All God's best to Elder Steve Jencks, senior pastor of the Atholton church, as he brings to a close nearly nine years of fruitful ministry here in Chesapeake. Jencks is transitioning to Indianapolis, IN., at the end of this month, where he will serve as the senior pastor of the Glendale church (Indiana's largest Adventist church). His family will join him in June following his son's graduation from Spencerville Adventist Academy. Thank you Steve and Tina for the contributions and leadership you have provided while here in Chesapeake!

Congratulations to the Atholton Faithblazers, Pikesville Tigers and the Triadelphia Sparks on their advancement to the North American Division finals of the 2010-2011 Pathfinder Bible Bowl. The finals are being contested on the campus of Andrews University on April 16. This year's study focus is the Apostle Paul's letters to the Corinthians.

Members of the South Carroll company are thrilled to be in their new church home at 2020 West Liberty Road in Taylorsville, MD. Their presence in the area has already attracted significant interest. Attendance has nearly tripled over that at their previous location in Sykesville. They would be pleased to have you worship with them some Sabbath.

New Baby Congratulations to Pastor Shawn Paris (Spencerville Youth) and his wife Michelle on the arrival of their second daughter, Stephanie Michelle, on February 25. Big sister, Julianne, is excited to welcome Stephanie into their family.

The Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) is returning to the Clarkesville area this spring. This scientifically sound lifestyle medicine program worked wonders for those who attended in October, producing dramatic drops in cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and obesity — in just 30 days! CHIP could be your answer for finding health and wellness again or for someone you know. Four free Information Sessions about CHIP are being held in Clarkesville on April 5, 7,10 and 12. Call 301-854-3678 for more information.

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend (April 7-10) activities feature: a Friday evening gospel concert with musical guest Gerald Scott & Co., Worship Service at Sligo church with Pastor Brenda Billingy, a special concert by the renowned New England Youth Ensemble on Sabbath at 4:00 p.m. followed by an elegant banquet at 6:00 p.m. For more information please visit www.wau.edu/alumni or call (301) 891-4133. On Sunday the 10th the annual WAU Family Fun Festival will be held on the WAU Commons from 12-5 p.m., rain or shine. The event will feature a live performance by Christian recording artist and American Idol finalist Jason Castro sponsored by WGTS 91.9 FM. The festival also presents delicious food options, free health screenings, amusements for the kids and much more. For more information please visit www.wau.edu/familyfunfestival or phone (301) 576-0105.

A Work Bee has been scheduled for Sunday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on the campus of Highland View Academy to get “tentville” and “trailerville” prepared for Camp Meeting. Due to a limited budget for this year’s gathering, we are asking for volunteers to help get the specified areas in a usable condition. A hearty lunch will be served. RSVP to Janet Ford at 301-739-8480 or by email at jford@highlandviewacademy.com.

The Cambridge church is holding their second annual Easter Concert on April 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the historic Avalon Theatre in Easton, MD. The concert, Oh, My Son, which premiered at Carnegie Hall last Easter and also featured on NPR, is operatic tableaux adapted from the Nativity and Passion narratives of the Gospels. It was written and produced by Marcos Galvany, a young Adventist composer, and features Adventist soloists Javier Gonzalez and Karla Rivera of Bella Voce fame. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Avalon Theatre box office at 410-822-7299 or visiting www.avalontheatre.com. For more information visit the church’s website, www.cambridgesdachurch.org or call Pastor Cesar Gonzalez at 410-357-1463.

The Gathering: A Renewed Camp Meeting Experience takes place June 14-18 on the campus of Highland View Academy. For the latest information on speakers, seminars, daily schedules and a host of special features please visit Chesapeake’s website www.ccosda.org. Registration for lodging can be done online and necessary fees can also be paid on the website. If someone in each church could print and post the information from the website to give members a head start on making plans it would be appreciated. The whole program will be highlighted in the May edition of The Chesapeake Challenge that is printed in the Visitor.

Mt. Aetna Adventist School students worked with local churches and the Review and Herald Publishing Association to raise more than $7,000 to help with medical expenses for fellow student Cathy Recuenco, who is battling leukemia. “It's great to see students working to bring real help to a challenging situation,” stated conference president Rob Vandeman. “Thank you. Your example has touched our hearts.”

