

**January 2010** Please forward this newsletter and/or print out copies for your local church bulletin board and for distribution.

**Chesapeake Conference is pleased to announce** that on December 15 the Conference Executive Committee elected Rick Remmers to be conference secretary. Elder Remmers is the senior pastor of the Hagerstown, Maryland, church, and was pastor of the Atholton church some years ago. He has spent more than 20 years in pastoral and administrative ministry in Ohio, Illinois, and Maryland, which includes serving as conference secretary and ministerial director for the Illinois Conference. In addition to his job as conference secretary, he will assume the responsibilities of health ministries director and prayer ministries coordinator. He will take up the duties of his new role full-time on March 1. He and his wife, Shayne (Bromme) Remmers, have two children, Andrew and Kari. Elder Remmers replaces Elder Charles Griffin, who retired this month.

**Congratulations to Antonio and Lilly Lopez** on the December 27 birth of their second child, Levi Antonio Lopez. Levi is reported to have chubby cheeks and a beautiful head of black hair. He joins big sister Corinthia, who is 20 months old. Pastor Antonio Lopez is the associate pastor for youth at the Atholton church in Columbia, Maryland.

**A water pipe in the upper level** of the Lodge at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center broke Wednesday evening, January 7, and flooded a portion the building. At this point we do not know the extent of the damage. Please pray for the staff as they work to clean up and make repairs so the facility can soon reopen for business.

**The New Hope Church** is hosting their Second Annual International Food Festival on Saturday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. Sharing Our Strength International (SOS) will host the event. A \$5 per person entrance fee benefits the Haiti Mission Project to help purchase medicines and water wells during the mission trip planned for January 13-19. New Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 12350 Hall Shop Road, Fulton, Maryland. Visit [www.lookingforachurch.org](http://www.lookingforachurch.org) for more information, or call (301) 854-1866.

**The Northeast Company** marks its first anniversary on Sabbath, January 16, and invites you to bring a friend and join them in a day of joyous celebration. They have planned a full day of special activities at their meeting place—the Reformation Lutheran Church located at 6200 Loch Raven Boulevard in Baltimore. Sabbath school starts at 9:30 a.m., and the worship service follows at 11:00.

**You are invited to a Prayer Emphasis Sabbath** planned for January 30, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Chestertown Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 305 North Kent Street, Chestertown, Maryland. Rob Vandeman, conference president; Sedley Johnson, prayer ministries coordinator; and Pastor Rick Remmers will lead out in a day designed to encourage and uplift. Bring a dish to share at potluck, and enjoy a meal among friends. Churches on the Eastern Shore are encouraged to participate or send delegates to this conference. For directions or more information, contact Pastor Kevin McDaniel at [PastorK@atlanticbb.net](mailto:PastorK@atlanticbb.net) or call (443) 480-7777.

#### **Upcoming Youth Ministries Events:**

~ **Pathfinder Winter Classoree**, January 22-24, at Mount Aetna Camp in Hagerstown, Maryland. Pathfinders—Friend through Guide—can earn a variety honors (choose from 31 honors offered) in First Aid and Safety, Nature Appreciation, Church Heritage, and Arts & Crafts in a single weekend by attending. For a class schedule, contact Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910 or email [areynolds@ccosda.org](mailto:areynolds@ccosda.org).

~ **Family Ski Day at Jack Frost Resort** in Pennsylvania, Sunday, January 31. Join the 200+ people who have already registered for a fun, inexpensive day in the snow. Skiing and snowboarding packages that cover lift ticket, rental, and a lesson are available from \$33. Tubing costs range from \$20-30. There is a \$2 per person fee for mandatory insurance. To register or get more information, contact conference youth director Carl Rodriguez at [crodriguez@ccosda.org](mailto:crodriguez@ccosda.org).

~ **Generation Rain “The Promise” Spiritual Retreat** for high school youth takes place February 26-28 at Mount Aetna Camp. Randy Preston, lead singer for the Christian band Jakob’s Night, is the featured speaker for the weekend. The \$38 registration fee covers lodging and meals. For more information, visit [www.generationrain.blogspot.com](http://www.generationrain.blogspot.com), email [pourdownrain@yahoo.com](mailto:pourdownrain@yahoo.com), or call (410) 995-1910, ext. 2337.

#### **Health Ministries Training Events:**

~ **NAD Health Summit**, January 29-February 7, at the Sheraton Orlando North, 600 North Lake Destiny Drive, Maitland, Florida. This summit of courses is designed for health ministry leaders, pastors, health-care professionals, community service volunteers, and anyone interested in current health issues. Register through PlusLine by January 21 (by January 13 for a discount) at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org), or call (800) 732-7587.

~ **A Health Ministry Team Building Training** will be held February 20-21 from 2:00-6:00 p.m., at Washington Adventist Hospital located at 7600 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. This workshop is offered free of charge twice each year to pastors, health professionals, and anyone interested in starting or joining a health ministry team. The registration deadline is January 30.

