April 18, 2012

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In an email to leaders, Belinda Mallett, vice president for Patient Care, wrote: “Response from our patients and their families has been phenomenal. They appreciate the energetic, helpful and smiling staff; they love the healing, restful environment; they have enjoyed eating the great food in the cafeteria; and, above, all can feel the spirit of caring from every person they have had contact with.”—Story by KAHC Staffâ€”
Atholton Member, Pageant Winner Gets Maryland Senate Nod

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Over the past year, Wakefield never forgot her role as a Christian and her goal of “shining like a light for God.” She is pictured meeting with state Rep. James N. Robey at the senate.—Story by Beth Michaels

Gibbs Fills Chesapeake’s Ministries Director Post

Gary Gibbs brings depth of experience in ministry to his new role as Ministries Development director for the Chesapeake Conference. In joining the staff, Gibbs will provide leadership to some of the goals set by the conference for the next five years.

There is need for strong in-reach with the gospel into urban areas, particularly the greater Baltimore corridor. “Gary’s forte is training people so they can be engaged in reaching out to others. This will add great effectiveness to our ministry development efforts,” says Rick Remmers,
Gibbs comes most recently from the Hope Channel, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s official television network, where he was associate director. He hosts the Bible Talk radio program and is the author of several books. He has also served as a pastor, evangelist, church growth consultant and the founder of the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism.—Story by Samantha Young

**Mountain View Members Named Innovative Sustainable Producer**

Bob and Lynnita Gregory of Berea Gardens Agricultural Center in Orma, W.Va., were one of four recipients of the 2012 Innovative Sustainable Producers in West Virginia Award sponsored by West Virginia Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE). The award was presented at the 2012 West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service’s Small Farm Conference in Morgantown last month.

This recognition celebrates the professional, innovative and sustainable approach of West Virginia farmers, showcasing their passion and raising the profile of the important role they play in West Virginia. Pictured are Brandy E. Brabham (left), WVU extension agent, and Nola Wilson, WV SARE’s outreach coordinator (right) presenting Gregory with the award. Gregory and his wife are members of Mountain View Conference’s Spencer (W.Va.) church.—Story by the Hur Herald/Visitor Staff

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is not only the fastest growing institution among U.S.-based Seventh-day Adventist institutions; it is also the fastest growing among the Maryland Independent Colleges and University Association (MICUA).
From fall 2010 to fall 2011, MICUA recorded just over 16 percent growth rate in undergraduate full-time students for WAU in Takoma Park, Md., just ahead of Capitol College with 13.1 percent. MICUA’S 16 members are fully accredited and provide unique educational opportunities to 63,000 students annually.—Story by WAU Communication Staff

Reavivamiento En Las Iglesias Adventistas Hispanas De Cleveland

Estas pasadas semanas se ha estado viviendo un ambiente de reavivamiento en las Iglesias Adventistas Hispanas de la ciudad de Cleveland. Tanto la hermandad de la Primera Iglesia Adventista Hispana, como la Iglesia Eben-Ezer se han unido para regocijarse en la comunión, la adoración y el servicio.

El pasado sábado 24 de marzo, las iglesia en Cleveland vivieron una verdadera fiesta espiritual al celebrar juntas el nuevo nacimiento de 6 preciosas almas a través un evento al que denominaron “Bautismos de Primicias”.

Durante los días 1 al 6 de abril, ambas iglesias se reunieron en el Templo de la Primera Iglesia, ubicado en la calle Bosworth, para ser refrigerados por el Espíritu de Dios a través de una Semana de Oración dirigida por el pastor de este distrito, el Pastor Peter M. Simpson. Durante estos seis días consecutivos, los hermanos se reunieron con gran fervor a escuchar la Palabra de Dios y se culminó con un solemne Servicio de Comunión el día viernes por la noche. Los hermanos expresaron que fue una experiencia maravillosa el haberse congregado como una sola iglesia para poder compartir la Cena del Señor juntos. También, se tuvo el privilegio de contar, entre los oficiales de la Santa Cena, con el Coordinador Hispano y Secretario Ministerial de la Ohio Conference, el Pastor Oswaldo Magaña.—Historia por personal de Visitor; Photos por Angel Miguel Torres

VEA MAS
**Sligo Students Sing at NBA Game**

Imagine that you are in the middle of preparations for an upcoming choir festival when your teacher, Joya Follete, gets a phone call that causes her to scream and get really excited. She then announces that you will be singing the national anthem at the Washington Wizards vs. Orlando Magic game on April 10.

