadence even further, in case people weren’t getting it.

“...it is. too late.”

Nothing. On Saturday, Black seemed to be more specific with God: “We need you on Capitol Hill,” he said.

And his warnings to the lawmakers became even more dire. He spoke of “when night comes” — a reference to a verse from the Bible’s Book of John, where night is a metaphor for death.

“Deliver our lawmakers from the paralysis of analysis, when constructive and prompt action is desperately needed,” he asked. “Faced with potentially disastrous consequences, give the members of this body the wisdom to work while it is day. For the night comes, when no one can work.”

Finally, on Sunday morning, Black gave a prayer that might have fit for the crew of a sinking ship.

“The waters are coming in upon us,” Black said. “We are weary from the struggle, tempted to throw in the towel. But quitting isn’t an option.”

After he spoke, the Senate said the Pledge of Allegiance. And then Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) got up to speak, hopefully, of the possibility of a deal to end the crisis.

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