April 2014

~ **Eli Rojas, DMin**, joins the conference office staff June 1 as Ministerial and Family Life director, filling the vacancy created when John Appel retired last year. “Elder Rojas has a rich and broad experience in pastoral ministry and he will be a great blessing to us in Chesapeake,” says Rick Remmers, conference president. Rojas directs Family Life Ministries for the Carolina Conference and is senior pastor at the Arden, North Carolina, church. A native of Costa Rica, Roja’s ministry in the United States began more than 25 years ago. He is an experienced church planter, pastor trainer and mentor, and enjoys organizing mission trips. He and his wife Loida, an accountant, have two adult children—Eileen, majoring in education at Walla Walla University, and Eli, a seminary student at Andrews University.

~ This month **Jerry Lutz** begins his work as conference executive secretary and Stewardship director. Two full time positions are open at Spencerville church due to Jerry Lutz coming the conference office and Patrick Morrison’s retirement. **Elder Gary Patterson**, a retired pastor and administrator who recently served as interim senior pastor at two Maryland churches—New Hope (Fulton) and Takoma Park, will be interim senior pastor at Spencerville church while a search committee looks to fill the position held by Jerry Lutz for the past 18 years. **Charlotte McClure** and **Steve Willsey**, retired associate pastors emeritus, will each work half time until a permanent associate pastor is hired.

~ The Conference Executive Committee, at its March 18 meeting, formally expressed appreciation and gratitude to **Charles Griffin** who stepped in as interim executive secretary during the transition between Kleyton Feitosa and Jerry Lutz. Elder Griffin continues in his role as Association secretary. The committee also appointed **Orlando Rosales**, pastor of the Baltimore and Columbia, Maryland, Spanish churches, to added responsibilities as conference Hispanic Ministries coordinator. Elder Rosales has capably led the Hispanic Ministries on an interim basis over the winter months and looks forward to continuing in this role on a permanent basis.

**A Natural Lifestyle cooking school** is underway at the Spencerville church. Led by Mark and Ernestine Finley with Dr. Peter Landless, Health Ministries director for the General Conference and a Spencerville member, the classes have drawn 120 participants, about one-third from the surrounding community. Now midway through the evening classes, the friendship evangelism outreach will be followed by a 5K run.

**Pastor Charles D. Brooks** is the featured speaker at the Blythedale church on Friday, April 4, 7 p.m., and Sabbath,
April 5, at 11:30 a.m. Join the congregation for these uplifting services and be blessed. The church is located at 36 Blythedale Road in Perryville, Maryland.

Highland View Academy Upcoming Events: HVA is located at 10100 Academy Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland. For more details about these events, visit hva-edu.com, email kbrown@highlandviewacademy.com, or call (301) 739-8480.
~ HVA’s Highlanders and Men’s Choir present concerts at two area churches on Sabbath, April 5. Students will perform Sabbath morning at 11 a.m. at the Rockville, Maryland, church located at 727 W. Montgomery Avenue, and at 4 p.m. at Triadelphia church, 12950 Brighton Dam Road in Clarksville, Maryland.
~ A work bee takes place on campus, Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed for cleaning, light repairs, painting and landscaping. Take a few hours to help make the HVA campus shine.
~ Alumni weekend—May 2-4—is packed with exciting and uplifting features:

- May 2, Friday: “God’s Hands” drama presentation, 7:30 p.m., Highland View Church
- May 3, Saturday: 11 a.m., Lonni Melashenko is the guest speaker, Highland View Church
  - 7 p.m., Melashenko Four music concert, Highland View Church
  - 8:30 p.m., Alumni Basketball Game, Gym
- May 4, Sunday: 9 a.m., 5K Run, free and open to all. To register, contact the school.
  - 10 a.m. Free brunch sponsored by the Alumni Association
  - 11 a.m. Alumni Soccer Game

Washington Adventist University’s 2014 Alumni Weekend themed “Excellence in Service, Strength in Diversity” happens April 10-13. Kendra Haloviak Valentine (’89) is the keynote speaker. Highlights of the weekend include the Kick-off Social, Alumni Awards Banquet, and the Missions 5K Fun Run. Visit wau.edu/alumni, or call Ellie Barker, director of Alumni Relations, at (301) 891-4151 for more information. Join the Northeast congregation for a weekend revival themed “Uniting the Family,” Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m., and Sabbath, April 12, at 11 a.m. Seth Bardu, Columbia Union Conference treasurer, is the speaker. The congregation meets in the St. Andrews Lutheran church located at 1201 Taylor Avenue, Parkville, Maryland. Questions? Email shedana_t@hotmail.com, or call Sedley Johnson at (443) 799-2400.

