

April 2010 Please forward this newsletter and/or print out copies for your local church bulletin board and for distribution.

Congratulations are extended to:

~ The Pikesville Tigers Pathfinder Club, which won first place at the union level Pathfinder Bible Achievement (PBA) event held March 20 in Zanesville, Ohio. They were the only club in the Columbia Union to advance on to the division level PBA scheduled for April 17. Each club represented is challenged to answer 90 questions to test their biblical knowledge. Keep these young people in your prayers as they study God's word in preparation for the big event.

~Chesapeake Conference educators Beth Bankes and Marilyn Peeke, winners of the 2009-2010 Columbia Union Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Administrator Awards, respectively, and to Paty Serrano, runner-up. Beth Bankes teaches grades four through six at Rocky Knoll School in Martinsbrg, West Virginia. Marilyn Peeke provides leadership as principal of Atholton Adventist School in Columbia, Maryland. And Paty Serrano is a high school science teacher at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The groundbreaking for Washington Adventist University's new Music Building will take place Friday, April 9, at 11:00 a.m. as part of the annual alumni weekend festivities. For more information visit www.wau.edu.

A VBS Training Workshop, sponsored by the conference Children's Ministries department, is planned for Sunday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Baltimore First church located at 3291 North Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Maryland. If you are a VBS leader or helper, this class is for you. Bring the whole VBS ministry team. Preview the new Adventist VBS program, and take a look at other programs, too. Make the snacks and crafts. Kits can be purchased at the workshop, and one kit will be given away! Pre-registration is required, and there is a \$5.00 fee. Register by April 6; phone Samantha Young at (410) 995-1910 or email to syoung@ccosda.org.

Crossroads Adventist School is having an International Fair from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25. Enjoy food, music, national costumes, and presentations on the history and cultural heritage of various countries. The school is located at 3291 North Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Maryland. For more information call (866) 715-7752.

The Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries department will sponsor a Spring Retreat at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, April 23-25. Jan Yakush is the featured speaker. Contact Fred Thomas at fmthomas1950@yahoo.com or (410) 992-9731 for the complete details, or visit www.asamchesapeake.com.

Disaster Response leaders and volunteers are encouraged to attend the Columbia Union Disaster Response Training Institute, April 23-25. This interactive experience encompasses all aspects of disaster response including donations, operations, warehouse, crisis care intervention, forklift safety, and food service. The event will be held at the Tranquil Valley Retreat Center located at 2 Campus Drive, Andover, New Jersey. Anyone interested or already involved in disaster response is encouraged to take advantage of this educational opportunity. The \$83 registration fee covers seminar materials and all meals for the weekend. Lodging costs only \$35-\$40 per night. Register by April 13 at www.PlusLine.org, or call Kitty Juneau at (301) 367-2715 for more details.

A Men's Conference presented by Godly Free Men and themed "The Great Awakening" is planned for April 30-May 1 at the Metropolitan New Praise Center located at 6307 Riggs Road in Hyattsville, Maryland. Gene Donaldson, PhD, senior pastor of the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C. is the presenter Friday evening from 8:00 to 10:00. The Sabbath program, 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., features Walter Pearson, speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries; Dave Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president; and conference presidents Rob Vandeman, Bill Miller, Charles Cheatham, and Frederick Russell. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and an afternoon snack on Sabbath. Register by April 25 at www.GodlyFreeMen.com, or call Larry Wilson at (267) 237-3244 for additional information.

"The Adventists," a one-hour documentary film highlighting the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health message and ministry, is scheduled to air on PBS stations nationwide in April. The project, produced by award-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, chronicles the history of the Adventist faith and investigates the reasons why Adventists are among the longest living people in the world. Local PBS stations will air the film on April 8 at 8:00 p.m. and April 11 at 11:00 p.m. You can check local listings at www.mpt.org. The film will also be screened at the following churches where Doblmeier will host a question-and-answer period and will also sell and sign DVDs:

~ **Washington, D.C.**, Saturday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Call the church at (301) 270-6777 for more information.

~ **Hagerstown**, Sunday, April 4, at the Hagerstown church located at 11507 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland. Call the church at (301) 733-4411 for additional information.

