Congratulations are offered to Josh and Celeste Voigt on the birth of their second child, Jack Llewellyn Voigt, October 2. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz., and measured 20 ¾ inches. Jack joins big brother Nathan, who recently celebrated his second birthday. Elder Voigt is the pastor of the Reisterstown and South Carroll churches.

A hearty welcome is extended to Emmanuel Asiedu, CPA, who joins the Chesapeake Conference staff as associate treasurer effective November 1. He comes from the General Conference Auditing Service where he has worked since 2009. In his new role, Mr. Asiedu will assist with the auditing, and deliver technical support for the 74 churches and 16 schools in the conference, as well as provide accounting services for conference. “His experience will strengthen our capacity to better serve our churches, schools and the Treasury department,” says Eduardo Muñoz, conference treasurer. He and his wife Annette have a one-year old daughter, Azaria.

The Eastern Shore Gathering drew about 300 attendees to a waterfront venue in Cambridge, Maryland, September 29. Guest speaker Lonnie Melashenko challenged listeners to look beyond themselves and allow God to use them to share the message of His love and grace. A bountiful potluck lunch followed the morning services. Special activities included a sailboat excursion for the youth, miniature horses for children to pet and ride, a home missions report, and an afternoon concert featuring many talented musicians.

The Columbian Union Issues Appeal for Understanding Regarding Inclusive Ministerial Ordination—At its September 26 meeting, the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee voted to submit a statement to the General Conference leadership in response to their statements released after the union's July 29 special constituency vote to ordain pastors to the gospel ministry without regard to gender. The statement begins:

We acknowledge the concerns and questions our recent special constituency vote raised among some of our church family administrators and regret that some misunderstood our motives and intentions. We unwaveringly stand in solidarity with our worldwide church family in faith, belief, doctrine and mission and appeal for understanding.

We were compelled to act on our conscience and convictions because we believe it will and already is having a positive impact on our churches, ministries and mission; we believe it is morally and ethically right; we believe that God calls whom He chooses and our responsibility and privilege is to fully recognize His proven calls; we want to see new generations of members unabashedly engage in the mission of our church; and we want to do all we can to hasten the promised return of Christ… Read the full statement on the union webpage at columbiaunion.org.

The Frederick church’s 100th Anniversary Celebration takes place Friday, October 5 and Sabbath, October 6, at the church located at 6437 Jefferson Pike in Frederick, Maryland. The Friday evening service begins at 7 p.m., and features Dr. Zdravko Plantak, chair of the Religion department of Washington Adventist University. Lonnie Melashenko, former host of the Voice of Prophecy, speaks during the divine worship service on Sabbath. Guided tours of the facility will be offered Sabbath afternoon, followed by a concert at 3:30 featuring organist Van Knauss. For more information, visit fredericksdadchurch.org.

Highland View Academy Upcoming Events:
~ Second Annual Tartans Spirit 5K/One Mile Run/Walk, Sunday, October 7, on campus at 101 Academy Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland. On-site registration is from 8-9:30 a.m., and costs $20. The race begins at 10 a.m. For details, contact Steve Gatz by email at stevegatz@hotmail.com, or contact John Henline by phone at (240) 500-4884, or by email at jhenline@highlandviewacademy.com.
~ Academy Days/Open House, November 4-5, for prospective students currently in Grade 7 or higher. To learn more and register, visit HVA-EDU.com, or contact Renee Williams by email at rwilliams@highlandviewacademy.com, or call (301) 739-8480.

“Protecting Marriage: What is the Christian’s Role?” is the focus of a special Sabbath event, October 6, at the Spencerville church located at 16325 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland. Explore the Biblical, social, and religious liberty issues around the attempt to change the definition of marriage in Maryland. Guest speakers include Adventist Review editor, Bill Knott, who will deliver the Sabbath morning sermon on the history of the Adventist church’s involvement in social issues; Roy Gane, a professor of Old Testament from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University; and Nicholas Miller, an attorney as well as professor of Church History, also from the Seminary. Drs. Gane and Miller have recently co-edited Homosexuality, Marriage, and the Church, a book exploring the question of how the Christian should relate to issues of sexuality, marriage, and the law. Presentations will be given on these and related topics during the divine worship hour, and in the afternoon at a panel discussion beginning at 2:00 p.m. Claudio Consuegra, director of the North American Division Family Ministries Department, will also join the afternoon discussion panel.
Virginia and Western Maryland, add three minutes. Note: Sunset times published above are for Baltimore, Maryland. For Delaware and the Eastern Shore, subtract two minutes.

