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READ MORE

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READ MORE AT POTOMAC’S WEBSITE

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**Allegheny East Women Honor D.C. Area Men**
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Men of Honor from the Class of 2014 were recognized in three areas. In the category of "helping hands," 44 men were nominated for their selfless acts of kindness, 27 were acknowledged for their commitment to community service and another 42 received nominations in the "unsung hero" category for their significant service to mankind that has not been publicly known or recognized. Each of the recipients was presented with the Men of Honor pin. This year’s group of honorees joins the nearly 300-strong fraternity of men who have received this honor.—Story by Debra C. Anderson

READ MORE

End Quote: Why I Love My Pastor
“I would like to let Pastor Keith Goodman, Sr., know how much I and my family appreciate his being our pastor. He and his family are always in our prayers! We thank God for him, for his dedication, his talents, his genuine love and concern for his ‘flock,’ and for the way he allows the Lord to use him. It is encouraging to see how closely connected Pastor Goodman is to our Father, and [his] knowledge of and love of the Word is obvious.

We also thank God for Pastor Goodman’s talented, beautiful and blessed wife, Evelyn Fordham Goodman.”—Nzinga Lee, a member of Allegheny East Conference’s North Philadelphia church

Click here to watch a sermonette from Pastor Goodman.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
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Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Mountain View’s Junior Chefs Kick Parents Out of Kitchen

Story by Gabrielle Baker Published 10/23/13

Tisha, 6, holds up a work in progress—whole wheat bread in a bag.

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Unlike the aforementioned television show, Braxton’s junior chefs cooking segment was accompanied by a health segment where they would learn about things like their digestive system. Holding 20-foot PVC piping gave them an idea of the length of the small intestine, while the videos gave the final overview.

Sunday’s graduation was indeed a celebration for Braxton as family and church members came out to see the prim and proper young chefs receive their certificates, cookbooks, and now-white chef’s attire. They also presented a Scripture song from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, which they had learned during the program. Then for fellowship—the certified chefs made trail mix for the waiting guests.

Now these young people are equipped to take charge of their health. A few weeks later, one of the chef graduates shared, “We kicked [our parents] out of the kitchen.” He went on to say that with some assistance, he and his siblings now cook regularly.
The junior chef graduates received certificates, cookbooks and proper chef attire.

Young sous chefs get veggies ready.

Participants taste the final product.

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Manassas Spanish Church Teaches Children about Healthy Living

Recently, a health fair was organized for children by the Manassas Spanish Seventh-day Church. The event taught children the importance of taking care of their health by getting fresh air, drinking pure water each day, eating healthy food, brushing their teeth and keeping themselves clean.

“When you reach out with a kid focused event, you often can draw the entire family,” explained the program’s coordinator Tatiana Ovalle. “It’s a non-threatening and fun way to have fun and make new friends. We invited our neighbors to join us and we had about 10 new families from our community come. We do believe that it’s just a beginning.”
Stations were set up for children to keep them moving and to learn various health messages. At the sports station, they heard about the lives of famous sportsmen and participated in funny competitions. At the rest station, they painted and did other crafts and at another they could even sing karaoke.

“The Pathfinders and Adventures also prepared a beautiful program for kids where they could learn more about each club,” said Erika Martinez, the visitor, whose children attended the fair. “My kids loved it and now want to be a part! The whole event was a great experience and was very educational for both me and my children.”

Health seminars, by Dr. Kim, an Adventist doctor in Northern Virginia who often participates in church health programs, spoke to the parents for an hour and a half about family health tips and took time to do personal consultations and answer any questions.
“Teaching kids the importance of taking care of their health in a fun way, was an awesome experience for all of us,” said Pastor Williams Ovalle. “Through this event, we are very excited to welcome the new families as our friends and we have been newly inspired and encouraged to reach out to the community through the health message. We are excited to plan more events!”

-Yasira Gonzalez
Why Pennsylvania Conference Pastors Meet in Cyberspace

Interview by Taashi Rowe Published 10/23/13

Tim Madding, Pennsylvania Conference’s director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth, addresses an online audience of pastors.

The Pennsylvania Conference is among several Columbia Union entities using video conferencing to reduce travel, costs and conflicting schedules. Some 30 pastors “attended” their recent fall meeting, which marked their one-year anniversary of holding these meetings online. We recently talked with Tim Madding, the conference’s director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth, to find out exactly how it all works.

