

January 2008

Please forward this newsletter and/or print out copies for your local church bulletin board and for distribution.

### **A call to prayer**

Pastor Sedley Johnson, Chesapeake's coordinator for Prayer Ministries, sends a word of encouragement to all Chesapeake institutions to begin 2008 with some type of emphasis on prayer. He also wishes to alert our churches that plans are underway for another Chesapeake-wide prayer conference.

**We will soon say goodbye** to Will and Claire Eva as they move to their retirement home in Arizona the end of this month. The Eva's have been an important part of the church and school life at Spencerville for a number of years. Claire served as a teacher at Spencerville "Junior" Academy and later as a secretary in the conference office. Will has been an associate pastor at Spencerville for the past three years. Both have carried significant positions of leadership at every level of the church organization and have made outstanding contributions to the Lord's work. Elder Eva will preach his last sermon at Spencerville on January 19. Chesapeake will miss their influence and wishes them all the best in their new experience!

**The Executive Committee** at its December 11 meeting took several actions resulting in the following district alignments and pastoral placements:

~ voted to align the Aberdeen and Wilna churches in a new district relationship and to place the Dundalk church in a district relationship with a new church planting project to take place this spring in the north/northeast area of Baltimore. Aberdeen was formerly in a district with Dundalk while Wilna was in a district with Blythedale.

~ Elder Sedley Johnson was asked to remain at Dundalk and take on the challenge of the new church planting project. It was voted, however, to delay the planting project for a few months so Elder Johnson could give assistance to Elder Roosevelt Marsden at the Pikesville International church. Elder Marsden's wife Sharon is in the final stages of her four year long battle with ALS and the conference committee wanted to provide some measure of relief for him during this most difficult time.

~ Elder Tom LeBlanc, pastor of the Baltimore White Marsh church, has been asked to take over the leadership of the Aberdeen and Wilna district and he has accepted the invitation. Tom has served at White Marsh for nearly ten years. Tom and Rose live just five minutes from the Wilna church so the transition will prove to be an easy one on the personal level. Yet it is always difficult to say farewell to a congregation you love. We appreciate the LeBlancs's interest in taking on a new challenge. Elder LeBlanc will start in his new district on February 2.

~ voted to ask Elder Edemilson (Jimmy) Cardoso to serve as the pastor of the Capital Brazilian church in Fulton, Md. He currently serves as a pastor in the Florida conference. Elder Cardoso is a highly sought-after speaker and seminar presenter. He also has a very good track record at growing churches. He will meet with the congregation on January 12 but will be unable to take on his new responsibilities completely until the Spring due to previous commitments at home and abroad. Jimmy and his wife, Ruth, have four children. This looks like a very good fit for our Brazilian church – a young dynamic congregation with great potential.

~ three groups that made application for company status have been approved. The Spanish group in Annapolis was organized on December 22 with 41 signing on to be involved. It becomes a part of the district that includes the Washington-Spencerville Spanish church and the Laurel Maranatha Spanish company. Pastor Juan Carlos Sicalo is the district pastor. The Faith Step group in downtown Hagerstown will be organized in the very near future and is sponsored by the Hagerstown church where Rick Remmers is the senior pastor. The Spanish group that has been functioning as a ministry within the Frederick church was also approved for company status and plans are underway for that organizational meeting. It is already in a district relationship with the Hagerstown Spanish company and Elder Luis Humberto Orjuela is taking over the district leadership.

~ voted to ask Marcos Schwantes, part time pastor of the Salisbury Spanish company, to add to his responsibilities the oversight of the Spanish group currently meeting in the Seaford (DE) church.

~ voted to approve the request of the Atholton church to conduct a Mission Trip to Puerto Rico the last week of June.

## Youth Ministries Update

~ The Annual Family Ski Day is scheduled for this coming Sunday, January 6, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Boulder Ski Area in Blakeslee, PA. Information packets have been sent to all of the churches.

~ The Honduras Mission Trips to Santa Barbara are scheduled as follows:

Academy students – March 23-30

High School Age (14-18 years old) – July 10-20

College / Adult (18 years and older) – August 3-15

Elder Vladimir Corea is the trip coordinator and for any questions you can contact him at 301-573-0271. The initial payment of \$200 is due with the application (all trips) and two additional payments of \$500 are due on December 15 and February 15 (March trip) and April 15 and June 1 (July & August trips).

~ The 2008 Summer Camp schedule for Mt. Aetna Camp has been published as follows:

Adventurer	7-10 year olds	June 22-29
Junior Camp I	10-12 year olds	June 29 – July 6
Junior Camp II	10-12 year olds	July 6-13
Tween Camp I	12-14 year olds	July 13-20
Tween Camp II	12-14 year olds	July 20-27
Teen Camp	13-16 year olds	July 27 – August 3

~ All Teen Outpost Camps for 13-17 year olds are the week of June 22-29 and include Water-skiing, Cowboy, Golf, and Outdoor Extreme camps.

~ C.I.T. Camps (Counselors in Training) for 15-17 year olds correspond with Adventurer and Junior Camp dates.

For additional information check out the camp website at [www.mtaetnacamp.com](http://www.mtaetnacamp.com).

**The 2008 Visitor Calendar** that you received in the mail recently did not include a listing of any of Chesapeake's conference wide events. Those of you who are concerned about the non-mention of camp meeting can be assured that there will be a gathering of the saints at Highland View Academy culminating the Saturday evening before Father's Day. The exact details are being finalized this month.

**Former Chesapeake youth pastor** Jason Brooks, and his family, have now settled in Niamey, Niger in West Africa where Jason is Country Director for ADRA Niger. Friends can keep in touch with the Brook's via the world-wide web by visiting [www.5nomads.blogspot.com](http://www.5nomads.blogspot.com).

**The Currents mailing list** is in need of revision. If your church is not getting the Currents delivered electronically it may be due to an inaccurate email address for the contact person. Any corrections or additions should be sent to Millie Maplesden at [mmaplesden@ccosda.org](mailto:mmaplesden@ccosda.org).

**The Chesapeake Conference website** is nearing completion. Conference staff members will be in-serviced the middle of January on how to import information into their particular sections on the site. We expect it will take a few months to work out the bugs before it becomes a valuable communication tool for our constituents and employees.

**Year-end reports** by local clerks and treasurers are needed as soon as possible to enable the conference to wrap up details from 2007 and finalize budget issues for 2008. Since our budget is based upon a percentage of the previous years' income we cannot finalize the numbers for the coming year until we close the books on 2007. Conference treasurer, Ramon Chow, reports that there are a number of challenges he is facing as he wrestles with the numbers for the new budget. Insurance cost – both medical and building/liability coverage – continue to show significant increases. Contributions to the old defined benefit retirement plan are going up approximately \$125,000 while the annual COL adjustment on salaries will go up 2.8% beginning in July. Added to that is the area housing assistance segment of the salary package that will bring an increase in expense as well. Since nearly 80% of our retained tithe is budgeted for salary expense it will put extra pressure on both the conference budget and local school budgets. And for the first time in many years the 2008 budget may be built on more than 100% (by a percent or two) of the previous year's income – which assumes we will have a positive gain in tithe income in 2008 and that we will live within the budget. Needless to say we are living in challenging times. Our tithe gain through November 2007 was about 3.25% but final budget decisions will not be made by the Executive Committee until the December figures are in.