October 30, 2014

Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

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To receive the computers, SVA needed to apply for them at computersforlearning.gov, a site run by the General Services Administration to assist schools, libraries and other types of nonprofits. After several months, White received a call one Friday morning from a representative at the VA hospital saying that the computers were being listed that afternoon. He anxiously checked the website throughout the day.—Story by Christopher Simons

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Potomac ABC Announces Kermit Netteburg as Interim Manager

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While the store is challenged by the growing trend of online book and music purchases, the store's sales have been growing in vegetarian and natural foods and vitamin supplements. Netteburg says the store is looking for new ways to generate revenue and serve people.—Story by Tiffany Doss

First STEMfest Draws 400 to Highland View Academy

Highland View Academy’s (HVA) first STEMfest drew nearly 400 people to the school in Hagerstown, Md. The HVA Highlanders kicked off the event singing the national anthem, followed by Malcolm Hutchinson, principal, and Rick Remmers,
Chesapeake Conference president and school board chairman, providing a short welcome. Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for advancement and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), introduced the keynote speaker, Sohi Rastegar, who is the director of the office of emerging frontiers in research and innovation at the National Science Foundation, Engineering Directorate (Va.).

—Story by Lori Zerne

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More Adventist News

West Virginia Pastor Meets Spiritual and Physical Needs of Area Residents

Miracle Temple Kicks Off Respite Program for Parents of Kids With Special Needs

In Jamaica, Two Seventh-day Adventists Receive National Honors

ABC Television to Air Christmas Special Filmed at Spencerville Church
This week's news from around the Columbia Union
Clinton Bame ('16) and Cameron Sahly ('16) install new RAM and hard drives into the donated computers.

October 29, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Education , Potomac Conference

Computer Donation Saves Shenandoah Valley Academy $200,000

Story by Christopher Simons

Ron White, information support director for Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) in New Market, Va., was recently approached by a parent who works at a Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital. The parent wanted to know if the school was interested in obtaining good computers that the VA was replacing.

To receive the computers, SVA needed to apply for them at computersforlearning.gov, a site run by the General Services Administration to assist schools, libraries and other types of nonprofits. After several months, White received a call one Friday morning from a representative at the VA hospital saying that the computers were being listed that afternoon. He anxiously checked the website throughout the day.

"Sabbath came and there was no sign of the computers being listed," White says. "I awoke Sabbath morning pondering whether to check or not; not checking meant potentially missing them. I decided God was in charge and to wait patiently. I couldn't, so I waited impatiently for Sabbath to be over. God laughed at me and there was nothing listed when I checked after sundown." Sunday came—still nothing. In fact, the computers were not listed until a week later on the following Monday. White checked just before leaving for work and found them posted. So he quickly requested them all.

But, anxiety would continue for White. "I noticed before I exited the website that someone else had requested them as well. Before me? After me? I didn't know," he says. "By lunchtime five others had requested part or all of the distribution of computers and laptops." White decided to again trust that it was in God's capable hands.

Several days later, the VA hospital contacted him and told him to bring a big truck. Four pallets of desktops and laptops awaited him! White excitedly made the one-hour trip. As the workers loaded the pallets onto the truck, he thanked them for their help with the computers, and the work they do at the VA hospital for those who serve(d) to defend this country.

The computers, valued at $150,000, included 240 desktops and 60 laptops systems. Many still needed hard drives and RAM. The school ordered the necessary hardware, as well as a Windows 7 and Microsoft Office Enterprise-level subscription, which will save the school between will save the school between $200,000 and $225,000 over the next few years, including a savings of between $50,000 and $75,000 in software costs. But the blessing doesn't stop with SVA. There were so many machines donated that some went to nearby Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary, making marked improvements in their technology program as well.

The school still needs help upgrading their technology. For more details, contact Christopher Simons at (540) 740-2202 or chris.simons@sva-va.org.
Photos
Ebenezer Church Shows Brotherly Love to Neighborhood

October 29, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Allegheny East Conference

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Story by Lisa Tynes

Allegheny East Conference’s Ebenezer church has infiltrated their South Philadelphia community to meet the needs of residents. The demographic of the community is vast and includes the extremely affluent to the very poor. Under the direction of Charles W. Drake, senior pastor, the congregation has extended their friendship to neighbors through several programs and partnerships.

