Pennsylvania Teen Lives to Make a Difference

As 13-year-old Makaela Smith (pictured with her mom) begins eighth grade at Garden Spot Middle School in New Holland, Pa., this fall, she has more than just academics and cheerleading on her mind. Smith, who became a baptized member of Pennsylvania Conference’s Lancaster church in February, is determined to make a difference in the world around her.

Two years ago, Smith asked her principal if the school could do a fundraiser for cystic fibrosis, a disease that took her uncle’s life. He told her no. Her mom, Joline Martin, thought that it was a great idea, but figured if the principal said “no,” the answer was no. However, Smith wouldn’t take no for an answer and contacted the school district superintendent. He encouraged Martin to bring her daughter in so they could explain why the school couldn’t participate. By the time Makaela left that meeting, they had come up with an idea to make it happen.—Story by Tamyra Horst

READ MORE

Columbia Union Hospitals Rank High in U.S. News & World Report
Yesterday *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2013-14 rankings of the best hospitals across the United States. Adventist HealthCare’s Washington Adventist and Shady Grove Adventist hospitals in Maryland, and Kettering Adventist HealthCare’s Grandview and Kettering Medical centers (pictured) in Ohio, were ranked among the best in their areas.

The rankings were based on a number of adult specialties. Washington Adventist Hospital was recognized as high performing in several areas, including cardiology, heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology. Shady Grove Adventist Hospital was highly ranked in areas such as neurology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology and geriatrics. Grandview was recognized for their work in cardiology, heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, and geriatrics. Kettering Medical Center was recognized for orthopedics and urology.

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**WAU Honors Former Allegheny East President, Trustee**

Charles Cheatham, former president of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC) and a former member of the Washington Adventist University (WAU) Board of Trustees, recently received the Gateway Distinguished Service Award.

Weymouth Spence (right), WAU president, presented the award to Cheatham (center) during AEC camp meeting. “Charles Cheatham served WAU with great distinction for 12 years. He was a valuable member of the board, and the university was enriched by his presence. We wish him well in retirement; it is very well earned,” Spence said.
Cheatham served as a member of the WAU board from 2000 to 2012. He was a member of the marketing and enrollment and executive committees. Cheatham, who holds a master’s degree in theology from Andrews University (Mich.), has done extensive missionary work in Africa, Russia, Europe, India and the Caribbean. His numerous roles in the church include pastor, director and executive secretary.—Story by Grace Virtue

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**Chesapeake Children Enjoy Space-Themed VBS**

On Monday and Tuesday night, some 170 children turned out to participate in Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Chesapeake Conference’s Frederick (Md.) church. Themed “Mission 1 to Eternity,” children aged 3 to 12, are learning how to reflect the light of God’s Son.

Frederick’s space-themed VBS program was developed and written in-house by Nancy Potts, Children’s Ministries director; Andrea Brown, VBS director; Mark Sigue, youth pastor; and Robert and Heather Quintana, the church’s senior pastor and his wife. With the help of some 100 volunteers, Frederick members make up their own games, crafts and design age-appropriate rooms. “This year we have a science room where we do experiments,” Brown said excitedly. “They were blowing things up last night. The kids love it!”

Tonight the Frederick team will focus on asteroids under the theme “The Son Leads Me.” To learn more about the church’s VBS, which ends July 20, or even to stop in for a visit, go to fredericksdachurch.org. Micah Molinaux is pictured with an "astronaut.”

We want to see your VBS pictures, too! Tag us on Facebook or Twitter!—Story by Taashi Rowe

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**Should Prayer be an Official Part of Public**
Meetings?

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon determine whether the town of Greece, N.Y., can continue starting its meetings with prayer. Opening government meetings with prayer, even in Congress, is a long-held tradition in our country, but opponents argue that it could be an endorsement of religion.

Here is what Gary Ross, Columbia Union's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty consultant, has to say about the subject: "At first blush, prayer would seem to be the natural and vital element of any public meeting. However, religious liberty matters greatly to Seventh-day Adventists, and in the American context this means that government may not help or hinder, assist or impede, benefit or burden religion. Therefore, no public prayer that implies governmental endorsement of religion would be appropriate. A spoken prayer, if any, should not be sectarian. Invoking the name of 'God' in a generic way, however, might be approved by the courts as part of the 'civil religion' that is usually considered harmless, constitutionally speaking."

What do you think? Weigh in on our Facebook page.

¿Debiera ser la oración un componente oficial de las reuniones públicas?

"Creo que las oraciones debieran formar parte de cualquier reunión. El problema que enfrentamos es la diversidad de religiones. La gente ora de diferentes maneras, dependiendo de su religión, y puede ser difícil llegar a un acuerdo en cómo y cuándo orar. Trabajo en el gobierno federal y en los seis años que he trabajado allí, nunca he visto a alguien orar antes de comenzar una reunión, ni siquiera cuando..."
Allegheny East Member Tells Story of the Cross

A troupe of storytellers recently brought to life 10 Bible characters in a performance called “Faces Around the Cross” at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, Md. Faith Crumbly, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s New Potomac Conference.
Joy Fellowship in Hagerstown, Md., organized the event. The performance is an extension of Crumbly’s Christian Storytelling Café, which she founded last January so adults could tell stories for the simple joy of telling, to perfect their skills for telling to adult audiences, or to listen to the telling and teaching.

