November 30, 2011

Chesapeake Women’s Retreat Draws 250

Some 250 recently attended the Chesapeake Conference Women’s Ministries retreat themed “Designer of Our Lives.” This weekend of spiritual refreshment and friendship was held in Ocean City, Md. This year, for the first time, general sessions and seminars were offered in both English and Spanish. Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast, led attendees in an in-depth Bible study that focused on the Book of John.

Highlights of the weekend included a Sabbath afternoon concert, early morning walks in the sand, seminars, a prayer room and a Sabbath vespers on the beach. June Franklin and Denise Mayberry of the Berkeley Springs (W.Va.) church and Phyllis Lanning of the Williamsport (Md.) church are pictured enjoying conversation while waiting for the hat-themed Saturday evening program to begin.

“God is the Designer of my life and He knew exactly when I needed the spiritual feast that I received this weekend,” wrote an attendee on the survey provided.—Story by Samantha Young; photo by Rhonda Christiano
Adventist WholeHealth Plays Pivotal Role in Parish Nurse Training

Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) leaders served an integral role in the yearlong planning and preparation for the recent Central Pennsylvania Parish Nursing Conference held in Landisville. More than 150 interfaith parish nurses and sponsors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey attended. “Parish Nursing and Health Ministries: Looking to the Future” was the conference’s theme. It featured keynote speaker Verna B. Carson, PhD, and four breakout workshops. The Pennsylvania Conference and AWHN were two of the event sponsors, and the conference’s book and health food store and AWHN set up booths.

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who has received further specialized training in supporting the physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of his/her congregational members and surrounding community. For more information, visit awhn.org or contact Chaplain Joyce Christman, Congregational Ministries coordinator, at (610) 685-9900, ext. 16, or jchristman@awhn.org.—Story Joyce Christman

READ MORE

Academy Students Serve, Impact Community

Whether it is through the arts, donations, evangelism or through physical labor, students at Seventh-day Adventist academies across the Columbia Union know that community service is a core part of the curriculum. During the first half the school year, students have been out and about in their communities helping in any way they can. High school students (pictured) at Spring Valley Academy in
Centerville, Ohio, recently participated in the community-wide service day dubbed “Project M-pact.” Under the direction of their teachers, students planted trees and cleaned local creeks and parks, did yard work for their neighbors and worked with the Catholic Social Services Day Care Center on various projects.

Click here to read more about what other academy students are doing to serve.—Story by Vicki Swetnam and Visitor Staff

56 Takoma Academy Students Commit to Christ

Takoma Academy’s week of spiritual emphasis centered on the theme “You Are Because I Am.” Chaplain Mario Broussard (pictured in purple shirt) focused his messages on the idea that we exist solely because Christ paid the price for our sins with His life on the cross. He challenged the student body to reacquaint themselves with Jesus Christ through prayer and Bible study.

Broussard hoped to show the students how the life, death and resurrection of Christ 2,000 years ago could be applied to their personal, academic and social lives today. The week concluded with 56 students accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. Staff members are now aggressively working to support these students in their commitment. “I am encouraged [that students are] answering the call of God to finish the work of saving souls for His kingdom,” commented Chaplain Broussard.—Story by David Daniels

New Jersey Conference Organizes Multicultural Church

The All Nations Community church in Maplewood, N.J., recently became the fifth church that the New Jersey Conference organized this year. Some 50 individuals signed the register to become charter members.
In the summer of 1998, the Maranatha French church planted the All Nations church. The mission of this new church was to focus on the youth and young families of the Haitian-American community with a contemporary worship service. The group organized as a company in 2008. In 2009 the Citadel group merged with All Nations to make it a truly multicultural church with Hispanics, African-Americans and Caucasians, joining in with the Haitian-American community. All Nations is now a bilingual church and conducts services in both French and English under the leadership of Pastor Jean-Michael Etienne. All Nations becomes the 87th organized church in the New Jersey Conference.—Story by Jim Greene

1,000 Potomac Pathfinders Stand for Christ

It took a record number of volunteers to help make sure that more than 1,000 Pathfinders got spiritually fed at this year’s Potomac Conference Camporee themed “I’ll Stand 2.” Pathfinder leaders, church staff and volunteers blessed and challenged the young people to grow physically, mentally and spiritually through the weekend’s programming and activities held at Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va.

