Two Ohio Pioneers Receive Emeritus Ministerial Credentials

"Today we are revisiting the days of pioneers of the [Seventh-day] Adventist movement, when there were women evangelists who raised up churches, who preached and baptized," said Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, during an ordination service for Hazel Burns (in red and black) and Margaret Turner (in blue) at Ohio Conference’s Kettering church last Sabbath. Both are now retired; however, Burns served as an associate pastor at the Kettering church while Turner served as a chaplain at the Kettering Medical Center (KMC).

"Kettering church and surrounding communities still feel the effects of the ministry..."
and mentoring of both of these women, who though retired, remain active in outreach to church and community,” said Linda Farley, an ordained pastor and chaplain at KMC.

During the service, Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, stated, “We regret we were unable to have this service while they were still employed.”—Story by Heidi Shoemaker; Photos by Jakin Thomas

Community Members Support Allegheny East Church’s Typhoon fundraiser

The images on Quang Ngo’s TV screen were graphic. It showed just how devastating an impact that Typhoon Haiyan had, not just on the landscape of the Philippines, but also the people. This was how he ended up on the doorsteps of Allegheny East Conference’s Oxon Hill Filipino church in Oxon Hill, Md., toting some 1,000 T-shirts. “We saw the people suffering and it reminded me of our situation. My family and I escaped our country of Vietnam in a boat,” he said. “When we got to Malaysia, we had no food, no clothes and no water. So, we see what’s happening in the Philippines and feel like this was us and we have to do something for them.”

Ngo, who owns a souvenir business in Washington, D.C., came to the church after seeing an article in the local paper about a fundraiser the church was hosting for victims of the typhoon. Last Sabbath the Oxon Hill Filipino church, led by Pastor Ariel Matira (pictured), held a six-hour fundraiser and asked members in the community to donate whatever they could. Some people, like Ngo, donated clothes, while others donated shoes, food and cash.—Story by Taashi Rowe

General Conference Gives $250K for Philippines Relief Efforts
Top officials of the Seventh-day Adventist world church voted on November 19 to contribute $250,000 to humanitarian relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of one of the most devastating typhoons to make landfall in recorded history. "We want to express to the Adventist Church in the Philippines our sensitivity to this enormous tragedy," said Juan Prestol, General Conference undertreasurer. "The amount of money is not the greatest in the world, but we want to demonstrate that we care, and we want to be an example for other church entities that will also contribute," he said.

The North American Division is calling for a special offering to assist Adventist churches and members in need following the storm. Churches can use the downloadable flyer/bulletin insert, which will be posted on the NAD website in English, Spanish and French. Make checks payable to "Philippine Typhoon Relief" and be sure to mark your envelope as such for this special offering.—Story by Adventist News Network/NAD NewsPoints

Atholton Adventist Academy Students Honor Veterans
Last week during a special assembly, students at Chesapeake Conference’s Atholton Adventist Academy (AAA) in Columbia, Md., paid tribute to local veterans for their dedicated and loyal service to their country. Students from all grades participated, including pre-kindergarteners who presented the invited veterans with handmade cards thanking them for their service. Winners of a Veteran’s Day-themed writing contest read their winning essay and poetry entries and received awards. Representatives of the school's Atholton church as well as the Chesapeake Conference and Columbia Union thanked the honorees and affirmed students.

Dressed in army fatigues, Gary Councell, NAD director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, engaged the audience with stories of heroic Adventist soldiers, including Desmond T. Doss, a conscientious objector who saved the lives of more than 75 fellow soldiers, and some 2,300 Seventh-day Adventists who volunteered for biological testing at Fort Detrick, in Frederick, Md. AAA students are pictured chatting with an honored veteran during the reception.—Story and photos by Samantha Young

Baptisms From New Jersey’s "Caravan" Pushes Membership Over 15K
Last week we reported that halfway through a weeklong evangelism "caravan," there were already 138 baptisms. The series, which involved stops at more than a dozen Spanish-speaking New Jersey Conference churches, ended on November 16 with 220 baptisms! Jim Greene, the conference’s executive secretary, announced that, as a result of those baptisms, yesterday, at around 10:30 a.m., the conference now has 15,006 members. Last year around this time, the conference had 14,466 members.