~ **A Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) Train the Trainer** program is offered March 26-28 at Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. This Columbia Union-wide training is for people interested in starting CHIP in their church or becoming a part of an already active CHIP team. CHIP is a four-week lifestyle education program that has proven successful in helping people incorporate healthier lifestyle principles in their lives. For more information on these and other health ministry training opportunities, contact Katia Reinert at [kgreinerer@ahm.com](mailto:kgreinerer@ahm.com) or call (301) 891-6102.

**Spencerville Adventist Academy (SAA) invites** prospective high school students to Academy Day, February 3, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet the teachers, make new friends, check out the program, compete for scholarships, and eat lunch. The academy is located at 15930 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. RSVP by January 29 to Heidi Wetmore at [hwetmore@spencerville.org](mailto:hwetmore@spencerville.org), or call (301) 421-9101 ext. 100.

**Grow your marriage** at a retreat sponsored by the Triadelphia church in Clarksville, Maryland. This special weekend for couples takes place February 5-7 at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. Dick and Ardis Stenbakken are featured presenters. For full details, contact the church at [triadelphia@gmail.com](mailto:triadelphia@gmail.com) or call (301) 854-3678.

**Thinking About Graduate School?** Washington Adventist University's (WAU) School of Graduate and Professional Studies has several programs designed to meet the needs of working adults. Boost your career by earning a graduate degree in Business Administration, Nursing and Business Leadership, Psychology, Public Administration, or Religion. Visit [www.wau.edu](http://www.wau.edu) or contact a WAU representative by calling (877) 246-2228 or (301) 891-4092; or email [sgps@wau.edu](mailto:sgps@wau.edu) to find out how you can get started.

#### **A brief report from the Executive Committee meeting on December 15:**

~ Voted, to recommend the following retirement requests on to the higher levels of the organization:

Sally Appel with 20.5 years of service, and Evelyn Griffin with 24 years of service

~ Voted, to call Volodymyr Grinchenko to serve as pastor of the Waldorf, Maryland, church. Pastor Grinchenko has just finished his master's degree at Southern Adventist University, and he is excited about working with this dynamic congregation to meet the needs of one of the state's fastest growing communities. He is a native of Ukraine, where he served as a youth pastor, associate conference youth director, and a church planter. His wife, Agnesa Grinchenko, hopes one day to pursue a career in nursing. The couple has two children—son Nikita, 5, and daughter Zlata, age 3. The conference administration expressed their belief that this young family will make a significant contribution to the work in Chesapeake conference and the church at large.

~ Voted, to ask Phil Hamman, pastor of the Dover First and Harrington district, to fill the pastoral vacancy on the Executive Committee from the Eastern Region.

~ Voted, to approve as a matter of record various policy issues from the North American Division and Columbia Union Conference year-end meetings.

~ Voted, to accept a preliminary draft of the 2010 conference operating budget (see note below).

~ The committee went into executive session to elect a new conference secretary, thereby filling the vacancy created by Elder Charles Griffin's retirement from full-time employment. Conference President Rob Vandeman handed the chair over to Columbia Union President Dave Weigley to facilitate the process. The committee took its time to thoughtfully and prayerfully reflect on the responsibilities of this officer position, the profile of what kind of individual was needed, and potential candidates. Each step of the process used secret ballots, so that every committee member could express their convictions without any pressure. After more than one and one-half hours of discussion and prayer, the committee voted to ask Elder Rick Remmers to serve as the next Chesapeake Conference secretary.

**Finances at a glance**—The conference is waiting for the December remittances to come in from the churches before putting the finishing touches to the 2010 operating budget. Going into the month of December, Chesapeake was showing a 4.6 percent tithe gain (highest in the NAD), but is are uncertain as to the effect of the blizzard that hit December 19, which closed most of the churches for the day. The budget is built on several assumptions including using 100 percent of the tithe gain for 2009 (which is anticipated to be 3.5 percent or higher), and a freeze in the salaries and cost of living factors for employees (for a second straight year). Report to follow in the February issue of *Currents*.

**Church clerks and treasurers** are urged to submit year-end reports to the conference right away. We are closing out 2009 business and finalizing the 2010 operating budget, as well as preparing our own year-end reports that are due. Thanks very much for making this a priority.

**Condolences** are offered to conference ministerial director John Appel and his wife, Sally, who are grieving the loss of John's mother, Wilma Appel, widow of Alva Appel. Wilma died December 24 in Florida at the age of 85. Many in Chesapeake were acquainted with Wilma—she taught for more than 20 years at John Nevins Andrews School in Takoma Park, Maryland. She was an active member of the New Hope, Linthicum, and Baltimore First churches during the years she lived in Maryland.

#### **January Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 2	4:53	Local Church Budget
January 9	4:59	Chesapeake Advance
January 16	5:06	Local Church Budget
January 23	5:14	NAD-Religious Liberty
January 30	5:22	GC Session Project/World Budget

Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes. For West Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes.