

Lamp Letter

Vol. 18 No. 4
August, 2016

Never Say Never



Marge Vande Hei is a retired nurse and 2015 graduate of the Lay Minister Certification program. She and her husband, Chris, have three grown children. To learn more about the Lay Minister Program, contact the Personal Ministries Department of the Wisconsin Conference office.

When I was nursing I always thought I was too busy and could never give Bible studies, but when I retired I had nothing but time. With the encouragement of my pastor, Bill Ochs, I started the Lay Minister program offered by our conference. I was terrified! I would never be able to do what these Godly people were doing! When I learned it was a requirement to hold a ShareHim evangelistic program I hit a brick wall. ShareHim is a wonderful tool but not for me. I thought it was all over and I would have to drop out.

At my pastor's suggestion, I looked through the Chuck Kohley Bible study DVD's and immediately knew I could work with them. But how? How

could I use this program and still meet my program requirements? So I prayed.

Then, like a tap on the shoulder, the idea came to me, "Put a sign in the yard." I called a realtor friend and asked for a "For Sale" sign frame with a flyer compartment and he found one! I proceeded to make the sign and flyers. Studies would begin March 22, everyone would get a free King James Bible, and all lessons were free.

Well the day arrived and two ladies came. We looked at the 30-minute video and then discussed it by way of a worksheet. I also made up more handouts of Bible verses, historical figures, and anything else I thought would enhance their experience.

It was a hit! The one lady was almost speechless. She was so happy to have found a way to "open the Bible." Later she said, "Since coming to these studies my husband and I have discussed the Bible more than all the other 40 years of our marriage." She reads her Bible every day now.

Both ladies embraced the Sabbath, state of the dead, baptism, and are excited about the Second Coming. There wasn't anything these ladies didn't agree with, however, they did not want to be baptized into the Adventist church. My job was done. I planted the seeds and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

This past summer while pruning my bushes a woman stopped while walking her dog and said, "Aren't you the woman who had a Bible study going on last year? My heart skipped a beat, yes, I was the one, and I plan on doing it again. She smiled and said she does Bible studies as well and told me she thought it was so cool how I put a sign in my front yard.

This experience of Lay Ministry really gave me a voice and the encouragement I needed to follow through with a dream of being more involved in God's work. I put it off for years thinking I couldn't do it, but "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.

That verse means more to me than ever before. I've always thought of myself as a good follower but never a leader. However, these past two years has proven that God can make me a leader. I feel so much more bold and willing to do His work. Never say never! God has a plan.

Marge Vande Hei
Green Bay SDA Church



Mike's Sabbath Schedule

August

- 6 ASI Convention
- 13 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 27 Durand

September

- 3 Richland Center
- 10 Frederic
- 17 LUC Pathfinder Fair
- 24 Northern District Meeting

October

- 1 LUC "Time of Healing"
- 8 Annual Council
- 15 Sturgeon Bay
- 22 Tomahawk
- 29 NAD Year-end Meetings

November

- 5 Elder's Retreat
- 12 Milwaukee Northwest
- 19 Church Planting Rally

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The Gift Heaven is Waiting to Bestow

When I was in academy part of my daily job was to keep seven lawn mowers in running condition so the mowing crew could keep the campus mowed and looking sharp. Our academy registrar asked me one day to fix his personal lawnmower. He told me that no matter how hard he pulled the rope the mower just wouldn't start.

I checked the fuel and oil. Everything looked good. And then I noticed it. The spark plug wire was disconnected. I attached it and the mower started with ease.

Could there be a lesson about our evangelistic efforts in the registrar's mower?

When Jesus was giving final instructions to His disciples before His ascension He shared with them the key to effective witnessing. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Acts 1:8.