Click [here](http://e2.ma/message/qxafe/6diogi) to see video highlights of the series.—Story by Visitor Staff

**Potomac Member’s Quiet Witness Leads Seven to Christ**
After watching Rex Hugus, a quiet co-worker read his Bible on lunch breaks, Larry Sutherland’s curiosity finally got the best of him. “I finally had to ask Rex some questions,” Sutherland said. “I was intrigued with his background and found his habits to be different from most [people] I worked with,” said Sutherland.

Sutherland, who said he was searching for the truth and a church family, started to spend more time with Hugus, a member of Potomac Conference’s Pearisburg (Va.) church. He also felt closer to God’s calling. The light shining through Hugus had a slow effect on Sutherland, but soon his family started to take notice. “At first, he was really quiet, and he said very little about what he was learning,” said his oldest daughter, Matricia. “But, we could see the impact those discussions were having on him.” Pictured is the entire Sutherland family getting ready for baptism. 

Find out more about how they came to Christ.—Story by Dan Jensen

Allegheny East Pastor to Support NAD’s Women Clergy

Brenda Billingy, senior pastor for Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., was recently welcomed as the new associate director for the North American Division’s (NAD) Ministerial Department. Billingy, who will remain at the Metropolitan church, will focus on serving women clergy. She will also support and mentor younger women on their ministerial journeys. She replaces Esther Knott, who transitioned as a full-time NAD Ministerial associate and director of the InMinistry Center at Andrews University Theological Seminary (Mich.).

Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial director, says, “Pastor Billingy brings a passion to serve pastors in our division. She will use her church as a classroom for training and her position as senior pastor to help lead, mentor and coach other women clergy toward excellence. We are excited to have her on our team and know God will greatly use her.”—Story by NAD NewsPoints
Pennsylvania Young Adult Leads Creation Seminar

Pennsylvania Conference’s Chambersburg church recently sponsored its first creation seminar and saw close to 200 people in attendance. Brandon Senior (pictured), a Chambersburg member and Bible worker in the Waynesboro/Chambersburg District, presented the three-part seminar themed “Understanding Creation and Evolution.”

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” said a church member helping with registration. The seminar drew audiences of various demographics—young and old, families, young singles and couples—even several families with a Mennonite background.

The young speaker, who has self-studied the subject of creation versus evolution for a few years, talked about the origins of space and planet Earth and animals, touched upon morality and ended with a gospel presentation and an invitation to know God as Creator and Jesus Christ, his Son.—Story by John Rengifo

Chesapeake Member Turns 100 Tomorrow
Hazel Vetter, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Md., turns 100 tomorrow, November 21. With a twinkle in her blue eyes, Vetter says her favorite Bible verse is, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,” (Jude 1:24). Vetter, pictured with her daughter Joy Thomas, walks about a mile each day and says she relies on this verse to keep her standing both physically and spiritually.

Besides walking, Vetter attributes her good health to a vegan diet and trust in God. Vetter, who has served the church in many roles, including pastor’s wife and teacher, continues to serve in many ways. She is a prayer partner and loves to cook and bake for others. Congrats to Vetter on reaching this milestone!

Watch for Vetter and several of our other senior members in our 2014 Visitor Calendar!—Story by V. Michelle Bernard

Adventist Home Care Services Celebrates 40th Anniversary
Staff members of Adventist Home Care Services (AHCS), based in Silver Spring, Md., recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. AHCS, part of the Adventist HealthCare system, has delivered care to more than 200,000 patients within seven Maryland counties and Washington, D.C., since 1973. “Our goal is to provide compassionate, quality care that helps patients remain independent in their homes while facing a variety of health conditions and circumstances,” says Keith Ballenger, vice president.

AHCS is made up of a dedicated team of nurses, therapists, nursing aides and social workers who offer comprehensive home care services for patients of all ages. William G. “Bill” Robertson, president and CEO of Adventist HealthCare based in Gaithersburg, says, “By coordinating care beyond a patient’s hospital stay, we are able to reduce avoidable re-admissions and keep patients healthy in the comforts of home.”—Story by Danielle Lewald

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New Children’s App Offered Free This Weekend

The Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., is introducing a new app for children by making it free for one weekend. The Draw Me Healthy app is based on the book by the same name written and illustrated by Brandon Reese. Children help the main character, a boy named Noah, learn healthy habits by drawing pictures on their iPad.

