February 2014

The Chesapeake Conference Executive Committee at its January 28 meeting elected Jerry Lutz, MDiv, to the position of conference executive secretary. Lutz replaces Kleyton Feitosa who accepted a call to be president of the Egypt-Sudan Field. “We’re delighted to have Pastor Lutz joining our staff at the Chesapeake Conference,” said Rick Remmers, conference president. “His many years of capable and effective leadership in various congregations have prepared him well to be a strong support to our churches and schools.” Lutz, who has been the senior pastor of the nearly 1800-member Spencerville church in Silver Spring, Maryland, since 1996, says “I love the Chesapeake Conference, believe in its mission and vision, and with the Lord's help will do my very best to aid and assist the advancement of the work in our part of the Columbia Union.” Elder Lutz will transition to the new position on April 1. Read more at ccosda.org.

Hearty Welcomes and Fond Farewells:
~ The New Hope church welcomes new associate pastor Jason Dacena, who arrives this month from the west coast where he served as pastor at the Pacific Union College church. Pastor Dacena is joined by his wife Heidi—a teacher—and their two children.
~ Also welcomed: Ramón Crousett, who comes from Newark, New Jersey, to pastor the Dundalk, Glen Burnie, and Annapolis Spanish churches. He is married to Mercedes, an elementary teacher. The couple has three grown children—a daughter and son who live in the Washington, D.C. metro area, and a son who makes his home in Houston, Texas.
~ Good wishes and sincere thanks are offered to Ismael Nunez for his dedicated service in several congregations in the conference. Pastor Nunez has accepted a call to the New Jersey Conference, where he and his family will share the gospel in a new territory.
~ Kevin McDaniel has accepted a call to the Montana Conference. Maybe this severe Maryland winter has prepared him for colder climes. Deep gratitude for many years of valued service on the eastern shore is extended to Pastor McDaniel and his family.

Congratulations are offered to Dan Weber, a member of Spencerville church, who was appointed NAD Communication director by the North American Division Executive Committee on January 23.
The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation has designated February 10-16 as “Random Acts of Kindness Week.” Take a few moments each day to do something nice for someone else and enjoy the warm glow of happiness caring can bring. Share your experiences with us on Facebook and Twitter. For ideas, visit randomactsofkindness.org.

“Anne of Green Gables” is presented by Spencerville Adventist Academy elementary and middle school students, Sunday, February 9, at 5 p.m. in the school auditorium. Front row tickets are $20; all others are $10. SAA student tickets are $7. The academy is located at 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Maryland. Questions? Call (240) 883-3538, or email Jane Lanning at jlanning@spencerville.org.

The annual GAIN Conference takes place in Baltimore, Maryland, February 12-16. Sponsored by the General Conference, GAIN, an acronym for Global Adventist Internet Network, is a community of Seventh-day Adventist technologists and communicators who connect to discuss the creative use of Internet technology in their work and in the lives of those whom they serve. A number of pastors and lay leaders in Chesapeake have shown interest in this type of training. The $150 fee covers fees and some meals. Pastor Monteiro, who was recently released from prison in Togo, and for who Adventists worldwide have been praying, will share his experience as a missionary in Togo. Get details and register online at gain.adventist.org, or call Heather Hopwood at (800) 732-7587. Take advantage of this rare opportunity.

A Valentine Potluck/Party, sponsored by Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries, is planned for February 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chesapeake Conference office, 6600 Martin Road, Columbia, Maryland. Bring food to share. For more information, contact Fred Thomas by email at fthomas1950@yahoo.com, or by phone at (410) 992-9731.

“Wholly Loved” is the theme for Middletown Valley church’s Visitor’s Day planned for Sabbath, February 15. Plan to attend the 10:50 a.m. worship service and stay for the fellowship luncheon that follows. The Heavners, a local quartet, will perform a free southern gospel concert at 6 p.m. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Maryland. For details, visit mvsdachurch.org, or call (301) 371-7688.

Youth Ministries Upcoming Events:

For more information about these events, contact Ann Reynolds by email atareynolds@ccosda.org, or call (410) 995-1910.

~ There is still time to register for the Generation Rain High School Spiritual Retreat, themed “Going Deep With God,” planned for February 21-23 at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Pastor Jason Brooks is the featured presenter. The $40 fee covers lodging and meals for the weekend. Commuters (no lodging) pay just $15. Visit generationrain.com for details.

~ One more Family Ski Day this season takes place Sunday, February 23, at Jack Frost Resort in Pennsylvania. Skiing and snowboarding packages that cover lift ticket, rental, and a lesson are available from $45. Half and full-day tubing packages are also available. To register, email Youth Ministries director Carl Rodriguez at crodriguez@ccosda.org, or call (410) 241-4919.