We put the time and effort in. We send out the advertising, and yet our efforts often have little effect. But we must make sure we take advantage of the promise Jesus gave us, that He would give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ellen White in the book, *Christ Object Lessons* page 328, says, *"It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner won to Christ."*

Sound discouraging? She continues: *"On the other hand, if they are connected to Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon the hearts. God makes them the channel for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe."* COL 328

If we want to be effective witnesses for Christ it is imperative that we ask for, and receive, the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism page 701 says, *"The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it."*

As you consider your witness to your neighbor, work associate, or classmate, take time to make that vital connection with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. He will work in and through us, if we just ask.

Michael H Edge

Wisconsin Conference President

"Walk for Life" Beats Goal with 126,087.9 Miles!

Our 2016 goal was to walk around the world as a conference-wide group three times this year, and we made it over five times. Congratulations! Twenty-one churches and five schools participated, with the top two walking churches and schools listed here. For a complete listing of the miles your church walked, and to learn more about this incentive exercise program, go to wi.adventist.org/health.

Church:	Miles:
Waukesha Church	24,638.00
Green Bay Church	8,709.01

School:	Miles:
Three Angels Christian School	24,746.00
Wisconsin Academy	11,700.00



Karen Kind New Milwaukee S. Teacher



Karen Kind is no stranger to Wisconsin. Born in Waukesha, Karen grew up attending Wisconsin Adventist schools and graduated from Wisconsin Academy. She graduated with a double major from Andrews University, obtaining a B.S. in both Elementary Education and Home Economics, with a minor in English. Karen later received her Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin in Curriculum and Instruction, with a certificate in reading.

Karen will be teaching first and second grade for the new south campus of Milwaukee Adventist School. "I love kids," said Karen. "I'm especially grateful to be back teaching in an Adventist school. It's wonderful to be able to talk with the students about Jesus and real eternal values."

Karen is married to Charles (Chuck) and they have one son, Charlie. In her free time Karen enjoys walking, reading, writing, playing piano, being in nature and she especially loves kids.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Iris Rodriguez New Milwaukee S. Teacher



Iris Rodriguez has been teaching most recently at Sharon Junior Academy in the Lake Region Conference. She is transferring to the Wisconsin Conference and will teach third and fourth graders at the new south campus of the Milwaukee SDA school.

After high school, Iris worked in computer programming for three years. "I then took a year off to think and pray, asking God what He wanted me to do with my life," said Iris. Education seemed to keep coming to my mind, so I enrolled in teaching classes and found I absolutely loved it."

Iris graduated from Antillean Adventist University in Puerto Rico with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in ESL (English as a Second Language).

Iris loves to read and enjoys finding bargain deals on good books at the Goodwill. She aspires to someday be a published writer, and would like to continue her education with a M.A. in English.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Milwaukee SDA School's New South Campus



The Lord has blessed our school over the past ten years. We have grown from 28 students ten years ago to 184 this past year, with 207 students currently registered for this coming school year.

With an average growth of 10% per year over the past decade, our challenge has been to find classroom space for all the new students. Over the last four years the school has needed to purchase three modulars to accommodate the growing student body.

This year in order to continue growing, the school has purchased a second campus on the south side of Milwaukee. This campus, located at 2911 South 32nd street, will help us better serve families living on the south side of Milwaukee. We are offering Pre-K through sixth grade and currently have 63 students pre-registered.

We are very grateful for the Lord's continued blessing for His school.

Ken Smith
Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School Principal

Michelle Willer New Milwaukee N. Teacher



Michelle Willer is teaching Kindergarten at the north campus of Milwaukee Adventist School this year. Michelle graduated from Milwaukee Adventist School and Wisconsin Academy before attending Andrews University. In May of this year, Michelle graduated with a double major, receiving a B.A. degree in both Elementary Education and Spanish K-12, and a minor in Language Arts.

"When I was little I didn't like school. It was hard and I didn't get it. Then one year it really hit me that school was amazing. I think that was when I decided I wanted to help kids

learn and really 'get it' like I did."

In her free time, Michelle enjoys her pet Border Collie, Yoder. She also likes to draw and travel. While in college she spent a year in Spain teaching English, went to Honduras on a mission trip, and enjoyed traveling to South America for her Spanish degree.