The app, which is priced at $1.99 on iTunes, will be free from Friday, November 22, to Monday, November 25. Currently, it is only available for the Apple iPad. Colby Rodeheaver, a Review and Herald student worker and a member of the Highland View Academy church in Hagerstown, created the app. “I think a lot of the motivation is that parents will want to buy it so their kids will be quiet during church,” he says with a smile.—Story by Kim Peckham

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Podcast Explores Faith-Based Standards in the
Workplace

On the latest Talking About Freedom podcast, Wally Carson, Columbia Union vice president and general counsel, talks with Kyle Duncan, general counsel for the Beckett Fund. The Beckett Fund is a nonprofit law firm that defends people of all faiths against government actions, which discriminates against them or makes exercise of their religion difficult. On this podcast, they discuss how Hobby Lobby, a for-profit corporation, successfully asserted a “free exercise” right to set faith-based standards for their employees. The case now goes to the U.S. Supreme Court. Click here to listen to the discussion.

Columbia Union Members in the News

Montgomery County hospitals among top performers
Adventist Church HQ to give 250K for Philippines relief efforts
Strings For Joy! highlights young musical talent from Washington ...
Church donates to food pantry
Typhoon Haiyan: Adventist church in Oxon Hill participates in relief ...

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

November 23: The Washington Area Ministerium Unity Day and Breath of Life Rally invites members of area Allegheny East churches to get “Connected.” The guest speaker for the 11 o’clock service is Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries. The Pine Forge Academy Creative arts team will present the Sabbath School program at 9:30 a.m. At 5 p.m., praise teams from the Metropolitan and Breath of Life churches and other area musicians will lead the congregation into worship followed by a concert featuring gospel recording artist Isaac Carree. The rally takes place at the Martin Luther
King, Jr. Communications Center on the Bowie State University campus in Bowie, Md. Members from all area churches are encouraged to attend. Come early—there is ample free parking, but limited seating.

**November 24:** The Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., invites you to **Dollars & Sense, a day of free financial seminars** that will help get your financial life in order. Please pre-register so that they can have an accurate head count for lunch. View seminar descriptions and register online at metrosda.org/money.

**December 7:** The “Songs for My Sisters” benefit concert will take place at 6 p.m., at the Capital Brazilian Temple located at 12420 Scaggsville Road in **Highland, Md.** The classical Christmas program is sponsored by the General Conference Women’s Ministries department and features instrumental, choral and vocal music. Proceeds will be used by the GC Women’s Scholarship Program to help talented and needy Adventist women obtain a college education. This scholarship fund has helped 2,104 women in 121 countries. To support this endeavor and learn more, visit AdventistWomensMinistries.org, or call (301) 680-6636.

*Click here for a full calendar of upcoming events around the Columbia Union.*

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Two Ohio Pioneers Receive Emeritus Ministerial Credentials

Story by Heidi Shoemaker; Photos by Jakin Thomas Published 11/20/13

Pastors, including Oswaldo Magana (left), Ohio Conference’s director of Clergy Care and Leadership Development, and Dave Weigley, Columbia Union president (right), lay hands on Hazel Burns (in red and black) and Margaret Turner (in blue).

“Today we are revisiting the days of pioneers of the [Seventh-day] Adventist movement when there were women evangelists who raised up churches, who preached and baptized,” said Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, during an ordination service for Hazel Burns (81) and Margaret Turner (90) at Ohio Conference’s Kettering church last Sabbath. “Both Hazel and Margaret were second career pastors,” said Linda Farley, an ordained pastor and chaplain at the Kettering Medical Center (KMC). Burns left a full-time career in the community and began giving Bible studies without pay for nearly 10 years. She “ministered freely without pay for the Kettering church before being recognized for her service by her (Kettering) church and the Ohio Conference,” said Farley. Eventually an invitation was extended for her to become an associate pastor at Kettering. Turner was called away from a nursing career. Garnering courage, she took Clinical Pastoral Education classes one quarter at a time. Ultimately, she went back to school and graduated from seminary 40 years after completing her undergraduate degree. She went on to become a board-certified chaplain and ministered to patients and staff at KMC and served as local church elder. “Kettering church and surrounding communities still feel the effects of the ministry and mentoring of both of these women, who though retired, remain active in outreach to church and community,” said Farley. During the service, Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president, stated, “We regret we were unable to have this service while they were still employed with a paycheck coming.”

