

October 2009

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

Congratulations to Steve and Raenelle Finney on the birth of their second child, Raechal Erin Finney, on September 22. Raechal joins big brother, Stephen Jr., who recently celebrated his second birthday. Pastor Finney serves as youth pastor of the Martinsburg, West Virginia church.

The Year of Evangelism continues in Chesapeake as a number of our churches are engaged in evangelistic meetings. Please lift up in prayer our Atholton, Baltimore Spanish, Dundalk Spanish, Hagerstown, Park, and Seaford churches as they reach out in their communities to advance God's kingdom. Also remember our congregations that are conducting Bible studies as a follow-up to meetings already held.

The Eastern Shore Convocation will be held Sabbath, October 10, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Eastern Shore Junior Academy, 407 Dudley Corners Road in Sudlersville, Maryland. Elder Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, is the featured speaker. Elder George Rice, biblical scholar and former pastor of Chesapeake's Triadelphia church, will lead the Sabbath School lesson. Karla Rivera and Javier Gonzalez, professional musicians who belong to the Spencerville church, and pianist Ingrid Forss, will add beautiful music to this special day.

If you've ever had your belief in creation challenged, or had doubts of your own, you'll want to tune in to Hope Church Channel for faith-affirming broadcasts on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, live from the Loma Linda University Church. The landmark "Celebration of Creation" is sponsored by the General Conference Faith and Science Council and Hope Channel, and features presentations by scientists and theologians. The broadcasts air October 23, 10:00 p.m. ET, and October 24 at 1:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m., each covering a different topic. Call (888) 446-7388, or email info@hopetv.org for instructions on how to tune your satellite receiver to get Hope Church Channel.

Upcoming Benefit Concerts:

~ The Northeast Baltimore company is hosting a concert Saturday, October 10, at 4:00 p.m. to benefit a health ministry in Eastern Nigeria. The concert features the local Washington Ghanaian Choir and the Visioneers quartet of New York, and takes place at their rented space at the Reformation Lutheran Church, 6200 Loch Raven Boulevard, Parkville, Maryland. For additional details contact Iheanacho Odinma at (443) 631-4089.

~ The Pikesville church is sponsoring a performance by the Morgan State University Choir, Sunday, October 25 at 4:00 p.m. at the Miracle Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 100 S. Rock Glen Road, Baltimore, Maryland. Concert proceeds go to the Sharon Marsden Memorial Scholarship Fund to help eligible graduating high school seniors pursue a college education. Tickets cost \$25 and must be purchased by October 4. To purchase tickets, contact either Maria Stansbury at (410) 262-2207 or stansburymaria@yahoo.com, or Joan Hall at (410) 356-5416 or Hallfamily_9@yahoo.com.

Highland View Academy (HVA) invites students in grades 7-12 to come for Academy Days, November 8-9, and have a look at what HVA has to offer. You won't want to miss out on the fall festival, delicious meals, hayrides, freebies, scholarships, and inspiring worships that have been planned for the event. Guests can check in on Sunday, November 8, to stay overnight or arrive at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 9. To register, contact Kim Brown at (301) 739-8480 extension 239, or email kbrown@highlandviewacademy.com.

A talent show hosted by the Class of 2011 will be held at Highland View Academy, Saturday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. The school is located at 10100 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland. Tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call (301) 739-8480.

Do you enjoy a round of golf? Have fun and benefit the Spencerville Adventist Academy junior class by participating in a Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Friday, November 6, at the Hampshire Greens Golf Course located at 616 Firestone Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland, near the Spencerville church. Students are working now to raise funds to defray the graduation and class trip costs they will face next year as seniors. For more information or to register for the tournament, contact Jane Lanning at jlanning@spencerville.org, or call (301) 421-9101 ext.125.

