

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

Upcoming Holiday Music Events—

Highland View Academy (HVA), contact Kim Brown at kbrownhva@hotmail.com or (301) 739-8480 ext. 239 for more information:

~ HVA's annual Christmas Concert will take place on campus at the Highland View church on Sabbath, December 5, at 3:00 p.m.

~ The Highlanders Choir from Highland View Academy performs on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Monday, December 7, from 8:00-8:30 p.m. Look for them near the National Christmas Tree in front of the White House.

Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA), for additional details, contact Jane Lanning at jlanning@spencerville.org or (301) 421-9101 ext. 125:

~ A Messiah Sing-a-Long will be held at 4:00 p.m., Sabbath, December 5, at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland. The event is free and you can pick up a copy of the musical score for a \$10 donation.

~ SAA's annual high school Christmas program takes place at the Spencerville church, Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m.

~ The SAA Bell Choir and Jazz Band will perform at Brookside Gardens, located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue in Wheaton, Maryland, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 12. Come and enjoy holiday music and lights in a whimsical setting.

Washington Adventist University is sponsoring a sacred Christmas concert at the Sligo Adventist Church located at 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, on Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. The Columbia Collegiate Chorale and the New England Symphonic Ensemble will perform. If you need more information, call the church at (301) 270-6777.

Spencerville Church's "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" will be performed by the Sanctuary Choir and Friends at 4:00 p.m. on Sabbath, December 12.

Triadelphia Church has planned a concert for Saturday, December 12, at 5:00 p.m., featuring their children's choir, The Sunshine Singers. They will present familiar Christmas carols and some lesser-known songs that convey the Christmas Story. The church is located at 12950 Brighton Dam Road in Clarksville, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 854-3678 or email the church at triadelphia@gmail.com

Single adults are invited to enjoy a relaxed evening out on Saturday, December 19. Meet at the Hunan Manor Restaurant located at 7091 Deepage Drive in Columbia, Maryland, at 6:30 p.m., for a Christmas Party hosted by the Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries department. Wear casual attire and plan to pay for your share of the bill. For more details, email Fred Thomas atfmthomas1950@yahoo.com, or call (410) 992-9731.

Holiday Television Programs that were produced by the North American Division (NAD) in past years are being aired this month by the Hallmark Channel, Hope Channel, NRB Network, Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), and other local television affiliates. The shows airing are Christmas in My Heart (2003), The Wondrous Gift (2004), All is Bright (2005), Love's Pure Light (2006), and Christmas at Cadillac Jack's (2007). You can view the schedule on the NAD website at www.nadadventist.org or call (301) 680-6400 for details.

Sabbath, January 1, has been designated as a Day of Prayer by the North American Division. It provides a call to spiritual consecration and prayer as we enter 2010. Pastor Sedley Johnson, conference Prayer Ministries coordinator, encourages each church to find time in January to pray together. You may recall that this past year Chesapeake Conference developed a list of Prayer Priorities for our members to use in their daily personal and shared prayer life. Please join your church family in prayer for our churches, schools, families, and communities. If you would like to receive a Prayer Priorities bookmark, contact Samantha Young at syoung@ccosda.org or (410) 995-1910.

We welcome Marilyn Scott, who has accepted an invitation to join the Spencerville Church pastoral staff as Associate Pastor. In early January she will assume responsibilities that include Adventist Community Services, Children's Ministry, Teaching Ministry, Communication, Deaconess Ministry, and Women's Ministry. Pastor Scott, who is a Spencerville member, comes into this position with broad pastoral experience since 1989, having served in various churches in New York, Massachusetts and Maryland. She is passionate about people— young and old—coming to know and live for Christ. She is married to Greg Scott, vice president for Adventist World Radio, and has a daughter, Kaiya Kretschmar, who is a senior at Spencerville Adventist Academy.

The Spencerville Adventist Academy and church community celebrates receipt of their building permit, on November 23, for the new school. It has been about a year since they received the site work permit from Montgomery County. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in April, and since then a lot of dirt has been moved, pipes were laid, and a building pad was prepared—but there were many delays in the building permit process. Constituents have learned to trust in the Lord, and they are praising His name for sustaining them through this often-frustrating part of the construction process. This is the largest school building project in the North American Division ever undertaken by a single constituent church, and the congregation is passionate in their generous support of this endeavor. You can follow the progress online by visiting the church website at www.spencervillesda.org, and clicking on the Building Blog link.