After Weigley recognized and affirmed the “specific and personal” calls to ministry each woman had received, he stated they were “pioneers in their own right,” and offered the ordination prayer. Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the Columbia Union, concluded by saying “Better late than never. We apologize for the delay in getting these to you,” before presenting their emeritus ministerial credentials—the same ones given to every retired, or dained minister in the Adventist denomination. Video of the service may be found at http://vimeo.com/79566262, beginning at minute 16:20.

Rob Vandeman, Columbia Union executive secretary, presents ordination credentials to Hazel Burns and Margaret Turner.

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.
Community Members Turn Out for Allegheny East Church’s Typhoon Fundraiser

Story by Taashi Rowe Published 11/20/13

The images on Quang Ngo’s TV screen were graphic. It showed just how devastating an impact that Typhoon Haiyan had, not just on the landscape of the Philippines, but the also the people. This was how he ended up on the doorsteps of Allegheny East Conference’s Oxon Hill Filipino church in Oxon Hill, Md., toting some 1,000 T-shirts. “We saw the people suffering and it reminded me of our situation. My family and I escaped our country of Vietnam in a boat,” he said. “When we got to Malaysia, we had no food, no clothes and no water. So we see what’s happening in the Philippines and feel like this was us and we have to do something for them.”

Ngo, who owns a souvenir business in Washington, D.C., came to the church after seeing an article in the local paper about a fundraiser the church was hosting for victims of the typhoon. Last Sabbath the Oxon Hill Filipino church held a six-hour fundraiser and asked members in the community to donate whatever they could. Some people, like Ngo, donated clothes, while others donated shoes, food and cash.

“We ended the collection at 4 p.m.,” said Ariel Matira, the church’s pastor. “We were really amazed to see how many people of different religions, races and countries responded to the needs of the Filipino people. It was so nice to pray together and extend our love to the victims as representatives of God.”

ADRA representatives also joined church members for the fundraiser. Jason Brooks, private grants manager at ADRA and speaker for the divine worship, spoke about the importance of helping one’s neighbors across the waters.

While the church will ship the goods overseas this week, they will be sending to ADRA any funds raised. ADRA was one of the first organizations to begin feeding people right after the storm. “The reason we were there immediately isn’t because we are the biggest organization with the most resources, it is because we were already on the ground anticipating what was needed through our ADRA Philippines office,” explained Crister De La Cruz, ADRA’s associate communication director. “As soon as the typhoon had died down and it was safe for our Filipino colleagues, we were out doing assessments and then feeding as many people as we could.”

To make a donation for typhoon relief, visit adra.org. The Oxon Hill church is still accepting donations on Sabbaths at the church, which is located at 7412 Livingston Road in Oxon Hill, Md. To set up alternate donation times, email Pastor Matira at amatira@yahoo.com.

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comment per person will be published.
Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Potomac Member’s Quiet Witness Leads Seven to Christ

Story by Dan Jensen Published 11/19/13

All seven members of the Sutherland family ready for baptism.

After watching Rex Hugus, a quiet coworker read his Bible on lunch breaks, Larry Sutherland’s curiosity finally got the best of him. “I finally had to ask Rex some questions,” Sutherland said. “I was intrigued with his background and found his habits to be different from most [people] I worked with,” said Sutherland. Sutherland, who says he was searching for the truth and a church family, started to spend more time with Hugus, a member of the Potomac Conference’s Pearisburg (Va.) church. He also felt closer to God’s calling. “Of all the things I learned to appreciate about Rex, there is one thing that stands out—every time I would ask him a theological question, he would say, ‘Let’s see what the Bible says about that.’ It’s easy to argue with another person’s opinion—it’s another thing to argue with the Word of God.” The light shining through Hugus had a slow effect on Sutherland, but soon his family started to take notice. “At first he was really quiet and he said very little about what he was learning,” said his oldest daughter, Matricia. “But we could see the impact those discussions were having on him. One night he just opened up and started sharing the truth he was learning. We all sat in stunned silence.” As the months went on, the Sutherlands started to have family Bible studies together and attend the Pearisburg church. Soon, Sutherland shared his desire to be baptized and then one by one, each family member acknowledged, they too wanted to be baptized. As they looked back on all the positive changes that had taken place within them, and through them, they all agreed this would only make them a better family. One can imagine the look of surprise on Pastor Don Elswick’s face when the head elder of the church came up to him the following Sabbath, leaned over and said, “Pastor, would it be possible to baptize the Sutherland family today?” After speaking more in-depth with the family of seven, it was clearly evident they were all ready for baptism. “I’m so proud of the Pearisburg congregation,” said Elswick. “Rex was used by God to bring the Sutherland family to Christ; the congregation has assumed their role in disciple-making and thus the cycle continues. We are all called to share ‘the testimony of Jesus.’ Edification, exhortation and comfort, that’s what it’s all about.”

