

July 2009 Please forward this newsletter and/or print out copies for your local church bulletin board and for distribution.

Congratulations to Pastor Alvin and Sarita Payne, proud parents of Joziah Samuel Payne, born very early Sabbath morning, June 20, weighing in at 8 lbs and measured at 22 inches. How nice of Sarita to bring little Joziah into the world in time for the announcement period at the Frederick church (where Alvin is the youth pastor) that recent Sabbath morning.

The conference Education team extends a hearty welcome to the following new full-time faculty and staff:

Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School

Jennifer Ewer—Grades 1-4

Frederick Adventist School

Anita Minty—Grades 3-4

Rey Ducay—Grade 9

Highland View Academy

John Henline—Dean of Boys

Darcy DeLeon—Business Manager

Alison Koch—Dean of Girls, Mathematics

Ken Turpen, Jr.—Assistant Dean of Boys

Denisen Sager—Vice Principal

Spencerville Adventist Academy

Michael Kahler—Mathematics

There are strong candidates being considered for the positions of Eastern Shore Junior Academy principal and Spencerville Adventist Academy business manager.

We say farewell and thank you to a valued member of our pastoral workforce—Charlotte Pedersen McClure. Pastor McClure has served the Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Maryland, for the past seven years as associate pastor with responsibilities for Teaching Ministry, Children's Ministries, Women's Ministry, communication, and community outreach. Pastor McClure has served the church as a pastor, music teacher, curriculum author, editor, publisher, and as associate director of communication and director of public relations for the General Conference. Although retirement beckons and she will step aside from her pastoral role at Spencerville July 31, she looks forward to continuing to give Bible studies and being an active Spencerville member. She and her husband, Dick McClure, a communications engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland, plan to stay in the area.

We rejoice with Pastor Eliezer Tineo that he was not seriously injured in a June 15 auto accident that could have cost him his life. Pastor Tineo, who serves the lower eastern shore Pokomoke, Cornerstone, and Parksley Spanish churches, was on his way home from a church board meeting when his car slammed into a highway paving machine that was being moved across the road in the dark with no lights or warning signs. Pastor Tineo suffered a broken ankle and lots of bruises, but praises God for His protection. He looks forward to a full recovery.

Several youth leaders and pastors, representing three Maryland churches—Pasadena, New Hope (Fulton), and Providence (Elkton)—and the West Wilmington, Delaware church, recently earned their Class B Commercial Drivers License (CDL) so they can help transport youth to church-sponsored events. The rigorous licensure process involves class work, three written tests, and a 1½ hour driving test which involves parallel parking a school bus! The conference youth ministries department expresses gratitude to the dedicated youth workers, and to the two pastors, Keith Acker (West Wilmington) and Ismael Nuñez (Annapolis/Laurel/Denton Spanish), who provided training.

You may have heard that Lowell Litten, who was serving as principal of our Eastern Shore Junior Academy (ESJA) in Sudlersville, Maryland, was arrested in mid-June for alleged sexual misconduct with a minor. We are shocked and deeply saddened by this turn of events, and we sympathize with all who are affected by this terribly unfortunate situation. Mr. Litten has been relieved of his duties. The conference education leadership and a team of professional counselors met recently with the ESJA faculty and staff, as well as with students and their families, to address their concerns. Plans are underway to ensure that the school remains on track to reopen August 18 as planned for the 2009-2010 school year.

Five young Adventist men have opened a healthy fast food restaurant called EatingtoLive™ in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The establishment offers more than just organic salads, vegetarian soups, and sandwiches—patrons can attend Bible studies and healthy living seminars on Sundays, and buy organic produce and frozen meat substitutes. The founders are lifestyle educators who are working closely with the Prince Frederick church, led by Pastor Tyrone King, to make a positive impact in their community. The group is looking for someone who can help them develop a solid grant-seeking proposal. For more details, or to get involved, call director G.W. Chew at (301) 861-8062.

The Dundalk community in Baltimore County, Maryland is now blessed with two Adventist churches. The Dundalk congregation purchased a new facility, formerly owned by Verizon and located at 674 Holabird Avenue, June 26, and have plans to complete building renovations by the end of the year. They have applied to the county for temporary occupancy permits and hope to begin worshipping there by July 11. In turn, the Baltimore Spanish church has purchased the property the Dundalk congregation is vacating (210 Baltimore Avenue) for use by its church plant, the Highlandtown Spanish company.

