Adventist HealthCare
Officials Break Ground on
Cancer Center

Adventist HealthCare officials (pictured) broke ground June 6 on the Aquilino Cancer Center—the first free-standing, comprehensive outpatient cancer center in Montgomery County, Maryland. The 50,000-square-foot, three-story building will offer personalized, expert care to cancer patients, with up-to-date technology and support services to treat various forms of cancer. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on the grounds of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. The center is scheduled to open next summer.

The center was made possible through a generous donation from county resident Michael Aquilino, whose wife died from cancer in 2004. “When you’re going through cancer, time is so valuable,” Aquilino said. “I truly believe upper Montgomery County deserves and needs a convenient, high-caliber cancer center like the one that is being built, with all the critical services in one place and top medical researchers in close proximity.”—Story by Susan Griffiths
Two Columbia Union Teachers Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) recently presented two Columbia Union teachers with the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award. The recipients were Norman Niles, chair of the math department at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., and Kimberly Terry, who teaches fifth-grade and technology classes at Potomac Conference’s John Nevins Andrews School (JNA) in Takoma Park, Md.

Principals, superintendents, colleagues and former students from across the North American Division nominated the teachers. Ten were selected to receive the award. AAF board members and staff travelled from coast to coast to present each teacher with a $2,000 gift, medallion and Certificate of Excellence during special events hosted by the recipients’ schools. Colleagues, students and community members also took the opportunity to publicly thank the teachers for the impact they’ve had in their local schools.—Story by Kaleigh Benge/Alumni Awards Foundation

16 Chesapeake Churches Gather for Evangelism

Sixteen Chesapeake Conference Spanish-speaking churches recently gathered at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and the Long Branch High School in Columbia, Md., for an evangelism meeting featuring South American evangelist Alejandro Bullón.

While each participating church generally hosts three to four evangelism meetings throughout the year, this was the first time that all the Chesapeake Spanish churches joined together for such a large meeting. The three-day long meeting focused on the entire book of Third John. The weekend was also an opportunity for five people
who had been studying the Bible to join the church through baptism. However, a total of 70 people were baptized in the weeks prior to and following the meeting. On Friday night, 10 people also committed to take Bible studies. Pictured is Eduardo Muñoz, Chesapeake Conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator, holding the microphone for Orlando Rosales, pastor of the Baltimore and Dundalk Spanish churches, as he readies Carlos Medina Jr. for baptism.—Story by Taashi Rowe

READ MORE
Jeff Bovee, current principal of Spring Valley Academy in Kettering, Ohio, has accepted Pennsylvania Conference’s Executive Committee invitation to serve as their vice president of education.

“We feel that God has led us to Jeff, and that he combines the leadership skills, administration and classroom experience that will best support the Christian education ministry of the Pennsylvania Conference,” said Ray Hartwell, conference president. Bovee replaces Dave Morgan who returned to the Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa., to serve as principal.

Bovee is looking forward to his new position in Pennsylvania. “With Christ as my role model and leader, I look forward to serving and meeting the needs of others,” he said. Jeff and his wife, Marianne, have two children, Kristie and Ryan.—Story by Tamyra Horst; photo by Vicki Swetnam

Allegheny West Member, First Woman, Takes Helm of Message Magazine

The board of the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., recently voted Carmela Monk Crawford as editor of Message, the church’s urban-flavored magazine. Crawford served as associate editor of Message in the early 90s, but her connection to the magazine goes back to childhood, when her father, Paul Monk served as editor 32 years ago.

Crawford left editorial work in 1995 to become an attorney but says she was drawn back to Seventh-day Adventist publishing because she would have the opportunity to share “the freedom and clemency that Jesus offers.”

