March 4, 2015

Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

March Feature: The Educational Shift

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Seventh-day Adventist education in North America is facing some big challenges. In many schools, enrollment is down and costs are up. The aging of Adventist church members means that fewer have school-age children to send to Adventist schools. A cultural shift means that parents are less likely to send their children to boarding academy. These and other factors are believed to be why 170 Adventist schools in the North American Division (NAD) have been forced to close their doors in the past 10 years.

As the Adventist educational system faces these challenges, leaders look to the past to determine a best path forward.—Alita Byrd

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For Seventh-day Adventists, fasting is believed to be one of the spiritual disciplines, yet one we might practice less frequently. With so many new suggestions and approaches on how to do it, what are some of the best methods? And, how does the practice benefit us?—Sherry English

**Editorial: Laying a Strong Foundation**
The early years are extremely important because new experiences impact the building blocks of the developing brain. Christian education provides such learning opportunities at each stage, from infancy to adulthood. When we as parents and educators ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, the next generation will pay that investment back through a lifetime of productivity and trustworthy citizenship. Healthy child development is critical to the establishment of our education system, which is the bedrock of a successful nation.—Evelyn Sullivan

**Video: Prayer + Fasting**

What happens when you add fasting to your prayers? Does it make you eligible for bonus blessings? Watch this video to hear from Miracle Temple church members in Baltimore, who share what they experienced when they tried this ancient discipline.

**More Stories**

*Catastasis Coming*

*Profession Projection*
As the Adventist educational system faces challenges, leaders look to the past to determine a best path forward.

Read the March Bulletin Board

Visitor Hosts Chat About Important GC Session Vote
Ebenezer Church Hosts 50 Congolese Refugees

Michelle Bernard

**Ebenezer Church Hosts 50 Congolese Refugees**

**Story by Robert Booker**

After receiving a call for help from the Nationalities Service Center (NSC), an agency that assists the United States government in resettling refugees, the Ebenezer church in Philadelphia responded by welcoming 50 Congolese refugees. The refugees had requested they be connected to a Seventh-day Adventist church before they left. The NSC located and contacted the closest Adventist church to their new home in Philadelphia—Ebenezer.

Ebenezer is responsible for providing for the spiritual needs of the Congolese. To accomplish this goal, the church purchased translation equipment, transmitters and earphones to translate the services to Kiswahili, which many of the refugees can understand, even though it is not their native tongue. Members also secured the services of a man who speaks Kinyarwanda, the native tongue of the Congolese, and obtained Sabbath School lessons in Kinyarwanda. The church also plans to start English as a Second Language classes for the refugees.

Even with the language challenges, the families are becoming actively involved in various church activities. The Congolese children participate in various Children’s Ministries activities and sing with the children’s choir.

Crystal Drake, wife of Pastor Charles Drake, is spearheading the efforts, along with the support of her husband and church members. “The church has rallied around these families. They have given so much in clothing and household goods until we had to ask them to stop,” she says. The church also provides school uniforms and holds job-training seminars for the group.
Kettering Adventist HealthCare Ranked First in Ohio for Medical Excellence in Orthopedic Care

Michelle Bernard

*Kettering Adventist HealthCare has been recognized as number one in Ohio and fourth in the nation for medical excellence in Orthopedic Care in 2015 by CareChex, a division of Comparion Medical Analytics, one of the nation’s largest privately held healthcare information services companies. CareChex also recognized Kettering Medical Center as number one in the state for medical excellence in Major Cardiac Surgery and Trauma.*

.story by Elizabeth Long, Kettering Adventist HealthCare

CareChex provides clinical, financial and patient satisfaction findings to consumers, providers and purchasers of U.S. medical care.

The medical excellence award is an overall measure of quality that encompasses performance across risk-adjusted mortality rates, risk-adjusted complication rates, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) inpatient quality indicators, AHRQ patient safety indicators, core measures and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) patient satisfaction scores.

“Kettering Adventist HealthCare is committed to providing high standards of quality care to each patient,” says Teri Sholder, chief quality officer for Kettering Health Network. “Independent quality evaluations conducted by CareChex, demonstrate we are achieving our goal, especially when you take into account that CareChex’s multi-dimensional methodology looks at all three components of medical quality – process of care, patient outcomes of care and patient satisfaction.”