The Middletown Valley church is hosting a series of health and lifestyle seminars beginning Sunday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings run each evening concluding Saturday evening, July 18. Diabetes, Osteoporosis, Cancer, High Blood Pressure, and Arthritis are some of the topics that will be addressed. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Maryland. To pre-register or to obtain more information, call (301) 730-7084.

A 50th anniversary reunion is planned for July 18, honoring the first graduating class of Greater Baltimore Academy. If you or someone you know has attended GBA, also previously known as Edgecombe Junior Academy, Greater Baltimore Junior Academy, and currently known as Crossroads Adventist School, you are invited. The reunion will be held July 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the Baltimore First church, 3291 N. St. Johns Lane, Ellicott City, Maryland. If you are interested in attending or would like to notify your alumni friends, you can contact Marian (Schubert) Phillips at (301) 680-5044 daytime, (301) 604-7355 evenings, or by email at phillipsm@gc.adventist.org.

“Doing the Dad Thing: Preparing Your Children for Now and Eternity” is the topic of a meeting for men, hosted by the Maryland Men of Faith, Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 pm, at the Atholton Church located at 6520 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland. Randy Fishell, editor of *Guide* magazine, will share ideas for successfully navigating the sometimes rough waters of parenthood. Emphasis will be placed on parenting older children and teens and the important role of grace during those years. The session will include plenty of discussion and interaction.

The offering on Sabbath, July 11, has been designated for Women’s Ministries, to be used by the Chesapeake Conference, Columbia Union, and North American Division for outreach evangelism and leadership training for women. Forty percent of the offerings received stay in Chesapeake Conference so we can provide resources to equip women for service in the church and in the community.

Conference Finances at a glance show a stabilizing trend in the tithing income through the month of May. We are maintaining a 6.2% gain while keeping our expenses within budget. May 2008 was the strongest tithing month of the year and we were able to match it in 2009— “a good indicator” according to Conference Treasurer Eduardo Munoz. He also noted that churches have already drawn more than \$200,000 in evangelism subsidy for crusades/events this spring and he expects significant draws on the account this summer and fall as churches move into the reaping cycle of the Year of Evangelism.

The Personnel Committee met recently to work on several vacancies that have developed within the conference. Here is a brief report of what has been happening.

~ Mike Sims, pastor of the Cambridge and Grasonville district, has accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and will take up his duties in his new district by August 1. Conference leaders will meet shortly with local church leaders to discuss his replacement.

~ Vladimir Corea, pastor of the Highland View church, has requested an administrative transfer and will transition out of the Highland View church over the summer. Elder Corea will continue to live in the Mt. Aetna area and do special assignments for the conference through the end of the year or until a position opens that he considers a good match for his ministry skills and experience. Vladimir has served in Chesapeake for the past 13 years beginning with the pastorate of the Dover First church. He has provided strong leadership in the development of our Mission Trip emphasis as well as leading a number of the annual trips.

~ Sergio Manente, from Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Highland View church and to also teach a leadership curriculum at the academy. Elder Manente has a keen interest in leadership development and looks to facilitate spiritual and leadership formation of students by providing practicum experience through the religion department and Student Association. He pastored the BMA church for nine years before taking on the fulltime leadership component for the school.

~ The committee has also placed a call to a pastor within Chesapeake to fill the position of Director of Ministries Development and Evangelism Coordinator effective September 1. We feel quite certain he will accept the position, but are allowing him the privilege of talking with his local leadership before we publicize his name. The department responsibilities will be similar to those once held by Frank Bondurant but with a slightly different focus. A fuller explanation will be published in the August Currents.

~ The “ripple effect” of some of the openings that may develop was considered, and there are a number of possible scenarios the committee is continuing to study. The Executive Committee has asked that priority be given to Chesapeake pastors in filling any vacancies in order to give our pastors opportunity for professional growth and new ministry experience.

July Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Sunset</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| July 4 | 8:36 | Local Church Budget |
| July 11 | 8:34 | Women’s Ministries |
| July 18 | 8:31 | Local Church Budget |
| July 25 | 8:26 | 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.