Congratulations are offered to:

~ Chesapeake Conference members Sandra Martin and Peggy Lee, two of eight individuals recognized last month by the Columbia Union Conference for their significant contributions to ministry in the Columbia Union.

- Sandra Martin, a member of the Hagerstown church, is the longtime director of the ACTS 9 Adventist Community Services Center (ACTS 9 stands for Adventists Caring Through Sharing) which is supported by five area churches—the Hagerstown, Highland View, Williamsport, and Willow Brook churches in Maryland, and the Berkeley Springs, West Virginia church. A retired nurse, Martin is a capable, compassionate leader who has never retired from helping people. She was recognized for her exemplary servant leadership.
- Peggy Lee, a member of the Baltimore First church in Ellicott City, Maryland, is secretary/treasurer of the Columbia Union Revolving Fund (CURF) which provides low interest loans to churches, schools and other organizations. Lee has worked at the Columbia Union Conference for nearly 50 years! Under her skilled management, the fund has grown from $3 million at its start in 1980 to $167.7 million today.

~ The Hagerstown Spanish congregation for their change of status from company to church. The 118-member church, now led by Pastor Roberto Clouzet, celebrated with a special service on Sabbath, November 22. The group formed in 2001 as a Spanish Sabbath School class at the Hagerstown English church and grew rapidly. Within a few years, they purchased their own church building.

~ All Chesapeake Spanish churches as they celebrate the 30-Year Anniversary of Hispanic Ministry in the Chesapeake Conference. A commemorative service and luncheon took place at the Baltimore Spanish church on Sabbath, November 15.

Transitions:

~ Tim Crosby, longtime pastor at the Willow Brook church in Boonsboro, Maryland, has accepted a new role as interim pastor at the Waldorf, Maryland, church. His ministry, music and the hospitality of he and his wife Carol, are deeply appreciated by Willow Brook.

~ Tyler Trahan, conference Bible worker, is welcomed as associate pastor at the Atholton church in Columbia, Maryland, filling the vacancy created when Roosevelt Marsden recently accepted a call to South Carolina.

Upcoming Christmas Events:

~ Washington Adventist University (WAU) Christmas Concert—join the Washington Adventist University community to celebrate the coming Christmas with joyous music and to launch the Paul Hill Memorial Choral Scholarship Fund. Pro Musica, the Columbia Collegiate Chorale, and the New England Youth Ensemble will perform traditional Christmas music, Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. The concert takes place on campus at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, 7700 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. Free parking is available directly across Flower Avenue and behind the church along Greenwood Avenue. A renowned conductor, the late Paul Hill was the university’s choral program director from 1962-1970 and founder of the Pro-Musica choral performance group. Hill was also founder of the acclaimed 160-voice Paul Hill Chorale that performed in 1971 at the opening of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and continued to perform under his leadership for more than two decades until his death in 1999. Visit wau.edu, or call (301) 891-4000 for more information.

~ A Messiah Sing-along takes place at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland, on Sabbath, December 6, at 4 p.m. The Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) choir and strings, with special guests, Strings for Joy, led by Evonne Baasch, and guest soloists will present Handel’s Messiah. Bring your voices —experienced or not—and your Messiah scores and sing selections such as “And the Glory,” “Oh Thou That Tellest,” and “Hallelujah!” along with the SAA choir and orchestra during the second half of the concert. Even if you aren’t experienced, it is delightful to sing among people who know the work. Robert Martinez will direct the orchestra, singers from Spencerville Adventist Academy, and the congregation.

~ A Festival of Seven Adventist Lessons and Carols, part of Spencerville church’s Evensong Concert Series, is planned for Sabbath, December 13, at 4 p.m., at the church (see above for address). As Seventh-day Adventists, we look in particular to the second coming (Advent) of Christ, and this service will celebrate both the first and second Advents through word and music. The Sanctuary choir will be accompanied by organ and brass in leading carols for choir and congregation. This is an excellent concert/service to invite your friends to introduce them to some of the joyful beliefs of our Seventh-day Adventist faith.

~ The Highland View church located at 21600 Academy Terrace in Hagerstown, Maryland, hosts two concerts this month. On Sabbath, December 6, at 4 p.m., WAU’s New England Youth Ensemble and Columbia Collegiate Chorale perform under the direction of James Bingham. On Saturday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m., enjoy performances by Highland View Academy’s Handbell Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Highlanders Choir. Need more details? Call (301) 739-8480, ext. 238, or email jchoi@highlandviewacademy.com.

~ Journey to Bethlehem hosted by the Dover First Christian School, located at 655 Wyoming Avenue in Dover, Delaware, takes place Friday and Saturday evenings, December 5 and 6, at 6 p.m. Guests may enjoy outdoor nativity displays featuring actors and live animals, hot cocoa and cookies, and a craft project for children. Visitors are encouraged to bring friends. For more information, call the school at (302) 526-4998, or email principal Jennifer Miller at jmlrerdcs@gmail.com.