The Family Ministries department is open to others. Call or email the coordinator for information about Arise activities and events.

The Project Love in Action 10th Annual Benefit Concert takes place Saturday, October 13, 4 p.m., at the Northeast church located at 6200 Loch Raven Blvd. in Baltimore. Proceeds will be used to provide basic and preventive health care, food, clothes, shoes, vision care and reading glasses in the Ubakala community in Eastern Nigeria. Local artists will feature music by talented artists, Angela Bryant Brown. Admission is free. For more information, contact Iheanacho Odinha at (443) 631-4089.

Dr. George Rice presents a Revelation Series at the Middletown Valley church during six Sabbath worship services October 13-November 17. The church is located at 1811 Arnold Road in Jefferson, Maryland. For more details, call (240) 415-8268, or email mvsdaevents@gmail.com.

“One Miracle After Another” is the theme for the Prayer Conference sponsored by Chesapeake Conference Prayer Ministries, October 26-27. Pastor Pavel Goia shares miraculous stories of answered prayer and the transforming power of a walk with God. The event takes place at the Atholton church located at 6520 Martin Road in Columbia, Maryland, and opens with a Friday evening meeting that begins at 7 p.m. Participants must pre-register by October 17 to attend. The $15 fee covers materials and lunch on Sabbath. For a full schedule and to register, visit ccosda.org, or call Pam Strahle at (410) 995-1910.

Women planning to ride the bus to the “Mind, Body, Soul” Women’s Retreat planned for November 2-4 in Ocean City, Maryland, must reserve a seat as space is available on a first come, first serve basis. Buses will depart from Hagerstown and Columbia, Maryland, at 2 p.m. on Friday, November 2. To reserve a seat, contact Jennifer Stefan by email at jstefan@ccosda.org, or call (410) 995-1910. There is still time to register for the retreat—visit ccosda.org. More than 200 women have already registered to attend.

Calling all Baltimore area church members—an Evangelism Rally takes place Sabbath, November 3, from 3-5 p.m., at the Northeast church located at 6200 Loch Raven Blvd. in Baltimore. Come and be blessed and motivated for outreach. An afternoon of inspiring messages from Gary Gibbs, conference Evangelism director, and Anibal Hansell, conference pastor and evangelist, interspersed with music by talented artists is planned. Questions? Call Pastor Sedley Johnson at (410) 679-7249, or email sedeuljon@yahoo.com.

Adventists InStep for Life/Let’s Move Day participants should report their steps online at AdventistsInStepforLife.org (click on the Reporting tab). The North American Division Health Ministries department is compiling the data of all participating individuals, churches and schools. A free webinar is planned for Monday, October 29, from 8-9 p.m. Hear about the events that took place on Let’s Move Day this year, as well as the latest reports of activities and events throughout the Division. And learn about the Adventists InStep for Life awards and how you, your church, or your school may win awards. To register for the webinar, visit AdventistsInStepforLife.org.

ARISE is a new ministry of the Chesapeake Conference just for young adults, ages 20-30. Plan now to attend a young adult retreat, February 1-3, at Mount Aetna Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Watch future issues of Currents for details. For more information about Arise activities and events, check out Facebook at www.facebook.com/ariseyoungadults. Jen Blondo is the coordinator for Young Adult Ministries, and she’d like to know about your upcoming young adult group events and activities, especially if they are open to others. Contact her at ariseyoungadults@gmail.com, or call (202) 567-1098.

Resource: The Family Ministries department of the North American Division has a Facebook page chock full of links to helpful resources on marriage, parenting and other family topics. Check it out at facebook.com/NadFamilyMinistries.

October Sunset Calendar and Offering Schedule:

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<td>October 13</td>
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<td>North American Division/Voice of Prophecy/World Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</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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