

SANDY SPRING BANCORP INC  
Form S-3  
February 06, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 6, 2009      Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SANDY SPRING BANCORP, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland      52-1532952  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation      (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)  
or  
organization)

17801 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, MD 20832  
(301) 774-6400  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Ronald E. Kuykendall  
General Counsel  
Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.  
17801 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, MD 20832  
(301) 774-6400  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:  
Paul M. Aguggia, Esq.  
Aaron M. Kaslow, Esq.  
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP  
Suite 900  
607 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 508-5800

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

Edgar Filing: SANDY SPRING BANCORP INC - Form S-3

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

---

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

#### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
<b>Debt Securities</b>				
Common Stock, \$1.00 par value				
Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value				
<b>Warrants</b>				
<b>Depository Shares</b>				
<b>Units</b>				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 175,000,000</b>		<b>\$ 175,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,878</b>

(1) There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate principal amount of Debt Securities, such indeterminate number of shares of Common Stock, such indeterminate number of shares of Preferred Stock, such indeterminate number of Warrants to purchase Common Stock, Debt Securities, Preferred Stock or Depository Shares, such indeterminate number of Depository Shares and such indeterminate number of Units of the Registrant as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$175,000,000. If any Debt Securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the securities registered shall include such additional Debt Securities as may be necessary such that the aggregate initial public offering price of all securities issued pursuant to this Registration Statement will equal \$175,000,000. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder. The proposed maximum initial offering price per unit will be determined, from time to time, by the Registrant in connection with the issuance by the Registrant of the securities registered hereunder. There are also being registered hereunder an indeterminate number of shares of Common Stock as shall be issuable upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any securities that provide for that issuance. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, the securities being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

(2) Omitted in accordance with General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.

(3)

Estimated for the sole purpose of computing the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.

The Company hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Company shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), shall determine.

---

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and has not yet been declared effective. The securities may not be sold until the registration statement has been declared effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED February 6, 2009

PROSPECTUS

Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.

Debt Securities  
Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Warrants  
Depository Shares  
Units

---

We may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more series, our unsecured debt securities, which may consist of notes, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness; shares of our common stock; shares of our preferred stock; warrants to purchase other securities; depository shares; or units consisting of a combination of two or more of these securities. The debt securities and preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of ours. This prospectus provides you with a general description of these securities. Each time we offer any securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide you with a prospectus supplement and, if necessary, a pricing supplement, that will describe the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities being offered. These supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To understand the terms of the securities offered, you should carefully read this prospectus with the applicable supplements, which together provide the specific terms of the securities we are offering.

---

These securities are not deposits or obligations of a bank or savings association and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

This prospectus may be used to offer and sell securities only if accompanied by the prospectus supplement for those securities.

---

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

---

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2009



IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS  
PROSPECTUS AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

We may provide information to you about the securities we are offering in three separate documents that progressively provide more detail:

- this prospectus, which provides general information, some of which may not apply to your securities;
- the accompanying prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of the securities, some of which may not apply to your securities; and
- if necessary, a pricing supplement, which describes the specific terms of your securities.

If the terms of your securities vary among the pricing supplement, the prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in the following order of priority:

- the pricing supplement, if any;
- the prospectus supplement; and
- the prospectus.

We include cross-references in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement to captions in these materials where you can find further related discussions. The following Table of Contents and the Table of Contents included in the accompanying prospectus supplement provide the pages on which these captions are located.

---

Unless indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we have not taken any action that would permit us to publicly sell these securities in any jurisdiction outside the United States. If you are an investor outside the United States, you should inform yourself about, and comply with, any restrictions as to the offering of the securities and the distribution of this prospectus.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS	1
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION	1
INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE	1
SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	3
SANDY SPRING BANCORP, INC.	4
RISK FACTORS	4
RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS	4
USE OF PROCEEDS	5
REGULATION AND SUPERVISION	5
DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES	6
DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK	13
DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK	14
DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES	17
DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS	19
DESCRIPTION OF UNITS	20
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	20
LEGAL OPINIONS	23
EXPERTS	23

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) utilizing a “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time offer and sell the debt securities, common stock, preferred stock, warrants, depositary shares, or units consisting of a combination of these securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of \$175,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities covered by it. Each time we offer these securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of the offer. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this prospectus to “Sandy Spring Bancorp,” “we,” “us,” “our” or similar references mean Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements and other documents with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC’s public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You should call 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to you on the SEC’s Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement contains more information than this prospectus regarding us, including certain exhibits and schedules. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement from the SEC at the address listed above or from the SEC’s Internet site.

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” information into this prospectus. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we file separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, except for any information that is superseded by information that is included directly in this document or in a more recent incorporated document.

This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC.

SEC Filings	Period or Date Filed (as applicable)
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Year ended December 31, 2007
Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q	Quarter ended March 31, 2008 Quarter ended June 30, 2008 Quarter ended September 30, 2008
Current Reports on Form 8-K	January 16, 2008 January 29, 2008 March 12, 2008 March 18, 2008 March 18, 2008 March 28, 2008 July 10, 2008 July 30, 2008

Edgar Filing: SANDY SPRING BANCORP INC - Form S-3

October 7, 2008  
October 17, 2008  
November 20, 2008  
December 5, 2008  
December 22, 2008  
January 5, 2009

1

---

In addition, we also incorporate by reference all future documents that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of our initial registration statement relating to the securities until the completion of the distribution of the securities covered by this prospectus. These documents include periodic reports, such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than Current Reports furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K), as well as proxy statements.

The information incorporated by reference contains information about us and our financial condition and is an important part of this prospectus.

---

You can obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this document through us, or from the SEC through the SEC's Internet world wide web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this prospectus. You can obtain documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from us at the following address:

Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.  
17801 Georgia Avenue  
Olney, MD 20832  
Attention: Ronald E. Kuykendall, General Counsel and Secretary  
Telephone: (301) 774-6400

In addition, we maintain a corporate web site, [www.sandyspringbank.com](http://www.sandyspringbank.com). On our web site, we make available, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such materials with, or furnish it to, the SEC. This reference to our web site is for the convenience of investors as required by the SEC and shall not be deemed to incorporate any information on the web site into this prospectus.

