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## Around West County: Odenton Baptist breaks ground for expansion

By DONNA M. FELLOWS, For The Capital

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Odenton Baptist Church and Christian School located on Piney Orchard Parkway in Odenton is building a new auditorium, education building, parking lot and storage facility.

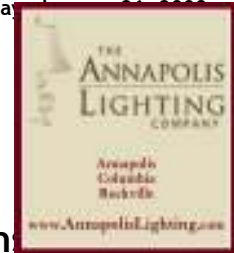
After services ended last Sunday at Odenton Baptist Church, the congregation, friends, and family gathered in the field behind the church to break ground for new construction.

"We were honored to have George Brown, president of Total Construction Services, Inc. and Elmer Anderson, vice president of Total Construction Services, Inc., with us for this ceremony. Site Engineer Wayne Newton of Messick & Associates was also in attendance," said Debra Shafer, who is Pastor George Shafer's wife.

Torrey Snow, Aron Davies and Pastor Thomas Howard opened the ceremony with a trio a capella special.



From left, John Campbell, Don Montgomerie, Michael Ferrell, Paul Price and Paul McCarty, members of Odenton Baptist Church, join in the groundbreaking ceremony after service for the church and school's expansion.



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Pastor Nathan Starr continued in prayer followed by Pastor Shafer commenting on

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the project.

Dressed in suits and ties under a beautiful blue canopy sky, John Campbell Montgomery, Michael Farrell, Paul Price and Paul McCoy, all members of Baptist Church, dug into the ground on the count of three to commence the beginning of what will ultimately accommodate more than double the current congregation's size of 175.



Tokens of the event were passed out to all the people in attendance. On the a graphic of the new building with the words "Groundbreaking Jan. 13, 2008" flip side it says "Odenton Baptist Church" with the church logo.

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"More than three years have been invested in the preparation of site development building plans. The building project includes a new auditorium that seats 100, an education building, parking lot and storage facility. Two new playgrounds built, one west of the new education building and another in the courtyard of the new building," said Pastor Shafer.

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The northernmost portions of the existing building will be demolished in order to make room for this expansion.

In mid-December, Anne Arundel County indicated that there were no outstanding issues which would hold up the issuance of a grading permit in January. The permit is scheduled to take 11 months (not allowing for bad weather).

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The church and school will work very hard to get into the education building by the middle of August for the new school year, and hope to be in the new auditorium to have the project completed by January of 2009.

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A new auditorium will be located and connected on the northern end of the existing building and will have a large foyer with entrances from both the front and side parking lots.

There will be a new nursery, new restrooms, and a new bookstore all accessible from the foyer.

The platform will seat a choir of 48, and will feature two counseling rooms and a divided multi-purpose room useful for music rehearsal or baptismal dressing areas. The existing auditorium will be converted to multipurpose space for use in children's ministries and other functions.

A new parking lot with underground storm water management will be located on the northwest corner of the property allowing a total of 172 parking spaces. That's 100 more than are currently available.

A new electric programmable sign will be installed, and a new 1,500-square foot storage building with bay doors will be situated just north of the parsonage.

A new traffic pattern will be established for loading and unloading, and the existing northern gymnasium doors (facing the new parking lot) will serve as the main student entrance.

With current enrollment of 370 children, a new education building with 14 new classrooms, new restrooms, and a storage closet will be built on the southern side of the existing building and connected by a covered walkway and an indoor hallway will

service up to 450 students.

This will be dedicated education space which can be secured on weekends. Four of the new kindergarten classrooms will also be joined with dedicated restrooms. Up to 25 classrooms and a computer lab will be available for school use, but several may be used as multipurpose space, dedicated Sunday school rooms, or other use.

"One of the greatest challenges faced during the design phase of this project was the proper utilization of the site which God has given us. The resulting site plan is very complicated and accomplishes the goal of utilizing the entire site to its fullest potential," said Pastor Shafer.

Preliminary construction actually began in early December. A new sprinkler/electrical room is being added to the southeast corner of the existing building. This pre-project is scheduled to be completed early in February, and sets the stage for the larger main project.

Six Arundel musicians have earned All County seats. All six musicians from Arundel High School who auditioned for slots in the 2007-2008 Anne Arundel County All County Orchestra earned positions with the band, following auditions held Jan. 9 at North County High School.