Church and school webmasters and communication leaders take note: AdventSource is offering a free website training Sunday, October 25, at the Columbia Union Conference headquarters located at 5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, Maryland. Many of our churches and schools have Adventist Church Connect and Adventist School Connect websites that use the Simple Updates systems. The Beginner Session runs from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and the Advanced Session runs from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Please invite your church and school webmasters to attend. Whether you have one of these websites, or would like to have one of these sites for your church or school, you will want to attend this helpful seminar. You can register online at <http://help.adventistchurchconnect.com/article.php?id=163>, or by emailing Lindsay Peterson at support@adventistchurchconnect.com. Bring a lunch or plan for lunch on your own at a local restaurant.

The annual Youth and Pathfinder Lock-In sponsored by the conference Youth Ministries department is planned for November 7-8, 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., at Mt. Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Shawn Paris, Spencerville youth pastor, is the featured presenter. All high school age youth and Pathfinders are invited to come and enjoy sports, Christian movies, swimming, and of course, lots of food. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910, or email areynolds@ccosda.org for additional details.

The Guild of Adventist Musicians is accepting nominations for their 2010 Music Awards in the categories of Minister of Music, Choral Conductor, Organist, Pianist, Vocalist, Band/Orchestra Conductor, and Composer/Arranger. Nominations should include a bio, pictures, and recordings, as well as a description of why the individual should receive the award. The deadline for nomination is December 31, 2009. For an entry form or more information contact guild president Jeanette Nelson at (301) 572-2899.

A Honduras Mission Adventure is being planned for homeschooled students in grades 9-12. Sponsored by the Youth Ministries department, this amazing field trip takes place January 24-31, 2010. Currently, it looks like the trip will cost about \$600 per student; however, airfare has not yet been confirmed. For details, contact Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910 or (301) 596-5600, or email areynolds@ccosda.org.

Conference finances at a glance—through the month of August we are showing a 5.39 percent gain over 2008. We are appreciative of the faithfulness of our members during these difficult financial times. We also continue to monitor our expenditures in an effort to not exceed our budget. More than half of the 58 conferences in the North American Division are reporting losses (nine conferences are showing double digit losses) and only two of the nine Union Conferences are reporting an increase—the Columbia Union (2.2 percent) and the Southwestern Union (0.10 percent). Across the division, the cumulative loss is 3 percent. Giving to World Missions is down 3.9 percent through August and our support of Chesapeake Advance (CAP) is up 5.96 percent. The breakdown of CAP funds received to date is as follows:

Evangelism – 40%	\$ 47,481.82
HVA Capital Dev – 20%	23,740.91
Mt. Aetna Camp Dev – 15%	17,805.68
Church/School Dev – 15%	17,805.68
Church Planting – 10%	<u>11,870.48</u>
	\$118,704.57

Unless you have been on the campus of Highland View Academy recently you may not realize that the church has undergone some extensive exterior renovation work. While to the casual observer it might simply look like a new paint job, (tan instead of white) in reality a major project has been completed that included replacing sections of the exterior covering and reattaching the remaining sections in the correct manner. The deterioration of the "skin" of the building was due to a number of issues, but mostly to errors made during the original construction phase. The Conference Association assisted the church in this \$350,000 project with funds from the sale of a small parsonage in Hagerstown.

A new HVAC system is in the process of being installed in the conference office building. The system of individual wall mounted units (like in hotels) has been failing for a number of years, and half of the offices were without either heating or cooling. Plans originally called for doing this about 18 months ago, but the project was put on hold due to the uncertain economic climate. The Association board voted to move forward with the project at this time due to the favorable bids that we received. The new units are ceiling mounted, and will be significantly more quiet and energy efficient than the old ones. It is the same type of system that was used in the dormitory renovations at Highland View Academy. Plans are also moving ahead to upgrade our phone and Internet systems. We have been plagued by countless interruptions to our service and hope to have those problems solved in the near future. The funding for these improvements is coming from depreciation in our plant fund and not from our operational budget.

Correction: There was an error in the September issue of *Currents*. The September 12 offering was for Fall Mission Appeal/World Budget. I regret the error. —*Editor*

October Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
October 3	6:48	Local Church Budget
October 10	6:37	Voice of Prophecy
October 17	6:27	Local Church Budget
October 24	6:17	Chesapeake Advance
October 31	6:08	General Conference Session/World Budget

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.