We have not authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about us that is different from, or in addition to, those contained in this prospectus or in any of the materials that we have incorporated into this prospectus. If anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this document are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this document speaks only as of the date of this document unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, as well as other written communications made from time to time by us and oral communications made from time to time by our authorized officers, may contain statements relating to our future results (including certain projections and business trends) that are considered “forward-looking statements” as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “PSLRA”). Such forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of such words as “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “should,” “planned,” “estimated,” “intend” and “potential.” Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, possible or assumed estimates with respect to our financial condition, expected or anticipated revenue, and results of our operations and business, including earnings growth determined using GAAP; revenue growth in retail banking, lending and other areas; origination volume in our consumer, commercial and other lending businesses; asset quality and levels of non-performing assets; impairment charges with respect to investment securities; current and future capital management programs; non-interest income levels, including fees from services and product sales; tangible capital generation; market share; expense levels; and other business operations and strategies. For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the PSLRA.

We caution you that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated in any forward-looking statement. Such factors include, but are not limited to:

• the factors identified in this document under the headings “Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” and “Risk Factors;”

• prevailing economic conditions, either nationally or locally in some or all areas in which we conduct business, or conditions in the banking industry;

• changes in interest rates, deposit flows, loan demand, real estate values and competition, which can materially affect, among other things, consumer banking revenues, revenues from sales on non-deposit investment products, origination levels in our lending businesses and the level of defaults, losses and prepayments on loans we have made and make, whether held in portfolio or sold in the secondary markets;

- changes in the quality or composition of the loan or investment portfolios;

- factors driving impairment charges on investments;

• our ability to successfully integrate any assets, liabilities, customers, systems and management personnel we may acquire into our operations and our ability to realize related revenue synergies and cost savings within expected time frames;

• our timely development of new and competitive products or services in a changing environment, and the acceptance of such products or services by customers;

• operational issues and/or capital spending necessitated by the potential need to adapt to industry changes in information technology systems, on which we are highly dependent;

- changes in accounting principles, policies, and guidelines;

- changes in any applicable law, rule, regulation or practice with respect to tax or legal issues;

- risks and uncertainties related to mergers and related integration and restructuring activities;

- litigation liabilities, including related costs, expenses, settlements and judgments, or the outcome of other matters before regulatory agencies, whether pending or commencing in the future; and

Other economic, competitive, governmental, regulatory and technological factors affecting our operations, pricing, products and services.

3

---

Additionally, the timing and occurrence or non-occurrence of events may be subject to circumstances beyond our control. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements which are made as of the date of this prospectus. Except as may be required by applicable law or regulation, we assume no obligation to update the forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

### SANDY SPRING BANCORP, INC.

Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. is the one-bank holding company for Sandy Spring Bank. We are registered as a bank holding company pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. As such, we are subject to supervision and regulation by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "Federal Reserve"). Sandy Spring Bancorp began operating in 1988. Sandy Spring Bank was founded in 1868, and is the oldest banking business based in Montgomery County, Maryland. Sandy Spring Bank is independent, community oriented, and conducts a full-service commercial banking business through 42 community offices located in Anne Arundel, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia. Sandy Spring Bank is a state chartered bank subject to supervision and regulation by the Federal Reserve and the state of Maryland. Sandy Spring Bank's deposit accounts are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") to the maximum permitted by law. Sandy Spring Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System and is an Equal Housing Lender. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

As of September 30, 2008, Sandy Spring Bancorp had consolidated assets of \$3,195 million, consolidated deposits of \$2,249 million and consolidated stockholders' equity of \$320 million. Shares of our common stock are traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol "SASR."

Our executive offices are located at 17801 Georgia Avenue, Olney, Maryland 21202, and our telephone number at these offices is (301) 774-6400. Our Internet address is [www.sandyspringbank.com](http://www.sandyspringbank.com). The information on our Web site is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Additional information about us and our subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" on page 1.

### RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties and the risk factors set forth in the documents and reports filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as well as any risks described in any applicable prospectus supplement, before you make an investment decision regarding the securities. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business operations.

### RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

Our consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends were as follows for the periods presented:

Nine Months Ended September 30,	Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
2.84	3.50	3.19	4.27	1.55	2.67

**Excluding Interest on  
Deposits**

Including Interest on Deposits	1.56	1.58	1.76	2.28	1.35	2.08
--------------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------

For the purpose of computing the consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges, “earnings” consist of income before income taxes and extraordinary items plus fixed charges, excluding capitalized interest. “Fixed charges” consist of interest on short-term and long-term debt, including interest related to capitalized leases and capitalized interest, and one-third of rent expense (net of rental income), which approximates the interest component of that net expense. We did not pay any preferred stock dividends during any of the periods presented. In addition, where indicated, fixed charges include interest on deposits.

4

---

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a specific issue of securities. Our general corporate purposes may include financing possible acquisitions of branches or other financial institutions or financial service companies, extending credit to, or funding investments in, our subsidiaries and repaying, reducing or refinancing indebtedness.

The precise amounts and the timing of our use of the net proceeds will depend upon market conditions, our subsidiaries' funding requirements, the availability of other funds and other factors. Until we use the net proceeds from the sale of any of our securities for general corporate purposes, we will use the net proceeds to reduce our indebtedness or for temporary investments. We expect that we will, on a recurrent basis, engage in additional financings as the need arises to finance our corporate strategies, to fund our subsidiaries, to finance acquisitions or otherwise.

## REGULATION AND SUPERVISION

Our banking subsidiary, Sandy Spring Bank, is a Maryland state-chartered commercial bank and its deposit accounts are insured under the Deposit Insurance Fund up to applicable legal limits. Sandy Spring Bank is subject to supervision, regulation and examination by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation of the State of Maryland (the "Commissioner") and the Federal Reserve. Asset growth, deposits, reserves, investments, loans, consumer law compliance, issuance of securities, payment of dividends, establishment of banking offices, mergers and consolidations, changes in control, electronic funds transfer, management practices and other aspects of operations are subject to regulation by the appropriate federal and state supervisory authorities.

Sandy Spring Bank must file reports with the Commissioner and the Federal Reserve concerning its activities and financial condition, in addition to obtaining regulatory approvals prior to entering into certain transactions such as mergers with, or acquisitions of, other depository institutions. Furthermore, Sandy Spring Bank is periodically examined by the Commissioner and the Federal Reserve to assess compliance with various regulatory requirements, including safety and soundness considerations. This regulation and supervision establishes a comprehensive framework of activities in which Sandy Spring Bank can engage, and is intended primarily for the protection of the Deposit Insurance Fund and depositors rather than for the protection of security holders. The regulatory structure also gives the regulatory authorities extensive discretion in connection with their supervisory and enforcement activities and examination policies, including policies with respect to the classification of assets and the establishment of adequate loan loss allowances for regulatory purposes.

As a registered bank holding company we are required to file certain reports with, and otherwise comply with, the rules and regulations of the Federal Reserve, the Commissioner, and the SEC under federal securities laws. In addition, the Federal Reserve periodically examines us.