Of the six musicians, only one has All County experience.

Meghan Gilbert, the Arundel Band's clarinet section leader, earned a position with the All County band for the third consecutive year.

Earlier this year Ms. Gilbert was one of nine Wildcat musicians to earn a spot with the 2007-2008 All County Orchestra.

Ms. Gilbert is joined in the band clarinet section by junior Cristina Hait and sophomore Katy Protin - both earning all county honors for the first time.

Senior flutist Katy Webb also a member of the 2007-2008 All County Orchestra - earned a spot in the All County Band for the first time.

In addition, other Arundel students earning seats were sophomore French horn player Michael Froehly and sophomore baritone horn player Josh Church.

The All County concert is slated for 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at North County High School

Cub Scouts from Pack 769 were recently honored with rank advancement and awards at the December meeting.

Advancing to Webelos I Rank were Jake Baker, Michael Brown, Nicholas Somensky.

Webelos I awards: Jake Baker: Outdoor activity, Compass Patch and 1 compass point; Nicholas Somensky: Aquanaut & Citizen, Archery and Citizen belt loop; Michael Brown: Aquanaut & Citizen and citizen belt loop.;

Webelos II awards: Jared Kanik: Aquanaut; Danny Dean: Family Member and Scholar; Shawn Hardesty: Family Member; Johnny Jones: Family Member & Scholar; Matthew Neary: Handyman & Scientist, Astronomy & Science belt loop; Zevel Berman: Family Member, Heritages belt loop and pin.

The following Scouts received awards at the 4 Rivers District Highland Games:

Nathan Houck-Tiger Champion, 1st place Caber Toss, 2nd place Hammer Throw, Weight Toss and Pig Toss and 4th place Javelin Throw.

Patrick Sweeney: 1st place Pig Toss

Drake Bishop: 4th place Caber Toss

Connor Malkiewicz: 2nd place Javelin Throw and 4th place Shot Put

Joshua Tripp: 2nd place Hammer Throw

Matthew Tripp: 4th place

Weight Toss & Shot Put, 5th place Hammer Throw.

Jake Baker and Noah Smith received patches for participation

Today the Tiger Scouts from Den 5 participated in a "Go See It" to the radio station Mix 106.5 WWMX-FM. They toured the station and were able to talk on the air with DJ Priestly.

Drake Bishop, Nathan Houck, Noah Smith, Patrick Sweeney, and Logan Walcutt all had a great time!

Got the yard sale blues? Then come to the indoor multi-family yard sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church, 1239 Murray Road, Odenton.

A portion of the proceeds benefit Youth Mission Trip to McHenryin Garrett County in western Maryland. Tables can be reserved for \$15 by calling 410-923-3365 (leave name and phone number) or e-mail [brjcoren@verizon.net](mailto:brjcoren@verizon.net)

Bingo! That one work could net you over \$2,000 at Wednesday night bingo at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Odenton. For more than 25 years area residents have been walking away with not only cash prizes but occasional door prizes as well.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the early bird game begins at 7:30 p.m. Come early and have dinner at the Bingo Kitchen.

For more information contact Joe Allen at 410-551-6072.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding is located in Crownsville, and is a premiere accredited therapeutic riding center that offers therapeutic horseback riding lessons for children and adults with special needs.

Volunteers ages 14 and older assist with the riding lessons Tuesday through Thursday mornings and afternoons, Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Volunteers also assist with horse care and facility maintenance.

In addition, volunteers are needed to assist with special events, fundraising, and general office duties.

All volunteers are required to attend a volunteer training session prior to volunteering. If you would like to schedule or attend an upcoming training session, please call 410-923-1187.

Please visit the Web site [www.horsethatheal.org](http://www.horsethatheal.org) to get volunteer applications.

Contact Patti at 410-923-1187 or [patti@mtrinc.org](mailto:patti@mtrinc.org) for more information.

Arundel High School band and orchestra fundraisers

Tickets go on sale todayfor the Rose Room Dinner Dance, slated from 6-10 p.m. Feb.

16 at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parish in Crofton.

Tickets are \$10 and includes dinner to the music of the Arundel String Orchestra and dancing to the Arundel Jazz Band.