Crawford has been invited into a position that has typically been held by male ministers. “I think my selection is a strong statement, not just within the Adventist community, but to those with whom we share the gospel,” she says. “Adventist women like me must continue to serve substantively and competently on every level throughout this movement.” Crawford is an elder, Adventurer leader and Sabbath School teacher at Allegheny West Conference’s Dale Wright Memorial church in Germantown, Ohio.—Story by Kim Peckham
Filipino Capitol Kids Lead Evangelism Series

Eight children from Potomac Conference’s Filipino Capitol church in Beltsville, Md., recently led the church’s first kids evangelism series. Themed “Jesus, My Friend,” presenters covered character building, health tips and hidden talents. This series for kids by kids drew a weekly group of about 30 children, including 10 from the community. Prior to the series, church members went door to door to invite families with children to attend, the hope being those children’s parents would stay and hear the messages as well.

“Several adults expressed how they were moved to tears by the sermons and appeals made by the child preachers each night,” said Lemuel Niere, the church’s pastor. “This program was not only designed to train children to be proclaimers of the Word, but to also be comfortable sharing the gospel of salvation to their peers.” Carlo Celestial is pictured delivering his message “Jesus, A Lifelong Friend.” —Story by Tiffany Doss

READ MORE

Former Breath of Life Speaker Finds Home at Beacon Light

Walter Pearson, former speaker/director of the Breath of Life Ministries, recently returned to the pulpit after a three-year absence. Pearson took a leave of absence after suffering a stroke and losing his wife to a six-month battle with cancer. He returned to a new pulpit at Allegheny East Conference’s (AEC) Beacon Light church in Annapolis, Md., June 2.

Pearson explains that during his absence from the ministry, he entered a period of “grief and loneliness that was debilitating.” However, after a lot of praying and seeking help from an Adventist psychologist, he heard God say, “It’s time to return.” He plans to help Beacon Light members focus on “the restoration of
lives that are broken and bruised.” Willie Coleman, head elder, is pictured welcoming Pearson and his new wife, Patricia. At left is Henry Fordham, AEC’s executive secretary.—Story by Samantha Blake; photo by Cesalie Jenkins

Columbia Union Education Associate to Retire

Ian Kelly, DMin, who spent 15 years at the Columbia Union Conference as the associate director of education, retires at the end of this month. Kelly began working for the church in 1977 when he became a teacher at the West Indies College High School in Jamaica. He went on to serve as principal of the Bermuda Institute (Bermuda), the South Lancaster Academy (Mass.) and the Browning Academy (Mass.). He also served as superintendent for the Greater New York Conference. Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, is pictured presenting Kelly with an award of appreciation for his many years of service. His work at the union emphasized secondary education, teacher certification and school accreditation.—Story and photo by Taashi Rowe

Applesauce Presents Work Opportunities for SVA Students

It is now more financially feasible than ever to enroll a child at the Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., now that the school has coordinated a student work program with Bowman Apples, Inc. This new industry, which opened in May, is housed in the academy’s old recycling center. The work includes students packing a variety of applesauce-based fruit pouches for Bowman’s vendors. SVA’s current production goal is 100,000 pouches per day.

Any student interested in attending SVA will get the opportunity to earn cash toward their school bill, plus bonuses when quotas are met and/or exceeded. Ashley Smith and Lissette Rivera are pictured taking advantage of SVA’s new student work program.—Story by Mel Wade
UPCOMING EVENTS
Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.

MARYLAND
June 12-16: The Chesapeake Conference Camp Meeting, themed “Walk With God! Share His Grace!” will be held on the campus of Highland View Academy located at 10100 Academy Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland. Make new friends, reconnect with old ones, grow closer in your walk with God, enjoy uplifting music and have some good, clean fun! This year, there is programming for young adults Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit ccosda.org.