The numerous volunteers “says a lot about the value that people put on ministering to our kids,” commented Denny Grady, conference youth director. “We’re very thankful for that.”

The Pathfinders spent their days earning honors and participating in various activities, like tug-of-war and canoeing, and enjoying a newly expanded ropes course. Guest speaker Josant Barrientos, Children’s Ministries pastor at the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., delivered several messages about standing for Jesus.—Story by Jeffrey Cooley and Adrienne Suarez

Berea Member Celebrates
100th Birthday

Dorothy Fryson, a long-time member of Allegheny West Conference’s Berea church in Charleston, W.Va., recently celebrated 100 years of life with friends and family at her side. Guests from the Shiloh church in Huntington, W.Va., and Hilltop church in Columbus, Ohio, also joined in helping her celebrate this special birthday. Jason Ridley, pastor of the Berea church, led out in numerous congratulatory speeches from Berea and Shiloh members and family members.

Fryson accepted the message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1971, and Pastor St. Clare Phipps baptized her. She has faithfully served her church as treasurer, clerk, Sabbath School superintendent, pianist, elder, deaconess and has led the Dorcas Society, Community Services and Personal Ministries departments. She now serves in the honorary roles of deaconess and assistant treasurer.

Pictured (from left to right) is son Sim Fryson; Derrick Moffett, a former Berea pastor; Dorothy Fryson; Jason Ridley, current Berea pastor; and son, David Fryson.—Story by John Burton

End Quote: Prayer Can Soften a Hard Heart

“I began to wrap up the survey at the door of a middle-aged woman. She had shown little interest in religious things. I asked her, ‘Ma’am, before we leave, do you mind if we pray with you?’ A look of shock crossed her face. ‘Well, I guess,’ she said sheepishly as she folded her hands. I smiled, and began to pray, thanking God for this opportunity to meet her, thanking God for her kindness, asking for God’s blessing and protection on her and her family and thanking God for His love and care in our lives.

As I said, ‘Amen,’ I looked up to find the woman, who moments ago, was hardened toward God, standing now, with eyes full of tears. ‘Thank you,’ she whispered, as a small smile opened across her peace-filled face. I left knowing that her heart had just had an encounter with Jesus.”—Jessica Vatne, a student at Mountain View Conference’s COMPEL School of Evangelism
“Music is an irrigation method for the work of the Holy Spirit,” says Sheree Leggett, who directs Women in Worship, an 11-member choir she developed out of Allegheny West Conference’s Glenville church in Cleveland. Pick up the December issue of the Visitor magazine to read about seven choirs that use songs to transcend social and religious differences and extend the hand of God to their communities—and further. Click here to view one of those choirs, the Sonshine Singers, minister in song.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 30-December 2: The Mitchellville Church’s Fall Revival** starts this evening at 7 p.m. The theme is “The Love of Power or the Power of Love.” Errol Stoddart, pastor of Miracle Temple in Baltimore, will be the guest preacher. Nicole Flynn from Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., will provide the music. The second meeting will be Friday at 7 p.m. The revival will culminate on Sabbath at 11 a.m. with a morning worship service and baptism. The Mitchellville church is located at 122 Old Largo Road, in Largo, Md.

**December 2: Metro Area Adventist Young Adults (MAAYA)** invites all to attend First Fridays on December 2 at 7:30 p.m. for a multicultural praise and worship and testimony agape feast. This month’s First Friday will be held at the Community of Hope church located at 580 University Boulevard in Silver Spring, Md. For more information, contact Randy Preston at (240) 461-0109 or Trevor Fraser at (301) 384-4201.

**December 3: The Frederick church presents “Amahl and the Night Visitors.”** This benefit concert for wounded warriors will feature the church’s Christmas choir and
orchestra and members of La Camerata Nouve. Francisco de Araujo is producing and directing this performance. U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett will serve as the honorary host. There will be two showings, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 6437 Jefferson Pike in Frederick, Md. For more information, call the church office at (301) 662-5254.

