

February 2009

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

**Spencerville Adventist Academy is having an Open House for prospective students and their families.** RSVP to Heidi Wetmore at (301) 421-9101, ext. 100 or email [hwetmore@spencerville.org](mailto:hwetmore@spencerville.org).

- ~ All grades (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12), Monday, February 2, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten, Monday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., Childcare is provided. RSVP requested.
- ~ Academy Day for high school students, Wednesday, February 4, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch provided. RSVP requested.

**“Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story,”** a film version of the autobiography of Dr. Benjamin Carson, a neurosurgeon and Spencerville member, will air on the TNT cable network February 7. Oscar-winner Cuba Gooding Jr. will portray the Adventist surgeon in the movie.

**As part of the Love Dare teaching series** currently underway at the New Hope Church in Fulton, Maryland, the movie “Fireproof” will be shown on February 7 and 14, with a Spanish version showing on February 21. “Fireproof” is a powerful movie about the breakdown and rebuilding of a marriage relationship. All showings begin at 6:30 PM. There is no charge, however donations will be accepted. Childcare will be available. In conjunction with the movie, there will be a special dinner on February 14 at 5:00 p.m. to benefit the Pathfinder Club. For more information call (301) 854-1866 or go to [www.lookingforachurch.org](http://www.lookingforachurch.org)

**A Marriage Enrichment Weekend** co-sponsored by the Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church is planned for February 13-14 at the BWI Comfort Inn Conference Center in Baltimore. For registration information visit [www.triadelphiachurch.org](http://www.triadelphiachurch.org) or call (301) 317-5428.

**Generation Rain**, a spiritual retreat for high school students sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference, will take place at Mount Aetna Retreat Center February 28-March 1, 2009. Hear the powerful conversion story of former gang member Pastor Willie Ramos, aka “The Ghetto Preacher.” Contact Ann Reynolds at [areynolds@ccosda.org](mailto:areynolds@ccosda.org) or (301) 596-5600 to register for this event. The \$38 fee covers lodging and meals. For more information visit <http://generationrain.blogspot.com/>.

**Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries** is sponsoring the following events. Contact Fred Thomas at (410) 992-9731 or email [fmthomas1950@yahoo.com](mailto:fmthomas1950@yahoo.com) for additional details.

- ~ Valentine Potluck Social, February 14 at 6:00 p.m., Chesapeake Conference, Lower Level, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland
- ~ Film Night, March 21, Time TBD, Chesapeake Conference Office, Lower Level, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland
- ~ Adventist Singles Spring Retreat, April 24-26, Mount Aetna Retreat Center, Hagerstown, Maryland

**The Columbia Union Chapter of Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI)** will host their annual convention March 13-14 at the Liberty Seventh-day Adventist Church at 3301 Milford Mill Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21244. The convention gives Adventist business owners an opportunity to meet with ministry developers to support them in a spiritual and financial way. Elder G. Edward Reid and Dr. Robert Wallace are featured presenters. For more information call (410) 922-0051 or visit [www.columbiaunion.org/article.php?id=334](http://www.columbiaunion.org/article.php?id=334).

**An Adult Sabbath School Summit** is planned for anyone interested in strengthening and impacting adult Sabbath school. Plan now to attend “Sabbath School: One Mission – Many Methods,” April 24-25, 2009. Held at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, the goal is to brainstorm creative methods of applying the four goals of adult Sabbath School. Registration and meals are free. You must register to participate by April 9, 2009 at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org) or contact Carol Barron at (301) 680-6430.

**A series of Pastor/Elder Advisory meetings** are being conducted around the conference during the first quarter of the year. The meetings will be held on Sabbath afternoons from 3-5 pm and followed by a light supper. The focus of the gatherings will be on a variety of subjects from pastor/elder relationships to the role of the elder to issues generally affecting the Chesapeake sisterhood of churches. The meetings are intended to be practical and a team building experience. Conference president, Rob Vandeman, and ministerial director, John Appel, are leading out in these advisories. The schedule is as follows:

January 31 – Northern Ministerium – Baltimore White Marsh church

February 7 – Eastern Ministerium – Seaford, Delaware church

March 21 – Western Ministerium – Mount Aetna Retreat Center, Hagerstown, Maryland

The Southern Ministerium is being rescheduled from its original date of March 7. Plans are also in the works to have a one-day elders retreat in the fall where we can give special attention to elders training and practical guidance for the issues local leadership face on an ongoing basis.

**We extend our deepest sympathy** to Bessie Morgan, administrative assistant in the conference Office of Education, and her brother, on the loss of their mother, who slipped into a coma and died January 17.

### **Conference Finances at a Glance**

The impact of the struggling economy has come home to roost in Chesapeake. For the first time in the last 30 years our tithe income was basically flat as compared to the previous year. We finished 2008 with a modest 0.32% gain. Ours is not a solitary plight, however, as the average increase across North America was 0.40%. What does that mean for Chesapeake in 2009? Here are a few likely scenarios:

~ The conference Operating Budget will be voted with a deficit of around \$350,000. However, about two-thirds of that amount is due to planned spending from Evangelism reserves.

~ Every effort will be made to control expenses (most years we spend less than budgeted).

~ While employee salaries have already been frozen, there will be a freeze on any additional hiring not already accounted for in the budget.

~ Given that our operating reserves are in good shape, we will do all we can to keep from having to implement any 'reduction in workforce' should the economy continue to worsen. A prolonged economic recession may require a rethinking of that position.

While we are concerned about this economy as it impacts our ability to carry on the mission of the church, we are especially concerned about the difficult position in which many of our members find themselves.

**You can help a homeless person** be more comfortable this winter by collecting the following new items and giving them to the Adventist Community Services (ACS) leader in your church for distribution: blankets (new in package); clothing for men and women—any size—especially jeans, underwear, socks, hats, and gloves; small towels; zip-lock bags containing personal care items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soap, and band-aids.

### **PRAYER PRIORITIES**

**The Chesapeake Conference has developed a list of Prayer Priorities for our members and workers to use in their daily personal and shared prayer life.** Look for the handy bookmark in your church bulletin or at the hospitality desk later this month. Please join your church family as we focus together and pray for our churches, schools, families, and communities. Take this list and make each Priority personal as you pray—and see what our mighty God can do. The Priorities, outlined in the form of an acrostic that spells **Asked in His Name**, remind us to claim the Lord's promise, "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:14 NIV

#### ***Chesapeake Conference Prayer Priorities***

*A closer walk with God through a meaningful devotional life*

*Surrendering to the influence of the Holy Spirit*

*Knowing what needs to be done and having the courage to do it*

*Effective evangelistic strategies for reaching more people*

*Discipleship as our goal—not simply an increase of membership*

*Intercession on behalf of families, friends, pastors, and teachers*

*New levels of commitment in financing our Mission*

*Happy, healthy, and balanced lives*

*Impacting our communities in practical ways*

*Spirit of unity within our congregations and conference*

*Nurturing our young people through service*

*Adventist education at every level*

*Making Christ the center of all we believe, teach, and do*

*Every member involved in advancing God's Kingdom*

#### **February Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Feb 7	5:32	Local Church Budget
Feb 14	5:40	Adventist TV Ministries/World Budget
Feb 21	5:48	Local Church Budget
Feb 28	5:55	Chesapeake Advance

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.