

April 2008

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

We are sad to report that Allen Duncan lost his battle with Leukemia the end of March. His funeral was conducted March 31 at the New Hope church in Fulton, Md. Allen was married to Wanda Adams Duncan who taught at several of our schools before setting aside her teaching ministry to start a family. Please remember this family in your prayers!

We welcome back to their responsibilities:

~ Elder Roosevelt Marsden, pastor of the Pikesville International church, after a time of rest and recuperation following the loss of his wife in early January. He is back full-time as of April 12.

~ Carole Smith, Chesapeake's Superintendent of Schools, following her recovery from gall bladder surgery on March 27. She returns to her duties as of Monday, April 7.

The Conference Office team has said "farewell" to another valued member as Jennifer Stefan has said "goodbye" to her work in the treasury department. Jen, and her husband Duane, are expecting twin boys in late June and Jen's doctor has suggested she observe "bed rest" during her last trimester. Jen was a valuable member of this staff. The professionalism and competency with which she approached her work set an example for all of us. We wish God's choice blessings on her new career as a mother. And while we are sad to lose Jen, we are pleased to announce that Pam Strahle (pronounced "Stray-Lee") has assumed Jen's position. Pam comes to the office after 17 years in the front office of Spencerville Adventist Academy where she handled a number of responsibilities from clerical to book keeping. Pam will be greatly appreciated for her gracious manner, dedication and skills. Make her feel welcomed when you call!

Highland View Academy presents the *Third Annual Gospel Fest* on Friday evening, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland View church. You are invited to hear the HVA Gospel Choir and various guest artists in this annual concert that should prove to be a special time of praise and worship. For more information please contact Adam Frazier at 301-416-4740 or Sherry Hostetler at 301-655-6679.

Special Broadcasts/Materials that may interest your church:

~ NET 2008 special broadcast on April 15 & 19 to introduce *Discoveries '08* with Mark Finley – this broadcast will help people understand what to expect when the NET series begins in the fall. Church members, pastors, and leaders are urged to watch this live program with Pastor Finley to learn how they can benefit from the brand new evangelistic approaches that *Discoveries '08* will feature. There will be inspiring music and dynamic preaching suitable for a Sabbath church service or afternoon viewing by members. Contact: www.hopetv.org/evangelism to register for this introductory program.

~ Just released: "*Empowered by the Spirit*," Adventist Preaching, Vol. 20 – This is Mark Finley's 5-part revival series for churches that plan to participate in the NET 2008, *Discoveries '08*. Contact: www.acn.info or www.adventsource.org or call 800-328-0525 to order. The 2-DVD set runs \$24.95 +s/h. The set is free to all sites that register for the fall series by June 1.

~ *The Passionate Preacher* will air live on April 22 on the Hope Channel between 1 and 4:30 pm. This PREACH seminar via satellite is an initiative of the GC Ministerial Association and offers clergy of all denominations the opportunity for professional growth, dialogues, practical sharing, and fellowship. Several Chesapeake pastors host downlink sites and invited area members of the clergy to attend the seminar. For more information contact: www.ministerialassociation.com/preach. PREACH is an acronym for Program for Reaching Every Active Clergy Home and has been an outreach initiative of the GC Ministerial Association for many years. It also sponsors Ministry Magazine to thousands of non-Adventist clergy.

Chesapeake's chapter of Adventist Single Adult Single Ministries presents its annual Spring Retreat the weekend of April 26 at Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center. Featured guests for the weekend are Gaspar and May-Ellen Colon and Andrea Hicks. Gaspar teaches theology at Columbia Union College and for a six month period served as the college's interim president. May-Ellen is an Assistant Director of the General Conference Sabbath

School and Personal Ministries Department and Director of Adventist Community Services International. Andrea is a Quality Assurance Software Engineer for a Digital Radiography company in New York and serves as the Coordinator of Adventist Single Adult Ministries for the North American Division. For more information on fees and registration procedures contact Fred Thomas at asamchesapeake@yahoo.com or 410-992-9731 or check out the website www.asamchesapeake.com.

