About 100 Chesapeake Conference teachers joined nearly 6,500 Adventist educators at the North American Division teacher’s convention held last month in Nashville, Tennessee. They attended motivating general sessions, networked with peers, and selected from a menu of 500 breakout seminars. The national convention is held every six years.

Mount Aetna Summer Camp recently underwent an American Camp Association (ACA) accreditation review. Their accreditation was renewed, and in a letter to the staff, the evaluation leader commended Maggie Downs, summer camp office manager, program director Abner Sanchez, and the camp staff calling them, “an impressive group of leaders…highly knowledgeable and competent.” The ACA accreditation requires compliance with up to 300 health, safety, and program quality standards. Kudos go to the Mount Aetna staff.

Upcoming Events at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland:
~ Tour a life-size replica of the Old Testament Sanctuary, September 8-16. Tours run from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, call (301) 733-4411.
~ The Annual Vibrant Life Health Expo (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and 5K Fun Run takes place on Sunday, September 23. Come taste samples of delicious plant-based foods and learn simple ways to improve your health. Bring the kids for the children’s health expo where they will have fun while they learn healthy habits. Get more info at VibrantLife.com.

Youth and Children’s Ministry leaders are invited to a weekend of training, September 7-9, covering topics such as Pathfinder and Adventurer leadership, outreach and creative ministry ideas. Frank Bondurant, Columbia Union vice president for Ministries Development, is the featured speaker during general sessions. The Children’s Ministry track, features “The Family-Friendly Church,” and open to anyone who registers. The event takes place at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, 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 first of three Church Ministries Leadership Training events planned for the various regions of the conference, takes place Sabbath, September 15, 3:30-6:00 p.m., at the Spencerville church, 16325 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. Workshops are planned for area church elders, treasurers and membership clerks. Additional seminars will cover stewardship, outreach, communication, and trusts. These classes are especially for local church leaders, but are open to anyone who has an interest. There is no need to register—just show up! For seminar descriptions and future training event information, visit ccosda.org.

Shall We Gather at the River? The Eastern Shore Gathering, themed Walk With God! Share His Grace!, takes place Sabbath, September 29, at Governor’s Hall at Sailwinds Park bordering the Choptank River, 200 Bym Street, in Cambridge, Maryland. Come for a day of spiritual renewal and fellowship. Pastor Lonnie Melashenko, vice president for Spiritual Services and Missions for Kettering Health Network and former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy, speaks during the morning worship service and again in the afternoon. Angela Stevens, a worship leader and Adventist recording artist, joins local talent to provide inspiring music. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. with Sabbath School for children and adults. Gary Gibbs, conference director for Ministries Development and Evangelism, will teach the adult Sabbath School lesson. A potluck luncheon follows the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and an afternoon program of preaching and music, from 2-4 p.m., is sure to be a blessing. Afternoon programming is planned for children. See you there!

Single adults are invited to a fall retreat sponsored by Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries, October 12-14, at Mount Aetna Retreat Center, 21905 Mount Aetna Road in Hagerstown. Keynote speaker Jonathan Runnels, a United States Air Force chaplain and single Adventist, will speak about “The Five Languages of Love.” This series covers romantic relationships, family relationships, and friendships. For details, contact Howard Bankes at (410) 531-3192, or Fred Thomas by email at fithomas1950@yahoo.com, or by phone at (410) 992-9731.

Plan now to attend a Prayer Conference, October 26-27, sponsored by Chesapeake Conference Prayer Ministries. Pastor and author, Pavel Goia, shares his extraordinary journey of faith as an Adventist Christian in communist Romania. The event runs Friday evening and all day on Sabbath at the Atholton church located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Maryland. A $15 registration fee covers materials and lunch on Sabbath. A special rate of $67.15/night is offered at the LaQuinta Inn in Jessup, Maryland, for those who need lodging Friday night. Call (410) 799-1500, and ask for Seventh-day Adventist group rates. Register for the conference online at ccosda.org, or contact Pam Strahle by email at pstrahle@ccosda.org, or by phone at (410) 995-1910.

