

# A Place to Refresh

**We** thank God for pastors who serve and protect the flock. They diligently prepare sermons to feed the sheep, pray for struggling saints, offer a comforting presence with hospital visits, and who will one day give an account (Hebrews 13:17). SBCVirginia churches are served by pastors in their first few years of ministry and pastors who have been pastoring for decades. There are pastors in urban centers, suburbs, and rural areas. Some pastor large churches, some medium, and some small. Some are full-time, and some are bi-vocational.

And all of these pastors need to know that they are not alone in ministry. That's one of the reasons SBCV hosted the Pastors, Staff, and Wives Retreat the first weekend of October at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, VA, and why every spot was full.

First-time attendees Jim and Jennifer Limbach from DC Church in Chesapeake said that the retreat provided an opportunity "first, to be together, and also to be with other pastors."

After a busy summer and looking toward a busy fall, the Limbachs found encouragement by sitting with longer-tenured pastors and their wives. Reflecting on the partnership of the SBCV, the Limbachs shared, "We have a great resource with the SBCV, who wants us to be at our best so that we can do the work God has called us to do." Jennifer Limbach explained, "This conference proves that the SBCV cares about us and our marriage."

Guest speaker Dr. Charles Lowery helped attendees relax as he encouraged them with humor and powerful messages. Solomon wrote in Proverbs, "a joyful heart is good medicine" (17:22). For many, this weekend was just what the doctor ordered.

As pastors and their wives returned to ministry settings, many said they would go with full hearts and strong SBCV support serving them as they minister to others. ■