~ ABC TV’s National Christmas Special “Peace on Earth,” was directed and produced by the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) and filmed in October at the Spencerville church. The program features Spencerville Adventist Academy’s Adventist Children’s Choir under
the direction of Jane Lanning; the King's Heralds Quartet; Christine Wollmann, gifted international vocalist; and a message by Shawn Boonstra, VOP Speaker/Director. The program airs locally on ABC’s Baltimore affiliate WMAR Channel 2 on Christmas Day from 9-10 a.m., and on Sabbath, December 27, in the wee hours of 1-2 a.m. In Washington, DC, station WJLA Channel 7 airs the program on Christmas Day from 1-2 a.m., and in the same time slot in Salisbury, Maryland, on WMDT Channel 47. Visit ABC’s website at site.abc.go.com/site/localstations.html for your local station. Or, visit the Voice of Prophecy website for details here: vop.com/article/1182/events/peace-on-earth.

Join the Middletown Valley church for a "Vegetarian Extravaganza" on Sunday, December 7, at 3 p.m. Enjoy delicious appetizers, entrees, desserts, and door prizes! Sample foods and take home recipes. The cost is $10/person. Register by December 1 online at mvsdachurch.org, or call (301) 371-7688. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Maryland.

World Religions: Sikhs, Seventh-day Adventists, and Mennonites, a CBS Interfaith Special, will be broadcast Sunday, December 14, on CBS. It will look at three faiths and their beliefs, traditions, histories and modern voice. Check your local listings.

The first Family Ski Day takes place Sunday, December 21, at Jack Frost Ski Resort in the Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. Sponsored by the Youth Ministries department but open to all ages, it's an opportunity to have a great time for a great price (prices start at $33). Snow tubing is also available. To register, contact youth director Carl Rodriguez by email at crodriguez@ccosda.org.

Want to be a Nature Center Docent? Mount Aetna Retreat Center is seeking persons interested in nature, creation and sharing to volunteer as a Nature Center docent once per quarter on Sabbath afternoons at their location in Hagerstown, Maryland. To participate in this unique ministry, contact Joel Springer by email at springier@myactv.net, or call (301) 824-6045 to learn more and register for the training. Docent training is planned for Saturday, December 20, from 5-6 p.m. at the Nature Center.

“Loving Through Differences” is the theme for a Marriage Enrichment Weekend Retreat planned for February 6-8, 2015 at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Rick and Annette Friesen, certified Christian Conciliators, are the presenters. The registration fee ($299/couple through December 18, $325 after) includes a two-night stay at Dunes Manor Hotel, brunch, tea, dinner on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. The event is sponsored by the Marriage Enrichment teams of Linden Linthicum United Methodist Church, Triadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Maranatha Adventist Fellowship. To register, email MarriageEnrichment@comcast.net, or call (301) 317-5428 or (443) 864-6328.

Pray without ceasing! Chesapeake Conference will start 2015 with a focus on prayer. Look for it to be a theme for the year—camp meeting will center on the topic of prayer.

~ Begin on January 3 by participating in the North American Division’s Day of Prayer. Elder Derek Morris, a recent Chesapeake camp meeting featured speaker, will preach a sermon on “The Power of Praying in Jesus’ Name” that will be broadcast on Hope Channel and 3ABN. Visit the NAD website, nadadventist.org, for details.

~ The General Conference will host a 10 Days of Prayer Global initiative January 7-17, 2015. Visit tendaysofprayer.org for materials. Chesapeake Conference will open a prayer line during this time. Join us from 6:30-7:30 a.m. by calling (605) 475-4000, code 72152#. ~ Pray individually and as a church for the REACH Chesapeake conference-wide evangelism initiative that launches early next year.

Women’s Ordination:

~ On November 20, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee issued a statement supporting a favorable vote to authorize Seventh-day Adventist Church regional governing bodies, called divisions, to decide when and how to handle the question of women’s ordination. The vote comes in anticipation of the 60th General Conference Session called for July 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, where nearly 2,700 delegates will be asked: “Is it acceptable for division committees, as they may deem appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No.” Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference, believes an affirmative vote would strengthen the unity of the church and further the mission in some areas of the world where appropriate, especially in the North American Division where he serves. “As I understand it, this is one of the options proposed and supported in a straw poll by 62 out of the 95 attendees at the final meeting of the General Conference Theology of Ordination Study Committee,” he said following the union’s week of Year-end Meetings, which ended November 20. “They spent 18 months trying to find consensus around our practice of ordination, and I believe that poll, though unofficial, provides a practical indicator of the best way forward for our church at this pivotal moment.”—Celeste Ryan Blyden. Read the statement online at columbiaunionvisitor.com/officialstatement/

~ The new book “Questions and Answers About Women’s Ordination,” compiled by Martin Hanna, a professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and Cindy Tutsch, former associate director of the E. G. White Estate, answers questions about ordination. Available at local Adventist Book Centers, online at AdventistBookCenter.com, or by calling (800) 765-6955.

George Woodruff, Chesapeake Conference president from 1977-1985, died November 11 at age 88 at his nursing home residence. George and his wife Margie retired to Florida and later moved to Casa Grande, Arizona, to be near their children. Please keep the family in prayer as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

ADRA’s Gift Catalog—This holiday season buy a gift that has the power to change a life with ADRA’s Really Useful Gift Catalog. Give individually, with your family or as a church. Visit GiftCatalog.Adra.org.
**December Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
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<td>Adventist Community Services NAD/World Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
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<td>Chesapeake Advance</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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