For more information on the dinner dance, please contact Patty Wightman at [wightman300@aol.com](mailto:wightman300@aol.com).

Arundel Jazz Band is selling CDs of their 2007 "Tribute to the Duke" - a recording of Duke Ellington music from last year.

Jazz Band members are out to sell CDs to help finance their trip and performance at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore Jazz Festival March 5-6 in Salisbury.

Cost of the CD is \$17. Those wishing to order the Arundel Jazz CD via e-mail can send their requests to [arundeljazzcd@verizon.net](mailto:arundeljazzcd@verizon.net).

The annual Arundel Play-a-Thon is slated for 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in the high school.

This annual music marathon provides students and teachers a chance to work on specific issues in preparation for the annual spring trip and for local and regional performances.

Students will be soliciting pledges to help finance their spring trip as well. If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please contact a band or orchestra student.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Gen. George G. Meade Camp No. 5, is hosting its Lou Smith Preservation Annual Luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday, at Kaufmann's Restaurant in Gambrills.

Special guest Dr. Chandra Manning will speak about "What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War."

Dr. Manning, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, received a master's degree in philosophy from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and took her Ph.D. at Harvard University in 2002.

She has lectured in history at Harvard and taught at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. Currently, she is assistant professor of history at Georgetown University and lives in Alexandria, Va., with her husband and son.

Meade Camp No. 5 was involved with other organizations in the headstone dedication for several veterans of America's wars last May.

The Meade Camp paid its respects to Pvt. Charles Chapman who was in Company H, 7th Colored U.S. Infantry.

Last October, Meade Camp participated in the Odenton Historical Day Event in Odenton. The camp provided living history with artifacts for spectators to learn more about the Civil War Soldiers, and women in Civil War attire demonstrated how the women of that era were dressed.

Most recently, Meade Camp participated in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade in November 2007.

Meade Camp No. 5 entered into a relationship with the Odenton Heritage Society and meets at that group's hall, the former Odenton Masonic Hall.

The public is invited to attend, however seating is limited. Please reserve your seat by contacting Jeffrey French at 301-335-3189 during the day and 410-326-3728 in the evening after 6:30 p.m., or e-mail [ffrenchej@aol.com](mailto:ffrenchej@aol.com) for more information on this event or membership inquiries.

Bull roast for Sarah's House. Enjoy a fun filled afternoon with family and friends and support the work of Sarah's House at the 16th Annual Family Bull and Oyster Roast, 1-6 p.m. March 2 at the Earleigh Heights Fire Department in Pasadena sponsored by Annapolis Volvo.

Festivities include fun for the entire family - great food, dancing to music provided by our favorite disc jockey, Shannon from Unique Musique games for the children where everyone wins a prize, face painting, prize wheels, book and game sale and a money wheel.

You can bid on some great prize packages at the silent auction, satisfy your sweet tooth at the baked goods table, and take a chance on the 50/50 raffle. And don't miss the chance to win a family entertainment package in the raffle.

Tickets purchased in advance are: Adults, \$35, Children ages 5-12, \$20. Tickets purchased at the door are: Adults \$40, children ages 5-12, \$20. Children under 5 get in at no cost.

Corporate sponsorships needed. Call Bruce or Angela at 410-551-7722 to reserve your table and tickets.

South County Show Stoppers to perform at the O'Malley Senior Center.

Join us for this mix of comedians, tappers, vocalists and a variety of different acts, ready to "strut their stuff."

This fantastic group is made up of senior citizens from all over Anne Arundel County. Jan. 22 will be their first performance at the O'Malley Center, beginning at 10:30 am.

The show is free, and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the Center at 410-222-6227 or 301-621-9515.

A home computer workshop will be held from 12:30-3 p.m. Jan. 31 at the O'Malley Senior Center annex.

There will be discussion with audience input, covering any topics attendees may have, as well as: routine cleaning, maintenance and basic troubleshooting of home computers; when and how to clean a computer and computer components and peripherals; computer problem warning signs and diagnostics; basic computer repairs and first aid and when and where to seek outside help.

There is a \$3 commitment fee, payable at the time of registration.

To sign up, or for more information, please contact the center at 410-222-6227 or 301-621-9515.

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