Because we are a holding company, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the debt securities and the preferred stock and common stock we are offering under this prospectus, to participate in the assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

Further, dividends, loans and advances from Sandy Spring Bank are restricted by federal and state statutes and regulations. The FDIC, the Federal Reserve Board and the Commissioner have the authority to limit payment of dividends based on factors such as the maintenance of adequate capital at Sandy Spring Bank. For additional restrictions on our ability to pay dividends, see "Description of Common Stock—Dividends".

In addition, there are various statutory and regulatory limitations on the extent to which Sandy Spring Bank can finance us or otherwise transfer funds or assets to us or to our nonbanking subsidiaries, whether in the form of loans, extensions of credit, investments or asset purchases. These extensions of credit and other transactions involving Sandy Spring Bank and us or a nonbanking subsidiary of ours are limited in amount to 10% of Sandy Spring Bank's capital and surplus with each company and 20% of Sandy Spring Bank's capital and surplus in the aggregate. Furthermore, loans and extensions of credit are required to be secured in specified amounts and are required to be on terms and conditions consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

For a discussion of the material elements of the regulatory framework applicable to bank holding companies and their subsidiaries, and specific information relevant to us, you should refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, and any other subsequent reports filed by us with the SEC, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This regulatory framework is intended primarily for the protection of depositors, rather than for the protection of security holders. A change in the statutes, regulations or regulatory policies applicable to us or our subsidiaries may have a material effect on our business.

Changes to the laws and regulations can affect the operating environment of bank holding companies and their subsidiaries in substantial and unpredictable ways. We cannot accurately predict whether those changes in laws and regulations will occur, and, if changes do occur, the ultimate effect they would have upon our or our subsidiaries' financial condition or results of operations.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

### General

The debt securities will be:

- our direct unsecured general obligations; and
- either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities.

Senior debt securities will be issued under an indenture we call the "senior indenture" and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a separate indenture we call the "subordinated indenture." Together the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are called the "indentures," and the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities are called "debt securities."

We have not restated these indentures in their entirety in this description. We have filed the forms of the indentures as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We urge you to read the indentures, because they, and not this description, control your rights as holders of the debt securities. The following description of the indentures is not complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions in the respective indentures. In the summary below, we have included references to section numbers of the applicable indenture so that you can easily locate these provisions. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the indentures.

Neither indenture limits the amount of debt securities that we may issue under the indenture from time to time in one or more series. We may in the future issue debt securities under either indenture. At the date of this prospectus, we had not issued any debt securities under either indenture.

Neither indenture contains provisions that would afford holders of debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in our credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction. Accordingly, we could in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or credit rating.

The debt securities will be our exclusive obligations. Neither indenture requires our subsidiaries to guarantee the debt securities. As a result, the holders of debt securities will generally have a junior position to claims of all creditors and preferred shareholders of our subsidiaries.

### Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities in the Prospectus Supplement

A prospectus supplement and any supplemental indenture relating to any series of debt securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

- the form and title of the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities are senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and the terms of subordination;
  - the principal amount of the debt securities;
  - the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued;
- the portion of the principal amount which will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;
  - the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities will be paid, if not U.S. dollars;
- any right we may have to defer payments of interest by extending the dates payments are due and whether interest on those deferred amounts will be payable as well;
  - the place where the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on any debt securities will be payable;
- the date or dates on which the debt securities will be issued and the principal, and premium, if any, of the debt securities will be payable;
- the rate or rates which the debt securities will bear interest and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;
  - any mandatory or optional redemption provisions;
- the terms, if any, upon which the debt securities are convertible into other securities of ours or another issuer and the terms and conditions upon which any conversion will be effected, including the initial conversion price or rate, the conversion period and any other provisions in addition to or instead of those described in this prospectus;
- any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to repurchase or otherwise redeem the debt securities;
  - any deletion from, changes of or additions to the Events of Default (as defined below) or covenants;
  - any changes to the terms and condition upon which the debt securities can be defeased or discharged;
  - any restriction or other provision with respect to the transfer or exchange of the debt securities;
  - the identity of any other trustee, paying agent and security registrar, if other than the trustee; and
    - any other terms of the debt securities (Section 301).

We will maintain in each place specified by us for payment of any series of debt securities an office or agency where debt securities of that series may be presented or surrendered for payment, where debt securities of that series may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and where notices and demands to or upon us in respect of the debt securities of that series and the related indenture may be served (Section 1002).



Debt securities may be issued under an indenture as original issue discount securities to be offered and sold at a substantial discount below their principal amount. Material federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to any such original issue discount securities will be described in any related prospectus supplement. “Original issue discount security” means any security which provides for an amount less than the principal amount thereof to be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof as a result of the occurrence of an event of default and the continuation thereof (Section 101).

#### Provisions Only in the Senior Indenture

Payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other unsecured senior debt.

#### Provisions Only in the Subordinated Indenture

Payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness, including senior debt securities and other debt to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. (Section 1401 of the subordinated indenture.)

#### Subordinated Debt Securities Intended to Qualify as Tier 2 Capital

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, it is currently intended that the subordinated debt securities will qualify as Tier 2 Capital under the guidelines established by the Federal Reserve for bank holding companies. The guidelines set forth specific criteria for subordinated debt to qualify as Tier 2 Capital. Among other things, the subordinated debt must:

- be unsecured;
- have a minimum average maturity of five years;
- be subordinated in right of payment;

not contain provisions permitting the holders of the debt to accelerate payment of principal prior to maturity except in the event of bankruptcy of the issuer; and

not contain provisions that would adversely affect liquidity or unduly restrict management’s flexibility to operate the organization, particularly in times of financial difficulty, such as limitations on additional secured or senior borrowings, sales or dispositions of assets or changes in control.

#### Provisions in Both Indentures

##### Consolidation, Merger or Asset Sale

Each indenture generally allows us to consolidate or merge with a domestic person, association or entity. They also allow us to sell, lease or transfer our property and assets substantially as an entirety to a domestic person, association or entity. If this happens, the remaining or acquiring person, association or entity must assume all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indentures including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indentures.

However, we will only consolidate or merge with or into any other person, association or entity or sell, lease or transfer our assets substantially as an entirety according to the terms and conditions of the indentures, which include the following requirements:

8

---

- the remaining or acquiring person, association or entity is organized under the laws of the United States, any state within the United States or the District of Columbia;
- the remaining or acquiring person, association or entity assumes our obligations under the indentures; and
- immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no Default or Event of Default, as defined below, shall have occurred and be continuing.

