Adventist Congressman Unseated

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On his Facebook page, the 86-year-old, said, “It has been my great honor to serve the constituents of the [sixth] district of Maryland for the past 20 years. Although the election did not have the outcome we had hoped for, we can hold our heads high knowing that we have fought for the principles and values we care about.” His comments got 177 likes and several supportive comments from former constituents.—Story by Taashi Rowe

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New Jersey’s Disaster Response Team Helps Sandy Victims

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Although Sandy, which was downgraded from a hurricane to a super storm, battered much of the East Coast, it hit New Jersey hard. The ACS DR team members said it was sobering to meet people that day who had lost everything. Click here to see a video from that day. “Some people were understandably distraught while others were weathering it well,” said Mike Gill, the conference’s ACS director.—Story by Taashi Rowe

Local New Jersey Churches Pitch In

While New Jersey Conference’s Adventist Community Services Disaster Response teams are vital in times of great need, local churches have also pitched in to help. One Friday evening after the storm, Carlos Torres, pastor of the Atlantic City, Vineland and Panamericana Spanish churches, and some of his members, contacted fellow church members in southern New Jersey. They wanted to take items to those hurting in Atlantic City. Members responded by texting their friends and making appeals on their Facebook pages.

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Mountain View Conference Member Practices Barbershop Evangelism

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nominal Protestant home where he was not grounded in the Word of God. So he set off early to pursue what he thought was his real purpose of life—“having a good time.” That was his philosophy, but God had His own deep and wonderful purposes for this party-lover.

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While they were living in Connecticut, Phil and his wife, Cheryl, attended a Daniel seminar in a local hotel and then went on to attend evangelism meetings led by Mark Finley. Phil began to present the material he was learning to his boss, but continued to work on Sabbath.—Story by Chris Hasse/Mountain View Conference

READ MORE ABOUT HIS MINISTRY IN WEST VIRGINIA

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Fourth-Street’s Bible College Graduates 17

With a majestic rendition of “Pomp and Circumstance,” Louis Williams, elder at Allegheny East Conference’s Fourth-Street Friendship church in Washington, D.C., presented to the church the 17 graduates of the Sabbath School class called the Fourth Street-Friendship Bible College (FSFBC). Patterned more like a college course than the traditional Sabbath School class, students of the nine-week class used as their textbook, Studying Together by Mark Finley.

The students were required to be on time for the one-hour class, which began promptly at 9:30 a.m. each Sabbath morning. Each student received a grade for an oral report based on one of the religions spotlighted in Finley’s book. The students were also required to complete four “take home” quizzes.

Each graduate received a Certificate of Bible Wisdom. Following the graduation, students...
enjoyed a dinner with their guests and other supporters.—Story by Louis Williams

Adventists in the News

Delaneys defeats Bartlett in the 6th District

Grace Tabernacle celebrates annual Community Guest Day

Glenville Church in Cleveland Opens Health Food Store

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND

November 9-18: Miracle Temple will host their 2012 Prophecy Campaign, themed “The Day After Tomorrow,” at their church in Baltimore. The nightly meetings, which start at 7 p.m. will feature Michael B. Kelly, pastor of the Mount Rubidoux church (Calif.) and Marquis Johns, associate pastor of the Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md. There will also be a mini-concert with Warren Brady on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit miracletemple.net.

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Stay Connected:
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Story by Taashi Rowe
Published 11/7/12

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On his Facebook page, the 86-year-old Republican, said, "It has been my great honor to serve the constituents of the [sixth] district of Maryland for the past 20 years. Although the election did not have the outcome we had hoped for, we can hold our heads high knowing that we have fought for the principles and values we care about."

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The school also held a mock election four years ago and only a few weeks ago the second-graders participated in another mock election for classroom mayor. Larry Rich, principal, says since the middle-schoolers and the second-graders had already spent some time learning about the political process, they were excited to get to vote. Even though they are too young to vote in the real elections, Rich says, “This was a tangible, formalized way of getting kids involved and experiencing what it’s like to be able to vote and have their voices heard.”