Kettering Adventist HealthCare is a faith-based, not-for-profit healthcare system that improves quality of life through healthcare and education. The Network has eight hospitals: Grandview, Kettering, Sycamore, Southview, Greene Memorial, Fort Hamilton, Kettering Behavioral Health and Soin. Kettering, Grandview, Southview, Greene Memorial and Fort Hamilton are ranked as U.S. News & World Report Best Regional Hospitals. Kettering is recognized as a Truven Health Analytics 100 Top Hospital, and a Truven Health Analytics 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospital.
Spencerville Church Raises $15,000 for Hospital in Africa

Michelle Bernard

**Spencerville Church Raises $15,000 for Hospital in Africa**

*Story by Charlotte Pedersen McClure*

Some 10 years ago, members of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md., “adopted” the Maluti Adventist Hospital. Sitting in the tiny country of Lesotho and completely wrapped by South Africa, the hospital provides the usual medical services: prenatal care, surgery, an eye clinic and a school of nursing. The patients are nearly always poor, sometimes walking the mountainous region for several hours to receive needed medical assistance. Still it stands as a beacon of hope in the community.

Spencerville members recently opened their hearts and wallets again to benefit the hospital, which desperately needed a pediatric incubator, oxygen generator and upgrades to the laundry. While a $10,000 goal may not seem like a huge amount, members gave more than $15,000. In the past Spencerville provided a furnace for a hospital ward and a new commercial washer, along with smaller gifts.

Hope for Humanity, a ministry of the North American Division, also sponsors Maluti Adventist Hospital. Maitland Di Pinto, an involved elder at Spencerville church, directs the ministry.

A young patient relaxes at Maluti Adventist Hospital.
Two Mountain View Members Become Centenarians

Michelle Bernard

Two Mountain View Conference members recently celebrated their 100th birthdays!
Story by Valerie Morikone

Mary Mooring (left) was born in Wayne County, West Virginia, as the youngest of 12 children. She worked at the Kerr Glass Manufacturing Company for 28 years, among other jobs, and joined the Adventist Church when she was 77. She shares that her happy, healthy life is a gift from God. “The Lord has helped me more than anything,” she shares. Mooring is a member of East Pea Ridge church in Huntington, W.Va.

Mary Jane Carr (right) grew up working on a farm and loves to garden. Carr was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at age 59 and obtained her drivers license in her 60s. For several years, she was an eager participant in the conference’s annual Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days program. Carr is a member of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) church.
Longtime New Market (Va.) church member Silas Still Sr. recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Silas has been a deacon and member of the Potomac Conference church since 1952, and is the oldest member to ever hold membership there.

As a result of a 1947 revival meeting in Olean, N.Y., Still and his family were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Wanting his children to have a Christian education, Silas accepted a call to be dairy manager at Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., in 1952. He retired from denominational work after 28 years of service, 24 of those at Shenandoah Valley Academy in the dairy and as a bindery salesman.

Silas still enjoys visits from former students, faculty and alumni of Shenandoah Valley Academy.
Let’s Keep Talkin’: Join the Visitor Chat With Young Adults Feb. 24

Michelle Bernard

Better engaging young adults in the church mission work is one of the six priorities of the Columbia Union Conference under the direction of Dave Weigley, president. To that end, the union established a Young Adult Advisory Subcommittee and, last spring, the union executive committee voted to approve the subcommittee’s recommendation that all eight conferences have at least one young adult on their executive committee. The union also created the REACH Columbia Union School of Evangelism, which opens in Philadelphia this spring, where young adults will learn how to become active disciples of Christ.

Join members of the union subcommittee, some of the young adults included in our February Underscore and other Young Adult and Youth Ministries leaders around the division to further chat about Millennials in the church. Go to facebook.com/columbiaunionvisitor, February 24, at noon.

Read these articles from the February 2015 Visitor!

- February Feature: The Prayer Frequency
- Artículo principal de Visitor: Frecuencia oración
- Underscore: What do Young Adults say About Millennials Leaving the Church? Do They Have Solutions?
  Editorial: Music Can Change the World
- Let’s Keep Talkin’: Join the Visitor chat with Young Adults February 24
- Washington Adventist University and REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School Sign Agreement to Jointly Provide Urban Ministry Training
- WAU, La Escuela de la Union Firma el Acuerdo
Community Church Christmas Play Yields 22 Baptisms

Michelle Bernard

**Community Church Christmas Play Yields 22 Baptisms**

*Story by Yvette McNaught*

Twenty-two people, mostly youth, expressed their desire to be baptized when Pastor Ivor Keizer made an appeal after a Christmas play at the Community church in Englewood, N.J.

"I had a desire in my heart to give everyone an opportunity to end 2014 right with God and begin 2015 with a renewed desire for the kingdom," shares Keizer.

