

“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”  
Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

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## Wytheville FCOG Joins Others Across the U.S.A. to Bless Children in Other Countries



The following article was taken from the Saturday, November 19, 2016 edition of the Wytheville Enterprise. Credit is given to its author, Millie Rothrock.)

Shoeboxes arrived by the hundreds this week at the church. Most were Christmas-colored in red and green, but others were regular shoeboxes or plastic. Each one was packed full of goodies, sure to appeal to children around the world, because that's where they are going.

Both groups and individuals can drop off boxes at the church, a collection center for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach of

Samaritan's Purse ministries. The global initiative will distribute approximately 12 million gift-filled boxes to children in need this holiday season. Since 1993, more than 100 million shoebox gifts have been delivered to children in more than 130 countries.

Christie Brook of Poplar Camp Church of God of Prophecy dropped off 38 boxes on Wednesday, up 11 boxes from last year.

“My daughter and I started collecting last year and we had such a good response from the church family that we decided to do it again,” she said, adding that she participates in the ministry to “spread the word about Jesus.”

Another donor walked in to ask volunteer Glenna Turner if it mattered what size the shoebox is.

“My son wears a size 13 shoe, and I said I'm not packing that one,” she said. “It's huge!”

“I think you should,” Turner replied. “That kid would have a good time!”

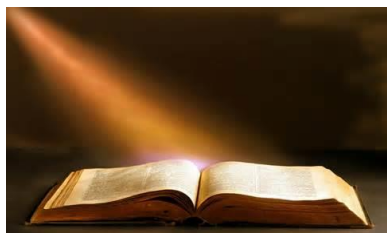
Church volunteers Janet Montgomery and Doris Terry have collected area shoeboxes for OCC for a dozen years. They expect between 800 and 1,000 boxes to arrive by Monday.

“I just love for kids to have a good Christmas,” said Terry, who has filled five boxes herself. (Continued on page 5.)

## I've Been Thinkin...



**Dr. Bob Neace,  
COGVA State Minister**



About shepherds. And light. The Advent Readings and resources from our CWC offices this year have presented me with much food for thought.

Isaiah presents a message with plural meaning in his text of chapter 9: 2-7 - (2) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (3) You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. (4) For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. (5) For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. (6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold

it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

In the initial, he speaks directly to those who have had their lands ravaged by the Assyrian armies. They know the plight of war and have been on the receiving end of God's judgment for their sin before Him. Now, as my brother, the prophet preaches, he declares that the darkness now is scattered and those who have lived in the darkness are to open themselves to receive the blessing of God's light. The end of darkness and oppression is in sight. The people of Isaiah's day truly encountered a time of celebration in that the light had shone on those who were in deep darkness.

In the fullness of time, this text of the prophet becomes more clear, as it prophesied of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was born! It was at night, in the darkness when some shepherds were told this great news. Notice that the shepherds see this angel because the glory of the Lord shone round about them. In the darkness of the night, God saw fit to herald the Savior's birth with the announcement

and with LIGHT!. Once the message had been delivered to those dwelling in the dark, the single angel is then joined by a heavenly host leading shepherds in worship as they sang "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Once the shepherds settled down from this time of calming of their fears, being drawn into the light of the gospel message presented by this angel, they then left their fields and went to find the Babe of which they were told. I cannot help but believe these shepherds lives were never the same as before that night

These are only two instances of many in scripture where we find that the presence of Jesus drives away darkness. Many testimonies have been given throughout our lives to exemplify that Jesus' presence still drives away the darkness of sin in this world, and all things associated with it. Let us, especially at this Christmas season, but throughout the year as well, endeavor to be the agents of God's grace, bringing Jesus to a lost and dying, indeed dark, world and shine the light of His love as He gives us opportunity.

## Granby Street FCOG Hold Baptism Service

First Church of God on Granby street had the honor for Pastor Harold Boyd and Fischer Haith to baptize Daphnie Ebanks Smith into the fold as part of the body of believers. As we continue to preach on Peace on Earth, how much more peace can we as Christians feel then through baptism, dying with Christ to sin, and being resurrected into new life in Christ Jesus our Lord fully submitting and committing our lives to the leading, guiding, and direction of the Holy Spirit.

As we continue to do the ministry that God calls every Christian to do, we must inform one another of the examples that Christ Jesus left for us. The ordinances and sacraments that we, as the Church of God hold near and dear to our hearts.

I thank God for calling Alett and I here and I thank God for the opportunities He is providing through bringing people together through Baptism. One body, one voice, as we stand together in agreement for the entire body. May His

mercy and grace continue to give us strength in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

I also give God glory for every increase in the building of His Holy Kingdom. I consider it a joy to serve a God who is mighty and answers our prayers, petitions, and supplications.