Youth Ministries Upcoming Events:
For more information about these events, contact Ann Reynolds by email at areynolds@ccosda.org, or call (410) 995-1910.
~ Teen Leaders in Training (TLT) program—Every year several future leaders get together to bond, learn, and experience the joys and challenges of leadership. This year the TLT training event takes place Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13, at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center (MARC) in Hagerstown, Maryland. For details, call Doug Beil at (443) 280-4555.
~ Congreso de Jovenes (Youth Congress) is planned for April 25-28 at MARC. Latino young people are invited to come and learn how to be better disciples while enjoying the fellowship of other young people. “We want our young Christians to share their love for God by discipleship ministry,” says Carl Rodriguez, Youth Ministries director.

Crossroads Adventist Preparatory School presents “The Road To Wellness” Community Science and Health Fair, Sunday, April 13, from noon to 4 p.m. Come and enjoy a day of fun-filled ways to learn about becoming a “healthier you.” Students will present on science, health, nutrition and fitness topics. Booths featuring massage therapy, health screenings, vegetarian food and fitness classes round out the day. The school is located at 3291 St John's Lane in Ellicott City, Maryland. Need more details? Call (410) 465-6867.

Spencerville Adventist Academy presents their 15th musical production, “Fiddler on the Roof,” April 16-20, in the school auditorium. Tickets are $10, $15 and $20, and include a dessert intermission. Performances are Wednesday, April 16, at 1 p.m. (senior citizen and visiting school tickets are $7 for this performance), Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 19, at 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 20, at 4 p.m. The academy is located at 2502 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Maryland. Purchase tickets online at spaac.net/tickets/. Questions? Call (240) 883-3538, or email jlanning@spencerville.org.
Baltimore White Marsh Adventist School’s annual Move Up Open House is Sunday, April 20, 8:30-noon. Potential students can visit classrooms, meet teachers, and experience the school in action. Parents are encouraged to come and learn more about the school, too. Lunch will be provided. To reserve a spot, contact principal Rose Gamblin by phone at (410) 663-1819, or email principal@bwmschool.org.

Discover which wild plants are edible by participating in a one-day class on Sunday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. The $48 fee includes two meals (made with edible wild plants gathered during class time), guided identification hikes, lectures, textbook, and color plant identification packets. Must register to participate. To register, call (301) 824-6045, or email mtaetnacamp@myactv.net.

Love nature and have some extra time? Mount Aetna Retreat Center is seeking persons interested in nature, creation, and sharing to volunteer as a Nature Center docent once per quarter on Sabbath afternoons. If interested in this unique ministry opportunity, contact Glen Milam at glenmilam@myactv.net.

Take a stand against abuse! Register now to attend the End it Now Summit on Abuse, cohosted by the North American Division and General Conference, May 1-4, at 12501 Old Columbia Pike in Silver Spring, Maryland. This event is for laypersons, pastors, teachers and church and school administrators who want to help prevent the abuse of any person and who will be a support and resource for a victim of abuse. A wide variety of experts—from Health and Family Ministries and social work, insurance providers and legal, as well as violence intervention—will offer valuable insights and training. Attend all sessions for $149, or just on Sabbath for $40. Register by April 24 online at AdventSource.org (select Event Registration tab), or call (800) 732-7587. View the schedule at nadwm.org.

“By Grace Alone” is the theme for The Gathering, Chesapeake Conference’s annual camp meeting, planned for June 17-21 at Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Maryland. Karl Haffner, pastor and author (just released a book he coauthored with his daughter Claire titled Are You More Spiritual Than a 5th Grader) is the keynote speaker Friday evening and Sabbath. Bill Knott, editor/publisher of Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines, will bring spiritually uplifting messages weeknights using the engaging style that makes him a popular speaker throughout the world. Ann Roda, pastor for families at New Hope church in Fulton, Maryland, will set a happy, spiritual tone for the day during morning family worships. Message of Mercy, featuring Joey Norwood Tolbert, brings inspiring music.