Upon baptism, the church assigned each of the 22 members a “church parent” to help nurture them in their spiritual journey. "Much like a newborn baby has parents who nurture and provide love to their child, the church parent will provide support and be there for their newly adopted member," explains Keizer.

This marked one of the largest baptisms in Community’s recent history.

*Caption: Twenty-two new members rejoice after their baptisms. Photograph by Roy Daniel.*
**Bulletin Board**

March 2015 Bulletin Board

**Employment**

RN LIVE-IN POSITION: Elternhaus, a Seventh-day Adventist assisted living facility near Columbia, Md., seeks qualified RN to live in 2-4 days per week as house mother. Qualities sought: Mature, patient, nurturing individual with experience in Hospital Med Surg, nursing home or assisted living care assessment. Responsibilities include: 8 hours of patient care, 8 hours delegation/teaching caregivers, 8 hours sleeping on-call. Meet the spiritual and emotional needs through quality time spent with residents providing social interaction, including Bible study and worship services. Call Diane at (410) 707-7071.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology Department seeks full-time, qualified psychology professor, beginning July 1. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant, sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1. Master’s degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources office. Must have some teaching experience. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarien at (817) 202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Communication Department, seeks full-time professor in advertising/public relations or radio/TV to begin July 1. Master’s degree required, doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as nursing department chair beginning fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’S Business Department seeks faculty to begin fall 2015. Master’s degree required, PhD preferred, with emphasis in finance, marketing and accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and provides service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

RADIO STATION MANAGER NEEDED: A new, full-power, commercial, Adventist radio station is in need of a station manager. Submit your resume and wage requirements to: MCBC, 1134 No. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401 or call (970) 856-4948.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply, call (707) 965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

SHARE GOD’S REDEEMING LOVE while teaching Bible and English at Korean Language Institutes: koreanmission.ok@gmail.com or (405) 761-0655.

RECRUITING MID-LEVEL PROVIDERS (NP/PA) for a new Rural Health Clinic/Urgent Care in Weimar, Calif. Opportunities are available to specialize in a number of medical fields. Our urgent needs are mental health, pain management, outpatient surgery and emergency medicine. Contact Randy at (530) 296-4417 or r61@me.com.
Miscellaneous

BUTLER CREEK HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER for diabetes reversal, permanent weight loss and overcoming depression. April 5-17 and May 10-22. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: $975. Register online at butlercreekhealth.org or call (931) 213-1329.

EARLITEEN AND YOUTH: ELLIOTDYLAN.COM for the Undercover Angels book series for Christian teens that builds on biblical principles and reinforces integrity. Great for Sabbath reading, church schools, home schools and gifts! Youth will enjoy these Christian novels filled with action, character-building lessons and Bible truths. Kindle and large print editions available.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many others. Invest in your health and call (800) 634-9355, for more information, or visit wildwoodhealth.com.

ADVENTIST RODDERS CLUB GC MEET-N-GREET: Members and those interested in joining/starting a local chapter, join us for refreshments and car talk, Sunday, July 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave, San Antonio. For more information, email nomadder55@gmail.com. Bring your specialty car.

Real Estate

ROOM FOR RENT: Bedroom and bath available to female for rent in single family home. Kitchen and laundry access. Wireless Internet connection. Location near Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters. Public transportation available. Call (301) 879-3825 for further information.


REAL ESTATE AGENT IN VIRGINIA. For Buyer and Seller. Call: Sarah Kwon, Realtor, ABR, CIPS, CNE, e-PRO. United Real Estate, Reston, Va. (703) 887-8469. Email: dba.sarahkwon@gmail.com

Services

MARYLAND ADVENTIST PODIATRIST: Dr. Scott Nutter, highly trained, experienced and board certified, is available in several locations to help your foot/ankle problems, including arthritis, heel pain, spurs, diabetes, callouses, ingrown nails, sprains, fractures, warts, bunions, etc. Surgery, if it is needed, at Adventist hospitals. Laurel: (301) 317-6800, Greenbelt: (301) 345-5200, or Columbia, Md., (410) 531-6350.

ELTERNHAUS ASSISTED LIVING, owned and operated by Seventh-day Adventists, provides specialized care, in a family setting, for Adventist seniors. Visit us at elternhausalf.com. Elternhaus also offers a great work environment for Adventist caregivers, and RNs. Call Diane Crane 24/7 at (410) 707-7071.