Rex Hugus and Pastor Don Elswick flank Larry Sutherland in the baptistery.

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Brenda Evril Langford Billingy joins the North American Division team as an associate director for the NAD Ministerial Department. Billingy joins the NAD Ministerial Team with mission and focus to serve women clergy, and to support and mentor younger women called by God to be pastors in the North American Division. Billingy replaces Esther Knott who transitioned as a full-time NAD Ministerial Associate and Director of InMinistry Center at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Pastor Billingy was born on the Island of Trinidad, West Indies - the youngest of eight children born to Gladys and Lenny Langford. She received a pre-professional degree from Caribbean Union College at 18 years of age and then migrated to the United States where she completed her B.A. degree in Psychology from Columbia Union College and a M.A. degree in Education from Howard University.

In 1995 Brenda was ordained as a local Elder and her life began to change dramatically. Serving in that capacity allowed her to discover the special gifts that God has graciously bestowed upon her - especially the gift of speech, counseling and encouragement. It was then that she made a promise to the Lord that when her children were enrolled in College she would devote all of her time and attention to His purpose for her life.

This decision led her to return to Columbia Union College in 1998 to complete a B.A. degree in Religion. Upon graduation she was hired by the Allegheny East Conference as the Associate Pastor of the Metropolitan SDA Church in Hyattsville, Maryland. Brenda later served as the Senior Pastor of the Bladensburg SDA Church for 4 years before returning to Metropolitan SDA Church as the Senior Pastor for the past five years.

Ministry assignments include the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad, St. Croix, Jamaica, and Africa. Brenda has also had the honor of preaching the Word for the General Conference Session in 2010. As ministry partners, Brenda and her husband, Edsel, will celebrate their 39th anniversary in 2013. They are blessed with two wonderful daughters - Rhonda and Shana, the joy and pride of their lives.

Her hobbies include reading, creative writing, tennis, swimming and skiing. Her goal is to perform Earthly ministry with a Heavenly mindset, and her desire is to be known as a "humble vessel willing to be used by God".

Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Director says, "Pastor Billingy brings a passion to serve pastors in our division. She will use her church as a classroom for training and her position as senior pastor to help lead, mentor and coach other women clergy towards excellence. We are excited to have her on our team and know God will greatly use her."
Maryland Community News

Published: Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Montgomery County hospitals among top performers by Aline Barros Staff writer

Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring and Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park have been named as Top Performers on Key Quality Measures by the Joint Commission. The hospitals are among 16 in Maryland to receive the 2012 national performance distinction.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville and MedStar Montgomery Medical Center in Olney also were named top performers.

To be listed, hospitals had to meet at least 95 percent compliance with certain measures, according to a news release. Each measure represents an evidence-based practice that is used to improve outcomes in patients, including giving aspirin to a heart attack patient at time of arrival or giving antibiotics one hour before surgery.

Hospitals also had to achieve a minimum of 95 percent compliance with measures in at least one individual area. Washington Adventist Hospital and Shady Grove Adventist Hospital were recognized for improvements on treating patients with heart failure, heart attack, surgical care and pneumonia.

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The Adventist Church has pledged $250,000 to relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. The worst natural disaster in the country’s history has displaced 11 million people.

November 19, 2013 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Author: ANN staff

Top officials of the Seventh-day Adventist world church today voted to contribute $250,000 to humanitarian relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of one of the most devastating typhoons to make landfall in recorded history.

Super Typhoon Haiyan tore through central Philippines last week, flattening entire towns with 195-mph sustained winds and a massive storm surge. The storm crippled communication and transportation in the region, fettering relief efforts for days.