While previous events focused on training, “We wanted to add another dimension,” Crumbly said. “So, we’ve developed a troupe of performers who are donating their time, talent and means to tell the stories of Bible characters who reflect the experiences of 21st century adults.” For more information about this ministry, contact Crumbly at ustorytellers@gmail.com.

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**End Quote: I Want to be a Window**

I don't want my beliefs to sit in a church pew,
I want them to live and breathe in everything I do,
I don't want to take for granted what I'm given,
I want to be grateful and forgiven,
I don't want to get caught up in everything,
just going through the motions feeling nothing,
I don't want to be right or righteous,
I want to be a window where others can see Jesus,
I don't want to be a perfect pretender,
I want to be broken into complete surrender,
I don't want to be safe,
I want to be saved.

—This poem, written by Donice Palmer who attends Ohio Conference’s Centerville church.
won first-place in the Visitor’s first poetry contest. Click here to read the rest of the winning submissions that were highlighted in the July issue or here to see some of the poems that came close to winning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MARYLAND

July 15-20: The Frederick (Md.) church is hosting a Vacation Bible School with the theme “Mission 1 to Eternity.” The program lasts from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Sign up now at Fredericksdachurch.org or call (301) 662-5254 6437.

July 20: There will be a Review and Herald Homecoming in Hagerstown, Md. Join current and former employees for a Sabbath-day event celebrating 30 years since the move to Hagerstown. Services begin on the campus at 10 a.m., followed by an afternoon program of praise for God’s leading. Ted Wilson, General Conference (GC) president; Delbert Baker; GC vice president; and Jim Nix, director of the White Estate, are guest speakers. Lunch is provided. RSVP to 30@rhpa.org or call (301) 393-4015. All are welcome. For details, visit ReviewandHerald.com/30.

July 20: A Corn Roast for single adults takes place Sabbath, July 20, at 1 p.m., at the
Chesapeake Conference office located at 6600 Martin Road in Columbia, Md. To learn more, call Fred Thomas at (410) 992-9731 or email fmthomas1950@yahoo.com.

**July 27-August 24:** Pastor Earl Esdaile comes from Andrews University (Mich.) to present the Amazing Love Bible Series at the Northeaschurch, located at 1201 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Md. The program starts at 7 p.m. each evening (except Mondays and Thursdays), and will include inspiring preaching, beautiful music and a Vacation Bible School program for kids.

**August 24:** The registration deadline for those interested in participating in the **Christian Storytelling Café’s storytelling contest.** The contest takes place in Hagerstown, Md., on September 1 and includes the following age categories and entrance fees: youth, aged 14-19 ($5) and adults, aged 20-plus ($10). For more information about the contest, contact Faith Crumbly at (301)797-1537 or u storytell ers@gmail.com.

**ONLINE**

**July 21:** A memorial service for Joe Melashenko, former pastor of the Hagerstown, Md., district, will take place at the Paradise church in California on Sunday at 4 p.m. (PDT). The musical service will be streamed live at http://www.ustream.tv/channel/paradiseadventist. He passed away on June 21 at the age of 91. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Voice of Prophecy and/or Quiet Hour radio ministries.

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here to read it online.](http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=fe12b9595dd2970ceea6479d5&id=ba517cd56d) For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit [columbiaunion.org](http://www.columbiaunion.org).

**Subscribe or Send Us Stories**


To send us a news story or announcement, email us at [visitor@columbiaunion.net](mailto:visitor@columbiaunion.net). The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. each Tuesday.

**Stay Connected:**

[YouTube](http://www.youtube.com)  [Twitter](http://twitter.com)  [Facebook](http://facebook.com)
Pennsylvania Conference member Makaela Smith (pictured with her mom, Joline Martin) formed a club at her school to help others.

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Smith helped form the Do Something Club. Through this student-led club, sponsored by teacher Kelly Heisig, about 30 students meet each quarter to do something that makes a difference. Serving as president, Smith led the group as they not only raised $500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, but also organized a coat and food drive that helped 12 families in the community, raised enough monies for 25 micro loans through Kiva in honor of the Sandy Hook (Conn.) victims, organized a “pay it forward” event at their school and raised $982 in one day for those impacted by the Oklahoma tornado.

“Even if they find a cure for cystic fibrosis, I won’t stop,” says Smith. “I want to live my whole life caring for other people.”

Smith is an honor student inducted who was into the Spartan Society based on her leadership, citizenship and academics.

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited.

Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
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NATIONAL
September 1: Enter the 2014 "Forever Faithful" International Camporee theme songwriting contest by September 1. Click here to enter the contest. If your submission is chosen, you could win two free tickets to the camporee and the honor of having your music become the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee official theme song. For more information, contact Justin Yang or Stacy-Ann Thomas.

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