How cool is that? Well, for the 30-plus members of the Takoma Park, Md.-based Sligo Adventist School Middle School Choir, it was not a dream, but a reality.

According to students Jair Johnson and Corey Fitzgerald, “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will be remembered forever.” Krissia Funes and Kayla Green admitted to being nervous yet enjoying the experience and all it represented. Malik George announced, “I can tell my kids I sang on national television.” Sixth-grader Erminie Cajou reflected, “I am glad my school got to represent Jesus by sharing our song at the game.”

To cap off the experience, the Wizards pulled off a 93-85 upset win for their fans.—Story by Yolande Melbourne

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**Spring Valley Raises $97K at Gala Auction**

Excitement filled the air for patrons and sponsors alike at Spring Valley Academy’s Home & School Association’s Auction Gala held recently in Kettering, Ohio. The evening’s theme was “Building for the Future of Our Kids’ Character.” A silent auction commenced amidst the festive decor of a tropical evening. Auctioneer Doug Sorrell conducted the fun-filled, live auction, which netted a total of $97,717.35!

Proceeds will go toward the Centerville, Ohio, school’s Worthy Student Fund and a new sports building behind the school campus. “The Worthy Student Fund is vital in providing financial aid for students in
need of assistance to be able to attend our school while the sports building will include a concession area, restrooms and a drinking fountain plus some storage for sports equipment,” shared Vicki Swetnam, the school’s recruiting and marketing director. Frank Perez, the school’s board chair, is pictured sharing plans of the new building.

**Frederick Adventist Boys Win Basketball League Championship**

The top-seeded Frederick Adventist School’s [FAS] U14 Division 1 boys team recently won the 2012 Monocacy Youth Basketball Association (MYBA) Championship with a 44-33 win over second-seeded Walkersville Middle School. The win topped off a perfect 12-0 season. The FAS Panthers jumped out in front early and were leading 27-12 at halftime and never looked back from there.

The Monocacy Youth Basketball Association consists of public schools and Frederick County recreational programs. In the last two years, FAS has had three teams make it to the championship level. Both years, two teams have won the championship. Coach Pete Kelchner and assistant coach Jason Hooks led the Panthers. “The gift MYBA gives FAS is that they work with FAS to not schedule our games on Sabbath,” said Teresa Kelchner, athletic director. “FAS’ participation in the program is a great witness to athleticism as well as seventh-day Sabbath-keeping Christians.”

**Allegheny East Church Hosts Diabetes Ambassador Training**

Allegheny East Conference's Campostella Heights church in Norfolk, Va., recently organized and hosted the Project Power Diabetes Ambassador Training. This ambassador training is a faith-based program of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and focuses
on educating and empowering African-American churches and communities about preventing and controlling diabetes. Since the church opened the Adventist Wellness Community Center exactly one year ago, the Health Ministries department, under the leadership of Lynnette Moore, MD, has had a working relationship with the ADA. A representative from the ADA led the training, and members from the church’s Health Ministries team served lunch and led a tour of the wellness center.

Seventeen new persons were trained as ambassadors, 15 of whom came from four other denominations. The attendees remarked how thankful they were for the training and new friendships.—Story by Lynnette Moore

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Logan Church Members Make a Name for Adventists

“We’ve got to go out into the community and let them know that we’re for the community and about the community,” says Cesar Quispe, pastor of Mountain View Conference’s Logan and Williamson (W.Va.) district. When he arrived in town in November 2011, there were about seven active Seventh-day Adventist members attending the Logan church; now there are about 19. Though their ranks are small, Quispe says they’ve sacrificially spent about $10,000 painting and fixing up their church. They also started the Logan Better Living Center, which offers a food pantry, emergency disaster relief services and houses a thrift store. His wife, Mary, a naturopathic doctor, runs the center and offers healthy lifestyle counseling and classes.

