

November 2009

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

**A concert featuring** the vocal trio, Bella Voce, and the New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University will take place Sabbath, November 7, at 4:00 p.m., at the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church, 6437 Jefferson Pike, Frederick, Maryland. This is an outreach event so invite your friends to attend with you. A reception will follow the concert. Questions? Call the church at (301) 662-5254.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) is having an Open House** for grades Pre-K through 12, Monday, November 9, at 9:30 a.m. Come and meet the administration, participate in a tour of the facility, and observe classes. If you would like to tour the school another time, call Heidi Wetmore at (301) 421-9101 ext. 100, or e-mail hwetmore@spencerville.org to schedule the best date for you. You can learn more about SAA by visiting [www.spencervilleacademy.org](http://www.spencervilleacademy.org).

**Children's Ministry leaders and helpers** can enhance their skills and find resources by attending free seminars sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference Children's Ministries department. The training sessions will take place in the lower level of the conference office located at 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland, on Sabbath, November 14, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Participants can choose from three seminars, each offered in English and in Spanish. Register by 10:00 p.m., Thursday, November 12, by emailing Stacey Bondurant, Children's Ministries director, at [staceybondurant@ymail.com](mailto:staceybondurant@ymail.com). Be sure to include your name, home church, phone number, and the title of the seminar you plan to attend. For more details, call Elizabeth Chow at (410) 995-1910. Following are descriptions of the seminars that will be presented:

**1. Sabbath School Teacher Training**—Beginner through Earliteen Sabbath School Classes

Discover the four major ways children learn new information and the four ways to teach it. Learn to effectively use crafts to teach spiritual lessons, preview new curriculum, and get help with the Grace Link curriculum. Rose Gamblin, media consultant to the Review and Herald Publishing Association and Life Talk Radio, and co-host of the "Home School Companion" radio show, teaches this class.

**2. How to Start a Children's Church**

Glean program ideas, resources, and learn how to recruit volunteers. Gain insights in planning programs that appeal to diverse age groups, behavior management, staying within a tight budget, and avoiding burnout. Debbie Howell and Marty Chappell, the leaders of the Children's Church program at the New Hope church in Fulton, Maryland, where 100 kids attend weekly, teach this class.

**3. Interactive Storytelling**

Do children in your class fidget during the Bible lesson? Can they recount the story from last week? Learn how to involve them in an interactive presentation that they won't forget. Candy Devore, media consultant to the Review and Herald Publishing Association and Life Talk Radio, and co-host of the "Home School Companion" radio show, teaches this class.

**Remember Harvest Ingathering?** Now called Hope for Humanity, this century-old fundraising program supports humanitarian work in local communities through Disaster Response and Adventist Community Services Centers, as well as projects abroad in countries such as South Africa, Nicaragua, and Bangladesh. These initiatives help people challenged by HIV and AIDS, illiteracy, limited medical care, and other social and health-related problems. You can help by donating money (just mark your offering envelope "Hope for Humanity") and by fundraising with your fellow church members. Pastors should soon receive the starter kits containing free Ingathering materials. Visit the Hope for Humanity website at [www.hope4.com](http://www.hope4.com) to get a glimpse of how Seventh-day Adventists are ministering to people around the world.

**A Health Summit** sponsored by the North American and Inter-American Divisions is planned for January 29-February 7, 2010. The event, titled *Optimal Health in the 21st Century—Training Leaders for Effective Ministry*, features courses designed for health leaders and persons involved in the community services and health ministry of their local church. The training will take place at the Sheraton Orlando North Hotel in Maitland, Florida. For more information, and to register, visit [www.nadhealthsummit.com](http://www.nadhealthsummit.com) or call (800) 732-7587.

**The Conference Executive Committee** at its October 22 meeting took action on a number of items.

~ the committee reviewed the current financial condition of the conference and approved the report brought by conference treasurer Eduardo Muñoz. While our tithe gain has shrunk slightly to a 4.5 percent gain over last year, we are in a much more favorable position than many conferences in the North American Division (NAD). The Columbia Union is the only union in the NAD that is reporting a tithe gain through September. And nearly two-thirds of all conferences across the division are showing a loss for the same period. We are keeping a close watch on our expenditures in an attempt to stay within our budget.

