Allegheny East Members Serve on the Playground

Several members of Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently met early one morning on an empty field to create something that will last for years! And, it only took four hours! Starting at 8 a.m., Wednesday, July 24, the church’s members joined with the national nonprofit organization KaBOOM!, which is dedicated to saving play for America’s children, to build a playground set at the KIPP Baltimore Harmony Academy, a public charter elementary school in Baltimore. The project included building the play set with swings, climbing ropes and slides, along with a sandbox, four benches and picnic tables, three flower boxes and a shade structure.

“We are honored to join this great effort to support over 650 children and their families in one of Baltimore’s poorest neighborhoods,” said Jen Mason, Capitol Hill’s community services ministry leader. “Through our community effort today, children will be inspired on the path from kindergarten to college, just because someone cared enough about them.”—Story by Michelle Riley Jones

READ MORE
After attending the annual Strawberry Festival in Newark, Ohio, this summer Jay Estep is now attending Ohio Conference’s Newark church. Estep became interested in the church after walking by their booth at the festival and talked with Brett Opdyke, a Newark member, about the Lord. After sharing with Estep, who is also a biker, Opdyke then invited him to attend the “Rev it UP! Rally,” a conference-wide camp meeting for bikers. Estep stayed the entire weekend of camp meeting, and on Sunday morning, gave his heart to Jesus.

Estep, who is now taking Bible studies, also serves as the church’s Adventist Community Services warehouse manager. “This was the first time we had this happen from our Rev it UP! revival meetings and we are really thrilled by it!” exclaimed Tom Hughes, the conference’s biker evangelist. “The biker ministry is now reaping souls within a month!”

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**Adventist HealthCare Board Gains Three Members**

Rick Remmers, Thomas L. Werner and Donald Melnick, MD, recently joined the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees for three-year terms, ending March 2016. All three are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Remmers (left) is president of the Chesapeake Conference. Werner (center) previously served six years as president of the Adventist Health System in Orlando, Fla., and is a member of the Florida Hospital church. Melnick (right) currently serves as president of the National Board of Medical Examiners and attends Pennsylvania Conference’s West Chester church.—Story by Susan Griffiths

http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=fe12b9595dd2970ceea6479d5&id=39025c4cdc[8/9/2013 10:48:05 AM]
New Potomac Member is Happy to be Home

Florencio Lopez (center) gets ready for baptism at Potomac Conference’s Takoma Park 1 Spanish church in Takoma Park, Md., with the support of his friend Rene Perez (left), a deacon at the church. Pastor Jose Barrientos Sr., (right) baptized the young man who recently came to the area from Guatemala. Lopez, whose family is Catholic, said he first got to learn about the Adventist Church 15 years ago but have been away from the church for five years. When he moved to the area in June, the first thing he inquired about was the location of the closest Adventist Church. “I'm happy to be back with Jesus,” he said. “I know that He is my Savior.”—Story by Taashi Rowe

Nuevo feligrés de Potomac está feliz de estar en casa

Florencio López (centro) se alista para el bautismo a celebrarse en la iglesia Takoma Park 1 Spanish de Potomac Conference, en Takoma Park, Md., con el apoyo de su amigo Rene Pérez (izquierda), un diácono de la iglesia. El pastor José Barrientos, padre (derecha), bautizó al joven que recientemente llegó de Guatemala. López, cuya familia es católica, dice que conoció la iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día hace quince años pero que la había dejado por cinco años. Cuando se trasladó al área en junio, lo primero que preguntó fue dónde estaba la iglesia Adventista más cercana. “Estoy feliz de regresar con Jesús”, dijo él. “Yo sé que Él es mi Salvador”.—Historia por Taashi Rowe

Readers React Strongly to Visitor Cover Story
Have you read the Visitor’s August cover story yet? Several of our members have read it and shared strong responses with us. Below is a snippet from one of the responses:

“Perhaps we are the ‘nones’ because that is how our generation is viewed, as worthless and useless. … The reality is the mistrust between the generations has caused the ‘nones’ to have no influence, no role, no power, no leadership and nothing of value to add to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The fact that we question tradition is easily misconstrued as a lack of spirituality. Our desire to share the gospel in innovative ways is seen as too risky and rebellious. We are not trying to change the rules for our convenience; we are seeking to make the rules relevant and applicable to our lives.”—Meredith, Jennifer and Marisa

Why do you think people are leaving our church and what can we do about that? Visit our Facebook page and join the conversation.

