December 2013

Congratulations are extended to:

~ **Sedley Johnson**, pastor of the Dundalk and Northeast churches in Baltimore, who was one of six individuals recognized recently by the Columbia Union Conference for their significant contributions to ministry in the Columbia Union. Elder Johnson has devoted the past 30 years to ministry. He is an experienced church planter and is passionate about prayer and evangelism. Read more at columbiaunion.org.

~ **Hazel Vetter**, who celebrated her 100th birthday on November 21. Mrs. Vetter, a former teacher, stays healthy by walking about a mile every day and adhering to a vegan diet. She is active in the prayer ministry of the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Maryland.

~ **Cesar Grassiotto**, youth pastor at the Hagerstown, Maryland, church who will be ordained at the church on New Year’s eve, December 31, at 5:30 p.m. On January 2, he and his fiancé Laura Morena Costa, a professional soprano, will be married.

Transitions:

~ **Kleyton Feitosa**, conference secretary, has accepted a call to serve as president of the Egypt-Sudan Field. He has been a valued member of the Chesapeake ministry team for nine years, serving first as pastor of the Waldorf, Maryland, church and then at the conference office as Ministries Development director. In 2011, he was elected executive secretary. Elder Feitosa, his wife Delma, and their sons Derek and Malton will be greatly missed. Please join the conference staff in prayer for many blessings and safety as they continue their ministry in another part of the world mission field. A transition date has not been set as it takes time for overseas calls to process.

~ **Raul Rivero**, pastor at the Laurel Spanish and Washington-Spencerville Spanish churches, accepted a call to Vineland, New Jersey, and recently began his pastoral work there. Elder Rivero worked in the New Jersey Conference before coming to Chesapeake in 2005, and he has family there. He and his wife Flordemaria go with our deep appreciation for their dedicated service and leadership. May God continue to bless them—and their three young boys!

~ **Edemilson “Jimmy” Cardoso**, pastor of the Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Maryland, has plans to return to Brazil where he will continue in his ministry of helping churches grow and thrive. It is with gratitude and good wishes that we bid him, his wife Ruth, and their four children, farewell.
Fred Ford, maintenance director at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, retires at the end of this month. His skills and congeniality have been a real asset to the retreat center, Highland View Academy (HVA), and the conference office. He and his wife Janet, a staffer at HVA, plan to remain in the area. We wish him well!

A warm welcome is offered to Steve Leddy who joins the team as associate pastor at Atholton church in Columbia, Maryland. Elder Leddy and his wife, Melissa, a realtor, have just moved to this area from Washington. Their two daughters are studying at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Leddy’s will be working to plant a new church in the Laurel area with support from the Atholton congregation.

David Gomez comes on board January 1 as the new maintenance director at Mount Aetna Retreat Center. Mr. Gomez brings to his new position the skills he has acquired in the construction business and as a sound and video technician at Capital Brazilian Temple in Highland, Maryland. He is married to Ana Cecila Gomez, and the couple has a 5-year-old daughter, Karen Valeria.

Steve Finney is the new associate pastor for youth at Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Maryland, filling the vacancy left when Elder Shawn Paris became senior pastor at Atholton church. Elder Finney has been youth pastor at the Martinsburg, West Virginia, church since 2003 working alongside senior pastor Tom Bogess. Finney has roots at Spencerville having been interim youth pastor there in 2002. He and his wife Raenelle (Boyer) Finney have two children, Stephen Jr. and Rachel.

Elder C. D. Brooks is the worship speaker, Sabbath, December 7, at 11 a.m. at the Glen Burnie church located at 508 Aquahart Road in Glen Burnie, Maryland. All are welcome to this special worship service. For details, call (410) 766-6650, or email mrboquer@gmail.com.

Learn how to experience “Abundant Living” and garner tips for disease prevention by attending free health and nutrition classes at the Wilna church located at 1010 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland. The next class is Sabbath, December 7, from 4-6 p.m., in the lower-level fellowship hall. Instruction is based on materials from physicians Joel Fuhrman, Scott Stoll, and Caldwell Esselstyn, and advocates a plant-based diet. Classes feature discussion, cooking demonstrations and food samples. Email Valerie Nozea at vnozea@yahoo.com for details.

Grow in Praise, the Capital Brazilian Temple children’s choir, presents a concert, Sunday, December 15, 6 p.m., at the Spencerville Adventist Academy Auditorium located at 2502 Spencerville Road (MD 198) in Spencerville, Maryland. The choir consists of 40 children, age 4-12. They have recorded a CD titled “Jesus is My Friend” featuring songs about the life of Jesus. The choir will sing again on Sunday, December 22, at 2 p.m., at the Potomac Adventist Book Center where their new CD will be released. The Potomac Adventist Book Center is located at 12004 Cherry Hill Road in Silver Spring, Maryland. For additional details, call Pastor Jimmy Cardoso at (301) 917-5452.

Upcoming Christmas Events:

Baltimore White Marsh students present “The Living Oracles,” based on Ellen G. White’s account of Jesus’ birth in The Desire of Ages. The program takes place during the Sabbath morning 11 o’clock worship service on December 7 at the church located at 7427 Rossville Blvd. in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, email Rose Gamblin at rgamblinbwm@gmail.com.