December 3: Spencerville Adventist Academy’s Fourth Annual Messiah Sing-along will be held 4 p.m. at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Md. Participants must have their own music. For more details, contact Jane Lanning by email at jlanning@spencerville.org or call (301) 421-9101.

December 3: All are invited to enjoy Highland View Academy’s Annual Christmas Concert. The select choir, orchestra and bell choir will praise the Lord in song at the Highland View church in Hagerstown, Md., at 4:30 p.m. This year the freewill offering will go toward a trip to Russia for the young musicians to perform in Moscow and Kiev and to visit an orphanage in the Ukraine.

December 4: Sligo Adventist School presents their first Business and Craft Showcase at their Takoma Park, Md., campus. The hours are 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. For more information, call (301) 434-1417 or visit www.sligoadventistschool.org/parentresources.html.

December 6: Frederick Adventist School’s Handbell Choir will be performing a Christmas concert for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Holiday Survivors Tree Lighting at the National Emergency Training Center located in Emmittsburg, Md. Following the performance, survivors can remember firefighters with an ornament on the National Fallen Firefighters Holiday Tree. For more information email Teresa Kelchner at teresakelchner@comcast.net.

December 16: Frederick Adventist School invites you to their “Luke's Story” Christmas pageant at 7 p.m. at the Frederick church. Come be part of when God sent His precious Son to become a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem, in poverty and simplicity. For more information, email teresakelchner@comcast.net or visit www.frederickadventistschool.org.

December 16, 17: Shenandoah Valley Academy’s Annual Christmas Concert Weekend will feature the Shenandoans, handbell choir, orchestra and concert choir. The first performance will be the Christmas Candlelight Concert at New Market church on Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m. The following evening, December 17, these same groups will perform a secular Christmas Concert at SVA’s gymnasium, 6:30 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken for the “Support the Arts” fund at SVA. All are invited to come and be blessed! For more information, visit
December 17: Miracle Temple’s 17th Annual Christmas Cantata will be held during the divine worship service and will feature the sanctuary choir and symphony orchestra. For more information, visit miracletemple.net.

January 29: The Pennsylvania Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries Family Ski Trip will be held at Jack Frost Big Boulder in White Haven, Pa. The price is $48 for the snow pass, lesson and rental. The lessons are for ages 8 and over. Helmet rentals are $10 additional. Tickets must be purchased by January 16, 2012. Pre-paid ticket pick-up will be at the Jack Frost Lodge, 8 a.m.-12 noon. For more information, contact the conference’s Youth Ministries Department at (607) 374-8331, ext. 212 or at pa-youth@paconference.org.

February 17-19: The “Love for a Lifetime” Marriage Enrichment Retreat will be held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Md. The registration fee of $299 per couple includes two nights at Dunes Manor Hotel, brunch, tea, dinner on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. For more information, e-mail MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net, or contact Mark and Peggy Lee at (301) 317-5428 or Jeff and Sandy Hartz at (443) 864-6328. The Triadelphia church and Maranatha Adventist Fellowship are among the churches sponsoring the retreat.

For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org

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Stay Connected:
Adventist WholeHealth Plays Pivotal Role in Parish Nurse Training

Story by Joyce Christman
Published 11/30/2011

Pennsylvania Conference’s Adventist WholeHealth Network (AWHN) leaders served an integral role in the yearlong planning and preparation for the recent Central Pennsylvania Parish Nursing Conference held in Landisville. More than 150 interfaith parish nurses and sponsors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey attended. "Parish Nursing and Health Ministries: Looking to the Future" was the conference’s theme. It featured keynote speaker Verna B. Carson, PhD, and four breakout workshops. The Pennsylvania Conference and AWHN were two of the event sponsors, and the conference’s book and health food store and AWHN set up booths.

AWHN now serves as the coordinating organization for this interfaith group of about 75 parish nurses in Berks County. This year AWHN also became a full educational partner of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, the professional organization that developed the internationally recognized, specialized training for faith community (parish) nurses. AWHN is the only organization certified to offer parish nurse training in Berks County, and AWHN offered the course for the first time this fall with plans to make it available annually.

