

January 2009

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

Sabbath, January 3, has been designated a Day of Prayer by the North American Division. It is a call to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on churches and members of the North American Division. Please pray for the 2009 Year of Evangelism, asking God to move in ways not witnessed before. Share the Hope—A Call to Prayer is a 60-minute program featuring Derek Morris, Ron Clouzet, Ruthie Jacobsen, Charles Haugabrooks, Don Schneider, and others scheduled to air on the Hope Church Channel during this special Sabbath. The broadcast will be shown live at 2:00 p.m. EST, and re-broadcast at 6:00 p.m. EST.

Big events are taking place in several of our congregations this month:

- ~ January 3 the North East Church planting project welcomes the New Year in its newly acquired rental facility. The group now meets in the Loch Raven United Methodist Church Chapel located at 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard in Northeast Baltimore.
- ~ January 10 the Beacon of Light Company will be officially organized into a church. The congregation meets at the Bethany Lutheran Church located at 817 Camden Avenue in Salisbury, Maryland.
- ~ January 17 the Middletown Valley Church will hold a grand opening Sabbath to showcase their beautiful new sanctuary. Columbia Union President David Weigley will join Chesapeake leaders in celebrating this grand event with the congregation.

The Association Board and Executive Committee both met in December, and among the many reports, also addressed the following issues:

- ~ The Baltimore Korean church building project has ground to a halt due to rather critical issues with their contractor. They have now defaulted the construction company and are pursuing resolution with their bonding company. The Association Board and the Executive Committee assured the congregation that they are in solidarity with them in pursuing whatever legal avenues they can find to solve their crisis. We will also pray that God will intervene in dramatic fashion to help the congregation proceed with the project.
- ~ The building plans, as well as the financial plan, for the new Spencerville Adventist Academy were approved. After years of careful planning and a lengthy process of maneuvering through county regulations, it appears that the dream of a new facility is coming closer to reality. The Spencerville congregation has been raising significant funds (millions of dollars) in addition to the expected proceeds from the sale of their current school property. They hope to only need to borrow \$4 million against a total project cost that is pushing nearly \$20 million.

Chesapeake has committed to spend close to a half million dollars in Evangelism funds during 2009—The Year of Evangelism. The funding covers a wide range of programs including: Six part-time Bible Workers scattered throughout the conference; a partnership with the Columbia Union and NAD in an unique evangelistic program at the New Hope church; a special project with the Waldorf congregation; major crusades in Baltimore and Hagerstown; pastor-led meetings in many of our districts; and a variety of creative approaches. Underlining this strong commitment to financing these outreach ministries are the following assumptions:

Business as usual is not an option – An annual growth rate of less than 3 percent as compared to the growth rate of the general population in our territory signals a time to make changes and strengthen our evangelistic efforts.

A strong prayer ministry will be the foundation upon which all successful work is built – Far too much of what we accomplish can be explained by human ability, effort, and planning, while God is waiting to do for us “exceedingly, abundantly ...”

Every church will be involved in its community – Adventists should be known for their compassionate involvement in their local communities.

Every church will experience the joy of finding lost people – During a typical year more than 25 percent of our congregations do not witness a baptism or a profession of faith.

Every church will become intentional in its approach to evangelism – Evangelism must become a way of life, not simply a program we do on an annual basis.

Every church will create an atmosphere where people can flourish – Loving and loveable Christians make for an environment that is safe for new members (and current ones as well).

Every conference entity is to make discipleship a priority – Playing the numbers game is not our focus, but rather the making of disciples—committed followers of Jesus, who in turn make disciples.

A Pathfinder Winter Classoree has been scheduled for January 23-25. Pathfinders—Friend through Guide—and Homeschoolers will want to come to Mount Aetna Retreat Center to earn a variety of honors in the categories of Church Heritage, Nature Appreciation, First-aid & Safety, and Arts & Crafts. For a class schedule, contact Ann Reynolds at (301) 596-5600 or email areynolds@ccosda.org.

Generation Rain, formerly the Chesapeake Conference High School Bible Retreat, will be held at Mount Aetna Retreat Center February 28-March 1, 2009. Pastor Willie Ramos is the featured speaker. Go to <http://generationrain.blogspot.com/> for more details.

Inmates or Intimates? is the title of a Marriage Enrichment Weekend co-sponsored by the Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church to be held February 13-14 at the BWI Comfort Inn Conference Center in Baltimore. Taught by Mike Aufderhar, senior pastor of the Wenatchee, Washington Adventist Church, and his wife, Brenda Aufderhar, a counselor, this marriage event is for couples that feel completely trapped in their marriage and those who just have small areas where they feel "stuck." The registration deadline is January 10. For more information visit www.triadelphiachurch.org or call (301) 317-5428.

It Is Written has launched My Place With Jesus, a Bible study website just for kids. Discover the next great thing for kids in the digital universe—learning about the Bible has never been so much fun! Join host Jean Boonstra and the "My Place With Jesus" kids at www.MyPlaceWithJesus.com.

Kitty Juneau, Chesapeake's Disaster Response director, led a team of 14 volunteers to Louisiana during the Thanksgiving holiday to help repair homes damaged by storms that continue to wreak havoc along the Gulf Coast. Logging a group total of 980 hours of service, the team, comprised of students and adults, removed and replaced the leaking roof of a home and rebuilt a small apartment connected to another home. They left members there with renewed faith and grateful hearts, as well as newly restored dwellings. You can read more and view photos at www.chesapeakeacsd.org.

Our sympathies are extended to those families grieving the loss of family members during the holiday season:

~ the Handel and Hegstad families of the Spencerville church on the tragic loss of Scott Handel, 44, in early December to a brain tumor. Scott had been serving as treasurer of our largest congregation.

~ the family of Cheryl Smith, former associate in our Youth Department, upon the sudden loss of her brother Ron a few days before Christmas.

~ pastors Ben and Tom Boggess and their families (Baltimore First and Martinsburg, WV) upon the loss of their father and grandfather, Everett Boggess, who died in Ohio on Christmas Day.

~ the family of Virginia Robinson, treasurer of the Linthicum church, who died unexpectedly in her sleep on December 30.

~ Spencerville Pastor Patrick Morrison is in Billings, Montana, by the side of his mother who is not expected to see the New Year.

A devastating Christmas Eve fire destroyed the Cherry Hill Adventist Church, part of the Allegheny East Conference, in Baltimore. The congregation will meet in rented spaces while seeking to rebuild.

A major, multiple-alarm fire destroyed nearly two-thirds of the Upper Columbia Conference office near Spokane, Washington, on Sunday, December 28. The remaining portion of the building suffered significant smoke and water damage, and it's expected total damages will run into the millions of dollars. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

January Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Jan 3	4:54	Local Church Budget
Jan 10	5:00	Chesapeake Advance
Jan 17	5:07	Local Church Budget
Jan 24	5:15	Religious Liberty
Jan 31	5:23	Columbia Union College

Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes. For West Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes.

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