The remaining or acquiring person, association or entity will be substituted for us in the indentures with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indentures. Thereafter, the successor may exercise our rights and powers under the indentures, in our name or in its own name. If we sell or transfer all or substantially all of our assets, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under any indenture and under the debt securities. If we lease all or substantially all of our assets, we will not be released from our obligations under the indentures. (Sections 801 and 802)

#### Events of Default and Remedies

In the indentures, Default with respect to any series of debt securities means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default.

In the indentures, Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities means any of the following:

- failure to pay the principal of or any premium on any debt security of that series when due;
- failure to pay interest on any debt security of that series for 30 days;

•subject to certain exceptions, failure to perform any other covenant in the indenture, other than a covenant a default in the performance of which has expressly been included in the indenture solely for the benefit of series of debt securities other than that series, that continues for 90 days after being given written notice as specified in the indenture;

- our bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; or
- any other Event of Default included in any indenture or supplemental indenture. (Section 501)

If an Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of all of the outstanding debt securities of a particular series may declare the principal of all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable. When such declaration is made, such amounts will be immediately due and payable. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may rescind such declaration and its consequences if all existing Events of Default have been cured or waived, other than nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely as a result of acceleration. (Section 502)

Holders of a series of debt securities may not enforce the indenture or the series of debt securities, except as provided in the indenture or a series of debt securities. (Section 507) The trustee may require indemnity satisfactory to it before it enforces the indenture or such series of debt securities. (Section 603) Subject to certain limitations, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a particular series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power of the trustee. (Section 512) The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except in the payment of principal or interest, if it considers such withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders.

(Section 602)

9

---

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under an indenture. Further, an Event of Default under the debt securities of any series will not necessarily constitute an event of default under our other indebtedness or vice versa.

#### Modification of Indentures

Under each indenture, generally we and the trustee may modify our rights and obligations and the rights of the holders with the consent of the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series affected by the modification, voting as one class. No modification of the principal or interest payment terms, no modification reducing the percentage required for modifications and no modification impairing the right to institute suit for the payment on debt securities of any series when due, is effective against any holder without its consent. (Section 902)

In addition, we and the trustee may amend the indentures without the consent of any holder of the debt securities to make certain technical changes, such as:

- curing ambiguities or correcting defects or inconsistencies;
- evidencing the succession of another person to us, and the assumption by that successor of our obligations under the applicable indenture and the debt securities of any series;
- providing for a successor trustee;
- qualifying the indentures under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, which we refer to in this prospectus as the “Trust Indenture Act”;
- complying with the rules and regulations of any securities exchange or automated quotation system on which debt securities of any series may be listed or traded; or
- adding provisions relating to a particular series of debt securities. (Section 901)

#### Discharging Our Obligations

We may choose either to discharge our obligations on the debt securities of any series in a legal defeasance, or to release ourselves from our covenant restrictions on the debt securities of any series in a covenant defeasance. We may do so at any time on the 91st day after we deposit with the trustee sufficient cash or government securities to pay the principal, interest, any premium and any other sums due to the stated maturity date or a redemption date of the debt securities of the series. If we choose the legal defeasance option, the holders of the debt securities of the series will not be entitled to the benefits of the indenture except for registration of transfer and exchange of debt securities, replacement of lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities, conversion or exchange of debt securities, sinking fund payments and receipt of principal and interest on the original stated due dates or specified redemption dates. (Section 1302)

We may discharge our obligations on the debt securities of any series or release ourselves from covenant restrictions only if we meet certain requirements. Among other things, we must deliver an opinion of our legal counsel that the discharge will not result in holders having to recognize taxable income or loss or subject them to different tax treatment. In the case of legal defeasance, this opinion must be based on either an IRS letter ruling or change in federal tax law. We may not have a default on the debt securities discharged on the date of deposit. The discharge may not violate any of our agreements. The discharge may not result in our becoming an investment company in violation of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Concerning the Indenture Trustee

Wilmington Trust Company will initially act as trustee under the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The corporate trust office of the trustee is Rodney Square North, 1100 North Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19890.

10

---

Under provisions of the indentures and the Trust Indenture Act governing trustee conflicts of interest, any uncured Event of Default with respect to any series of senior debt securities will force the trustee to resign as trustee under either the subordinated indenture or the senior indenture. Also, any uncured Event of Default with respect to any series of subordinated debt securities will force the trustee to resign as trustee under either the senior indenture or the subordinated indenture. Any resignation will require the appointment of a successor trustee under the applicable indenture in accordance with its terms and conditions.

The trustee may resign or be removed by us with respect to one or more series of debt securities and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to any such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series may remove the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series. (Section 610)

Each indenture contains certain limitations on the right of the trustee thereunder, in the event that it becomes our creditor, to obtain payment of claims in some cases, or to realize on property received in respect of any such claim, as security or otherwise. (Section 613)

The trustee is required to submit an annual report to the holders of the debt securities regarding, among other things, the trustee's eligibility to serve, the priority of the trustee's claims regarding certain advances made by it, and any action taken by the trustee materially affecting the debt securities.

Each indenture provides that, in addition to other certificates or opinions that may be specifically required by other provisions of an indenture, every application by us for action by the trustee shall be accompanied by a certificate of our officers and an opinion of counsel, who may be our counsel, stating that, in the opinion of the signers, we have complied with all conditions precedent to the action. (Section 102)

#### Governing Law

The indentures are and the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

#### No Personal Liability of Officers, Directors, Employees or Shareholders

Our officers, directors, employees and shareholders will not have any liability for our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities. Each holder of debt securities, by accepting a debt security, waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issuance of the debt securities.

#### Form, Denominations and Registration; Book Entry Only System

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities of a series will be issued only in fully registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 or integral multiples thereof. (Section 302) You will not have to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange debt securities of a series, but we may require you to pay for taxes or other governmental charges due upon a transfer or exchange. (Section 305)

Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, each series of debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, or any successor depository, which we call a "depository", and will be represented by one or more global notes registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. The interests of beneficial owners in the global notes will be represented through financial institutions acting on their behalf as direct or indirect participants in DTC.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global note will be limited to persons, called participants, who have accounts with DTC or persons who hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global notes will

be shown on, and the transfer of these ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to interests of participants) and the records of participants (with respect to interests of persons other than participants).

So long as DTC, or its nominee, is the registered owner or holder of a global note, DTC or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities of that series represented by such global note for all purposes of the indenture, the debt securities of that series and applicable law. In addition, no beneficial owner of an interest in a global note will be able to transfer that interest except in accordance with DTC's applicable procedures, in addition to those under the applicable indenture.