~ The Pathfinder Conference Level Bible Experience is Sabbath, February 15, at 3 p.m., at the Frederick church located at 6437 Jefferson Pike in Frederick, Maryland. Study is focused on the book 2nd Samuel. Seventeen clubs move from area level to conference level.

~ The Pathfinder Rain Gutter Regatta is planned for Sunday, March 2, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Baltimore First church located at 3291 Saint Johns Lane in Ellicott City, Maryland. Join the fun watching Pathfinders blow on the sails to move their handmade crafts down the rain gutters to the finish line. Up to 20 boats compete in each timed race.

~ Come to Youth Leaders Enrichment Day for worship and training on Sabbath, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Baltimore White Marsh church located at 7427 Rossville Blvd. in Baltimore. The event is free and registration is not necessary. Those planning to participate in the potluck luncheon should bring a casserole to share. Baraka Muganda, vice president for Ministry at Washington Adventist University, is the worship speaker. Seven training tracks will be offered: Children’s Ministries, Adventurer Basic, Pathfinder Basic, PLA, Youth, TLT, and Master Guide.

Calling all Prayer Warriors! Chesapeake Conference hosts a Prayer Line conference call each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate in this time of praise and prayer. To join, call toll free (605) 475-4000, and
Plans are underway to plant a new church in Laurel, Maryland. The conference has hired Pastor Steve Leddy, a seasoned church planter who has started churches in Washington, Nebraska and Kansas, to lead this new mission project. Right now, he is working to build the initial core church team. If you have an interest in learning more about this new church plant, or know someone who may be excited about getting involved in this endeavor, contact Pastor Leddy at (206) 391-3383, or email pastorsteveleddy@gmail.com.

Notice someone who is missing from church? That person may be waiting for a call. Not sure what to say? Learn from Ed Williams, who took a break from church for more than 30 years, how to reconnect with missing members. He is available to speak at churches, or present a seminar or Sabbath school feature. And don’t forget Sabbath, April 5—the conference Reconnect to Worship Day. Invite missing members to come for a memorable worship experience that is tailored to help them comfortably reenter church life. Some congregations may prefer an alternative date—that’s fine! Special events such as Easter, baby dedications, and baptisms are all excellent occasions to reach out to missing members. For more information, contact Ed Williams at (301) 252-4898, or email ceddwilliams@aol.com.

The Executive Committee at its January 2013 meeting took action on the following items and received these reports:
~ Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline Messenger presented the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan for Education. Goals for programming, communication and marketing, leadership, finances, facilities, community partnerships, and spiritual life are in place.
~ voted, to approve the 2013 financial report.
~ voted, to approve the budget for 2014 based on a tithe increase of .95 percent.
~ voted, to recognize the Washington-Spencerville Korean Community Services Center as a local church sponsored center.
~ voted, to enable the administration to fill the pastoral vacancy (left by Kevin McDaniel) in the Chestertown/Rock Hall district.
~ voted, to appoint Roberto Clouzet as pastor of the Hagerstown and Frederick Spanish churches, filling the vacancy created when Pastor Luis Orjuela transitioned to the Washington-Spencerville/Laurel Spanish district.
~ voted, to appoint Victor Chuquillanqui Ortiz as pastor of the Waldorf/Bowie/Glenn Dale Spanish district.
~ voted, to ratify the call to Ramon Crousett to serve as pastor of the Dundalk/Glen Burnie/Annapolis Spanish churches.
~ voted, to elect Jerry Lutz as conference executive secretary, and to extend appreciation to Charles Griffin for serving as interim secretary.

Help a young person! Pathfinders are busy raising funds to attend the 2014 Forever Faithful Camporee August 11-16 in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin. In addition to the ticket, which costs about $200, they must earn money to cover travel and ancillary expenses. Many high school age students are also trying to raise money to cover the costs of participating in mission trips this spring. Consider sponsoring a young person and give them the experience of a lifetime. Not sure how to proceed? Contact a youth leader, or call (410) 995-1910.

Attention, Pastors! A few good preachers are needed to spread the Good News in the Philippines, May 2-17. Join Ted Wilson, Dan Jackson, and other leaders to share Jesus with the people of Manila. Approximately 100 meetings will take place simultaneously in churches throughout the area. To learn more about this unique evangelism opportunity, visit southwesternadventist.org/evangelism and select the “Mission Philippines” link, or call Suzanna Facundo at (817) 295-0476. Details can also be found at ShareHim.org.

Stay connected:
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Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/chesapeakeconference.

February 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.