Columbia Union Members in The News

Pilot video conferences help families connect with prisoners from a distance

Takoma Park’s Washington Adventist Ranked Among Top Surgical Hospitals

Highland View Academy teacher receives honor

Adventist HealthCare prepping cheaper bid to relocate Washington Adventist

Skull and crossbones: Newark motorcycle minister writes book about Christian origin of symbols

End Quote: Working With Jesus

During 2013 and 2014, Mountain View Conference leaders are
partnering with the Voice of Prophecy's Discover Bible School to mail Bible study interest cards to some 2 million people living in their territory. Below, two members share their experiences following up with Bible studies:

"[We've] have had some wonderful experiences with our Bible students so far. The people we spoke to were so excited we came to visit them. Already we have three personal in-home studies going on. God has been blessing us so much with these studies; what a wonderful experience it is to work with Jesus. One gentleman is going to use the guides to teach in his church. One lady asked for healing on her eyes so she can read the Bible better; another wanted prayer because his parents disowned him due to his belief in God. [We are] very excited so far!"—Vicki Hedrick (left) and Kathryn Styer, members of the Romney (W.Va.) church

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**MARYLAND**

**July 27-August 24:** Pastor Earl Esdaile comes from Andrews University (Mich.) to present the Amazing Love Bible Series at the [Northeast church](http://www.bible.org/sermonsearch_result.aspx?query=Northeast), 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.

**August 9:** The New Hope Young Adult group is inviting you to their campfire vespers (Restore) at 7 p.m. at 12350 Hall Shop Road in Fulton, Md. Bring a camp chair and your favorite chocolate bar for the s'mores potluck. Get more information at [facebook.com/newhopeyoungadults](http://facebook.com/newhopeyoungadults).

**September 6-7:** The Potomac Conference is sponsoring SEEDS, a convention for people interested in growing the kingdom of God. This training event will help maximize the impact of volunteers and the overall planting experience. Johnny Wong, who planted 15 churches in Australia with his concept of ‘care groups,’ will be the main speaker. The event will be held at the Community of Hope church in Silver Spring, Md. Click [here](http://www.bible.org/sermonsearch_result.aspx?query=Potomac) to register. Deadline: Aug 23.
**PENNSYLVANIA**

July 28-August 17: The Willow Grove (Pa.) church will host the “Victory!” evangelistic revival from 7:15 p.m. nightly, on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Evangelist Sherry L. Hall will share the message each night. The church is located at 1576 Fairview Avenue. For more information visit willowgroveadventist.org.

**Virginia**

August 24: Potomac Conference’s EQUIP is an event designed to empower people to lead in their local church more effectively. The event offers more than 20 seminars that cover various topics, such as how to give effective Bible studies, build healthy relationships and be an effective church administrator. The seminar will be held at the New Market (Va.) church from 3-7:45 p.m. Click here to register. **Deadline: Aug. 23**

September 15-16: Potomac Conference’s Women’s Retreat, will focus on God’s grace to us, how we show grace to others and how to move gracefully as women of God. Come for a weekend of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment in a wooded setting, amid tranquil paths with accommodations at the Westfield Marriott in Chantilly, Va. Click here to register. **Deadline: September 4**

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.