MARYLAND ADVENTIST DENTIST, David Lee, DDS, FAGD, AFAID, has practices located in Silver Spring and Ellicott City, Md. He is extensively trained in implant, cosmetic, TMD/ TMJ, sedation and laser dentistry. Dr. Lee is an
Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, as well as having many other certifications. For appointments, call (410) 461-6655 in Ellicott City, or (301) 649-5001 in Silver Spring. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount on all services, excluding third-party payers. We welcome new patients!

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SINGLE AND OVER 40? The only interracial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay home and meet new friends in the USA, with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO 40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

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RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER? The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Seventh-day Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at (800) 248-8313, or visit us at stevensworldwide.com/sda.


Travel

ADVENTIST TOURS TO ISRAEL AND THAILAND EACH SUMMER! Israel: June 21-30, with authors Andy Nash and William Johnsson, longtime Adventist Review editor. Thailand: July 19-31, with Andy Nash and Thai guides. Affordable and family friendly. Contact: andynash5@gmail.com or facebook.com/tabghatours.

Announcements

Sabbath School and church. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses! Send to: Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net, or call (630) 232-9034. More Information to come. Don’t miss it!

“YE OLDE” CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION will take place June 5-7 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA), Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955 and 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at (989) 427-5181 or visit glaa.net.

2015 SONscreen FILM FESTIVAL, April 2-4, to be held at La Sierra University Campus, Riverside, Calif. Everything you need to know about the festival is on the website, sonscreen.com, including information on submitting a film, registering for the festival and even booking your hotel. Register now!

Obituaries

CULLUM, Gerald L., born June 25, 1926, in Portsmouth, Ohio; died August 28, 2104, in Dayton, Md. He was a member of the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Md. After growing up around Norfolk, Va., he graduated from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, Va., then in 1953 from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He married Helen Kollar in 1945. In 1965 he accepted a call to be secretary/treasurer of the Southeast African Union in Malawi, where the family lived until 1972. They then returned to the United States, where he served for two years in the New York Conference, and then moved back to Maryland to work for the Columbia Union, where he retired in 1991. He and Helen moved to Berkeley Springs, W.Va., where they stayed active in the local church and school. He will be remembered for all the activities he loved, including gardening, woodworking and building, model trains, ham radio, giving Bible studies and preaching an occasional sermon. Above all else, he loved to serve the Lord. He is survived by his two children, Cindy (Jim) Swanson of Laurel, Md., and Greg (Patty) Cullum of Huntingtown, Md.; his grandchildren, Maggie and Jake Swanson and Christopher, Kimberly and Ken Cullum; along with many nieces and nephews.

RUSSELL, Elsie M., born December 29, 1929, in Boulder, Colo.; died August 1, 2014, in Laurel, Md. She was a member of the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Md. Her mission in life was serving youth—Pathfinders especially. She was employed for many years in the General Conference Youth Department and helped write the Adventurer manual. A graduate of Southern Adventist University (Tenn.), she began her career as a secretary at the North Dakota Conference. She is survived by her husband, Don Russell, of Laurel, Md.—married nearly 59 years; her daughter, Kathy Comeau of Beltsville, Md.; her sons, Rick Russell of Charlotte, N.C., Jerry Russell of Bonney Lake, Wash., and Don Russell, Jr., of Naperville, Ill., their spouses and 10 grandchildren.

SHIRES, Norma D'Sena, born October 28, 1932, in Ajmer, Rajasthan, India; died September 7, 2014, at her home in Silver Spring, Md. She graduated from Spicer College and then received her RN at Gifford Memorial Hospital in South India. It was at Spicer College that she met Reginald Shires, then preparing for the ministry in South Indian English churches. After their marriage in 1957, they served Adventist churches in Madras, Vishakhapatnam and Hubli. In 1959 they were called to join the staff at Raymond Memorial Higher Secondary School at Falakata, down from Bhutan. Norma served as nurse and taught home science and physiology, and cared for village people near the school. The Leopard’s Call: An Anglo-Indian Love Story is a book that tells the story of her life in this beautiful area, within reach of the jungle. In 1965 the Shires were called to the Pennsylvania Conference to work at the Lewistown and Mifflintown churches. They also led the Reading Hampden Boulevard and Allentown churches, and helped start the State College church. Their next call was to Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park. In all this work, Norma gave fully of her time and talent, singing at all the evangelistic meetings and teaching Sabbath School classes. She was also often invited to speak at churches of other denominations. Norma is survived by her husband and four children: Juanita, Michael, Donn and Robert.
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North Philly pastor joins mayor's race

BY DAN GERINGER & WILLIAM BENDER, Daily News Staff Writers geringd@phillynews.com, 215-854-5961

He was standing, purposefully, in front of an old building that his congregation is turning into 26 apartments and an 8,000-square-foot community-services center.