Kathy Young, third grade teacher at Chesapeake’s Spencerville Adventist Academy in Spencerville, Md., agreed that it was important for students to get involved in the process. Prior to the election her students created posters encouraging adults to vote. They stood outside before and after school rallying parents to go to the polls.

“I enjoyed seeing the impact the third graders’ presence had on those driving in to the school,” said Darlene Rackley, computer science teacher. “The cars slowed and some passengers were even taking pictures of the children and their campaign posters! The students were excited to play an important role in reminding us to exercise our right to vote. Their enthusiasm was contagious!”

The students also learned about the issues and had a mock vote. They went into private booths and selected their candidates. In their elections, Governor Romney came out on top, with students selecting him 9-6. When asked if they would be interested in doing this again in the next election, her entire class excitedly yelled, “Yes!”

“I am so proud of Garrett for what he has learned about the election and our privilege to vote,” said Tracie Sutton, a parent. “I know Garrett will remember standing in front of his new school cheering and encouraging parents to vote.”

Young, who has been a teacher at SAA for 21 years, says having the students participate in these elections this way helps bring to life what they are learning in their social studies books. “It also develops enthusiasm for the political process,” she said. “In the past, our students can’t wait for election year and by the time they turn 18, they are excited to vote.”
Marylanders Support Other Ballot Issues

In Maryland several issues were on the ballots that were of concern to Adventists: same-sex marriage (Question 6), expanding gambling in Prince George's County (Question 7) and allowing children brought here illegally by their parents to have instate tuition at the state's community colleges (Question 4). Marylanders voted to support all those measures.

Prior to the elections, Anthony Medley, senior pastor at the Allegheny East Conference's Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., challenged his members to get involved and vote in a sermon titled "The Politics of Jesus." While some people may question propriety of Adventists being involved in politics at all, Medley said, "To sign up for Jesus means we have to have an imprint on society."

He also questioned any attempts to legislate morality. He shared his experience talking to people about Question 6 while he waited in line to vote early. "We talked about human rights versus human choice," Medley recalled. "God respects and values all people. Yes, He made man and woman in the Garden of Eden, but He also gave us choices and made the consequences clear. He said, 'If you follow Me, there will be blessings, and if you disobey Me, here are the consequences and the curses.'"

Medley also encouraged his congregants to listen to others whose views differ from what is stated in the Bible. "If the gospel is going to reach all people, we have got to present the gospel in a way that others are going to hear it," he said. "And to build consensus does not mean that I compromise my beliefs."

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Ramirez is the New Jersey Conference's Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) coordinator and has been involved in this ministry for close to a dozen years. Although Sandy, which was downgraded from a hurricane to a super storm, battered much of the East Coast, it hit New Jersey hard. The storm flooded many homes across the state, brought down power lines and piled sand on the roads.

The ACS DR team members said it was sobering to meet people that day who had lost everything. Click here to see a video from that day. "Some people were understandably distraught while others were weathering it well," said Mike Gill, the conference's ACS director.

Times like these are exactly why the conference's disaster response team was prepared. They brought personal care kits filled with necessities like washcloths, combs, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorants. They also delivered toys to the kids.

At the conference office in Lawrenceville, the disaster response team keeps a very long cage with floor-to-ceiling shelves stocked with kits. Throughout the year, volunteers come in and sort and pack the items. In the event of a disaster ACS DR volunteers are ready to respond to calls from state and local agencies asking for their help with donations management, which is their specialty.
Local Churches Pitch In

While ACS DR teams are vital in times of great need, local churches have also pitched in to help. One Friday evening after the storm, Carlos Torres, pastor of the Atlantic City, Vineland and Panamericana Spanish churches, and some of his members contacted fellow church members in southern New Jersey. They wanted to take items to those hurting in Atlantic City. Members responded by texting their friends and making appeals on their Facebook pages.