~ voted, to recommend to the Columbia Union Conference the following retirement requests of Charles Griffin, effective January 4, 2010, with 48.49 years of service; and Millie Maplesden, effective March 1, 2010, with 35.99 years of service.

~ voted, to ask César González to serve the Cambridge, Maryland, church as a part-time pastor on a stipend. He and his wife, Grace González, moved to Cambridge about a year ago. Pastor González worked for the North American Division, and Mrs. González is a registered nurse and heads the Emergency Department at the Talbot County Hospital in Easton, Maryland. The Cambridge members are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

~ voted, to ask Al Konrad to serve the Grasonville, Maryland, church as a part-time pastor on a stipend. He pastored churches in Illinois, New York, and Maryland prior to working in nursing home administration. Pastor Konrad once served on an interim basis at Grasonville, and looks forward to continuing the relationship in his retirement. The Grasonville members are excited about the prospects his return brings.

~ voted, an enabling action for the Personnel Committee to process the hiring of the candidate for Spencerville's vacant Associate Pastor position. Senior pastor Jerry Lutz expects a final recommendation to develop before the end of October.

~ voted, to ask Charles Griffin to continue to serve as Conference Association secretary after his retirement. He will serve on a part-time basis under a stipend arrangement. The Association (the corporate entity) deals with property management details, building projects and other critical business issues. Elder Griffin's expertise, experience, and knowledge will continue to prove invaluable to us.

~ voted, to ask Ronalyn Hackleman to assume the responsibilities as director of Trust Services for the conference effective January 4, 2010. Mrs. Hackleman has been serving as the associate Trust Services director since coming to Chesapeake in 2007. Conference administrators have a great deal of confidence in her abilities and her passion for the Trust work. Millie Maplesden will, upon retirement, transition to work part-time as an assistant for the Trust department.

~ the committee will meet again on December 1 to elect a new Conference Secretary to fill the vacancy created with Charles Griffin's retirement. The Administration is working on a list of candidates as well as giving study to some internal restructuring so that the impact on the office budget is kept to a minimum.

**Your prayer support is sought** for Highland View Academy English teacher Jennifer Payne, and her husband, Jason Payne, as they cope with the loss of one of their triplet daughters, Eden Aurelia, and the fragile condition of the surviving babies. The day after her birth, Eden died in the arms of her parents after a catastrophic brain hemorrhage. The triplets were born Sunday, October 25, about 15 weeks prior to their due date, each weighing less than one and one-half pounds. Both Juliana Skye and Zoe Janine are in critical condition, however, Zoe's condition is especially precarious. The family appreciates and finds comfort in the prayers and support of loved ones and their church and school family.

**We are saddened by the loss of two dedicated members:**

~ The Seventh-day Adventist Church, both local and worldwide, lost a valued and trusted leader when Rob Sweezey died suddenly on Friday, October 16, at age 52. Mr. Sweezey was the head elder of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Maryland, and served as president of Adventist Risk Management, the insurance and risk management branch of the world church. He had a heart for the church and, with his family, served faithfully in his local congregation. Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with his wife, Dr. Karen "Muffy" Piper, and their children—Herb, Katie, and Ben.

~ The Charles Town, West Virginia, congregation is grieving the loss of their church treasurer, Terry Vandover, 84, who was in a car accident on her way to church Sabbath morning, October 3. She suffered head trauma and died the next day. Mrs. Vandover will be greatly missed by her church family. In addition to serving as treasurer, she was regularly the first to arrive at the church to open it up on Sabbath, and she enjoyed helping with the fellowship dinners and being active in church life.

**Walk Through Bethlehem**, an interactive Christmas experience at the General Conference world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, will be open for tours December 12, 13, and 19. Actors, greeters, and stagehands are needed. To volunteer, email Clayton Nunes at [nunesc@gc.adventist.org](mailto:nunesc@gc.adventist.org).

**November Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
November 7	5:00	Local Church Budget
November 14	4:53	Annual Sacrifice/World Budget
November 21	4:48	Local Church Budget
November 28	4:45	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.