February 2013 Please forward this newsletter and/or print out copies for your local church bulletin board and for distribution.

This weekend 100 young adults will gather at Mount Aetna Retreat Center for the first ARISE retreat geared for ages 18-35. They will worship and get acquainted, as well as focus on topics such as maintaining faith, loving difficult people, finance, Bible study and outreach.

Washington Adventist University (WAU) extends an open invitation attend to the 2013 Choral Festival. Academy students from across the Columbia Union will perform a sacred concert alongside the Columbia Collegiate Chorale and the New England Youth Ensemble Friday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, and again during the Divine Worship service at the Sligo church located at 7700 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, on Sabbath, February 9 at 11:00 a.m. These performances will culminate a week of intense preparation and rehearsals facilitated by WAU music faculty and professional clinicians. The festival features music by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Rutter and Vivaldi. Questions? Call (301) 891-4126.

A Valentine Potluck/Party, sponsored by Chesapeake Adventist Single Adult Ministries, is planned for February 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Conference office, 6600 Martin Road in Columbia, Maryland. Bring food to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided. For more information, contact Fred Thomas by email at fthomas1950@yahoo.com, or by phone at (410) 992-9731.

Attention Prayer Warriors! Chesapeake Conference hosts a Prayer Line Conference Call each Wednesday morning from 6:30-7:30. Everyone is invited to participate in this time of praise and prayer. To join, call toll free (605) 475-4000, and use participant code 721521#.

Youth Ministries Upcoming Events:
For more information about these events, contact Ann Reynolds by email at areynolds@ccosda.org, or call (410) 995-1910.
~ Monday, February 4, is the deadline to register for the Generation Rain High School Spiritual Retreat, “Our Story—His Story,” planned for February 8-10 at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. J “The Phoenix” Mendoza is the featured presenter. The $38 fee covers lodging and meals for the weekend. Commuters (no lodging) pay just $15. Visit www.generationrain.com for details.
~ One more Family Ski Day this season takes place Sunday, February 24, at the Jack Frost Resort in Pennsylvania. Skiing and snowboarding packages that cover lift ticket, rental, and a lesson are available from $45. Tubing is 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 16, at 3:00 p.m., at the North East church located at St. Andrew Lutheran church, 1201 Taylor Avenue in Baltimore. Study is focused on the books of Acts and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. Fifteen clubs move from area level to conference level (8 first place and 7 wildcard teams).
~ The Pathfinder Pinewood Derby is planned for Sunday, March 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington Spencerville Korean church (WSK) gym located at 15930 Good Hope Road in Spencerville, Maryland. More than 300 cars will participate.
~ Attend Youth Leaders Enrichment Day for worship and training on Sabbath, March 9, from 9:00 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. Javier Mendez, Pennsylvania Conference camp director, is the worship speaker. Seven training tracks will be offered: Adventurer Basic, Pathfinder Basic, PIA, Youth, TLT, Master Guide and Spanish Federation.

Notice someone is missing from church? Love them back to church through the conference-wide Connect 2 Reconnect initiative. It is estimated that there are more than 50,000 inactive and former Seventh-day Adventists within the Chesapeake Conference territory. Connect 2 Reconnect is an intentional ministry to engage inactive members. Now is the time to reconnect with and visit people you know who have stopped coming to church. Each church is encouraged to plan an extra special “Reconnect to Worship” Sabbath for April 6, and invite missing members to attend. Churches that plan to participate in the April 6 special Sabbath are asked to register online now at www.ccosda.org (Select Connect 2 Reconnect from Quick Links on the homepage), or call Gary Gibbs at (410) 995-1910.

Save the Date for Camp Meeting! The theme for The Gathering this year is “It’s All About Jesus.” Derek Morris, editor of Ministry magazine, is the featured speaker from June 11-15. The event takes place on the campus of Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Maryland. Watch future issues of Currents and the church bulletin for details as they become available, or visit www.ccosda.org. A lodging reservation form will be included in the March issue of Visitor magazine as well as on the conference website. Plan now to attend.