The Waldorf church participates in two Live Nativity presentations this holiday season: the first will be at the Kris Kringle Christmas Market at the Charles County Fairgrounds, Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7, from 4-9 p.m. The fairgrounds are located at 8440 Fairgrounds Road in La Plata, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 932-1234, or email info@charlescountyfair.com. Admission is $1 per person or one non-perishable food item to benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The second live nativity will be held at the Waldorf church located at 11245 Berry Road in Waldorf, Maryland, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, from 5-8 p.m. Need more information? Call (301) 645-8835, or email waldorsnda@gmail.com.

Vivaldi Gloria and the Messiah Sing-a-long—This year the Spencerville Academy Choir and Strings, directed by Robert Abel Martinez with special guests, Strings for Joy, led by Evonne Baasch, will present Vivaldi’s Gloria and excerpts from the Messiah at Spencerville church on December 7, at 4 p.m. Bring your Messiah books and sing selections such as “And the Glory,” “Oh Thou That Tellest,” and “Hallelujah!” with the Academy choir and orchestra during the second half of the concert. To order a Messiah book, contact Robert Martinez at rmartinez@spencerville.org. The Spencerville church is located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland.
Steve Darmody and Jennifer LaMountain will present a Gospel Christmas Concert during the 11 o’clock worship service, Sabbath, December 7, at the Baltimore First church located at 3291 Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Maryland. Questions? Call (410) 465-6864.

A benefit concert, “Songs for My Sisters,” takes place Saturday, December 7, at 6 p.m., at the Capital Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Temple located at 12420 Scaggsville Road in Highland, Maryland. The classical Christmas program is sponsored by the General Conference Women’s Ministries department, and features instrumental, choral and vocal music. Proceeds will be used by the GC Women’s Scholarship Program to help talented and needy Adventist women obtain a college education. This scholarship fund has helped 2,104 women in 121 countries. To support this endeavor and learn more, visit AdventistWomensMinistries.org, or call (301) 680-6636.

On Sabbath afternoon, December 14 at 4 p.m., the Spencerville Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Dr. James Bingham, will present a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a yearly tradition at the Spencerville church. This concert service consists of carols for choir and congregation, interspersed with traditional readings to tell the story of the plan of salvation from the fall of Adam to the coming of Christ to this world to atone for the sins of mankind. Admission is free. The Spencerville church is located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring. Questions? Call (301) 384-2920.

Highland View Academy takes part in three holiday concerts in Hagerstown, Maryland. Call (301) 739-8480, or contact: Renee Williams (rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com) or Joseph Choi (jchoi@highlandviewacademy.com) for more details.

Saint-Saën’s Christmas Oratorio—
Friday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m.
Highland View Church, 21600 Academy Terrace
Vocal/Choral Concert featuring Highlanders, Men’s Choir and the Hagerstown Church Choir

Saint-Saën’s Christmas Oratorio—
Saturday, December 14, at 11 a.m.
Hagerstown Church, 11507 Robinwood Drive
HVA Highlanders, Hagerstown Church Choir

Instrumental Concert—
Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
Highland View Church, 21600 Academy Terrace
HVA Bells, Strings, Wind Ensemble and Beginners’ Band

The Wilna Children’s Choir performs celebrates the birth of Jesus with choral music during the worship service at 11 a.m. on Sabbath, December 14. The church is located at 101 Old Joppa Road in Joppa, Maryland. Need more information? Email vnozea@yahoo.com.

The Dover Diamonds Pathfinder Club presents an Outdoor Nativity at the Dover church located at 647 Wyoming Avenue, in Dover, Delaware. There will be three showings each evening, Saturday, December 21, and Sunday, December 22, with the first showing at 6:30 p.m. Highlights include singing, crafts for kids and food for purchase. Proceeds will be used to help Pathfinders attend the Oshkosh World Camporee. Call (302) 358-0520 or 0526 for details.

“Loving Through Differences” is the theme for the sixth annual marriage retreat co-sponsored by Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church and Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church, located in Clarksville, Maryland. The retreat takes place February 7-9, 2013, at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Rick and Annette Friesen from Peacemaker® Ministries are featured presenters. Register by December 16 to get the early-bird rate of $275.00 per couple. The fee includes lodging for two nights, brunch, dinner and tea on Sabbath, and brunch on Sunday. To learn more, call Mark and Peggy Lee at (301) 317-5428, or Jeff and Sandy Hartz at (443) 864-6328.

The first Family Ski Day of the season is planned for Sunday, December 22, at Jack Frost Ski Resort in Poconos, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Youth Ministries, it is a fun, affordable day in the snow for skiers of all ages and abilities. Skiing and snowboarding packages that cover lift ticket, rental, and a lesson are available from $36. Snowtubing is available for $23. Groups of more than 15 get one free leader ticket. Register online by selecting “Family Ski Day” on the quick links of the conference website ccosda.org. Need help? Email Youth Ministries director Carl Rodriguez at crodriguez@ccosda.org, or call (410) 241-4919.

December Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:
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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.

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