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When church members pulled into a field near the beach and parked, residents started to come out of the surrounding buildings to get a hot meal and some clothes. The people were cold and tired from not having electricity in their homes and apartments, so these church members were a welcome sight.

Gill, who also pastors the Laurelwood, Woodbury and Cherry Hill churches, noted that when members do this kind of work, “They are really serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. And those in need to see a sermon in shoes and work gloves.”

Pennsylvania “Blessed”

“The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been blessed with much, much less damage than our sister states of New Jersey and New York,” reports Jeanette Dare, ACS director for the Pennsylvania Conference. “Most of the damage continues to be power outages and large trees downed, causing blockage of roads and damage to homes.” There was also minor damage to Blue Mountain Academy (BMA) in Hamburg.

In response, Pennsylvania church members are working to help their more affected neighbors to the north. They are collecting toys and books for children as well as cleaning supplies for kitchens and bathrooms. According to Dare, they will pack the kits at BMA, before sending them on to New Jersey.

New Jersey’s ACS DR team is also requesting gift cards so those affected can purchase cleaning supplies. Click here to make a donation or send a check to the conference office at 2303 Brunswick Ave. Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Make the check payable to ‘New Jersey Disaster Response.’ This Sabbath local churches across the North American Division will also collect a special offering for victims of super storm Sandy.
New Jersey’s ACS DR also trains volunteers to work in the warehouses that are often set up after disasters. So far there are around 120 trained members throughout the state. To sign up for classes, email Ramirez at CARami4144@aol.com.

*Jim Greene contributed to this story.*

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As a young married man, Phil met a charismatic barber who shared with him a pamphlet about Bible prophecy. Although the pamphlet was not an accurate portrayal of Bible events, Phil said, “An appetite for prophetic biblical themes was born in me.” In the prophecies he saw an appeal from God to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. He prayed and did just that.

Phil began to present the material he was learning to his boss, but continued to work on Sabbath. In September of 1979, his dad died suddenly in a car accident, so Phil was given that Sabbath off. At his dad’s funeral, Balisciano was faced with the two great realities of life, “There is a war going on, and I must choose.” Right there in front of him, in his dead father’s body, he saw the end result of Satan’s plan for humanity: suffering and, ultimately, death. Satan had taken his dad’s physical life. And he would take Phil’s eternal life, unless he chose to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. That did it for Phil. In March of 1980, he was baptized as a Sabbath-keeping Seventh-day Adventist.

He worked several years in Connecticut, and opened his own barbershop. There had been a big influx of young people from the Finley meetings, and Phil studied with them and many others he met at the hotel and then went on to attend evangelism meetings led by Mark Finley.

Phil cuts Pastor Farley Blankenship’s hair. The pastor is one of his regular customers from the community.

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He worked several years in Connecticut, and opened his own barbershop. There had been a big influx of young people from the Finley meetings, and Phil studied with them and many others he met as he was cutting hair. Several of these studies resulted in baptisms.

When the economy lost its footing in Connecticut, he moved to upstate New York. In Saranac Lake, N.Y., a mother and her mentally-challenged son were meeting in their home. Phil and Cheryl joined their meetings, and within three years, through Bible studies with Phil’s business and social contacts, the little company was buying back the same Adventist church that had, years before, been closed due to lack of attendance. Young families with children filled the pews.
Soon Phil became interested in purchasing land in West Virginia. Ultimately, Phil cut enough hair to purchase some land in West Virginia. In Spencer, home of the closest Adventist church, Phil opened his First-day Barber Shop, as a witness to the sanctity of God’s holy day. Within two years, through the urging of fellow church members in the real estate business, he signed up for real estate training and found, upon completion of the course, that he enjoyed the work and was successful at it.

For five of the eight years that Phil lived in West Virginia, he hosted the Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at Living Waters, which the Spencer church rented on Main Street. Several rehab program participants have even attended the church.

Four barbers had businesses in Spencer when Phil rented his space for his First-day Barber Shop, which didn’t make for a very lucrative practice. In 2009, through God’s benevolent providence, he was led to purchase a barber shop business in Glenville inside the Glenville Hardware Store.

Business is good, with 100 to 150 weekly customers who enter his doors, Phil says contacts for spiritual things are “phenomenal.” He says that he sees his career as a conduit for the gospel and that the Holy Spirit makes it easy for him to talk about spiritual things with his customers. Since this year’s camp meeting, he has already given away a full case of *The Great Controversy* to serious interests, and he has just ordered two more cases. Business people of all stripes are his customers, and he has “heavy duty” talks with preachers of other denominations, as well as with his fellow barber, from whom he purchased the business.

“The Lord has called me to understand that there is no other more important thing than reaching others for Christ,” Phil shares. “This is important to me because the Lord has put His love in my heart for the souls He invested so much for.”

The Baliscianos’ children have married and “flown” the coop. This has made even more space in their rambling farmhouse for many interesting personalities to take up residence for varying periods of time. This wasn’t always easy, especially for Cheryl, who works as a hospital X-ray technician. But she graciously welcomes whomever Phil, through real estate, or through his benevolent social nature, brings home. Looking around at the Spencer congregation on some Sabbath mornings, Daniel Morikone, the Spencer church pastor, says it is clear that many of the current members are a result of Phil’s barbershop and real estate contacts. “Working for the Lord is Phil’s first mission, and real estate and barbering actually just pay the bills,” Morikone says. “He and Cheryl take a leading role at our church. They are such a blessing. I can’t imagine what our church would be like without such a friendly, loving couple.”

One Sabbath, after the fellowship meal, one of the young people said, “Let’s go to Phil’s. That’s where the action is.” That’s how it has always been with Phil, and he wouldn’t want it any other way. Before he knew Christ, life was a party. Now that he knows Christ, life is a celebration of all that is good in life. And haircuts are part of that.

Although Phil and Cheryl Balisciano are members of the Spencer (W.Va.) church, Phil preaches regularly at area congregations.
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Delaney defeats Bartlett in the 6th Congressional District

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Other Maryland incumbents cruise to re-election

November 06, 2012 | By John Fritze, The Baltimore Sun

Republican Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, who has represented Maryland's 6th District for nearly two decades, lost his bid for an 11th term Tuesday to a Democratic businessman who cast the closely watched race as a battle of different economic visions for the country.

John Delaney, a Potomac financier, will become the seventh Democrat to represent the state in the House of Representatives in January after accomplishing the rare political feat of knocking off an incumbent member of Congress. The rest of Maryland's delegation to Washington won re-election.

Bartlett, who is 86, became a top target for Democrats after Gov. Martin O'Malley and Democratic leaders in the General Assembly redrew the state's congressional map last year. With a stroke of a pen on a map, lawmakers added roughly 300,000 voters from Democrat-rich Montgomery County into a district that had been a conservative stronghold for decades.

Delaney will confront difficult choices immediately. Congress must decide early next year whether to raise the nation's debt ceiling again. And while lawmakers will return to Washington to try to steer the country away from the "fiscal cliff" in a lame-duck session this month, at least some of that work will be put off until the new Congress is sworn in.

Both candidates crisscrossed the district one last time Tuesday, hoping to influence voters who had not made up their minds in what was Maryland's only battleground congressional race.

Voters said Tuesday they were passionate about the race, if not the candidates themselves.

Jessie Lewis, a 27-year-old student and restaurant worker from Gaithersburg, said she voted for Bartlett as a protest against the new maps. Lewis said she also opposed the statewide ballot question on redistricting.

"It's a sneaky way of trying to get him out of office," Lewis said of Bartlett.

Tom Bythewood, said he, too, was influenced by party politics when he voted for Delaney. The longtime Democrat feels that GOP leaders in Washington have gone way too far out of their way to be obstructionists.