“We want to express to the Adventist Church in the Philippines our sensitivity to this enormous tragedy,” said Juan Prestol, undertreasurer for the Adventist world church.

“The amount of money is not the greatest in the world, but we want to demonstrate that we care, and we want to be an example for other church entities that will also contribute,” he said.

The donation comes from the Adventist Church’s World Budget Contingency Fund.

A statement voted by top church officers this morning said, “The assistance will be used, at the discretion of the [Southern Asia-Pacific] Division, to help restore normalcy to the lives of our members and people affected in the area, with consideration given to restoring the normal operations of schools, if advisable.”

Since initial emergency relief, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency has distributed more than 3,500 food packs and 5,000 shelter tarps. The humanitarian arm of the church has also partnered with other relief organizations to set up water purification systems in areas where clean drinking water is needed.

Adventist hospitals in Cebu, Calbayog and Bacolod are serving as hubs for medical outreach in affected areas, an update from the church’s Southern Asia-Pacific Division said. The church’s East Visayan Conference in Tacloban is also serving as a center for relief operations and medical assistance.

“The process is slow because Adventist members are also trying to save the remains of what were once their homes,” a statement from the conference said.

According to ADRA Philippines, needs remain “dire.” Most of the estimated 11 million people displaced by the storm remain in urgent need of food, water and shelter.

“Saving lives and relieving suffering are priorities of the Adventist Church,” said G. T. Ng, executive secretary of the Adventist world church. “The wonderful people of the Philippines have suffered much in this disaster and deserve all the help we can give.”
Strings For Joy! highlights young musical talent from Washington, D.C., area

Posted: Saturday, November 16, 2013 8:36 pm

Jenna Lettsome stood backstage in a black dress as she plucked the strings of her violin, saying she was both excited and nervous.

“I’m nervous because I don’t want to mess up, and excited because it’s a privilege,” the 12-year-old classical musician said.

But as Lettsome’s bow slid across the strings to play the first notes of Borowski’s “Adoration,” it was evident the young talent has been playing since she said she was 3.

On Saturday afternoon, Lettsome performed as a soloist and as part of the ensemble Strings For Joy! during a concert at the Hagerstown Seventh-day Adventist Church off Robinwood Drive.

Strings For Joy! is a classical music group made up of about 20 children from the Washington, D.C., area, according to Ginger Sayles, music director of the Hagerstown Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The ensemble has played for President Obama at the White House and for U.S. audiences at Disneyland and Disney World. In addition, the young musicians have toured a number of countries in North America and Europe.

Sayles said Strings For Joy! also played at the church about 18 months ago.

“They have such a good reputation that we wanted to have them back,” she said.

Saturday’s show was timed to end at sunset to coincide with the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath, which starts each Friday at sunset and ends 24 hours later.

The church typically schedules performances every other week to mark the Sabbath during the winter, Sayles said, but they aren’t held in the summer because the sun goes down too late.

On Saturday, Strings For Joy! played a number of classical pieces, including Bach’s “Jesu, Joy on Man’s Desiring” and “The Lord’s Prayer” by Malotte.

Seventh-day Adventist Norman Rada said the church-sponsored concerts are a good way for the congregation to reach out to the community.

“It introduces these musicians to the area,” said Rada, who added Strings For Joy! was “pretty talented.”

About 60 people attended Saturday’s program.

Sayles said the performances are free and open to the public.
Church donates to food pantry

Posted: Sunday, November 17, 2013 12:00 am

ROCK HALL — On Sunday, Oct. 14, Rock Hall Seventh-Day Adventist Church brought joy to a full congregation. For more than 100 years, the church has celebrated a "Harvest Home" program, with talented musicians coming from near and far.

This year the "free-will" offering and bake sale proceeds were given to the Rock Hall Community Food Pantry, which is overseen by the Rock Hall United Methodist Charge. Food pantry director Sue Becker and Tom Willis, coordinator of the Backpack Program for the local elementary school, received the check in the amount of $1,200. Mayor Bob Willis commented on the community spirit of Rock Hall.