Romans 8:28, her favorite Bible verse says, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Juanita Edge
Communication Director



Eric Chavez New Youth Director for Wisconsin



Eric Chavez has accepted the position of Youth Director for the Wisconsin Conference. He will begin full-time ministry here the first part of September. He comes to us from the Upper Columbia Conference where he has been pastoring the Grand Coulee District for the past 2 1/2 years.

"My wife, Shanna, and I have been married for 10 years," said Eric. "We have followed the Lord ever since we met at age 17. We were not raised Seventh-day Adventist, but when we found the truths of the Lord, we fell immediately in love with every word that proceeded from the mouth of our amazing God."

Eric attended the Amazing Facts School of Evangelism, and later graduated from Southern Adventist University with a B.A. in Theology and a minor in Biblical Languages.

Eric's passion for youth ministry is deeply rooted. "I have an older sister and two younger brothers who I love with all my heart," said Eric. "We were raised very poor and with both of my parents working full time, I became the Big Brother at age 9, staying at home alone with them. As I look back I am heartbroken at the realization I did not use my influence as a young person in a better way. My desire and passion is to show all young people that they are made for more than what the world tells them."

"Shanna, and I are very excited to be able to work as your Conference Youth Director, and promise to always work our hardest to empower all young people to make a difference not just in this conference, but in an ever changing world."

In his free time Eric enjoys snowboarding, skateboarding, and anything with an engine.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Johanna Serna New Milwaukee N. Teacher



Johanna Serna is the new teacher for fifth and sixth graders on the north campus of Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School.

Johanna grew up attending the Wisconsin Frederic Adventist church, attended Wisconsin Academy, and graduated from Andrews University this past May with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Language Arts for Elementary and for Reading.

Johanna and her husband, Enrique, have a passion for spreading the Word of God and bringing kids to Christ. They plan to bring up their future family in the SDA Church.

Johanna likes to read, write, cook, crochet, hike, travel, work hard, and spend time with her family.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Jim Norton, Principal for Three-Angels School



James Norton (pictured on far right), better known as Jim to most people, has accepted the position of teacher/principal of the Three Angels Christian School in Madison.

Jim received his B.S. in Education and a double master's in Religious Education and Outdoor Education from Southern Adventist University. He has spent time teaching in Taiwan, Korea, Guam, and the United States of America.

"I really enjoy helping people improve their lives," said Jim. "Getting kids into books, reading, and learning is my passion."

Jim and his wife, Peggy, have two children, Brian and Bethany. Jim enjoys woodworking, camping, hiking, golf and just being outdoors.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Zachary Trecartin New Conference Assist. Treasurer



Growing up on a farm in New York, Zach learned to love and train horses. He also enjoys running marathons, rock climbing and biking.

The most recent marathon he participated in was in Ohio with a group called, "A Leg to Stand On," who provide prosthetic legs for people in third world countries.

On June 27 Zach was married to his wife, Amanda, in upstate New York on his parents farm. Amanda has completed her B.A. in Social Work at Andrews University.

Zachary Trecartin has joined the Wisconsin Conference office staff as an assistant treasurer. Zach graduated from Andrews University with a BHA, Bachelor of Health Science, and is currently completing his MBA by distance learning. He began his new responsibilities the end of July.

"My favorite Bible text is Romans 8:23," said Zach. "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This has definitely been my guiding verse."

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Jim Parish, Lighthouse Thrift Store Director



Jim Parish is managing the Lighthouse Thrift Store and farm on the campus of Wisconsin Academy. Born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Jim has worked in management most of his life, managing Super Americas, truck stops, and various food stores. He also owned his own construction company for 10 years.

Jim was raised in the Presbyterian church. He says, "I was searching for more truth, and was not getting satisfying Biblical answers to my questions. Finally I ended up finding answers I could live with in the Adventist church."

In his free time, Jim enjoys roller skating and bee keeping. This year his bees produced 500 pounds of natural honey. Jim uses no chemicals or pesticides with his bees and screens it to keep it raw and pure. He has five children, Whitney, Zachary, Jeremy, Jordon, and Eli.