Payments on debt securities represented by global notes will be made to DTC or its nominee, as the registered owner thereof. Neither we, the trustee, any underwriter nor any paying agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in global notes, for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests or for any action taken or omitted to be taken by the depository or any participant.

We expect that DTC or its nominee will credit participants' accounts on the payable date with payments in respect of a global note in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interest in the principal amount of such global note as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee, unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payment on the payable date. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in "street name." Such payments will be the responsibility of such participants.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC rules. The laws of some states require that certain persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global note to such persons may be impaired. Because DTC can only act on behalf of participants, who in turn act on behalf of others, such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies, called indirect participants, the ability of a person having a beneficial interest in a global note to pledge that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of that interest, may be impaired by the lack of a physical certificate of that interest.

DTC will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of debt securities of a series only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account interests in global notes are credited and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of a series as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direction.

If (1) the depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository or if the depository ceases to be eligible under the applicable indenture and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days or (2) an event of default with respect to a series of debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing, the respective global notes representing the affected series of debt securities will be exchanged for debt securities in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount, in authorized denominations. Such definitive debt securities shall be registered in such name or names as the depository shall instruct the trustee. Such instructions will most likely be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in global notes.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC and facilitates the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its direct participants, including

those who may act as underwriters of our debt securities, and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, LLC and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as indirect participants that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a direct participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in global notes among participants of DTC, it is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we, the trustee, any underwriter nor any paying agent will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations.

## DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

Sandy Spring Bancorp, which is incorporated under the General Corporation Law of the State of Maryland, is authorized to issue 50,000,000 shares of capital stock, \$1.00 par value. As of December 31, 2008, we had 16,398,523 shares of common stock and 83,094 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (“Series A preferred stock”), outstanding. Our board of directors may at any time, without additional approval of the holders of preferred stock or common stock, issue additional authorized shares of preferred stock or common stock.

Each share of our common stock has the same relative rights as, and is identical in all respects with, each other share of common stock.

### Voting Rights

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters presented to stockholders. Holders of common stock are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

### Dividends and Repurchases

The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive and share equally in any dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for the payment of dividends. Under Maryland law, we may pay dividends if, after giving effect to such dividends, (1) we will be able to pay our indebtedness as such indebtedness becomes due in the usual course of business and (2) our total assets exceed out total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of stockholders whose preferential rights upon dissolution are superior to those receiving dividends.

The terms of our Series A preferred stock also impose certain restrictions on our ability to declare and pay dividends on our common stock and to repurchase our common stock. We may pay dividends on or repurchase our common stock only if we have paid or provided for all dividends on our Series A preferred stock for the then current period and all prior periods. In addition, prior to the earlier of (i) December 5, 2011 or (ii) the date on which the Series A preferred stock has been redeemed in full or the U.S. Department of the Treasury has transferred all of the Series A preferred stock to non-affiliates, we cannot increase our quarterly cash dividend above \$0.24 or repurchase any shares of common stock or other capital stock or equity securities or trust preferred securities without the consent of the Department of the Treasury. The repurchase restrictions do not apply in certain limited circumstances, including the repurchase of common stock or other junior stock in connection with the administration of any employee benefit plan in the ordinary course of business and consistent with past practice, but only to offset the increase in the number of diluted shares outstanding resulting from the grant, vesting or exercise of equity-based compensation.

### Liquidation

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to receive their pro rata portion of our remaining assets after payment, or provision for payment, of all our debts and liabilities and the holders our preferred stock, if any, have been paid in full any sums to which they may be entitled.

### No Preemptive or Redemption Rights

Holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights with respect to any shares that may be issued. The common stock is not subject to redemption.

## Certain Charter and Bylaw Provisions Affecting Stock

Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws contain several provisions that may make us less attractive target for an acquisition of control by anyone who does not have the support of our board of directors. Such provisions include, among other things, the requirement of a supermajority vote of stockholders to approve certain business combinations and other corporate actions, a minimum price provision, several special procedural rules, a staggered board of directors, and the limitation that stockholder actions may only be taken at a meeting and may not be taken by unanimous written stockholder consent. The foregoing is qualified in its entirety by reference to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, both of which are on file with the SEC.

## Restrictions on Ownership

The Bank Holding Company Act generally would prohibit any company that is not engaged in financial activities and activities that are permissible for a bank holding company or a financial holding company from acquiring control of us. "Control" is generally defined as ownership of 25% or more of the voting stock or other exercise of a controlling influence. In addition, any existing bank holding company would need the prior approval of the Federal Reserve before acquiring 5% or more of our voting stock. The Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve has been notified and has not objected to the transaction. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of 10% or more of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as Sandy Spring Bancorp, could constitute acquisition of control of the bank holding company. Maryland law generally requires the prior approval of the Commissioner before a person, group of persons, or company may acquire 25% or more of our voting stock or otherwise exercise a controlling influence over the direction of the management or policy of Sandy Spring Bancorp or Sandy Spring Bank.

## DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following summary contains a description of the general terms of the preferred stock that we may issue. The specific terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The terms of any series of preferred stock may differ from the terms described below. Certain provisions of the preferred stock described below and in any prospectus supplement are not complete. You should refer to the amendment to our Articles of Incorporation or the Articles Supplementary to the Articles of Incorporation with respect to the establishment of a series of preferred stock which will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of such series of preferred stock.

### General

Our Articles of Incorporation permits our board of directors to reclassify any of our unissued shares of capital stock into preferred stock, in one or more series, without stockholder action. The board of directors can fix the designation, powers, preferences and rights of each series. Therefore, without stockholder approval, our board of directors can authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting, dividend, liquidation and conversion and other rights that could dilute the voting power of the common stock and may assist management in impeding any unfriendly takeover or attempted change in control. 83,094 shares of our of our preferred stock are currently outstanding.

The preferred stock has the terms described below unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of the preferred stock being offered for specific terms, including:

- the designation and stated value per share of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

- the amount of liquidation preference per share;
- the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;

the dividend rate or method of calculation, the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to accumulate;

- any redemption or sinking fund provisions;
- any conversion or exchange provisions;
- whether we have elected to offer depositary shares as described under “Description of Depositary Shares”; and
- any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions on the preferred stock.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each series of the preferred stock will rank equally as to dividends and liquidation rights in all respects with each other series of preferred stock. The rights of holders of shares of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

As described under “Description of Depositary Shares,” we may, at our option, with respect to any series of the preferred stock, elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, and provide for the issuance of depositary receipts representing depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of the series of the preferred stock. The fractional interest will be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of the preferred stock.

