July 2014

Congratulations and good wishes are showered on Dick Thomas and his new bride, Alice Wolouk Thomas. The happy couple was married on June 1 at Lake Anna in Virginia. Elder Thomas has been in the ministry for more than 47 years—many of those years in the Chesapeake Conference—and retired last month to settle in Yale, Virginia. Most recently, he has been associate pastor at the Hagerstown, Maryland, church. It is with deep appreciation for his many years of valued service that we bid a heartfelt farewell to Elder Thomas.

Staffing Update:
~ Elder Robert Ross and his wife Esmé are welcomed to the Triadelphia church this month where Elder Ross takes up his responsibilities as pastor. They are natives of South Africa, but come most recently from the Northern California Conference where he was the small church coordinator. The couple has two married children and six grandchildren.
~ Eli Rojas is a long-awaited addition to the conference office staff. He has hit the ground running as Ministerial and Family Life director. His coming was announced in the April edition of Currents and it is good to have him as part of the team.
~ Yung Yoon is the new senior pastor at the Washington-Spencerville Korean (WSK) church in Spencerville, Maryland, filling the vacancy left by Jonathan Hong. Yoon and his wife, Eunha, come from Ohio where he has been senior pastor of the Dayton Korean church since 2005.
~ Elder David Byrkit moves from the Blythedale/Rising Sun district to the Chestertown/Rock Hall district on the eastern shore.

Highland View Academy starts strong this year with a solid leadership team in place. Malcolm Hutchinson, Ed.D., joins the administration as principal. Hutchinson comes from Potomac Conference’s Richmond Academy where he has been principal since 2011. Ophelia Barizo returns to the science classroom after spending a year at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering. She was among 27 distinguished STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) educators to be selected for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Fellowship Program. In addition to teaching, Barizo assumes the position of vice principal for STEM development at HVA and will continue to write grant proposals for the school. Kim Brown, vice principal and registrar, and Andrew Choi, business manager, continue in their roles—each bringing a high level of proficiency to the administration of the school. “We look forward to providing a Christ-centered program of academic excellence with this capable group of professionals leading the team,” says Jacqueline Messenger, conference superintendent of schools.
Did you miss The Gathering or just want to revisit the experience? Visit the conference website at www.ccosda.org for links to view photos and video as well as listen to Bill Knott’s weeknight presentations and Karl Haffner’s Sabbath sermons. Facebook fans can view and download photos and get conference news at www.Facebook.com/chesapeakeconference.

Camp meeting attendance swelled and featured some favorite activities. Special thanks goes to Adventist HealthCare for providing two health experts to conduct body composition and blood pressure screenings.

Women’s Ministries Update:
~ Women—register now for the “Grow-Reach-Thrive” conference-wide women’s retreat. The 2014 retreat is an abbreviated version of the usual weekend getaway to enable women to use their funds this year to attend the NAD Women’s Convention in Orlando, Florida. Chesapeake Conference’s retreat begins with an evening concert that is open to everyone (not just women) at Spencerville church on Friday, October 17. Although there is no charge for the concert, a free will offering will be collected. Women and teen girls age 15 and up are invited to register for the Sabbath event planned exclusively for them. Worship services and seminars in both English and Spanish languages will take place on Sabbath, October 18, at Spencerville Adventist Academy. Raquel Arrais, associate Women’s Ministries director for the Seventh-day Adventist world church, is the speaker for both English and Spanish tracks. A seminar track just for teens will be offered (in English) this year. The $35 registration fee covers lunch and materials. Space is limited, so register soon! See details and register online at ccosda.org. Questions? Call (410) 995-1910, or email jstefan@ccosda.org.