The farm is growing apples, strawberries, asparagus, and sweet corn. Jim says, "I do not spray our produce with pesticides. I want to go the organic direction."

The thrift store has about 20 workers. A few are paid, but most are volunteers. "We are always in need of volunteers," says Jim. "We need help cleaning, stocking shelves, fixing and repairing, pricing, and displaying products on our shelves."

"I believe this store is a Wisconsin Conference mission. We try and help the community. We had a lady come in who lost her possessions in a fire recently, and were glad we could provide needed beds and household appliances. We hope to offer cooking classes and other outreach events in the near future."

Learn more at wi.adventist.org/lighthouse.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Danielle Lawrence New Teacher in Bethel School



Danielle Lawson Lawrence will be co-teaching in Bethel Junior Academy this fall.

She graduated with a B.S. in Communication from Southwestern University, then completed her B.S. in English from Viterbo University with a minor in History and a teaching certificate. She has been teaching in the Hylandale Satellite School for the past 13 years.

"God's verse for me is Jeremiah 29:11," says, Danielle. "I teach my students that if God calls them somewhere, they need to answer His call." The text says, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

"I'm really excited to take this job," said Danielle. "I'm excited to continue to grow and learn with my new students, coworkers and church family." Danielle and her husband, Andrew, have a cat named Grrr. In Danielle's free time she enjoys playing guitar and piano, camping, hiking, dirt biking, spending time with family and playing board games.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

FINANCIAL UPDATE

At a special constituency of the Wisconsin Conference, held Sunday of camp meeting, a recommendation by the Executive Committee was voted to replace the wastewater treatment system at Wisconsin Academy. This is necessary as our current system is not only worn out but can no longer meet new requirements as established by the DNR. Our operating permit for the old system will not be renewed and the current operation of the system is very costly in terms of operation and time spent on testing and maintenance.

The cost of the new system itself is \$277,000. Total cost with necessary repairs and decommissioning of the old system is projected at a little under \$500,000. Previous estimates for this project have ranged from \$1,250,000 to \$2,000,000. We believe God has blessed us with this plan to take care of the wastewater needs at Wisconsin Academy.

The plans for the new system have been approved and construction is to start immediately. We hope to finish the project by the end of this year. To keep borrowing to a minimum, the Executive Committee voted a challenge to our constituency. The constituents voted to accept the challenge to raise \$150,000 by year end. We are asking that you help us reach this goal. We are off to a good start as we have received pledges in excess of \$20,000 as of July. Donations may be given by simply writing WA Wastewater on a tithe envelope and turning it in through your local church. Donations may also be sent straight to Wisconsin Conference Office.

With all of us working together, this project can be paid for with little or no borrowing and without too large a burden on anyone. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2016	2015	% Change
May Tithe Income:	\$516,911	\$592,688	-12.79%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$2,588,193 <small>(22 wks)</small>	\$2,594,601 <small>(22 wks)</small>	-0.25%
May Wisconsin Budget:	\$23,372	\$26,843	-12.93%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$117,152 <small>(22 wks)</small>	\$114,938 <small>(22 wks)</small>	1.93%



from the principal's desk

Deeper Foundations



When we visit cities, we marvel at the height of skyscrapers, but did you ever wonder about what's below ground? In the case of the Willis (Sears) Tower in Chicago, the foundation goes down 100 feet. But this is only roughly a third as deep as that of the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, which boast the world's deepest foundation, a record 344.5 ft! Deep foundations provide stability to withstand the stress of storms and earthquakes.

At Wisconsin Academy we believe in strong foundations for buildings and for our lives. As we look around us we see problems in our society on every side and know things will continue to grow worse. Many who have professed faith in Christ are being swept away by the popular culture and thought of the day. We need to be forming characters grounded in the truth of scripture. We need to dig deep and put down a solid foundation in order to stand the test that lies ahead!