The Executive Committee, at its January 27, 2013 meeting, voted the following actions:
~ voted, to recommend for ordination Unjong (Charles) Yang, associate pastor of the Washington Spencerville Korean (WSK) church in Spencerville, Maryland. Pastor Yang will be ordained on Sabbath, April 6, during the WSK church’s 50th anniversary celebration.
~ voted, to ask Don Lowe, a member of the Atholton church in Columbia, Maryland, to serve on the Executive Committee. He fills the vacancy created by David L. Harris’ recent move to Jamaica.
~ voted, to grant company status to the Columbia (Maryland) Spanish Group.
~ voted, to approve the 2013 budget as presented. It is a balanced budget based on the small tithe gain realized in 2012.
Conference Finances at a Glance—Now that December remittances have been received and the 2012 books closed, the conference administration is pleased to report a modest tithe increase of 1.08 percent compared to 2011. This is especially notable given that there were 52 Sabbaths in 2012 compared to 53 Sabbaths in 2011. This is due to the ongoing faithfulness of Chesapeake members. Funding for evangelism has increased from $250,000 in 2012 to $305,000 for 2013. This increase comes from the generous response of members to the special evangelism offering appeal during camp meeting and the fund-raising campaign in December.

It is with deep sadness that we report that Elder J. Wayne Coulter, former Chesapeake Conference president, died on Wednesday, January 23, following a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 76. Elder Coulter was president of Chesapeake Conference from 1985-1995. “He made a real mark in advancing the development of Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center,” said Rick Remmers, Chesapeake Conference president. “It was during his leadership that the Lodge and Nature Center were built, as well as a church on the campus of Highland View Academy. Our hearts and prayers go out to Sharon, Christy, Todd and their families during this difficult time.” In 1995, Elder Coulter left the Chesapeake Conference to serve as president of the Illinois Conference. In 2002, he retired and moved with his wife Sharon to Tennessee where he pastored the Decatur church. A memorial service is planned for Sabbath, February 2, at 4 p.m., at the Decatur Seventh-day Adventist Church located on HWY 58 South, Decatur, Tennessee, 37322.

Filmmakers may be interested in attending the 2013 SONscreen Film Festival, April 4-6, at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, California. Sponsored by the North American Division, the festival features professional workshops, screenings of inspirational films, and awards. For a schedule and film submission guidelines, visit www.sonscreen.com, or call (301) 680-6428.

The North American Division Health Summit will be held March 13-17 at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel in New York City. This summit features courses designed for health leaders and individuals wanting to share evidence-based holistic health programs which will enable them to present life changing elements for abundant living. Attendees will gain the tools needed to address current health issues and develop a relevant health outreach ministry in local congregations. For details, visit www.nadhealthsummit.com, or call (800) 732-7587.

Investigation Station: The Genesis Factor is a new Vacation Bible School (VBS) Program developed by the North American Division Children’s Ministries department. Research shows that VBS is an effective evangelistic outreach tool. Explore the six days of creation; Sabbath, a day of rest; Sin, the big mistake; and the Flood in this investigation of God’s Word. The kit includes a music CD featuring tracks in three versions—traditional, gospel and contemporary. Take a peek at www.adventistbookcenter.com.

How friendly is your church? Here are a few tips from Phil Hamman, pastor of the Dover First/Forest Grove district in Delaware:

~ Give guests the best attitude—visitors often decide in the first 30 seconds of arrival whether they will come back
~ Give guests the best communication—greet them and make eye contact when you pass near them
~ Give guests the best service—approach them promptly, offer helpful information, introduce them by name to others
~ Give guests the best parking—yes, those spots nearest the entrance
~ Give guests the best seats—just like you, they like aisle seats and the ones near the back of the sanctuary. Offer them first dibs.
~ Give guests the best time—take the first five minutes after the service to converse first with guests, then with fellow members.

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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.

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