“Picnic in August” was an outreach program designed to meet hunger needs in the community. The entire congregation donated food items to fill boxes with enough food to feed several meals to 300 people. The receiving families say it came when it was least expected. Byronette Watson, organizer, says, "People are hungry all year long; let's not wait until Thanksgiving to feed our community. The recipients were overwhelmed by the expressions of love.”

Ebenezer later extended its partnership with the Philadelphia Mural Arts program by hosting an outdoor concert in their parking lot directed by the American Composers Forum. The community filled the lot to hear original compositions from different composers of varied genres of music. This event was part of the “Ebenezer Live!” series, which brings the arts off the avenue and into the neighborhood.

The church also partnered with a refugee agency to help relocated Congolese assimilate into the community as well as the Ebenezer church family. Fellow Adventist church members from another continent have found a new family and home at Ebenezer. Crystal Drake leads the congregation in assisting with housing, jobs, clothing, food, English as a Second Language programs, schooling and more. Translators interpret sermons and help the Congolese members feel at home in their new country.
Potomac ABC Announces Kermit Netteburg as Interim Manager

Lisa Myaing, who worked at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Center in Silver Spring, Md., since 1991 and served as manager for the past 11 years, recently passed the torch to Kermit Netteburg. Netteburg, a recently retired pastor, stepped in as interim manager as the Myaing family answers a call in Tennessee.

While the store is challenged by the growing trend of online book and music purchases, the store’s sales have been growing in vegetarian and natural foods and vitamin supplements. Netteburg says the store is looking for new ways to generate revenue and serve people. “We want to become a location for people to learn more about healthy lifestyles and then be able to find resources for new lifestyles,” he says. “About 70 percent of our customers are not members of the [Seventh-day] Adventist Church, so we have a great mission to serve them as well as our Adventist members.”

The store is located in the Cherry Hill Shopping Center in Silver Spring. It’s open at normal shopping center hours, except for Friday evenings and Saturdays. “We want to witness to our beliefs in every way,” says Netteburg, “Even our closed store—as we keep the Sabbath—is a witness to our beliefs.”

Netteburg retired as pastor of Potomac Conference’s Beltsville (Md.) church on June 30. “My retirement didn’t seem to take very well,” he jokes. “I love to serve and saw the great opportunities we have to connect people with the Adventist Church.”
First Highland View Academy STEMfest Draws 400

October 29, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Chesapeake Conference, Education

First STEMfest Draws 400

Story by Lori Zerne

Chesapeake Conference’s Highland View Academy’s (HVA) first STEMfest drew nearly 400 people to the school, located in Hagerstown. The HVA Highlanders kicked off the event singing the national anthem, followed by Malcolm Hutchinson, principal, and Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president and school board chairman, providing a short welcome. Ophelia Barizo, vice principal for advancement and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), introduced the keynote speaker, Sohi Rastegar, who is the director of the office of emerging frontiers in research and innovation at the National Science Foundation, Engineering Directorate (Va.). He spoke about the importance of STEM, especially engineering, as well the integration of art and STEM and the relationship between religion and science.

More than 20 federal and private STEM organizations sent staff to lead interactive activities for students or donated educational materials to give to attendees.

Participating organizations included:

- NASA
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Genome Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Koshland Museum
- Mycological Association of Washington, D.C
- and STEM departments of various colleges and universities, including Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

Four Einstein Fellows volunteered with their respective agencies, NASA and the NSF. The HVA STEM department hosted 10 interactive stations where participants made slime and silly putty, performed chemical reactions, built bridges and structures with various materials, built robots and tested solar robots, and manipulated microcontrollers to do fun things. Steve Gatz, assistant boys dean, also brought out snakes, chameleons and other lizards, and a huge 16-foot python. The HVA gymnasium was abuzz with excitement as students engaged in hands-on learning and discovery, say administrators.

Pictured in the feature photograph: Tyler Messam ('15) holds a baby python. Photo credit: Danny Barizo
Along with the spiritual, local pastor also seeing to the physical needs of area residents

By Bruce Justice News Editor

Jim Buchanan serves as pastor for both the Williamson and Logan Seventh Day Adventist Church congregations. And, as pastor, each year he spends a great deal of his time making certain the spiritual health of his parishioners remains uncompromised and defended against worldly ills.