Written and Submitted by  
Pastor Harold Boyd



**Rev. Harold Boyd and Fisher Haith baptize Daphne Eubanks**

## State Men's Ministry Sets 2017 Calendar

The theme for 2017 is: "Christian Men Persevering In Challenging Times!" Speakers will select the text they would like to use and prepare a lesson that will last approximately 2 hours in length. The host church will provide a meal either at their church or find a local restaurant for the men to meet at after training for a time of fellowship. We look forward to this coming year and the training that will be provided. Please ensure the men of all the prospective church's are aware of the training opportunities.

CHRISTIAN MEN  
PERSEVERING IN  
CHALLENGING TIMES

January 7, 2017

Host Church - Pastor Jim Milner (Roanoke) Speaker  
- Pastor Dick Gilbert

April 1, 2017

Host Church - Pastor Melvin Hooker (Suffolk)

Health & Wellness  
Summit Speakers -  
(numerous)

August 3, 2017

Host - Camp Christi -  
Camp Meeting Speaker -  
Pastor David Ansley

October 7, 2017

Host Church - Pastor Pete Canciglia Speaker -  
Pastor George Murrell

3. We are also hoping to do at least two project days at Camp Bedford. Property manager for COGVA to work with State Men's Ministry Committee to set up what will be done during each project. Looking at front of Church and fellowship hall completion. The dates that are proposed are as follows: June 24th and Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by:

Harold Boyd

State Men's Ministry  
President

## A Few of the Scheduled Speakers for North American Convention 2017



**Paul Sheppard**



**Nick Vujicic**



**Danielle Strickland**



**Allan Fuller**



**Sarah Sharbrough-McLaughlin**

## N.A.C. To Be Hosted in Wichita, KS

By Carl Stagner

After a departure this year from the annual cycle of the Church of God Convention to three smaller-scale regional meetings over the span of five months, we're excited to announce the seminal gathering of the Church of God and General Assembly returns in 2017. Central Community Church, one of the largest Church of God congregations in North America, will host the event, which is scheduled for June 20–23 (Tuesday through Friday). Building on the momentum of this year's Regional Conventions and the previous two in Oklahoma City, Church of God Convention 2017 is sure to be yet another history-making, life-changing

experience for the movement.

Two initial lodging options, featuring special convention rates, are now available. Plan ahead and book your stay at the DoubleTree Wichita Airport or the Hyatt Regency by visiting [www.chogconvention.org](http://www.chogconvention.org) for links and more information. Look for more information about the event coming your way over the next several weeks, including speaker names, as they are announced. Bob Beckler, senior pastor of Central Community Church, can't wait for it all to unfold.

"I have never been more excited than I am now about how God is moving the Church of God into a bright future," Bob exclaims. "God is using

this movement to bring about a hope to God's people that has been silent for too long. Get ready for a transforming experience in your life...see you in 2017!"

So why not mark your calendars and make Wichita your June 2017 destination? You'll be delighted to discover there really is no place like Kansas, home of Church of God Convention 2017!

\$95 – Early-Bird Registration Thru March 31, 2017

\$125 – Standard Registration April 1-June 5, 2017

\$150 – June 6, 2016 or after.

<http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/2017-convention-registration/>

## Wytheville FCOG Joins Others Across the U.S.A. to Bless Children in Other Countries (Continued)

And I may fill another one or two before it's over," she added.

One of Wytheville's biggest shoebox contributors is Wytheville First Church of God, which filled 404 boxes this year.

"Our goal was 402 boxes," said the Rev. Donn Sunshine, church pastor. "We do it because it is a great way for us to do something beyond our congregation, beyond our building, to work cooperatively with the whole body of Christ. If you can impact children, you can change the world. Most children in those countries who are disciples, they grow up to be future leaders in those countries. It helps to break the cycle of trauma and poverty, etc."

Volunteers like Montgomery and Terry pack the boxes into cartons that are then sent

to Pulaski, thanks to local business Camrett Logistics, which volunteers a truck and driver to carry them there. From Pulaski, they go to an airport hangar in Charlotte, North Carolina, to await departure.

"We don't open the boxes," Montgomery said. "The only time we look is if it not marked for a boy or a girl or the age."

In Pulaski, the boxes are searched for inappropriate toys like soldiers or toy guns, she said.

Once shipped, the boxes travel all over the world. The program returns to a country every seven years.

"That gives the kids a chance to grow up and a new group to be there," Montgomery said.

To participate in Operation Christmas Child, pack a shoebox with small toys, hygiene items and school

supplies for a child 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Items include toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), school supplies, toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, T-shirts, socks, hats, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights.

To help with shipping and other costs, participants are asked to include a \$7 donation per box. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse OCC.

To reach Millie Rothrock, call 228-6611, ext. 35, or email [mrothrock@wythenews.com](mailto:mrothrock@wythenews.com).

Editors Note: At last count, COGVA's participation in Operation Christmas Child close to 1,800 shoeboxes sent to various mission fields.



**Above Two Photos: Dublin FCOG Shoe Boxes Completed, Bottom: Abingdon FCOG Team and boxes**

## Hard Copies of CHOG Yearbook Available

Orders must be received by December 16, 2016

Registered ministers and churches have access to the Yearbook Mobile App at no cost.