~ The NAD Women’s Convention takes place September 25-28 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. This unique opportunity comes only once every five years and is a spiritual feast for women age 18 or older. Join the 30 Chesapeake women already registered to attend and about 2,000 other women at a beautiful resort for inspiring preaching and music, practical seminars, an outreach project and Christian fellowship—all in a luxurious setting at very low cost. Featured speakers and musicians include Adrienne Townsend, United States Navy chaplain; Dan Jackson, NAD president; Ella Simmons, General Conference vice president; Katia Reinert, NAD Health Ministries director; Sara de Bullón; Kelly Mower and Gale Jones Murphy. The registration fee is just $199, and includes some meals. Hotel rooms are $125/night and can accommodate up to four people. Take a peek at the lovely setting online at rossshinglecreek.com. To view the schedule and register for the convention, visit the NAD website nadwm.org, or call (301)680-6427.

~ Churches who are making hats for cancer patients need to have them at the conference office by Monday, September 8. Many thanks are extended to those who are participating in this worthy project.

The Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee takes place August 11-16 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Some 800 young people from Chesapeake Conference will be among the 46,000 Pathfinders representing 100 countries expected to participate. Just imagine! Local clubs have been working all year to raise funds for the trip. It’s not too late to sponsor a Pathfinder or help a club with expenses. Contact your local Pathfinder leader, or call the conference office youth department at (410) 995-1910. Visit cye.org/camporee for a glimpse of the magnitude of this event.

Youth and Children’s Ministry leaders are invited to participate a weekend of training covering topics such as Pathfinder and Adventurer leadership, children’s Sabbath School, outreach and creative ministry ideas. The event takes place September 5-7 at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. The featured speaker is Ron Rambo, Arise Missions director and member of the Prince Frederick church in southern Maryland. New leaders and directors, especially, will benefit from this smorgasbord of workshops. For more information and to register, contact Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910, or email areynolds@ccosda.org.

The Chesapeake Conference operates 14 schools including Spencerville Adventist Academy, a PreK-12 grade day school in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Highland View Academy a day/boarding high school in Hagerstown, Maryland. This year, a newly constructed school operated by the Dover First church opens in Delaware. All schools—elementary, junior academy, and high school—are accepting students for the 2014-2015 academic year. For registration dates, contact your local Adventist school, call the conference office at (410) 995-1910, or find links to schools at www.ccosda.org. Classes begin Tuesday, August 19. Following is a list of Chesapeake Conference schools:

Atholton Adventist Academy, Columbia, Md.
Baltimore White Marsh School, White Marsh, Md.
Chester River School, Chestertown, Md.
Crest Lane School, Westminster, Md.
Crossroads School, Ellicott City, Md.
Dover Adventist School, Dover, Del.
Frederick School, Frederick, Md.
Friendship School, Linthicum, Md.
Gateway Christian School, Salisbury, Md.
Highland View Academy, Hagerstown, Md.
Mount Aetna Elementary School, Hagerstown, Md.
Rocky Knoll School, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Spencerville Adventist Academy, Silver Spring, Md.
Wilmington Junior Academy, Wilmington, Del.

Vacation Bible School programs are in full swing this summer. Consider donating your time and/or money to support this child evangelism endeavor in your church and community—or a church nearby if yours doesn’t host VBS. Volunteers of all ages and skill sets are needed to have a successful program. VBS leaders are encouraged to share stories, ideas, and photos with the conference Children’s Ministries department by emailing areynolds@ccosda.org.

Learn church growth strategies at the Growing Dynamic Churches and Seeds Church Planting Conference, September 12-14. Seating is limited, so register now. This event is sponsored by the Chesapeake Conference and takes place at the adjacent Atholton church located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Maryland. The cost is $15 and includes lunch on Sabbath. Learn success secrets of church planting and growing churches, how to have an innovative prayer ministry that reaches non-members, how to use technology for ministry—even greeting methods that will have guests returning week after week! Learn more atccosda.org, or call (410) 995-1910, ext. 2349.

Sincere condolences are offered to Mike Porter, pastor at the Baltimore First church, and his wife Karen. Elder Porter’s father died last month after a long struggle with cancer. Please remember the family in prayer as they mourn the loss of a beloved parent.

Stay connected:
Subscribe to Currents via the conference’s website at ccosda.org.
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/chesapeakeconference.

July Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

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<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<td>Local Church Budget</td>
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<td>NAD—Women’s Ministries (40 percent stays in Chesapeake Conference!)</td>
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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.