All this activity garnered a cover photo and story in the local newspaper with the mayor and other local leaders. Buoyed by community response, they’re working to purchase a new church sign and seeking to produce a daily, 60-second, biblically-based devotional thought for the local radio station. Why all this effort? “We just want to get out in the community a little more and bring the gospel to the people,” Quispe explains.—Story by Celeste Ryan Blyden

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

MARYLAND
April 22: Shady Grove Adventist Hospital presents their sixth annual Spring Into Better Health program. The program, which lasts from 1-4 p.m., includes free health screenings that test body composition and body mass index, blood pressure, bone density, blood pressure, deep vein thrombosis risk assessment, stroke assessment and others.
There will also be health chats such as “Complementary Medicine for the Cardiovascular Patient” at 1:30 p.m.; “Battling the Bulge—Reduce Your Risk by Trimming Your Waistline” at 2:30 p.m. and “Venous Disease: What to Know and What to Do” at 3:30 p.m. The Program takes place at 9901 Medical Center Drive in Rockville, Md. For more information, visit Adventisthealthcare.com/springfling.

**VIRGINIA**

April 22: Join WGTS 91.9 and Christian artist Andy Cherry for an evening of hope, encouragement and worship. Night of Hope will be in Tyson’s Corner, Va., and starts at 5 p.m. Cherry is a Christian praise and worship artist. It’s free, but to get in, you’ll need to RSVP for you and your friends.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

April 27-29: Mountain View Conference’s Prayer Conference. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to attend a prayer conference themed “The Great Invitation” at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. The conference is free to attend and will include childcare. The guest speaker will be Victor Martinez who ministers to youth in the Potomac Conference. For more information, to register or volunteer your musical talents, call (304) 422-4581.

**NEW JERSEY**

May 5: The Parkway South church’s Family Aid Fund Benefit Concert takes place at 7 p.m. Each year, soprano Karla Rivera Bucklew joins pianist Ingrid Forss for this fundraising concert. The funds raised go to the church’s Family Aid Fund, which helps needy families in the community. For more information, visit facebook.com/FamilyAidConcert. The church is located at 9 North Shore Road in Marmora, N.J.

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org

**Forward to a Friend or Subscribe**

To share the Visitor News Bulletin with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews. Thank you!

**Stay Connected:**
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Story by KAHC Staff
Published 4/16/2012

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In an email to leaders, Belinda Mallett, vice president for Patient Care, wrote: “Response from our patients and their families has been phenomenal. They appreciate the energetic, helpful and smiling staff; they love the healing, restful environment; they have enjoyed eating the great food in the cafeteria; and, above all, can feel the spirit of caring from every person they have had contact with.”

Top of the Line Patient Interactive Software

The Soin Hospital is outfitted with the GetWellNetwork, an interactive software system that uses the bedside TV to entertain, educate and allow patients to be more actively engaged in their care. The software exchanges data with the KAHC’s existing health information technology, Epic, to document all patient choices. Patients will take a more active role in their care process by learning more about their condition, communicating with caregivers, preparing for discharge and caring for themselves at home. Each patient will be prompted on their TV to read, respond and acknowledge specific information regarding their stay.

Patients will also have the opportunity to order room service, fill their discharge prescriptions and shop at the gift shop all with a click of a button from the comfort of their bed. Patients can also entertain themselves with access to Facebook, a variety of movies and a range of games.
Building Details

It took the construction crew more than 38,000 hours during a year and a half of construction to complete the facility. They excavated more than 119,665 cubic-yards of dirt, which would fill 11,966 dump trucks. Contractors poured more than 17,520 cubic sq. yards of concrete, equivalent to 35,048 tons or more than 70 million pounds. Painters applied 4,050 gallons of paint, enough to paint approximately 150 residential homes. The electrical wire, if stretched out, is 420 miles, which would cover the distance between Columbus, Ohio, to Washington, D.C. Each piece, like the making of a puzzle, created a healing environment.