Attention attorneys, pre-law and law students—Plan to attend the Annual Attorney Pre-Law Dinner presented by the Center for Law and Public Policy of Washington Adventist University (WAU). Take advantage of this opportunity for students and practicing attorneys to form valuable connections. The event takes place Sunday, September 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Wilkinson Hall Dining Hall on the WAU campus located at 7600 Flower Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. RSVP online at prelaw@wau.edu, or call (301) 891-4572.

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

September 2012
The venue for the 2012 “Mind, Body, Soul” Women’s Retreat has changed—The new owners of the Rocky Gap Resort have opted to convert the meeting space into a casino November 1, so the retreat will be held November 2-4 at the Grand Hotel and Spa in Ocean City, Maryland. The early-bird registration rate is extended until September 23 when prices increase $20. Meetings and seminars will be offered in English and in Spanish. Heather Quintana, editor of Vibrant Life, is the keynote speaker for the English-language meetings. Susana Schulz, managing editor of Dialogue magazine, is the featured speaker for the Spanish-language sessions. Register online at ccosda.org. Those who have already registered will receive more information about the new venue. Have questions? Call (410) 995-1910, or email jstefan@ccosda.org for more details.

“Thou Art the Man” is the theme for the 2012 Maryland Men of Faith Conference, October 6, at Mt. Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Last year, more than 175 men (25 of them youth) came together to grow spiritually and encourage each other. Justin Kim, director of Public Campus Ministries for the Michigan Conference will explore the topics of accountability and responsibility through study of 2 Samuel 12:7. Seminars on addiction, end time events, spiritual health, a Christian home, and programming for youth (ages 14-19), round out the day. Get full details and register online at mmof.org.

The Executive Committee, at its August 28 meeting, voted to the following actions:
~ voted, to accept the June financial report.
~ voted, to appoint Jason Disch as full time pastor of the Charles Town and Berkeley Springs district. Elder Disch comes from the Northern New England Conference where he pastored a three-church district in Maine. He begins his new assignment October 1.
~ voted, to hire Otis Countsoumpos as a part time pastor for the Reisterstown Spanish and Pikesville Spanish churches.
~ voted, to hire Daniel McKibbin as a part time Bible worker for the Lutherville Timonium area. His salary is funded by a private donor.
~ voted, to approve the teachers for the 2012-2013, as recommended by the conference Office of Education.
~ voted, to affirm and adopt the Shield the Vulnerable Children Protection Plan in partnership with Adventist Risk Management and the North American Division. The plan includes background checking and training for church employees and volunteers who interact with children. Conference administration will work with churches and schools this fall to incorporate the plan, which provides screening for reasonable fees.

Condolences are offered to Sedley Johnson, pastor of the Dundalk and Northeast churches in the Greater Baltimore area, and his family. Elder Johnson’s brother, Maurice Johnson, 73, died in Bronx, New York, Wednesday, August 29, after an extended illness. He was a member of the North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church. Please keep the Johnson family in prayer as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Resources:
In Step With Jesus is a brand new resource produced by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department as a means of welcoming new members to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The four study guides, similar in format to the adult Sabbath School quarterlies, are designed to introduce new members to the doctrines, heritage and lifestyle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Primarily intended for use in Sabbath School, the guides are also helpful for growth in discipleship through personal study and in small study groups among longtime members. For details and companion resources, visit instepwithjesus.org.

Planning a building project such as a new church, school, addition, or Community Service building? Seventh-day Adventist pastors and ministry leaders understand that “we’ve always done it that way” is an adage that no longer works, and they are looking for more responsible and credible ways to raise money. The North American Division’s Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI) has developed a handbook that will help you in your journey toward accomplishing your church’s goals, whether they include a project, campaign, or ongoing financial support. The book, Successful Fundraising: A Guide for Local Churches, is available through AdventSource for $19.95. To order, visit adventsource.org, or call (800) 328-0525.

September Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>7:40</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>7:29</td>
<td>Fall Mission Appeal/World Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>7:17</td>
<td>Local Church Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>7:06</td>
<td>Chesapeake Advance</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
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<td>Washington Adventist University</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.

Chesapeake Currents is published monthly by the Communication Department – Samantha Young, director/editor
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