"From Day One, when Obama became president, the agenda for Republicans was to make sure he did not get..."
Voters approve same-sex marriage law
Delaney defeats Bartlett in the 6th District
Students celebrate approval of Maryland Dream Act

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NORRISTOWN — The Grace Tabernacle Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Norristown celebrated their annual Community Guest Day on Saturday. This day is held to honor community service as well as individual members of the community and their contributions.

“It means reaching out to the community; to showing love for those who protect and serve,” said Valerie Cooper as she greeted the guests entering the church.

The honorees this year were Chief of Police Russell J. Bono, Fire Chief Thomas O’Donnell and Police Captain Willie G. Richet. All three had a busy last week with the hurricane damage and debris.

Prayers and hymns could be heard throughout the church focusing on the subject of community spirit. Attendees focused on how the community came together to withstand Hurricane Sandy last week, and how the emergency personnel were so critical in keeping everyone safe.

“We are aware of how much these men give our community day and night,” said Martine Malcolm before she brought Thomas O’Donnell to the podium to accept his gift.

O’Donnell was the first honoree of the day, followed by Richet and Bono. All three were praised for their...
Grace Tabernacle celebrates annual Community Guest Day - The Times ...
Natural food store opens in Glenville

6:16 PM, Jun 8, 2011

CLEVELAND -- The Norris Daniels Health Food Store opened June 8 in the Glenville Community Service Better Living Center, next to Glenville Seventh Day Adventist Church.

"The Phat Vegan," Rashid Mitcham, demonstrated how the products from the store can be used for a meat free lifestyle. A popular dish was vegan philly cheesesteak with almond cheese sauce and a vegan bun.

Norris Daniels is the only African American owned and operated Health Food Store in Cleveland. It has a wide variety of products, including: teas, vitamins, vegetarian meats and frozen and canned food.

Karen Graves, director of the Better Living Center, hopes the new Health Food Store will emphasize a healthy living lifestyle to the community.

The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is located on the second floor of the Better Living Center.
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND

November 4-10: “We Would See Jesus!” is the theme of the Focusing on the Families revival series being held at the Liberty church. The program starts nightly at 7 p.m. except on Thursday when there is no meeting and on Sabbath, November 10 when programs will be held at 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Jeremiah Davis will be the guest speaker and will be accompanied by Messengers of Light Ministry. The church is located at 3301 Milford Mill Road in Baltimore. For more information, visit libertysda.org, email libertyconnect@gmail.com or call 410-922-0050.

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November 10: Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., is participating in the American Heart Association's 2012 Greater Washington Region Heart Walk. Those who sign up to walk with Washington Adventist Hospital and raise $50, can get free Washington Adventist Hospital sweatshirt. Grab your co-workers, friends and family and join a team or create one of your own. Registration is free. The gates open at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. Click here to register.

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November 11-18: The Glen Burnie church is hosting the Nature’s Remedies Health Training program. John Glenn Clark, MD, a Loma Linda University School of Medicine (Calif.) graduate will give presentations on timely subjects such as weight control, cancer, cholesterol and diabetes. As an orthopedic surgeon, he has seen the results of ignoring good health practices, and his presentations are clear, simple and Bible-based. The programs will be held each night starting at 7 p.m. at the church, which is located at 508 Aquahart Road, Glen Burnie, Md. The presentations are free, however voluntary donations will be accepted. For more information, call (240) 793-5401 or (443) 867-6658 or visit http://glenburnie.netadvent.org/GBClark.pdf.

November 17: Restoration Praise Center presents the theatrical dramatization titled, “Calvary: Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” This performance portrays the timeless message of the unparalleled sacrifice and suffering of our Savior. The performance is masterfully interwoven with modern-day questions such as “Have I gone too far for God to reach me?”, “Does God Even Care about someone like me?” and “Is it possible that He will forgive even me?”

Other presenters will include Virtue, gospel recording artists, Eric Thomas, a national motivational speaker, and Paul Graham, senior pastor at Restoration Praise Center. The program will be held at the Northwestern High School in Adelphi, Md., and runs from 7-9 p.m. Click here to purchase tickets. For more information, contact, torch@rpcsda.org.
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