Due to previous years' orders and production costs, the following bindings are available this year:

Paperback \$35; \$27 for retired pastors and Spiral \$42; \$32 for retired pastors.

To order your yearbook by December 16, 2016 for a March 2017 delivery, you may go to [https://cgm.formstack.com/forms/yearbook\\_preorder\\_form\\_closed\\_copy](https://cgm.formstack.com/forms/yearbook_preorder_form_closed_copy),

contact Customer Service at 1-800-848-2464 or [customerservice@chog.org](mailto:customerservice@chog.org).

Ministers and Churches that wish to be included in the printed yearbook must show an "Active" registration status in CHoG 24/7 through the month of December.

## COGVA Budget

August 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

Categories	Budget	1st Qtr Expenses	2nd Qtr Expenses
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$3,500.00	\$905.49	\$124.44
1200 Insurance	\$14,800.00	\$3,491.00	\$110.50
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$1,203.12
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,320.00	\$879.82	\$293.28
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$36,057.50</b>	<b>\$8,885.67</b>	<b>\$1,731.34</b>
1500 Chair	\$800.00	\$	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
2000 State Minister Reimbursement Fund	\$16,050.00	\$1,423.05	\$1,166.56
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$16,050.00</b>	<b>\$1,423.05</b>	<b>\$1,166.56</b>
3000 Executive Council/Standing Ministries			
3100 Executive Board	\$800.00	\$	\$
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00	\$38.20	\$
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$75.00	\$	\$
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$50.00	\$	\$
3600 Ministry of Program	\$2,000.00	\$24.32	-
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$100.00	\$	\$
3900 Church Property Team	\$75.00	\$	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,400.00</b>	<b>\$62.52</b>	<b>\$</b>
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$416.67
Health Insurance	\$840.00	\$210.00	\$70.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00	\$	\$
Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
Vehicle Maintenance	\$300.00	\$	\$
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$
5140 Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$968.59	\$288.22
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,390.00</b>	<b>\$2,428.60</b>	<b>\$774.89</b>

5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	\$2,213.76
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,788.00	\$596.00
5250 Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$4,739.58	\$676.71
5260 Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$	\$350.00
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$
5270 Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$500.00	\$	\$
5300 Legal Fees	\$ 500.00	\$48.50	\$45.20
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$300.00	\$	
Christmas Bonus	\$1,300.00	\$	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$55,415.12</b>	<b>\$13,217.36</b>	<b>\$3,881.67</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$126,112.62</b>	<b>\$26,017.20</b>	<b>\$7,554.46</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$23,974.31</b>	<b>\$10,051.15</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>\$(2,042.89)</b>	<b>\$2,496.69</b>

## Mark Your Calendar

### December

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Association of the Church of God, Forest Street Church of God, Augusta, GA

### March

16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> COGVA Ministers Fellowship, Joynes Road CHOG, Hampton

31<sup>st</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> COGVA State Youth Convention

### April

28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> C.W.C./W.C.G. Convention Riverside CHOG/Fredericksburg

### May

21-26 Indoor Camp Meeting/Mounatin Empire District hosted at Chilhowie FCOG

### June

28<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> Middler Camp grades 1-5

### July

10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Junior and Senior High Camp

30<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup> COGVA State Camp Meeting, Rev. Mitchell Birch, Preaching Evangelist, Rev. Jimmy Crumley, Worship Evangelist

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in Virginia**

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**Guidelines for COGVA News Submissions**

COGVA News is a tool for the Church of God in Virginia to disseminate news of the Church at large and has begun to grow where clearer guidelines are necessary. Under direction from the Executive Board in their meeting of March 13, 2015, COGVA News will operate under the following guidelines. What follows is a work in progress as other State Newsletters are consulted. All articles should be limited to a length of 500 – 700 words. Submission to COGVA News implies permission to edit submitted articles for

clarity and space availability. Priorities of space will be given to items of news of local congregations/ministries, COGVA functions, regional activities, and COGVA Entities (C.W.C/W.C.G., M.C.G., Christian Education, and all ministries of COGVA).

Non-news items and editorials must be original to the author and quotes attributed to its proper sources. Priorities of space will be given to items of news of local church news, COGVA Ministries.

Submission of articles should be limited to a minimum of one article per local church/ministry per quarter. A quarter will be defined as Aug.-Oct., Nov. – Jan., Feb. – Apr., and May –Jul.

Please remember, these guidelines are a work in progress and a future set of guidelines governing COGVA News will be forthcoming

***About the Church of God in Virginia...***

The Church of God in Virginia consists of 50 churches across the Commonwealth and according to current accounting serve over

2,500 constituents each Sunday Morning. Our current State Leadership consists of Chair - Rev. Dick Gilbert, Vice-Chair – Rev. Henry Haskins,

Secretary – Sister Cathy Atkins, and State Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.

**CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA**

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