Visitor: What motivated Pennsylvania Conference leaders to host some meetings virtually?

Madding: We have had two scheduled one-day pastors meetings throughout the year. These meetings were designed to be an opportunity to connect with the pastors, giving them encouragement, resources and updates from the various office departments and officers regarding programs, updated policies and procedures. Though we [would] meet in a central location, … some lived so far away, they would have to travel in the night before, often staying in a hotel. Personnel from the office, who might be coming to make a short presentation, would have to travel hours just to convey a 20-minute presentation.

After doing a couple of these one-day pastors meetings, I noticed that the meeting were heavy in informational content—the past ors primarily sat all day listening to a guest speaker and office personnel deliver content. Then, after a full day of information, they would have to drive hours home. All this information was valuable and appreciated, but a lot of time and money was spent for travel.

Visitor: Do you ever have a chance to meet with the pastors in person?

Madding: We have other meetings and events where there is more personal interaction between the pastors. We have overnight meetings in January and at camp meeting where there is more time for fellowship. We have monthly, regional meetings where there is more time spent in sharing, prayer and fellowship.

Visitor: What are some of the benefits to hosting meetings online?

Madding: Because we can pre-record content before the actual meeting, I can set up appointments with [speakers] to share with our pastors. Some of these appointments are via Skype where I interview them [about] what they can do to assist pastors. I was able to interview Joseph Kidder from Andrews University about his latest book, The Big Four. I met on Skype with Thomas Beihl sharing how his interest-tracking software, Disciples, can help pastors in Pennsylvania. For this last meeting, I flew Richard Choi, PhD—chair of New Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University—here to pre-record a “class” on the subject of the Trinity. We used two cameras with a small studio audience as he lectured.
With all of this pre-recorded content, we are able to schedule the day down to the minute. The final element is actual live content.

Visitor: Are participants able to interact with speakers?
Madding: While the pastors view the content in the comfort of their homes, and maybe even pajamas, they are able to connect via chat. As they watch the presentations, they can ask questions or share additional feedback, giving their perspective. In most cases, because the day is scheduled, the various presenters are able to be online via chat while their presentations are being broadcast. So when a pastor has a question, the questions can be answered live. Presenters may be online in their office or home in another part of the country yet are interacting live with the pastors.

Visitor: How do you know that people are actually “attending” these meetings?
Madding: [We take] attendance. At the beginning of the broadcast and at various times throughout, pastors “check in” by indicating their presence in the chat field. Because the entire broadcast is recorded (both pre-recorded material and live feed), pastors [who] were unable to attend can watch the entire pastor’s meeting online at a later time. By doing this, almost all of our pastors attend during the live broadcast. However, with it being recorded and online, every pastor gets the content.

Visitor: What software do you use?
Madding: We utilize Church Online Platform to deliver the content. It features an embedded video area for your message and music, a slide area for graphics we upload, a way for people to request live prayer, social media connections and tab options, including chat, visitor map, sermon notes and other text. To embed the video we use Ustream.

Visitor: How else are you using this software?
Madding: With the success of these meetings (everyone loves it), we have chosen to utilize the technology in other ways. At times, we have had to deliver critical information to the conference employees that an email wouldn’t adequately accomplish. We’ve sent an email out to the employees letting them know to be online at a specific time. Then we are able to communicate with them concerning the issue. Being live, employees can text questions or comments in the chat field, giving us the opportunity to clarify issues.

Visitor: Any plans to use the software to interact with local church members?
Madding: We are also looking at having several conference training events throughout 2014, where members can come together in their churches or homes for this live training. We are bringing John Bradshaw, speaker and director of It Is Written in for a day of revival in January. We are encouraging the membership to meet in homes or churches throughout the conference for this day of revival and prayer.
Madding and Jeanne Hartwell, the associate Ministerial director, lead the meetings.

Pastors can “check-in” to watch and participate in the meetings live.

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Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Allegheny East Women Honor D.C. Area Men

Story by Debra C. Anderson Published 10/23/13

These honorees (and one honoree’s widow) are among the 113 being recognized for their service to their church and community.

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Women’s Ministries. Posthumous awards were also given to the family of Emmanuel Jackson, IV, for his generous spirit in feeding the less fortunate and to the family of Jesse Reeves for his many years of dedicated service to the Fourth Street Friendship church community in Washington, D.C.

Denise McCrary, the Washington Metro Area Women’s Ministries area leader, kicks off the program.

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