NEW JERSEY
July 25-29: The Allegheny East and New Jersey conferences will be sponsoring the Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates (APMOA) 22nd annual convention in East Rutherford, N.J. Themed “Compassion in Action: Building Bridges of Hope,” there will more than 25 Prison Ministries and community services workshops. Speakers will include C.D. Brooks, former speaker/director for the Breath of Life broadcast; José H. Cortés, New Jersey Conference president; J. Alfred Johnson II, director of Adult Ministries for the North American Division; and Charles Cheatham, Allegheny East Conference president. For more information or to register, click here or call (201) 896-0500.

PENNSYLVANIA
June 16: The Rehoboth church’s 20th Anniversary/Grand Opening Sabbath celebration will be at 1502 Snyder Street in Reading, Pa. The all-day event starts at 9:30 a.m. with Sabbath School and ends with a gospel tribute concert, which starts at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be “Through it All … We’re Still Standing,” and the colors for the day will be purple, black and white. For more information, contact Elta Jackson-Henry, communication director at (484) 636-8654 or Pastor E. Earl Blackwell (610) 864-1791.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
June 30: The Gospel Theater Improv Group invites you and your congregation to … The Nut House. Anthony Hackett, a local Seventh-day Adventist, wrote and directed this stage play to share a message on the importance of loving the patrons in your church. The play has a cast of young Adventists who all desire to use their gifts and talents for God. The play will be performed on June 30 at 8:30 p.m. at the Duke Ellington Theatre, which is located at 3500 R Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. Tickets are available at GospelTheaterImprov.com.

WEST VIRGINIA
August 19-September 2: Mountain View Conference’s fourth annual Wellness Camp will take place at the Valley Vista Adventist Center in Huttonsville, W.Va. For an earlybird rate of $695, payments are due by July 2. Earlybird spouses pay $550 and earlybird Wellness Camp alumni only pay $500.

Those who meet the regular deadline of July 16 will pay $795 plus $650 for spouses. Wellness Camp alumni who meet the regular deadline will pay $600. For more information, call the conference office at (304) 422-4581 or click here.

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To send us a news story, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

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Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net Website: www.columbiaunion.org
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Adventist HealthCare Officials Break Ground on Cancer Center

Story by Susan Griffiths
Published 6/13/12

Adventist HealthCare officials broke ground June 6 on the Aquilino Cancer Center—the first free-standing, comprehensive outpatient cancer center in Montgomery County, Maryland. The 50,000-square-foot, three-story building will offer personalized, expert care to cancer patients, with up-to-date technology and support services to treat various forms of cancer.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on the grounds of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital [SGAH] located in Rockville, Md. The center is scheduled to open in summer of 2013.

“We are pleased to be a part of this exciting time in cancer care as we break ground on the Aquilino Cancer Center on the campus of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital,” said William G. “Bill” Robertson, President and CEO of Adventist HealthCare. “This center will offer local residents a state-of-the-art facility that provides integrated, comprehensive, quality cancer care close to home.”

In addition to the latest technology, the center will house clinical services as well as a range of support services for patients and families, including:

- Physician offices
- Chemotherapy and infusion
- Radiation therapy
- Pain and symptom management
- Cancer navigation team, which includes nurse navigators, a dietitian and a social worker
- Genetic counseling
- Clinical research
- Education and resource area
- Support groups
- Rehabilitation
- Nutrition counseling
- Complementary alternative medicine
- Fitness activities

In addition to the numerous services in the building, several physician offices will be located in the Aquilino Cancer Center, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and others.

“Physicians at the Aquilino Cancer Center will be able to utilize the advances in cancer treatment, including technology and equipment, while also coordinating regularly with other members of the
cancer care team on individualized treatment plans for patients," said Joseph Haggerty, MD, a medical oncologist and chair of the Cancer Committee for SGAH and a future tenant of the Aquilino Cancer Center.

The center was made possible through a generous donation from county resident, Michael Aquilino, whose wife died from cancer in 2004. "When you're going through cancer, time is so valuable. You don't want to spend that time commuting while maintaining a routine with your family, your work and the hospital," Aquilino said. "I truly believe upper Montgomery County deserves and needs a convenient, high-caliber cancer center like the one that is being built, with all the critical services in one place and top medical researchers in close proximity."