Some Opening Day Stats:
ED visits: 31
Inpatient admissions: 5
CT scans: 7
Diagnostic X-rays: 20
Echocardiogram: 1
Total Lab Tests: 91
Atholton Member, Pageant Winner Gets Maryland Senate Nod

Story by Beth Michaels
Published 4/18/12

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After meeting state Rep. James N. Robey of District 13 in his office, he welcomed Wakefield onto the senate floor where he read a declaration of her accomplishments. She also got to take home a copy of the declaration, and a tour of the facilities. “It was definitely a great experience to be introduced by the senate because I put in a lot of community service into my schedule, and worked hard. To be recognized for all the work is amazing,” she said of the special day.

Wakefield recently gave up her title at the annual Miss Pre-Teen Maryland International pageant, where she also received a bronze-level President’s Volunteer Service Award for her community service hours. Of her year of reign, Wakefield says, “I used to be really shy, but the reign of Miss Pre-teen Maryland International was a title where I had to go out and do public speaking and mingle. The most important lesson I learned was to be more friendly, and learning how to do public speaking helped me come out of my shell.”

Wakefield also never forgot her role as a Christian and her goal of “shining like a light for God.”
Atholton student Lexi Wakefield meets with state Rep. James N. Robey during a special day of recognition at the Maryland Senate.
Bob and Lynnita Gregory of Berea Gardens Agricultural Center in Orma, WV were one of four recipients of the 2012 Innovative Sustainable Producers in West Virginia Award sponsored by West Virginia Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) at the 2012 West Virginia University Extension Service’s Small Farm Conference in Morgantown earlier this month.

This recognition celebrates the professional, innovative and sustainable approach of West Virginia farmers, showcasing their passion and raising the profile of the important role they play in West Virginia.

The recognition is designed to promote a positive image of West Virginia farmers and inspire and encourage career choices and investment in West Virginia agriculture.

“Bob and Lynnita Gregory deserve to be recognized as role models for other
farmers across the state,” says local WVU Extension Agent, Brandy Brabham.

Brabham nominated the Gregorys because she believes that they fit the criteria for using a whole-farm systems approach that enhances, rather than harms, natural resources.

While new to the area, the Gregorys have experienced success in making sustainable farming systems economically viable over the long term. They also lead and participate in several activities that support the community. They are committed to both the Calhoun County Farmers Market and the Grantsville Farmers Market.

They have been involved in the Calhoun County Health Coalition as part of the Change the Future West Virginia Initiative and lead several agricultural courses at their facilities on Milo Road.

They have also engaged the community by hosting workshops and partnering with local agencies to promote the importance of locally grown food and even explore the development of a produce growers group in the Mid-Ohio Valley Region.

Their farm is a diversified vegetable, fruit, and staple crop operation geared toward providing food self-sufficiency and also allowing for sufficient production to meet our economic needs through marketing to the community.

They currently use 4 of our 120 acres for intensive food production using a combination of high tunnels, low tunnels, raised beds and field culture systems.

They are in the process of planting and propagating a number of fruit tree varieties, as well as small fruits, mostly berries & grapes, with the intention of establishing an additional 4 acres of fruit crops.

To learn more about Berea Gardens and the Gregory's work, check their website at bereagardens.org

To learn more about WV SARE’s educational resources and grants through the Northeast SARE region go to nesare.org
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En las siguientes semanas, estas iglesias estarán sumergidas en un proyecto de instrucción denominado, “Seminarios de Instrucción y Entrenamiento Misionero” Iniciando el sábado 14 de abril y luego por los tres sábados subsiguientes, EL Pr. Simpson estará impartiendo una serie de seminarios con los que se pretende adiestrar y equipar a al menos 100 hermanos en el arte de la testificación y el esfuerzo misionero, lo que desde ya se espera con gran expectativa.

Damos honra y gloria a Dios por esta gran experiencia espiritual que el Cielo ha concedido a la hermandad de las iglesias hispanas en la ciudad de Cleveland.