Activities and programs are being planned for all ages, and many popular favorites are in store: slippy slide, zip line, swimming, horseback-riding, roller skating, water skiing, watermelon feast, games on big inflatables, film fest, Friday evening campfire and stories—and more! It’s surprisingly affordable to bring a family to camp meeting, and the benefits—family time, new friendships, and a deeper connection to God—are priceless.

- Personal tent space on campus costs just $45.
- An air-conditioned dorm room costs just $115 for two persons and $195 for a family of four—for 5 nights.
- There is no charge for activities for young children, and those in juniors, earliteens and youth pay a flat $35 for all activities and outings throughout the week.

Plan now to enrich your life and make lasting memories with family and friends this year at camp meeting. Register for lodging and get details online at the Chesapeake Conference website: ccosda.org/campmeeting. See you at The Gathering!

It’s time to register the kids for camp where they can have fun and develop a closer relationship with Jesus! Register for camps online at www.mtaetnacamp.com, or call (301) 824-2729 for more details. Mount Aetna Camp (MAC) offers the following overnight camps at MAC in Hagerstown, Maryland:

- Adventure Camp, ages 7-10—June 29-July 6
- Junior I Camp, ages 10-12—July 6-13
- Junior II Camp, ages 10-12—July 13-20
• Tween Camp, ages 12-14—July 20-27
• Teen Camp, ages 12-16—July 27-August 3
• Outpost Camps for ages 13-17—June 29-July 6
  o Teen Horsemanship Outpost
  o Teen Watersports Extreme Outpost

Mount Aetna Camp also offers the following regional day camps called F.L.A.G. (Fun Learning About God) Camp for kids age 5-14.

• Baltimore First church/Crossroads School, Ellicott City, Md.—June 30-July 4
• Dover First church, Dover, Delaware—July 7-11
• West Wilmington church, Wilmington, Delaware—July 14-18
• Waldorf church, Waldorf, Maryland—July 21-25
• Martinsburg church, Martinsburg, West Virginia —July 28-August 1
• Eastern Shore Day Camp—Ages 6-15
  o Park church, Salisbury, Maryland
  o Week 1: July 21-25
  o Week 2: July 28-August 1

Conference finances at a glance: The year 2013 reflected the ongoing faithfulness of members during difficult times. “We appreciate the steadfastness in returning the tithes and offerings of our Chesapeake Conference members,” says Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer. Last year presented a modest increase in tithe of .95 percent. The Executive Committee approved the 2014 budget with increases in expenses such as medical, insurance, and a small increase in salaries. “We continue to monitor our expenditures in an effort to not exceed our budget, and we know that difficult times and other factors beyond our control will certainly present their own challenges.”

AdventistGiving allows members to return tithe and give offerings (including local church offerings) online while doing web banking, traveling, or even when unable to attend church due to an illness. Members who utilize this service can increase the benefit of their donations by using the electronic check option instead of the credit card payment option. Vendor processing fees are shared by the General Conference, North American Division, local union conference, and the local conference and not deducted from donations. The fee for an electronic check is currently a flat fee of 16 cents per transaction. When donors use a credit card, the fee is actually a percentage of the donation amount—an average of 1.4 percent of the amount given. So, if a member makes a $100 donation, the fee would be 16 cents if done by electronic check and $1.40 if paid by credit card. Learn more at www.adventistgiving.org, or contact your church treasurer.

Two new resources are being published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and are available through Adventist Book Centers or online at AdventistBookCenter.com. The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia contains 1,300 articles describing the places Ellen White lived, the people she knew, and her position on hundreds of subjects, as well as rarely seen photos. John Bradshaw’s Confidence in Chaos is the 2014 sharing book, priced at $2.49 each or $1.00 each when 10 or more are purchased. Bradshaw, public speaker and presenter of the weekly television program It Is Written, reveals not only the depth of the chaos facing the world, but also the certainty of the solutions offered by the God of heaven.

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April Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

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<td>April 12</td>
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<td>Christian Record Services/World Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
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<td>Local Church Budget</td>
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Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes. For West Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes.

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