#### Rank

Any series of the preferred stock will, with respect to the priority of the payment of dividends and the priority of payments upon liquidation, winding up, and dissolution, rank:

senior to all classes of common stock and all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that the equity securities will rank junior to the preferred stock (the junior securities);

equally with all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that the equity securities will rank equally with the preferred stock (the parity securities); and

junior to all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that the equity securities will rank senior to the preferred stock.

#### Dividends

Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as, and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates, if any, described in the prospectus supplement. Different series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different rates or based on different methods of calculation. The dividend rate may be fixed or variable or both. Dividends will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series of the preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors does not declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of noncumulative preferred stock, then the holders of that noncumulative preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend for that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on that series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on any series of cumulative preferred stock will accrue from the date we initially issue shares of such series

or such other date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No full dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of any dividends on any parity securities unless dividends have been paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock. If full dividends are not paid, the preferred stock will share dividends pro rata with the parity securities. No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of dividends on any junior securities unless full cumulative dividends for all dividend periods terminating on or prior to the date of the declaration or payment will have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment set apart for payment on the preferred stock.

Our ability to pay dividends on our preferred stock is subject to policies established by the Federal Reserve.

#### Rights Upon Liquidation

If we dissolve, liquidate, or wind up our affairs, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive, before any payment or distribution of assets is made to holders of junior securities, liquidating distributions in the amount described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of the preferred stock, plus an amount equal to accrued and unpaid dividends and, if the series of the preferred stock is cumulative, for all dividend periods prior to that point in time. If the amounts payable with respect to the preferred stock of any series and any other parity securities are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of that series and of the parity securities will share proportionately in the distribution of our assets in proportion to the full liquidation preferences to which they are entitled. After the holders of preferred stock and the parity securities are paid in full, they will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets.

Because we are a bank holding company, our rights, the rights of our creditors and of our stockholders, including the holders of the preferred stock offered by this prospectus, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation or recapitalization may be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors except to the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

#### Redemption

We may provide that a series of the preferred stock may be redeemable, in whole or in part, at our option, with prior Federal Reserve approval, if required. In addition, a series of preferred stock may be subject to mandatory redemption pursuant to a sinking fund or otherwise. The redemption provisions that may apply to a series of preferred stock, including the redemption dates and the redemption prices for that series, will be described in the prospectus supplement.

In the event of partial redemptions of preferred stock, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, our board of directors will determine the method for selecting the shares to be redeemed, which may be by lot or pro rata or by any other method determined to be equitable.

On or after a redemption date, unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, dividends will cease to accrue on shares of preferred stock called for redemption. In addition, all rights of holders of the shares will terminate except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock, if any dividends on any other series of preferred stock ranking equally as to payment of dividends and liquidation rights with such series of preferred stock are in arrears, no shares of any such series of preferred stock may be redeemed, whether by mandatory or optional redemption, unless all shares of preferred stock are redeemed, and we will not purchase any shares of such series of preferred stock. This requirement, however, will not prevent us from acquiring such shares pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all such shares outstanding.

Under current regulations, bank holding companies, except in certain narrowly defined circumstances, may not exercise any option to redeem shares of preferred stock included as Tier 1 capital without the prior approval of the Federal Reserve. Ordinarily, the Federal Reserve would not permit such a redemption unless (1) the shares are redeemed with the proceeds of a sale by the bank holding company of common stock or perpetual preferred stock, or (2) the Federal Reserve determines that the bank holding company's condition and circumstances warrant the reduction of a source of permanent capital.

#### Voting Rights

Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the preferred stock will have no voting rights except as otherwise required by law or in our Articles of Incorporation.

Under regulations adopted by the Federal Reserve, if the holders of any series of the preferred stock are or become entitled to vote for the election of directors, such series may then be deemed a “class of voting securities” and a holder of 25% or more of such series, or a holder of 5% or more if it otherwise exercises a “controlling influence” over us, may then be subject to regulation as a bank holding company in accordance with the Bank Holding Company Act. In addition, at such time as such series is deemed a class of voting securities, (a) any other bank holding company may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve to acquire or retain 5% or more of that series and (b) any person other than a bank holding company may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve to acquire or retain 10% or more of that series.

#### Exchangeability

We may provide that the holders of shares of preferred stock of any series may be required at any time or at maturity to exchange those shares for our debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the terms of any such exchange.

### DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

#### General

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, which we call depositary shares, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will issue to the public receipts, called depositary receipts, for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction, to be described in the prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited with a depositary named in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in a share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. Those rights include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

#### Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the numbers of depositary shares owned by those holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell the property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders.

#### Withdrawal of Stock

Unless the related depositary shares have been previously called for redemption, upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the office of the depositary, the holder of the depositary shares will be entitled to delivery, at the office of the depositary to or upon his or her order, of the number of whole shares of the preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. In no event will the depositary deliver fractional shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts.

### Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of the preferred stock so redeemed, so long as we have paid in full to the depositary the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accumulated and unpaid dividends on the preferred stock to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable on the preferred stock multiplied by the fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by one depositary share. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata or by any other equitable method as may be determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the moneys payable upon redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of the depositary shares were entitled upon redemption upon surrender to the depositary of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares.

#### Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts relating to that preferred stock. The record date for the depositary receipts relating to the preferred stock will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all action which may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote any shares of preferred stock except to the extent it receives specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing that number of shares of preferred stock.

#### Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

#### Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal of the depositary will take effect upon our appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

#### Notices

The depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all notices, reports and other communications, including proxy solicitation materials received from us, which are delivered to the depositary and which we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

#### Limitation of Liability

Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our and their duties thereunder. We and the depositary will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, on information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.



## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock. We may offer warrants separately or together with one or more additional warrants, debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock, or any combination of those securities in the form of units, as described in the appropriate prospectus supplement. If we issue warrants as part of a unit, the accompanying prospectus supplement will specify whether those warrants may be separated from the other securities in the unit prior to the warrants' expiration date. Below is a description of certain general terms and provisions of the warrants that we may offer. Further terms of the warrants will be described in the prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain, where applicable, the following terms of and other information relating to the warrants:

- the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the price at which we will issue, the warrants;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

• the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will begin and the date on which that right will expire or, if you may not continuously exercise the warrants throughout that period, the specific date or dates on which you may exercise the warrants;

- any applicable anti-dilution provisions;
- any applicable redemption or call provisions;
- the circumstances under which the warrant exercise price may be adjusted;

• whether the warrants will be issued in fully registered form or bearer form, in definitive or global form or in any combination of these forms, although, in any case, the form of a warrant included in a unit will correspond to the form of the unit and of any security included in that unit;

- any applicable material United States federal income tax consequences;

• the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;

• the proposed listing, if any, of the warrants or any securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants on any securities exchange;

- the designation and terms of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

• the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency and terms of the debt securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants;

• if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;

• if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and the related debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock will be separately transferable;

the number of shares of preferred stock, the number of depositary shares or the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which those shares may be purchased;

- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
  - the antidilution provisions of the warrants, if any;
  - any redemption or call provisions;
  - whether the warrants are to be sold separately or with other securities as parts of units; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

#### DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue units comprised of two or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement may describe:

- the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;
- any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units;
- the terms of the unit agreement governing the units;
- United States federal income tax considerations relevant to the units; and
- whether the units will be issued in fully registered or global form.

The preceding description and any description of units in the applicable prospectus supplement does not purport to be complete and is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of unit agreement which will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of such units, and, if applicable, collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements relating to such units.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may offer and sell these securities in any one or more of the following ways:

- to the public through a group of underwriters managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or through dealers;
- through one or more agents;
- directly to purchasers; or
- through a combination of such methods of sale.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

- at a fixed price, or prices which may be changed from time to time;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to those prevailing market prices; or

- at negotiated prices.

Each time we sell securities a prospectus supplement will describe the method of distribution of the securities and any applicable restrictions.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities of a particular series will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including the following:

- the name or names of any agents, dealers or underwriters included in the offer and sale of the securities;
- the public offering or purchase price and the proceeds we will receive from the sale of the securities;
  - any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to the agents or underwriters;
  - all other items constituting underwriting compensation;
  - any discounts and commissions to be allowed or paid to dealers; and
  - any exchanges on which the securities will be listed.

We may agree to enter into an agreement to indemnify the agents and the several underwriters against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or to contribute to payments the agents or the underwriters may be required to make.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase debt securities from us pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date stated in the prospectus supplement. Each contract will be for an amount not less than, and the aggregate amount of securities sold pursuant to those contracts will be equal to, the respective amounts stated in the prospectus supplement. Institutions with whom the contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and other institutions, but will in all cases be subject to our approval. Delayed delivery contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that:

• the purchase by an institution of the debt securities covered under that contract will not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which that institution is subject; and

• if the debt securities are also being sold to underwriters acting as principals for their own account, the underwriters will have purchased those debt securities not sold for delayed delivery. The underwriters and other persons acting as our agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of delayed delivery contracts.

If underwriters or dealers are used in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters or dealers for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, or at prices related to such prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices. The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more of such firms. Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of underwriters or dealers to purchase the securities offered will be subject to certain conditions precedent and the underwriters or dealers will be obligated to purchase all the offered securities if any are purchased. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or paid by underwriters or dealers to other dealers may be changed from time to time.

The securities may be sold directly by us or through agents designated by us from time to time. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to such agent will be set forth in, the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

To the extent that we make sales to or through one or more underwriters or agents in at-the-market offerings, we will do so pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement between us and the underwriters or agents. If we engage in at-the-market sales pursuant to a distribution agreement, we will issue and sell shares of our common stock to or through one or more underwriters or agents, which may act on an agency basis or on a principal basis. During the term of any such agreement, we may sell shares on a daily basis in exchange transactions or otherwise as we agree with the underwriters or agents. The distribution agreement will provide that any shares of our common stock sold will be sold at prices related to the then prevailing market prices for our common stock. Therefore, exact figures regarding proceeds that will be raised or commissions to be paid cannot be determined at this time and will be described in a prospectus supplement. Pursuant to the terms of the distribution agreement, we also may agree to sell, and the relevant underwriters or agents may agree to solicit offers to purchase, blocks of our common stock or other securities. The terms of each such distribution agreement will be set forth in more detail in a prospectus supplement to this prospectus. In the event that any underwriter or agent acts as principal, or broker-dealer acts as underwriter, it may engage in certain transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our securities. We will describe any such activities in the prospectus supplement relating to the transaction.

Offers to purchase the securities offered by this prospectus may be solicited, and sales of the securities may be made, by us of those securities directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resales of the securities. The terms of any offer made in this manner will be included in the prospectus supplement relating to the offer.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain institutional investors to purchase securities from us pursuant to contracts providing for payment and delivery at a future date. Institutional investors with which these contracts may be made include, among others:

- commercial and savings banks;
- insurance companies;
- pension funds;
- investment companies; and
- educational and charitable institutions.

In all cases, these purchasers must be approved by us. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of any purchaser under any of these contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that (a) the purchase of the securities must not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction to which that purchaser is subject and (b) if the securities are also being sold to underwriters, we must have sold to these underwriters the securities not subject to delayed delivery. Underwriters and other agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of these contracts.

Subject to any restrictions relating to debt securities in bearer form, any securities initially sold outside the United States may be resold in the United States through underwriters, dealers or otherwise.

Each series of securities other than common stock will be new issue of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom offered securities are sold by us for public offering and sale may make a market in such securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time.

The anticipated date of delivery of the securities offered by this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering. The securities offered by this prospectus may or may not be listed on a

national securities exchange or a foreign securities exchange. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or activity of any trading in the offered securities.

If more than 10% of the net proceeds of any offering of securities made under this prospectus will be received by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") members participating in the offering or affiliates or associated persons of such FINRA members, the offering will be conducted in accordance with FINRA Conduct Rule 2710.

We may enter into derivative or other hedging transactions with financial institutions. These financial institutions may in turn engage in sales of our common stock to hedge their position, deliver this prospectus in connection with some or all of those sales and use the shares covered by this prospectus to close out any short position created in connection with those sales. We may also sell shares of our common stock short using this prospectus and deliver our common stock covered by this prospectus to close out such short positions, or loan or pledge our common stock to financial institutions that in turn may sell the shares of our common stock using this prospectus. We may pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of our common stock covered by this prospectus to support a derivative or hedging position or other obligations and, if we default in the performance of our obligations, the pledges or secured parties may offer and sell our common stock from time to time pursuant to this prospectus.

We also may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of stock, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of stock. The third party in such sale transactions will be an underwriter and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement (or a post-effective amendment). In addition, we may otherwise loan or pledge securities to a financial institution or other third party that in turn may sell the securities short using this prospectus. Such financial institution or other third party may transfer its economic short position to investors in our securities or in connection with a concurrent offering of other securities.

Certain of the underwriters and their associates and affiliates may be customers of, have borrowing relationships with, engage in other transactions with, and/or perform services, including investment banking services, for, us or one or more of our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

#### LEGAL OPINIONS

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, Washington, D.C.

#### EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2007, and the effectiveness of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, appearing in Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, have been audited by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports that are incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and Registration Statement in reliance upon such reports given upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc.

Debt Securities  
Common Stock  
Preferred Stock  
Warrants  
Depository Shares  
Units

\_\_\_\_\_

Prospectus

\_\_\_\_\_, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_

---

PART II  
INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

## Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth the various expenses to be incurred in connection with the sale and distribution of the securities being registered. All amounts shown are estimates except the Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee.

Filing Fee — Securities and Exchange Commission	\$ 6,878
Printing expenses	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Miscellaneous expenses	*
Total Expenses	\$ 6,878

\* These fees depend on the securities offered and the number of issuances and cannot be estimated at this time.

## Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 2-418 of the Maryland Annotated Code, Corporations and Associations Article (1993) (“Maryland Code”) provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers against liabilities they may incur in such capacities unless it is established that: (a) the directors act or omission was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (i) was committed in bad faith or (ii) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; or (b) the director actually received an improper personal benefit; or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. A corporation is required to indemnify directors and officers against expenses they may incur in defending actions against them in such capacities if they are successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of such actions.

The Maryland Code provides that the foregoing provisions shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a director or officer seeking indemnification may be entitled under, among other things, any bylaw or charter provision, or resolution of stockholders or directors, agreement, or otherwise.

Article XV of the Articles of Incorporation of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. requires indemnification of officers and directors as follows:

Subject to applicable provisions of federal law, the Corporation shall indemnify to the fullest extent permissible under the Maryland General Corporation Law any individual who is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation, and any individual who serves or served at the Corporation’s request as a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, in any proceeding in which the individual is made a party as a result of his service in such capacity. An individual will not be indemnified if (i) it is established that the act or omission at issue was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and (a) was committed in bad faith, or (b) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty; (ii) the individual actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property, or services; or (iii) in the case of a criminal proceeding, the individual had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. In the event any litigation is brought against a director of this Corporation, authorization is hereby made to advance all expenses needed by the director to defend the lawsuit. There shall be no obligation to repay the expenses forwarded, unless it shall be determined ultimately by the Corporation, in accordance with the provisions of this Article XV and the Maryland General Corporation law, that the director shall not be entitled to indemnification.

The rights of indemnification provided for in this Article XV shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any Bylaw, agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise. Rights of indemnification under this Article XV shall continue as to a person who has ceased to serve in one of the capacities listed in the immediately preceding paragraph and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

II-1

---

Item 16. Exhibits

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.*
4.1	Articles of Incorporation, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1996).
4.2	Articles Supplementary establishing Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.3	Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 13, 1992).
4.4	Form of stock certificate for Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.5	Warrant to Purchase 651,547 Shares of Common Stock of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.6	Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (including form of Note for Senior Debt Securities).
4.7	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (including form of Note for Subordinated Debt Securities).
4.8	Form of Deposit Agreement (including Form of Depositary Share Certificate) with respect to Depositary Shares.*
4.9	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.10	Form of Articles Supplementary for series of Preferred Stock*
4.11	Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock or Units.*
4.12	Form of Unit Agreement*
5.1	Opinion of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP as to the legality of the securities being offered.
12.1	Computation of Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.

- 23.1 Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP.
- 23.2 Consent of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP (included in Exhibit 5 filed herewith).
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included in the signature pages of this Registration Statement).
- 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Wilmington Trust Company as Trustee under the Indenture for Senior Debt Securities.
- 25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Wilmington Trust Company as Trustee under the Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities.

---

\* To be subsequently filed by an amendment to the Registration Statement or by a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
  - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; and
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for purposes of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

- (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining any liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities: The registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the registrant or used or referred to by the registrant;
- (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the registrant; and
- (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the registrant to the purchaser.

The registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, on February 6, 2009.

SANDY SPRING BANCORP, INC.

By: /s/ Daniel J. Schrider  
Daniel J. Schrider  
President and Chief Executive Officer

SIGNATURES AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. hereby severally constitute and appoint Daniel J. Schrider, Philip J. Mantua and Ronald E. Kuykendall, and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys with full power to any of them, and to each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below the Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed herewith and any and all pre-effective and post-effective amendments to said Registration Statement and generally to do all such things in our name and behalf in our capacities as officers and directors to enable Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys, or any of them, to said Registration Statement and any and all amendments thereto.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacity and on the dates indicated.

February 6, 2009 By: /s/ Daniel J. Schrider  
Daniel J. Schrider  
President and Chief Executive Officer, Director  
(Principal Executive Officer)

February 6, 2009 By: /s/ Philip J. Mantua  
Philip J. Mantua  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

February 6, 2009 By: /s/ Mark E. Friis  
Mark E. Friis  
Director

February 6, 2009 By: /s/ Susan D. Goff  
Susan D. Goff  
Director

Edgar Filing: SANDY SPRING BANCORP INC - Form S-3

February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Solomon Graham Solomon Graham Director
February 6, 2009	By /s/ Marshall H. Groom Marshall H. Groom Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Gilbert L. Hardesty Gilbert L. Hardesty Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Hunter R. Hollar Hunter R. Hollar Chairman
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Pamela A. Little Pamela A. Little Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Charles F. Mess Charles F. Mess Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Robert L. Orndorff Robert L. Orndorff Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ David E. Rippeon David E. Rippeon Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Craig A. Ruppert Craig A. Ruppert Director
February 6, 2009	By: /s/ Lewis R. Schumann Lewis R. Schumann Director

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.*
4.1	Articles of Incorporation, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1996).
4.2	Articles Supplementary establishing Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.3	Bylaws (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 13, 1992).
4.4	Form of stock certificate for Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.5	Warrant to Purchase 651,547 Shares of Common Stock of Sandy Spring Bancorp, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 5, 2008).
4.6	Form of Indenture for Senior Debt Securities (including form of Note for Senior Debt Securities).
4.7	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities (including form of Note for Subordinated Debt Securities).
4.8	Form of Deposit Agreement (including Form of Depositary Share Certificate) with respect to Depositary Shares.*
4.9	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.10	Form of Articles Supplementary for series of Preferred Stock*
4.11	Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities, Preferred Stock, Depositary Shares, Common Stock or Units.*
4.12	Form of Unit Agreement*
5.1	Opinion of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP as to the legality of the securities being offered.
12.1	Computation of Consolidated Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.

- 23.1 Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP.
- 23.2 Consent of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP (included in Exhibit 5 filed herewith).
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included in the signature pages of this Registration Statement).
- 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Wilmington Trust Company as Trustee under the Indenture for Senior Debt Securities.
- 25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of Wilmington Trust Company as Trustee under the Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities.

---

\* To be subsequently filed by an amendment to the Registration Statement or by a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.