The food pantry is currently serving more than 100 families. Donations of money or canned goods are always appreciated. For information, contact the RHUM Charge office at 410-639-2144.
Typhoon Haiyan: Adventist church in Oxon Hill participates in relief efforts

By Kimberly Suters
November 15, 2013 - 06:30 pm

(WJLA) - From well-funded relief organizations with celebrity endorsements to homemade appeals for hygiene packs, the Typhoon Haiyan relief effort is officially worldwide.

"We are trying to reach 500,000 survivors," says celebrity actress Scarlett Johansson in the new PSA for Oxfam.

Meanwhile in the D.C. area, Pastor Ariel Matira, whose Filipino Oxon Hill 7th Day Adventist Church is holding a donation drive on Saturday, is calling for clothes, blankets, and food.

At the world headquarters of the Adventist Development & Relief Agency in Silver Spring, they're documenting the distribution of emergency kits since their donors want proof -- bags are stuffed with rice, sardines, and peanuts.

"We have given 1,000 people food and 3,000 people emergency shelter," said Pastor Matira.

On Friday, they learned they were the first non-profit to feed survivors, having already been on the ground in the Philippines the last 30 years.

Although Pastor Matira would rather be helping back in the Philippines, he is amazed by the compassion and generosity he is witnessing here.

"It's amazing," he said.
"Knockout Game" targets unsuspecting victims, trending on YouTube

Preston Williams, firefighter battling cancer, will not receive MCM medal

National Zoo panda cub weighs almost 10 lbs!

Seat belts to be required on all motor coaches

Rep. Trey Radel pleads guilty to cocaine possession

Santana Moss clarifies comments about RGIII

7 On Your Side: Confusing rules for vanity plates in...

Marine Corps women pass "grunt test"

Military sex assault: Senate begins debate on plans
Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
November 14-17: The General Conference is hosting a series of family-friendly events from 6 to 8 p.m. each night featuring the new *Creation* movie, live orchestra and keynote speakers, including U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black and several university professors. Also, there will be a kids’ workshop with *Guide* magazine’s “Mud Guy,” Rich Aguilera. Click here for tickets and details.

November 16-17: The Reisterstown church is hosting the Love and Respect video conference on love, relationships and marriage presented by Christian best-selling author Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. According to Eggerichs, women need love, men need respect. It’s as simple and complicated as that! The two-day conference takes place Sabbath, November 16, 2-6 p.m. and Sunday, November 17, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Pre-registration is FREE (a $15 value) but required and seating is limited, so reserve your spot today! For more information or to register, visit ReisterstownSDA.org or call (410) 833-4634.

November 23: The Washington Area Ministerium Unity Day and Breath of Life Rally invites members of area Allegheny East churches to get “Connected.” The guest speaker for the 11 o’clock service is Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries. The Pine Forge Academy Creative arts team will present the Sabbath School program at 9:30 a.m. At 5 p.m. praise teams from the Metropolitan and Breath of Life churches and other area musicians will lead the congregation into worship followed by a concert featuring gospel recording artist Isaac Carree. The rally takes place at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communications Center on the Bowie State University campus in Bowie, Md.. Members from all area churches are encouraged to attend. Come early—there is ample free parking, but limited seating.

November 24: The Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md., invites you to Dollars & Sense, a day of free financial seminars that will help get your financial life in order. Please pre-register so that they can have an accurate head count for lunch. View seminar descriptions and register online at metrosda.org/money.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
November 16: The New Covenant Experience will present their annual concert at the Capitol Hill church at 6 p.m. Under the direction of Zina Johnson, the group will share songs and praise. The evening’s theme is “God is in Control” and will feature special guests, such as recording artist Duawne Starling and gospel singer Duane Nelson. The church is located at 914 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
November 19: The Berkeley Springs church will feature healthy holiday foods at its monthly, free-to-the-community Supper Club at 6 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Pastor Jason and Nicole Disch will also present “Moove Over, Milk Part II,” followed by a door prize drawing. The church is located at 3606 Valley Road in Berkeley Springs. For more information, contact Lisa Shingleton at (304) 258-2739.

OHIO
November 16: The Wooster church marks their 50th anniversary at their current location of 445 North Bever Street in Wooster. “Circle Up Around the Throne” is the theme for the anniversary celebration. A special worship and reflection service will be held at 11 a.m. A fellowship meal will follow the church service. The Echoliers and bell choir from Mount Vernon Academy will hold a concert at 2 p.m.
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