

July 2008
distribution.

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Your prayer support is sought for our former treasury secretary, Jennifer Stefan, and her husband, Duane, as they cope with the loss of one of their twin boys at childbirth. A sonogram taken one hour before the scheduled caesarian section revealed that Jordan would be stillborn. His brother, Brayden, entered the world with a few complications but is now doing fine. Friends and family packed the Westminster church on June 29 for a touching memorial service for Jordan and to express their heartfelt sorrow for this unexpected and tragic loss. The fraternity of parents who have lost a child experience a grief few of us can comprehend. They also look forward to a reunion that will make all earthly joys pale by comparison. Let us join the Stefan's in praying that the reunion day comes quickly!

We welcome back to our office staff Samantha Young who began on July 1 as Assistant to the President for Communication. She will also serve as Chesapeake's Women's Ministries Coordinator and work closely with administration on special projects and programming. Samantha will also share a significant portion of the administrative support for the president's office. Samantha's previous experience in Chesapeake included stints as an administrative assistant in both adult and youth ministries, the receptionist/conference clerk and the receptionist/marketing director at Mt. Aetna Camp/Retreat Center while her husband, Bill, served as its' director. The Youngs live in Columbia with their two sons, Billy and Konnor.

There will be some shifting of responsibilities within the office staff as of July 7. Evelyn Gates, our receptionist, is cutting back on her workload and will be on duty primarily during the morning hours. She will also continue her leadership of Chesapeake's Community Services department. Millie Maplesden, will cover the receptionist duties in the afternoon and also shift her emphasis to a general administrative assistant helping with Conference Association/Trust Services details while retaining some of her support work for the president's office.

The church planting initiative in the northern/northeastern quadrant of Baltimore is off to a good start as more than 20 people have committed to gathering on a weekly basis for prayer, study and personal work in the community. After the initial meeting at the Towson Holiday Inn, the group is meeting in the Community Room of the Loch Raven Public Library from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sabbaths (July 5 & 11) while they continue to search for a more permanent location. Pastor Sedley Johnson is heading up the planting project and would be happy to hear from you regarding your interest in participating in this process. He can be reached by email at sedeuljon@yahoo.com.

FLAG Camp – this new day camp initiative by the conference to help local churches minister to their children/youth is in full swing as the team is now on the Eastern Shore at Salisbury during the first week of July before heading to ESJA next and then on to Wilmington. FLAG is an acronym for Fun Learning About God.

The renovation work continues at Highland View Academy as improvements in the dorms include a new HVAC system, new windows, and renewed bathrooms. Other campus wide upgrades include a new roof on the administration building, new sidewalks, new breezeway entrances on the front and back of the administration building. Work on the gym bathrooms will commence as funding becomes available. Study is being given to Phase 2 of the project which would create the opportunity to renew the furnishing in the dorm rooms.

A word of thanks is extended for the faithfulness of Chesapeake believers during tough economic times. Our tithe base has rebounded slowly since experiencing a loss at the first of the year. Through May we are now showing a 4.11% gain.

Calendar items of note: More details will be published in the August *Currents*.

- Sept 14 ACS Workshop on *Placing the Fingerprint of God in Our Local Communities* at the Conference Office
- Sept 20 *Thy Kingdom Come!* Mission Conference at Hagerstown Community College/Highland View Academy
- Oct 11 *Thy Kingdom Come!* Mission Conference at Eastern Shore Junior Academy
- Nov 7-8 *Our God is Alive!* Prayer Conference at Columbia Union Conference office