The Pathfinder Bible Achievement conference level finals at Atholton on March 15 sent five teams on to the Union level – Baltimore White Marsh 1 & 2, Spencerville, Triadelphia and Williamsport. The Union level finals at Highland View church were held March 29 with Spencerville and Triadelphia advancing to the Division finals at Andrews University on April 19. Congratulations to all our Pathfinders and their leaders for their participation and strong showing!

The Conference Executive Committee at its last meeting took the following actions:

~ voted, to proceed with a planned renovation project at Highland View Academy and to partner with HVA and a private foundation to see some major capital maintenance issues addressed and to do significant renovations within the dormitories. The scope of the renovation project may reach \$750,000 and the Executive Committee pledged \$250,000 toward the project. The funding comes from trust monies in hand from Chesapeake Advance (CAP) and a designated maturity. The academy has pledged an equal amount with \$100,000 coming from their reserves, an additional \$100,000 from an interested donor with the balance to be raised from their donor pool. Work continues on the proposal to the foundation and we expect word soon as to the level of involvement the foundation will make.

~ voted, to not hold our traditional camp meeting at HVA in June but to provide a series of single-day convocations in various areas within the conference. Already plans are being finalized for a Spanish convocation at Mt. Aetna Camp and Retreat Center for the weekend of June 7. And program details are taking shape for a convocation on September 20 that will be held at the Hagerstown Community College (morning services) and at HVA (afternoon and evening). On that Sabbath our featured speaker will be Elder Ron Halverson and our musical guests will be the gospel ministry group of Ponder, Harp and Jennings. The annual convocation on the Shore is scheduled for October 11 and will have Anthony Kent, Associate Director of the GC Ministerial Association, as our keynote speaker. Musical guests for that day are in the process of being finalized. Dates and venues are being considered for 2008 to expand the sphere of influence these convocations can have in all areas of our conference. And while the convocations might be held in a particular region of the conference, they will be open to any and all of our members. The only exception to that rule is a convocation that may be planned for young adults between the age of 18 and 35.

~ voted, to call Patrick Morrison, from Southern New England, to serve as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care of the Spencerville church. Elder Morrison and his wife, Jane, will take up their new duties this month.

~ voted, to call Pastor David Byrkit, from the Mountain View Conference, to serve as the pastor of the Blythedale/Rising Sun district, subject to interview. The interview with the churches went well and Pastor Byrkit and his wife, Nancy, and their sons will join us as of the beginning of June.

~ voted, to call Elder Daewhan "David" Sul, from the Greater New York Conference, to serve as pastor of the Baltimore Korean church. Elder Sul and his wife, Hwasun, and their son will take up their new duties in June.

~ voted, to call Samantha Young, currently teaching at our Crossroads school in Ellicott City, to serve as Assistant to the President for Communications. Samantha will also carry some additional administrative or ministry related responsibilities that are still to be determined. Samantha has previously served on our headquarter staff as an administrative assistant in the Office of Education and Church Ministries. She will take up her new duties by July 1.

~ several other personnel related items were discussed and voted and are in the process of being finalized and will be reported in the next issue of *Currents*.

~ Seth Bardu, Columbia Union treasurer, was present to lead us through the salary and expense review of all Chesapeake employees and Ramon Chow, Chesapeake's treasurer, led the committee and invitees through a review of the financial and statistical details of the year 2007. We will share a good amount of detail in the next issue of *Currents*.

Chesapeake's Prayer Ministries team is organizing a conference-wide Prayer Emphasis Weekend for November 7-8 at the Baltimore First church. Jerry and Janet Page from the Central California Conference will be our featured presenters. Elder Page serves there as president and his wife, Janet, as Women's Ministries coordinator. They are highly sought after presenters around the NAD for these Prayer Emphasis weekends. Please mark the date on your church calendar's as we hope to draw representatives from every church within Chesapeake. More details will be published later.