The North American Division Prayer Ministries department invites church members to be part of 100,000 people who will be praying daily for revival and evangelism for the Seventh-day Adventist church. To register and be part of this group, visit www.Pray4net2011.org.
There’s An App For That—Three free Seventh-day Adventist apps are available for download from iTunes to your Apple iPhone/iPad or Google Android devices.

~ The White Estate app features all the published writings of Ellen G. White. For more information please visit www.whiteestate.org.

~ A Sabbath School/Personal Ministries app is available in English, French and Spanish. The app features Sabbath School University videos, Daily Collegiate Quarterly readings, podcasts and Kindergarten lesson animations, as well as Cool Tools, a multi-language resource for Sabbath School and small group leaders. In addition an iPad app set for release next month for the GraceLink study series will feature a digital felt board.

~ InPrayer is a mobile application designed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to facilitate a global prayer chain that prays for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The app features a map view that shows where every other member interacting with the app is located, a daily devotional focused on the Holy Spirit; global and local prayer requests; and Facebook and Twitter integration.

The Executive Committee at its recent meeting took action on the following items and received these reports.

~ Kleyton Feitosa, Director of Ministries Development and the Evangelism Coordinator for Chesapeake, gave a detailed report on his work and plans for 2011. An Open Door in Baltimore continues to show encouraging results as a follow up to the GYC Outreach event at the first of the year. Feitosa also shared plans the conference has to coordinate with Share Him evangelism and also to engage pastors and churches in a process of revitalization known as the Refocusing Network. More details on this will follow next month.

~ voted, to recommend to the Columbia Union Executive Committee, the following pastors as candidates for ordination to the Gospel Ministry: Volodymyr Grinchenko (Waldorf), Raul Rivero (Wash/Spencerville and Bowie Spanish) and Joshua Voigt (Reisterstown and South Carroll).

~ voted, to offer a seminary sponsorship to Geoffrey Crowley, a Chesapeake member (Beacon of Light) and soon to be graduate of Washington Adventist University. The committee is also working to secure the services of another WAU student, Diego Boquer, who has been working with the Glen Burnie congregation for the past six months. Diego also runs our summer student LE program.

~ voted, to grant a request from the Potomac Conference for a variance on our shared conference boundary near Bowie, MD in order to give their Restoration Praise congregation (attendance of 700) the opportunity to purchase a partially developed church building site that lies close to the boundary. The committee approved the request providing that Chesapeake and Potomac administrators continue to work on clarifying the existing boundaries using roads, zip codes, community developments, etc., rather than the current point to point line that has been used for decades. The committee asked that this process of clarifying the boundaries be completed by the end of 2012.

~ voted, enabling actions for the Administration and Personnel Committee to effect some changes in pastoral assignments to give opportunity for professional growth and new experience. Details will be published as those changes are ready to take effect.

~ The Financial Review of 2010 showed the effects of the continued weakness of the economy on our members. With a tithe gain of only 0.74% and unusually high expenses for medical coverage and legal assistance our bottom line took a big hit in the decrease of net assets.

~ Our average tithe gain for the past 3 years has been 1.4% while the average for the 10 years leading up to 2008 was 5.96%. That translates to a loss of average income to the conference of more than $600,000 a year since 2008. While we rejoice that we have not suffered a tithe loss in any given year, we have had to make adjustments to our staffing levels and may be forced to continue to do so if the tithe income stays flat.

~ Even in difficult times our members respond faithfully as Chesapeake ranks 4th within the North American Division in tithe per capita. We trail the Bermuda, Alberta and Michigan conferences (trailing Michigan by just $2).

~ During 2010 Chesapeake received 415 new members through baptism or profession of faith. That is the second year in a row to have exceeded the 400 barrier. Only twice in the past 30 years have we exceeded 400 before the past two years. We hope it is a trend that continues.

~ Another encouraging sign was the decrease in the number of churches that had no evangelistic growth. For the past several years one-third of our congregation did not experience a baptism or profession of faith. In 2010 that number dropped to 22%. Conference leadership is committed to seeing that number cut in half during 2011.

April Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>7:29</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>7:35</td>
<td>Christian Record Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>7:42</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>7:49</td>
<td>Chesapeake Advance</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>7:56</td>
<td>NAD Outreach Project</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.

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