

March 2009

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

Congratulations are extended to the Chesapeake Conference trust services staff for earning Level A accreditation from the General Conference accreditation and certification committee. After a careful review of the work performed by the trust services department, the committee found that the required standards are being met and they have reaffirmed the department's Level A status. Ronni Hackleman, associate trust services director, and Millie Maplesden, administrative assistant, deserve kudos for the long hours and hard work it took to prepare for the audit.

Upcoming School Open Houses:

Atholton Adventist Academy will open its doors on Wednesday, March 4 for their annual Academy Day and Open House. RSVP by calling (410) 740-2425 or send an email to office@atholton.us. The school is located at 6520 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

~ Open House for Pre-K–Grade 6, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Preview classroom activities, tour the school, and talk to the principal.

~ Academy Day for Grades 7–10, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Prospective students may spend the day and will be treated to a pizza lunch.

For more information visit www.atholton.org/aas/.

Spencerville Adventist Academy is hosting a series of open house events for prospective students and their families March 9, April 13, and May 13 beginning at 9:30 a.m. You are invited to talk with administrators, tour the school, and observe classes. Please let Heidi Wetmore know which event you plan to attend. Call (301) 421-9101, ext. 100 or email hwetmore@spencerville.org. Learn more about the program by visiting www.spencervilleacademy.org. The school is located at 15930 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20905.

Sabbath, March 7, has been designated Women's Day of Prayer by the North American Division. On this day, especially, please pray for:

~ every woman in the North American Division to allow God to use her to glorify Him in her world.

~ women around the world, many of whom face hardships and challenges such as widespread HIV/AIDS, poverty, abuse, lack of educational opportunities, and overwork.

~ every member of the Church to realize that Jesus truly is coming soon and to get serious about spreading the Word.

The Highland View Church invites the young and the young-at-heart to a youth vespers planned for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall located at 21600 Academy Terrace, Hagerstown, Maryland. *One Accord*, a local Christian youth band, will lead this special evening of worship. For more information, contact Walter Umana at 240-422-3366, or the church office at 301-739-3144.

The Church Plant in Northeast Baltimore is looking for missionary-minded men and women to give Bible studies in the Loch Raven area of Baltimore. In preparation for evangelistic meetings planned for July-August 2009, the congregation has sent 5,000 invitations to study the Bible to community residents. If you are interested in helping, but have no experience giving Bible studies, a training class is being offered after church on Sabbath, March 14, at 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239. For additional details contact Pastor Sedley Johnson at (410) 679-7249 or by email at sedeuljon@yahoo.com.

The Highland View Academy Class of 2009 will perform "Robin Hood," Saturday, March 14, in the gymnasium on the academy campus in Hagerstown, Maryland. Join them for an evening of medieval fun, which includes a light supper, a cake auction, and a silent auction. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for a family of four; \$12 per couple; \$7 per person; and \$5 for HVA students. The proceeds will be applied toward graduation expenses and the senior class trip. For more details call (301) 739-8480.

Want to lower your cholesterol? Learn how at a seminar presented by Sylvia Fagal, a Licensed Dietician and American Dietetics Association member. The event, which includes food preparation demonstrations, takes place Sunday, March 15, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Triadelphia church located at 12950 Brighton Dam Road in Clarksville, Maryland. Questions? Contact Pastor Robb Long at (240) 294-6258.

Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries is sponsoring two events:

~ A Film Night has been planned for March 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of Chesapeake Conference Office located at 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland. The \$3 fee covers popcorn and punch.

~ The Adventist Singles Spring Retreat takes place April 24-26 at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Featured speakers are Shari Chamberlain and Forest Randall. The weekend fees are \$90/cabin, \$125/lodge room, or Saturday only \$40/no lodging. You must register by April 14 to attend. Contact Fred Thomas at (410) 992-9731 or email fmthomas1950@yahoo.com for additional details.

Glean and share ideas to enliven Adult Sabbath School at a summit sponsored by the North American Division. The Adult Sabbath School Summit will be held April 24-25 at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. There is no charge for this event; however, you must register to participate by April 9, 2009 at www.plusline.org or with Carol Barron at (301) 680-6430.

A series of Pastor/Elder Advisory meetings continue around the conference. The meetings are held on Sabbath afternoons from 3-5 pm and followed by a light supper. The gatherings focus 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 Eastern and Northern groups have already met. The Southern Ministerium will meet March 14 at the Chesapeake Conference office in Columbia, Maryland, and the Western Ministerium will meet March 21 at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. 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. For additional details call the conference office at (301) 596-5600 or (410) 995-1910 or email jappel@ccosda.org.

Youth Ministries Events:

~ **The Pathfinder Pinewood Derby** will take place Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the New Hope church located at 12350 Hall Shop Road in Fulton, Maryland. There will be races and contests for 'most unusual' and 'best in show.' Don Murphy—a Manhattan Beach, California Scoutmaster—organized the first Pinewood Derby in 1953 for the Cub Scouts in his troop. Murphy developed the idea because the boys, including his son Donn, were too young to participate in the then popular full-size car Soap Box Derby. The contest Murphy invented became very popular with Scouts, Pathfinders, and other organizations. To date, more than 90 million car kits have been sold.

~ **Youth Leaders** are encouraged to attend the Youth Leaders Enrichment Day, Sabbath, March 14, at the Baltimore-White Marsh church located at 7427 Rossville Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland. The event, which runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., includes a fellowship lunch so bring a potluck dish to share. For more information, contact Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910 or email areynolds@ccosda.org.

~ **Spring Break is synonymous with Mission Trip** for many high school students around the conference. **Highland View Academy** is sponsoring a trip March 22-29. More than 25 students and adults have signed on to travel to the REACH International orphanage and school in Honduras to minister to people there and help with painting and construction projects. On March 25, 43 **Spencerville Youth** and leaders will embark on a 12-day trip to the Dominican Republic where they will work on two school buildings and conduct outreach programs.

~ **The Family Fun Ski Trip** (February 1) was a huge success. Youth director Carl Rodriguez reports that more than 200 people participated.

Spanish Ministry Update:

~ **The Frederick Spanish Company**, led by Pastor Luis Humberto Orjuela, was formally organized into a church on February 14. This congregation now numbers more than 100, and has a tithe base of \$93,000.

~ **On Sabbath, March 7**, the Baltimore Spanish Church will celebrate their 20th anniversary.

~ **We now have 15 different Spanish congregations/ministries** worshipping on any given Sabbath in Chesapeake.

A "memorandum of understanding and sales agreement" has been signed by the Spencerville church, the Washington-Spencerville Korean church, and the conference officers that will eventually result in the transfer of ownership of the current Spencerville Adventist Academy property. The Conference Association has subsequently recommended loan requests to the Columbia Union Revolving Fund for both churches. This sale enables the Spencerville church to move forward this Spring with the site work for the building of their new school while giving the Korean congregation greater tools for expanding their ministry.

Conference Finances at a glance may suggest a stabilizing situation in the area of tithe income, but in reality, it is too soon to be certain. While January '09 was up by a significant margin, it must be remembered that there were five Sabbaths this year as compared to only four in the previous year. Conference treasurer Eduardo Muñoz says we won't have a clear picture for a few months. In the meantime, we continue to be careful stewards and take a close look at all our expenditures.

It's still cold outside. You can help a homeless person feel clean and warm 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.

March Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 7	6:03	Local Church Budget
March 14	7:10	Adventist World/World Budget
March 21	7:17	Local Church Budget
March 28	7:24	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.