We are pleased to welcome the First Mizo Seventh-day Adventist Church into the Chesapeake family of churches. The congregation has been a part of the Potomac Conference, but has been meeting in Laurel, Maryland, which falls within the boundaries of the Chesapeake Conference. The Potomac and Chesapeake Conference executive committees recently voted the transfer.

It has been more than 50 years since Atholton Adventist Academy opened its doors to students. The school wants to celebrate this in their yearbook. They are seeking old photos of the Atholton Adventist School building, grounds, faculty, and students. If you have photos that you are willing to lend, send them to Atholton Adventist Academy, c/o Celeste Voigt, 6520 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland 21044. They will scan the photos and return them to you. Be sure to include all the details of each photo that you know (i.e., names, dates, description). If you have questions, contact Mrs. Voigt at (410) 740-2425 or by email at office@atholton.us.

Evangelistic efforts took many forms in our churches this year, some traditional and some creative and new. The meetings and various forms of outreach are bearing fruit. People are engaged in Bible studies and are giving their hearts to the Lord. Pastor Ben Boggess of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Maryland, says that 17 people have been baptized as a result of their recent series of meetings. The Hagerstown, Maryland, church has also welcomed 17 individuals through baptism, rebaptism, and profession of faith. Senior Pastor Rick Remmers says there will be even more very soon. Their church had a series of meetings for adults and a series for kids in which the children of the church presented the topics. Many other churches are also growing as a result of meetings and friendship evangelism. Please help new members and visitors feel welcome and at home in your church and pray for them often.

Conference Finances at a glance reflect the ongoing faithfulness of our members during difficult times. We are appreciative that Chesapeake members continue to be steadfast in tithing and giving offerings. According to Conference Treasurer Eduardo Muñoz, this faithfulness, coupled with our careful attention to expenditures, has sustained us while many conferences around the North American Division face financial struggles.

We are sad to report that Elder John Fowler, 82, a member of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Maryland, died of a heart attack on Monday, November 30. Elder Fowler was a dedicated servant of the Lord. He began his ministry as a pastor and became an innovative and effective evangelist. During the course of his career, he was president of the Missouri and Ohio Conferences, secretary of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and ministerial secretary in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Our heartfelt sympathy extends to his wife Kay, their three adult children, and eight grandchildren, and to the Willow Brook congregation.

We ask your continued prayers for Jennifer and Jason Payne, and their infant daughter, Juliana, the surviving triplet born prematurely in October. Baby Juliana remains in neonatal intensive care, and is recovering well from recent surgery to repair an opening in her heart. Jennifer Payne, who teaches English at Highland View Academy, says, "Thanksgiving will never be the same for us. We're thankful for so many things, and the presence of our miracle baby has given us an entirely new perspective on life. We are so grateful to everyone who has reached out to us with comments, prayers, and other touching and helpful gestures."

The Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Maryland, is again partnering with the Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church to offer a Marriage Enrichment Retreat. This special weekend for couples takes place February 5-7, 2010, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Richard and Ardis Stenbakken are featured presenters. For more details contact the church at triadelphia@gmail.com or (301) 854-3678.

Two Health Ministry training opportunities, sponsored by Adventist HealthCare, are on the horizon:

~ A *Health Ministry Team Building Training* will be held February 20-21, 2010, from 2:00-6:00 p.m., at Washington Adventist Hospital located at 7600 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. This workshop is offered free of charge twice each year to pastors, health professionals, and anyone interested in starting or joining a health ministry team. The registration deadline is January 30.

~ A *Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Train the Trainer* program is offered March 26-28, 2010, at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. This Columbia Union-wide training is for people interested in starting CHIP in their church or becoming a part of an already active CHIP team. CHIP is a four-week lifestyle education program that has proven successful in helping people incorporate healthier lifestyle principles in their lives. For more information on these and other health ministry training opportunities, contact Katia Reinert at kgreiner@ahm.com or (301) 891-6102.

December Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

Date	Sunset	Offering
December 5	4:43	Local Church Budget
December 12	4:43	Inner City Ministries
December 19	4:44	Local Church Budget
December 26	4:48	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.