~ **Baltimore**, Saturday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Miracle Temple Worship Center located at 100 South Rock Glen Road in Baltimore. Questions? Call the church at (410) 368-9294 for details.

Save the date, Women! A women's retreat sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference is planned for October 15-17 at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Watch future issues of *Currents* for more details, or contact Samantha Young at (410) 995-1910, or email to syoung@ccosda.org.

The Conference Executive Committee met on March 23 and took the following actions:

- ~ voted, to place Raul Rivero as pastor of the Washington/Spencerville and Bowie Spanish district. The conference is pleased to welcome back Pastor Rivero and his family following the completion of his master's degree.
- ~ voted, to call Ray Valenzuela to serve as the part-time youth pastor of the Baltimore Korean congregation filling the open position created by the departure of Sam Park. The call is subject to human resources process. Pastor Valenzuela's wife, Alyssa, is looking for an elementary teaching position.
- ~ voted, to recommend the retirement request of Elder Ray Nelson, pastor of the Brooklyn and Glen Burnie district, on to the Columbia Union. Elder Nelson will retire at the end of June after more than 41 years of service to the denomination.
- ~ voted, the reassignments of various ministries to officers and departmental directors—Health Ministries and Prayer Ministries to conference executive secretary Rick Remmers, and Children's Ministries to Samantha Young, who also coordinates Women's Ministries and serves as Assistant to the President for Communication.
- ~ voted, the approval of Mission Trips abroad to Highland View Academy (Galapagos Islands), New Hope church (Haiti), and Spencerville Academy (Dominican Republic).
- ~ Voted, to accept the Salary and Benefit Review of all conference employees. Columbia Union treasurer, Seth Bardu, led the committee through this review.
- ~ voted, to accept the Financial and Statistical Review as presented by treasurer Eduardo Munoz and secretary Rick Remmers.
- ~ voted, to request the Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA) to continue the management of our Publishing Program for 2010 at a rate of 50 percent of the usual costs (up to \$40,000). The program will be reviewed in October when a final decision will be made regarding the future viability of the program. The Committee received a report from Tercio Marques and Richard Figueredo of the work being done in Chesapeake territory. The committee was appreciative of the report, but acknowledged several challenges to giving continued support. The first challenge was funding. The trust fund that was providing for the salary of Pastor Figueredo (Chesapeake Publishing director) was depleted during 2009, and the committee had voted not to continue with the expense due to the \$175,000 deficit in the voted conference 2010 budget. The committee offered the compromise to the RHPA and asked that some adjustments be made to the program that would give it more exposure in English-speaking churches.
- ~ voted, to cancel the one-day Mission Conferences scheduled for the Western and Eastern regions in 2010 and to give study to the possible reinstatement of a traditional June Camp Meeting at Highland View Academy. Administration is setting up a task force to address issues raised by the committee, such as affordability, format, length, and attendance. A final decision is expected at the May meeting. Conference President Rob Vandeman brought this issue to the committee saying that the shift toward one-day Mission Conferences was designed to reach more of our constituents than our traditional approach. However the reality of finding adequate venues to host these conferences is proving either impossible or too expensive.

The 2010 Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) International Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, August 4-7, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Boulevard. You can learn more and register online at www.ASIministries.org, or call the ASI headquarters at (301) 680-6450, or email ASI@nad.adventist.org. Register by July 15 for a discounted rate.

The 59th General Conference (GC) Session will be broadcast live on Hope Channel between June 23 and July 3. Hope Channel will broadcast nearly six hours daily live from the Georgia World Congress Center and Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The General Conference Session is a business session, now held every five years, for the international denomination, known as the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For full details, visit www.HopeTV.org, or call (301) 680-6689.

Condolences are offered to conference membership clerk, Barbara-Lee Boyd, on the loss of her sister, Lois Carpenter, 75, who died March 10 following an extended illness. A memorial service is planned for Sabbath, April 17, at 5:00 p.m., at the Reisterstown church located at 7 Berrymans Lane, Reisterstown, Maryland.

April Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

Date	Sunset	Offering
April 3	7:30	Local Church Budget
April 10	7:37	Christian Record Services
April 17	7:44	Local Church Budget
April 24	7:50	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.