As part of the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center and the Great Seneca Science Corridor in Rockville/Gaithersburg, physicians at the Aquilino Cancer Center will also be able to closely collaborate with local and national research organizations, offering patients an opportunity to participate in clinical trials and research projects.

The cancer center will also have a chapel, retail shop providing services and products specific to the needs of cancer patients and a quiet living room space where patients will have access to the latest educational information related to cancer.

The Adventist HealthCare Rockville campus currently offers comprehensive cancer care services including surgeries and both inpatient and outpatient treatment services at SGAH, as well as lymphedema therapy at the Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland. In addition, screenings, educational programs and special services are provided to the community aimed at the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. For more information on the Aquilino Cancer Center or cancer care services at SGAH, visit www.YourCancerTeam.com.

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Two Columbia Union Teachers Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards

Story by Kaleigh Benge/Alumni Awards Foundation

Published 6/12/2012

The Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) recently presented two Columbia Union teachers with the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Awards. Norman Niles, chair of the Mathematics Department at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) in Pine Forge, Pa., and Kimberly Terry, who teaches fifth-grade and technology classes at Potomac's John Nevins Andrews School (JNA) in Takoma Park, Md., were award recipients.

Principals, superintendents, colleagues and former students, from across the North American Division, nominated the teachers for this award. Ten were selected to receive the award. AAF board members and staff travel from coast to coast to present each teacher with a $2,000 gift, medallion and Certificate of Excellence during special events hosted by the recipients' schools. Colleagues, students and community members also took the opportunity to publicly thank the teachers for the impact they've had in their local schools.

Niles Merges Math and Theology
Norman Niles was in his second year of graduate school for his PhD in mathematics when he heard God's calling to ministry. At the time it was too late to apply for seminary and he would have to wait an entire year. He was disappointed, but God's plan for ministry was different and he ended up at Pine Forge Academy as the math and Bible teacher.

In 2010, he coined the term Matheology. “It is seeing God, the author of all knowledge, in mathematics,” Niles explains. By the end of the year, each student must give a worship talk connecting one concept learned during the semester to God.

He has the largest honors course enrollment at PFA and is working on his credentials to offer dual enrollment classes in the future. He also created the first distance-learning course offered at PFA and utilizes Skype to connect with students off campus. Niles is a member of the Technology Specialist Team and the Standardized Test Prep Team; he also writes questions for College Board's SATs.

“His students, parents, peers and supervisors have great respect for his talent and the spiritual difference he makes in the ministry of teaching,” said James Willis, Allegheny East Conference superintendent.

As class sponsor Niles led the students to raise enough money to build a classroom in Africa. He serves in multiple capacities at church and at school.

Niles says it is important that his students “know that they are capable of achieving excellence because they are created by an awesome God.”

Terry Refuses to Give Up on Technology
Terry was originally hired at JNA as the computer teacher and IT specialist. When financial challenges forced the school to discontinue the computer teacher position, she became the fifth-grade teacher. But she didn't give up teaching technology. She took it upon herself to continue teaching computer skills and assists her peers with their use of technology while maintaining the computer lab. In addition, she provides technology in-service and has played an instrumental role in purchasing and installing video projectors and screens in several classrooms.

“She is a multi-talented, dedicated, Christ-like educator, a professional, great team player and a service-oriented person who loves the Lord and loves and cares about people, especially children and youth,” said Cavel Melbourne, JNA principal.

Terry makes learning fun for her students. In science, groups perform a “kingdom rap” about one
of the five kingdoms of life. To learn how the colonists felt under Britain's harsh laws, students must plan a party while complying with outrageous restrictions. Each year, students perform skits dealing with peer pressure, which Terry videotapes for later viewings. Terry is involved in many other areas around school.