**Subscribe or Send Us Stories**


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

**Stay Connected:**
Which Church Helped Kids Enjoy Recess? Scroll Down to Find Out
Allegheny East Church Starts Service Day on a Playground

Story by Michelle Riley Jones Published 8/7/13

Capitol Hill members were among the volunteers that helping to put together the playground set.

Several members of Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., recently met early one morning on an empty field to create something that will last for years. And it only took four hours! Starting at 8 a.m., Wednesday, July 24, the church’s embers joined with the national non-profit organization KaBOOM!, which is dedicated to saving play for America’s children, to build a playground at the KIPP Baltimore Harmony Academy, a public charter elementary school in Baltimore.

The project including building the play set with swings, climbing ropes and slides, along with a sandbox, four benches and picnic tables, three flower boxes and a shade structure.

“We are honored to join this great effort to support over 650 children and their families in one of Baltimore's poorest neighborhoods,” said Jen Mason, Capitol Hill’s Community Service ministry leader. “Through our community effort today, children will be inspired on the path from kindergarten to college, just because someone cared enough about them.”

Betty Frank, a grandmother with two grandchildren attending KIPP, could not contain her joy. “I was so excited to hear that you came all the way from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, that I had to come help out myself. My grand babies are going to be so happy! Thank you!”

Building the playground marked the kick off for the church’s second annual Acts of Kindness Community Service Day. The community service day took place on Sabbath, July 27 and involved church members forgoing worship services to minister to the needs of hundreds in the community. Some of the church’s 13 projects also included: cultivating and harvesting organic foods for underserved neighborhoods, delivering flowers and groceries to seniors, cleaning an area watershed, visiting and caring for hospice patients, delivering meals to persons living with AIDS, sorting and organizing clothing for the homeless, supporting teen mothers in college and leading a prayer walk through the neighborhood.

Capitol Hill is a congregation “where kindness is intentional,” said Gene M. Donaldson, DMin, the church’s senior pastor. “No one is too young or too old to care for others. Our Acts of Kindness Day is but one way we serve our community throughout the year—with intentionality—making God big in the hearts and minds of others by being kind to them.”

The playground was completed in four hours.

When Betty Frank saw the work that was taking place, she joined the group.
Capitol Hill members met at the church then carpooled to Baltimore.

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.
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
July 27: Akeem James, founder of Ultimate Cry, a ministry that desires to spread the message of Christ’s soon return, will lead an afternoon seminar on how the character of Christ can be practically revealed through His people. This free seminar will be held at the Gaithersburg (Md.) Brazilian church at 7412 Muncaster Mill Road from 3-6:30 p.m. Click here to learn more about the ministry.

July 27-August 24: Pastor Earl Esdaile comes from Andrews University (Mich.) to present the Amazing Love Bible Series at the Northeast church, 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.

August 3: Wintley Phipps, a Grammy-nominated gospel-recording artist will be performing in concert at 7 p.m. at Sligo church in Takoma Park during the church’s annual homecoming weekend. (A free-will offering will be collected.) For further information visit sligochurch.com or call (301) 270-6777.

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 ustorytellers@gmail.com.

September 6-7: The Potomac Conference is sponsoring SEEDS, a convention for people interested in growing the kingdom of God. This training event will help maximize the impact of volunteers and the overall planting experience. Johnny Wong, who planted 15 churches in Australia with his concept of ‘care groups,’ will be the main speaker. The event will be held at the Community of Hope church in Silver Spring, Md. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug 23.

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.

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.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 27: The Seabrook, Restoration Praise Center, Metropolitan and Takoma Park churches in Maryland are hosting Park n’ Praise, a free summer gospel showcase at Franklin Square Park in Washington, D.C. The goal is to also feed 500 homeless persons and minister to a thousand. The evening will also feature puppet ministries, singing, poetry, drum corps, prayer teams, health check-up stations and clothing distribution. Patrons need only bring a blanket and a friend. The event lasts from 5:30 to 8 p.m. To volunteer or learn more click here.

WASHINGTON, D.C.