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who has received further specialized training in supporting the physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of his/her congregational members and surrounding community. For more information, visit awhn.org or contact Chaplain Joyce Christman, Congregational Ministries coordinator, at (610) 685-9900,
An attendee visits the Adventist Whole Health Network booth.

The local book and health food store also set up a booth during the conference.
Academy Students Serve, Impact Community

Compiled by Visitor Staff
Published 11/30/2011

Whether it is through the arts, donations, evangelism or through physical labor, students at Seventh-day Adventist academies across the Columbia Union know that community service is a core part of the curriculum. During the first half the school year, students have been out and about in their communities helping in anyway they can. Here are just a few of their stories:

Artistic Service

This year Community Service Day at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., took a slightly different turn. Students reached out to a wide variety of local, community-based organizations, such as The American Red Cross, The Humane Society, Halfway Fire Station and Adopt a Highway. Eight students (some pictured) had a different experience. Under the direction of Julie Recker, registrar, and Glen Milam, director of the nearby Mount Aetna Retreat Center, they spent the morning painting murals of Dr. Seuss scenes on the walls of an interview room at the Washington County Child Advocacy Center “Safe Place.”

Safe Place is committed to reducing the trauma to children in a child-friendly environment through collaborative investigations, therapeutic/medical interventions and criminal prosecutions of child abuse cases. The students completed about a third of the project but volunteered to return to the center to complete the project.

"Service learning is the deliberate connection of community service to the stated learning goals," Recker shared. "A common misconception among educators, youth workers and young people is the notion that service learning can just be assigned and completed. Our goal was to make community service an effective life-long learning tool."
Four students at **Blue Mountain Academy** in Hamburg, Pa., also participated in a similar project. They painted murals in the hallways of The Children's Home of Reading. "It was a great experience. The kids that live there have been through so much, and it was great to do something that I love, that will help cheer up their day," said junior Hannah Ashburn.

**Serving Through Labor**

High school students (pictured) at **Spring Valley Academy** in Centerville, Ohio, recently participated in the community-wide service day dubbed "Project M-pact" day. Under the direction of high school teachers students cleaned and planted trees at local creeks and parks, did yard work for their neighbors and worked with the Catholic Social Services Day Care Center on various projects.

Ken Knudsen, the school's chaplain, shared that it is always a blessing when "we can see that our kids truly do make a difference in our community at large."

In response to flash flooding in Ellicott City, Md., earlier this year, 18 **Takoma Academy (TA)** students helped the community clean up. Armed with brooms, shovels, buckets, gloves and squeegees, the students joined Chaplain Tim Soper and Nora Ramos, TA's Spanish instructor, in travelling from their Takoma Park, Md., campus to help. They cleaned up mud and debris from a small park behind the local visitor's center. They also helped haul, sort, clean and organize merchandise—and shovel more mud—at a thrift store and architectural firm.

**Funding Overseas Education**

Drama students at **Spencerville Adventist Academy** in Spencerville, Md., are making the schooling experience of orphans in Montrouis, Haiti, better. As a thank you to their director, Jane Lanning, the cast of last spring's musical production, Cheaper By the Dozen, made a donation to the Eden Garden Orphanage in Haiti.

Lanning recently took the more than $1,700 donation with her on a visit to the orphanage. The funds went a long way and allowed for the construction of 20 new school desks (pictured). While there Lanning also incorporated the help of the orphans to sketch and paint murals for the nursery and kindergarten classroom. She recalled that one of the highlights of the trip was discovering what the kids want to be when they grow up: doctors, engineers, nurses, fashion designers, pastors and teachers, even a policeman. "By creating more of a learning environment with new desks and painted walls, these dreams may actually feel possible!" she said.

**Serving Through Evangelism**

As the Parsons church, a very small congregation located 20 miles from Elkins, W.Va., puzzled over how best to witness to the local community, Mountain View Conference officers encouraged schools across the conference to develop evangelism projects in their local areas. Students and staff at the **Highland Adventist School (HAS)** in Elkins responded to the challenge and worked with Parsons members to plan a 10-month evangelism cycle with health ministry as the emphasis. **Click here** for the full story.

Adventist students don't limit community service to their academy years, **click here** to read how Washington Adventist University students in Takoma Park, Md., impact their community!