"I choose to work in a system in which I wholeheartedly believe and to which I want to give back," Terry said. "I would not choose to work anywhere else!"

Kimberly Terry, who teaches technology at John Nevins Andrews School, showcases her award.

From left to right: Riley Grave, Alumni Awards Foundation staff member; Norman Niles, 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient; and Delmas Campbell, Pine Forge Academy principal

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Ingrid Mibar becomes a member of the Laurel Spanish church in Laurel, Md., via baptism.

Sixteen Chesapeake Conference Spanish churches recently gathered at the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., and the Long Branch High School in Columbia, Md., for an evangelism meeting featuring South American evangelist Alejandro Bullón.

While individually churches generally host three to four evangelism meetings throughout the year, this was the first time that all the Chesapeake Spanish churches joined together for such a large meeting. “This was a collaborative effort among our brothers and sisters. The meetings was not only to revive their souls but we encouraged them to bring their friends so that they, too, could know Jesus,” said Orlando Rosales, pastor of the Baltimore and Dundalk Spanish churches in Maryland. Rosales also organized the weekend.

The three-day long meeting focused on the entire book of third John. The weekend was also an opportunity for five people who had been studying the Bible to join the church through baptism. That night, 11 people took a stand and committed to take Bible studies.

Rosales estimates that close to 1,000 attended the final day of the meeting, which included Sabbath School, divine service, a fellowship lunch, multiple afternoon workshops and special music.

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Eduardo Muñoz, coordinador de los ministerios hispanos de Chesapeake Conference, sostiene el micrófono para Orlando Rosales, pastor de las iglesias hispanas en Baltimore y Dundalk, quien prepara a Carlos Medina, Jr. para el bautismo.

Dieciséis iglesias hispanas de Chesapeake Conference se reunieron recientemente en la iglesia Spencerville en Silver Spring y en Long Branch High School en Columbia, Md., para una reunión de evangelismo con el evangelista sudamericano, Alejandro Bullón.

Aunque las iglesias individualmente presentan generalmente entre tres y cuatro reuniones de evangelismo durante el año, esta fue la primera vez en que todas las iglesias hispanas de Chesapeake se reunieron para una reunión tan grande. “Este fue un esfuerzo conjunto entre nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Las reuniones no fueron solamente para revitalizar a las almas, sino que les instamos a traer a sus amistades para que ellas también pudieran conocer a Jesús”, dijo Orlando Rosales, pastor de las iglesias hispanas en Baltimore y Dundalk en Maryland. Rosales también organizó el fin de semana.

Este fin de semana también fue una oportunidad para 5 personas que estaban recibiendo estudios para bautizarse. Pero 70 personas fueron bautizadas en las semanas antes y después de la campaña. El viernes de noche, 10 personas se anotaron para recibir estudios.
Rosales calcula que cerca de mil personas asistieron el último día de las reuniones, el que incluyó la Escuela Sabática, el culto divino, un almuerzo, varios talleres, y música especial.

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This for-kids-by-kids series drew a weekly group of about 30 children, 10 from the community. In April, church members went door to door to invite families with children to come to the series. Church leaders hoped that children will come to the event and parents will stay with them and hear the messages as well.

“Several adults have expressed to me how they were moved to tears by the sermons and appeals made by the child preachers at the conclusion of their presentations,” said Pastor Lemuel Niere.

“The kids’ evangelism program is not only designed to train the children to be proclaimers of the Word, but to also share the gospel of salvation to other small children. At the close of the series, we have plans for baptisms.”

The weekend was also an opportunity for five people who had been studying the Bible to join the church through baptism. However, a total of 70 people were baptized in the weeks prior to and following the meeting. On Friday night, 10 people also committed to take Bible studies.

“This is the first time a program like this has been done at [our church],” said Niere. “It will be given careful evaluation.”

Andrea Lacson offers the opening prayer during the kids evangelism series.
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