The teen years are a critical period of time during which character is formed. Students who attend Wisconsin Academy are immersed in an environment that uplifts Christ. In stark contrast to secular education, our program and curriculum call our students to a life of commitment and service to God. Honoring Him is paramount in all we do.

As we approach the start of a new school year, we are more determined than ever before to stand for the right though the heavens fall. As we encourage and guide the students in their Christian walk, we pray they will be able to say in the words of the hymn, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." Please pray for God's blessing on our school as we seek to be faithful to the calling He has given us. May His name be always uplifted on our campus, and may our hope be "built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Roger Dunder
Wisconsin Academy Principal

God's Answer to Students' Prayers

A list of names on a waiting list stares up at me from my desk as I write to you. My heart is torn because each name comes with a face and an appeal that continually haunts me. There are currently 16 students who desperately want to attend but who lack funds to do so.

We are calling for 126 committed individuals who will pledge to be God's answer to these students' prayers. As you look over the chart below, please prayerfully consider committing to a monthly gift that matches your financial ability. You can give directly to Wisconsin Academy. Will you answer the call?

Students in Waiting

	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$500 Full Year Need: \$5,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$500 Full Year Need: \$5,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$500 Full Year Need: \$5,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$500 Full Year Need: \$5,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$500 Full Year Need: \$5,000
	Monthly Need: \$800 Full Year Need: \$8,000		Monthly Need: \$300 Full Year Need: \$3,000

TOTAL NEED: \$108,000

Investing Together for Eternity

2 Donors	giving	\$1,000 per month	for 10 months	= \$20,000
4 Donors	giving	\$500 per month	for 10 months	= \$20,000
8 Donors	giving	\$250 per month	for 10 months	= \$20,000
16 Donors	giving	\$100 per month	for 10 months	= \$16,000
32 Donors	giving	\$50 per month	for 10 months	= \$16,000
64 Donors	giving	\$25 per month	for 10 months	= \$16,000

126 Donors

TOTAL: \$108,000



Janine Show New Asst. Food Service Director



We are glad to welcome Janine Show as assistant food services director at Wisconsin Academy. She will also be teaching Pre-Algebra.

She graduated from Andrews University with a degree in elementary education and continued on to earn an MA in curriculum and instruction. She has taught classes from Kindergarten through the university level.

Janine is married to Dan Show, our director of information technologies. She enjoys sewing, crafting with beads, origami, traveling, scuba diving, and playing with her cat, Sammy.

Lin Dunder New Asst. for Business & Development



We are happy that Lin Dunder has joined the Wisconsin Academy team as assistant for business and development.

She graduated with a BSC in Accounting from the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges in the Philippines. She wants to help the school serve students and families more effectively.

Lin is married to principal Roger Dunder and has three adult children. In her free time, Lin enjoys reading books, playing piano, singing, caring for her flowering garden, and trying new things in the kitchen.

Doug Show New Plant Services Director



We are happy to welcome Doug Show as the new plant services director for Wisconsin Academy.

He comes to us from Midland, Michigan. He graduated from Andrews University with a degree in physics and worked as camp ranger at Camp Au Sable in Michigan for many years.

In his free time, Doug and his wife, Joella, enjoy working in their garden, camping, canoeing, biking, and canning. They have two sons, Christopher and Jonathan.

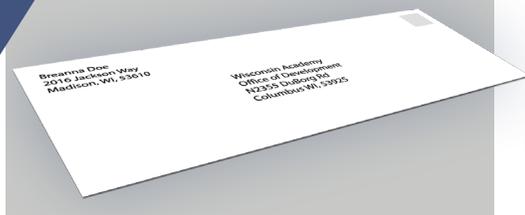
Taking Action

Make your check payable to:

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Office of Development
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Mark your gift for *Student Sponsorship*.