Like all ministers, Buchanan teaches his parishioners that the only way anyone can successfully ward off worldly ills is by feeding the spiritual body with the Word of God.

Because he also believes people can similarly ward off ills to the physical body by feeding it with those natural foods God has provided in their purest form, he additionally spends a great deal of his time each year teaching his parishioners — and anyone else who will listen to what he has to say — how to prepare and eat those natural foods.

This is why he and his wife, Elaine, find an adequate classroom at least two times a year and instruct people in the finer points of healthier eating. It's also why the couple was at the Williamson Fire Department Monday evening conducting one of their healthy-cooking classes.

The Buchanans jointly say the healthiest foods are those that exclude meat, dairy products, and unnecessary sugar. In other words, the healthiest lifestyle one can adopt is that of a vegetarian, or vegan, something they say they concluded and incorporated into their lives 16 years ago.

"We simply decided 16 years ago to make a lifestyle change," Jim said. "And the reason we did is because we became convinced that a health-plant diet is conducive to fighting many diseases, including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and even depression.

"In fact, we also conduct a depression program which is based on a vegetable diet, as well as a smoking cessation class that's been very successful for those folks who really want to quit smoking," he continued.

While demonstrating to Monday evening's class the ease of preparing a dish called "tofu scrambler," which his students say is a surprisingly tasty substitute for scrambled eggs, Jim related his own past unhealthy eating habits; unhealthy eating habits, he added, that were leading him down the path to ill health at best and possibly early death at worst.

"I love eggs, and there was a time when it wasn't unusual at all for me to eat six eggs and a pound of bacon at one breakfast sitting," he told the class. "I thought if it tasted good you ate it and didn't think much more about it.

"But I came to understand what that was doing to my body and I changed it. You will find that it's not that difficult at all to give those types of foods up when you learn how to prepare really good and healthy alternatives like (tofu scrambler)."

Elaine, who demonstrated how with just a few simple ingredients one can also easily satisfy his or her sweet tooth, said one misconception about the vegetarian diet is that flavorsome desserts are doomed to fall by the wayside.

"No question you want to cut out all the cholesterol and sugar from your desserts as you possibly can," she said.

"But by using ingredients like dairy free carob chips instead of traditional chocolate chips, which really are bitter unless they're loaded with sugar, as well as honey, wheat flour, smooth peanut butter, and a few other ingredients, you can make really tasty desserts like peanut butter carob-chip cookies. Actually, you'd be surprised how something
healthy can also be very good."

The Buchanans, who currently live at Pecks Mill near Logan, say there are myriad vegetarian dishes and desserts that anyone can prepare and rather easily incorporate into his or her daily diet. Aside from the tofu scrambler dish and the peanut butter carob-chip cookies, other dishes and desserts include award-winning "spare ribs," sun-dried tomato spaghetti, and garbanzo pie with vegan cream cheese frosting.

Jim said he has met with health officials at the Mingo County Diabetes Coalition, and that both he and that organization anticipate working closely together to meet the ultimate goal of making all Mingo Countians healthier.

The couple says they expect to hold their next cooking class sometime in the spring.
Allegheny East Conference’s Miracle Temple church in Baltimore recently partnered with The Arc Baltimore to offer a quarterly respite care program known as Parent’s Day Out.

Story by Jania Matthews
Photos by David Turner

Allegheny East Conference’s Miracle Temple church in Baltimore recently partnered with The Arc Baltimore to offer a quarterly respite care program known as Parent’s Day Out. Their program is structured after PURE Ministries—a nationwide ministry with a vision to help churches demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to all people in need—and is designed to give families that have children with special needs a much-needed break. Even more appealing, they welcome siblings.

“God placed this ministry in my spirit,” says Marlon Blocker, the Miracle Temple member who introduced the PURE Ministries concept to Miracle Temple. “When God gives you a task, things come together and this ministry is an example of God’s work coming to light.”

Parents Day Out is designed to give parents and caregivers of children with mental and physical disabilities a break from their daily routines. Parents have the assurance that they are leaving their children in safe, capable hands. Ministry volunteers undergo special training on how to care for children. While not required, most volunteers are current and former teachers.