Last year, Goodman led funeral services for the mother and three children fatally run over by two violent carjackers who lost control of their stolen vehicle.

Goodman told the *Daily News* that one carjacker "wasn't a career criminal, just a kid making stupid choices to hook up with a hardened criminal."

Goodman wondered if that kid could've been saved years earlier. "When you close schools and libraries and take away constructive options, kids get into trouble between 3 and 7 p.m.," he said.

"It's the old story about the ambulance and the fence," he said. "A guy notices that people keep driving off a cliff. Some people say, 'Let's get an ambulance.' The guy says, 'Let's build a guardrail.' "

Goodman wants to be the mayor who proactively builds the guardrail to prevent people from driving off the cliff.

He will be one of four black candidates in the race, joining state Sen. Anthony Williams, former PGW spokesman Doug Oliver and former state Sen. T. Milton Street, who plans to officially launch his campaign tomorrow.

"The more the merrier," said Williams' spokesman, Al Butler. "That always makes for a stronger debate, and the people always win with a stronger debate."

Butler rejected the conventional wisdom that the mayor's race will be decided based on race and that Goodman would siphon off votes that might otherwise go to Williams in the May 19 primary.

"When you boil the race down to a simple equation of racial math, that kind of sells the electorate short," Butler said. "I've seen African-Americans vote for white candidates and whites vote for African-American candidates."

Other mayoral candidates are former District Attorney Lynne Abraham and former Councilman Jim Kenney, who are white, and former Common Pleas Judge Nelson Diaz, who is Puerto Rican.

Goodman's candidacy may turn out to be more about residency than race.

He lived in Philadelphia from 1999 to 2003, then lived in Chester until returning to Philadelphia a month ago.

He has been a pastor at his North Philadelphia church for nine years but commuted from Chester most of that time.

The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter states that "the Mayor shall have been a resident of the City for at least three years preceding his election."

Goodman said it doesn't state that the three years must be immediately preceding the election. But he could face a residency challenge to his candidacy.

On Twitter: @DanGeringer
Conference Ordains First Indian-American Woman

Web Editor

Conference Ordains First Indian-American Woman
Story by Tiffany Doss

“In the back of the Takoma Academy chapel, I gave my life to the Lord," said Pranitha Fielder at her ordination ceremony. “I felt like I finally belonged and in that moment, I felt for the rest of my life like I needed to help other people feel like they belonged. It was at 14 that I knew that this is what I would be doing for the rest of my life.”

At the beginning of the year, Fielder transitioned from youth and children’s pastor of Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., to Sligo’s associate pastor of discipleship and congregation care. Sligo has a history of ordaining women, including the first ordination of a female elder, Josephine Benton, in 1973, who was in attendance for Fielder’s ordination. In 2012 Benton, now 89, received emeritus ordained minister credentials during a special constituency session in which the Columbia Union voted to ordain without regard to gender.

“The greatest responsibility that a church has is to recognize the calling of someone to ministry,” says Bill Miller, conference president, during the homily of Fielder’s ordination. “So, here we are today to celebrate what only God can do. It’s His responsibility to call; it’s our responsibility to affirm. God has called you, Pranitha, and the church celebrates, for God's salvation story will have a special chapter written just by you.”

Fielder was born in India to Jaya and Jasmine Pilli and is the first ordained Indian-American woman in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.
Video: WGTS Changes Hearts and Lives of Listeners

Michelle Bernard

Did you know WGTS 91.9 FM hosts a weekly worship service, concerts and even holds meetings in a local pub? Watch this month’s Columbia Union Story to see how the many ministries of Washington Adventist University’s radio station are changing hearts and lives.

Read these articles from the February 2015 *Visitor*!

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Volunteers from People Animals Love (PAL) Recognized at Adventist Behavioral Health & Wellness

Michelle Bernard

Story by Adventist HealthCare Staff

Volunteers from People Animals Love (PAL) were recently recognized for their work with patients and residents at Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services in Rockville. For more than 13 years, PAL volunteers have been bringing in therapy dogs to help patients who are feeling anxious or depressed. Studies have shown that the pet therapy can help to calm and soothe patients and bring comfort in a number of healthcare treatment settings, including behavioral health treatment.

The PAL volunteers were invited to an on-site luncheon, where they were thanked for their work and given small gifts of appreciation from Expressive Therapy staff.