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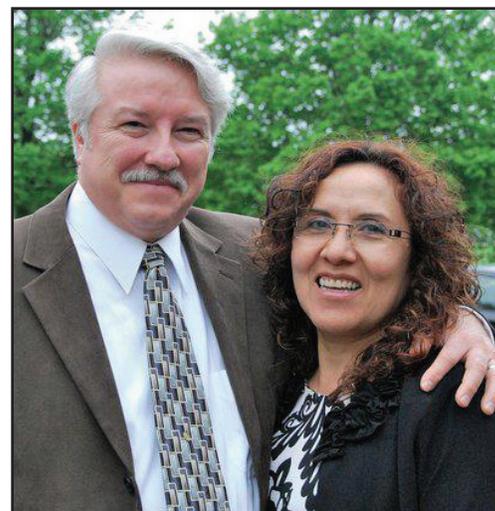


Willyta Wamak New Girls' Dean

We are excited to welcome Willyta Wamak as the new girls' dean at Wisconsin Academy. She graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a degree in office administration and continued on to earn an MA in Youth Ministry and an MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

She is originally from Peru and is fluent in Spanish. She hopes to make the dorm a spiritual home environment and help the girls understand that a relationship with Jesus is a vital part of being human.

Willyta is married to Doug Wamack and has three adult daughters. She enjoys working in her flower garden, hunting for antiques, reading, and playing the piano.



**Only Two Weeks Left
Until Registration!!**

APPLY NOW!
www.wisacad.org

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Seventh-day Adventists
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Calendar of Events

August

- 1-5 Small Schools Workshop
- 1-7 Family Camp 2
- 8-10 Pastor/Teacher Meetings
- 10-13 Hispanic Camp Meeting
- 20 Hispanic Women's Retreat
- 26-28 Teen Leader Training Retreat
- 30 Executive Committee/Phone

September

- 5 Labor Day - Office Closed
- 6-8 Outdoor Education
- 9-11 WYC - Wakonda
- 9-11 Hispanic Couples Retreat
- 15-18 LUC Pathfinder Camporee
- 16-18 Lay Minister Intensive
- 23-25 Adventurer Camporee
- 24 Northern District Meeting
- 27 Board of Education
- 28 Executive Committee
- 30-10/2 LUC Leadership Retreat

October

- 4 New in Ministry
- 7-9 Women's Retreat
- 14-16 Pathfinder Leadershop
- 26-11/1 Year End NAD Meeting
- 28-30 JAHWI Retreat

November

- 4-6 Elders' Retreat
- 8 Pastors' Web-X
- 18-19 Church Planting Rally
- 20 Hispanic Women's Banquet
- 23-34 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 29 Board of Education
- 30 Executive Committee

October Women's Retreat

Attention Ladies, you are invited to enjoy a peaceful weekend retreat in the woods at Camp Wakonda October 7-9, 2016. Cost for the weekend is only \$100 for room, food, and all activities, with a day fee of only \$45 if you register before September

17. The guest speaker will be Maria Lopez. Space is limited, so register early!

For more information call Joan Carlson at 715-630-2647, or download a brochure at wi.adventist.org/womensministries. Come with a friend and be refreshed!



INTRANSITION

Keith Hatcher has accepted a call to teach in the Hawaiian Conference. He had currently been teaching at Three Angels Christian school in Madison. Keith and his wife, Leah, were members of the Madison East Church.

Holly Roy has retired. She taught most recently at the Milwaukee SDA School. She and her husband, Cris, plan to retire in Wisconsin.

Bob and Sarah Hillebert have moved to the Kentucky/Tennessee Conference where Sarah will serve as girls dean at Highland Academy. Sarah was girls dean at Wisconsin Academy, and Bob served as Associate Treasurer for our conference.

James Fox is retiring from serving as Ministerial Secretary and Personal Ministries Director for our conference. He and his wife, Judy, plan to retire in Colorado.

Eugene Kittredge is transferring to teach kindergarten on the south campus of Milwaukee SDA School. He has been teaching kindergarten on the north campus.

Carlos Ancheta will continue pastoring the Fox Valley District as a four-church district. The Sheboygan church has been recently added to this district.