“How refreshing and magnificent [an] experience it was to have three hours to myself!” said parent Janet Hamilton, who took advantage of the program. “The new faces and environment was exceptionally beneficial for our daughter.”

Parents Day Out will take place the second Sunday of each quarter from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The upcoming 2015 dates are January 11, April 12, July 12 and October 11. For more information about volunteering or registering children for the next event, contact Blocker at mtpure_ministries@miracletemple.net.
Miracle Temple members have a good time with the children who attended their first Parent's Day Out program.
In Jamaica, two Adventists receive national honors

Alfonso Marshall, an elder at the Trench Town Adventist Church, was awarded the Badge of Honor for Meritorious Service for his service in the field of road maintenance and construction. Audrey Sewell, an elder at the North Street Adventist Church in Kingston, was also conferred the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander.

Sewell, Marshall awarded during Presentation of National Honours & Awards

October 29, 2014 | Kingston, Jamaica | Fabia Phillips-Lawrence/JAMU/IAD

Two Seventh-day Adventists in Jamaica were conferred and awarded with national honors during a ceremony held on the lawn of Kings House on National Heroes Day on October 20.

Audrey Sewell, an elder at the North Street Adventist Church in Kingston, was conferred with the nation’s sixth highest honor, the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander, for her outstanding contribution to public service in the areas of justice, education, transport, works and housing. She serves Jamaica as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing.

Alfonso Marshall, an elder at the Trench Town Adventist Church, was awarded the Badge of Honor for Meritorious Service for his service in the field of road maintenance and construction. He works for the National Works Agency, the government’s road construction agency.

Adventist President in Jamaica Pastor Everett Brown commended both recipients on their achievements.

"I am always very happy when members of our church excel in service to our nation," Brown said. "Audrey Sewell and Alfonso Marshall are members who have for years served our church and the communities in which our church operates, with distinction. It is only fitting that their Christian values through their work with the government has impacted the nation. I commend and congratulate them on behalf of the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jamaica."

Sewell said it was an “honor” for the country to recognize her service.

"I know that there are many outstanding Jamaicans in the past and in my group who have been so awarded, and I even deem it much more an honor to join the ranks of those very outstanding Jamaicans who have made contributions to national development," Sewell said.

"I attribute my success in life to the leading of the Lord, and consider my work to be a Ministry so wherever the Lord places me I give of my best," Sewell added.

In his response on being recognized nationally, Marshall said, "I feel gratified, humbled and very good in my mind knowing that the government and people of Jamaica have seen it fit to award me."
Lowell Cooper, an Adventist world church vice president, commended the work of Adventists in government.

“There is a subtle temptation for the followers of Jesus to retreat from the world since the spiritual life is in such contrast to worldly values and behaviors,” said Cooper, “but society and its structures can be transformed by the influence of people who bring spiritual values to their roles in public life. The Bible stories of Joseph and Daniel illustrate how devotion to God can have an enormous impact for the good of a community and a nation.”

A total of 233 Jamaicans were recognized for their outstanding contribution to nation-building through services in various fields. The awards ranged from the Order of Jamaica to the Medal of Honor. The ceremony was presided over by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen, a Seventh-day Adventist, who presented each of the honors and awards.
October 29, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Chesapeake Conference

Get a behind the scenes look at Voice of Prophecy's Christmas special featuring Spencerville Adventist Academy. It will air on ABC Television Network stations around the country on Christmas Eve!

Story by Adventist Review staff

Teams from U.S. television network ABC and the Voice of Prophecy descended on the Spencerville Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, on a recent evening to record a special Christmas program that will be broadcast across the United States on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

The television program, directed and produced by the Voice of Prophecy, an Adventist media ministry, has the theme “Peace on Earth” and features a message by Voice of Prophecy speaker and director Shawn Boonstra, the North American Division says.

“The gift of peace is the very best gift that we can share with our friends and family this year,” the division said in a statement.

Music is performed by the King’s Heralds Quartet; international vocalist Christine Wollmann, and Spencerville Adventist Academy’s Adventist Children’s Choir under the direction of Jane Lanning.

Broadcast times for the annual Christmas program are to be listed on ABC television’s website in November.