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“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”

Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

Murrells Celebrate Victorious Healing with Special Cruise



Revs. George and Edna Floyd/Murrell

Ciao, Bonjour, My COGVA Brothers and Sisters. Greetings from Co-Pastors George, Jr and Edna Murrell

WE'RE BACK - from our World Tour of Italy, France and Spain. "ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS."

Through all of our health challenges this year our Awesome and Mighty GOD allowed us this beautiful opportunity.

Psalm 118-17-20 MSG - I didn't die, I lived! And now I'm telling the world what GOD did. God tested me, he pushed me hard, but he didn't hand me over to death. Swing wide the city gates - the RIGHTEOUS gates! I'll walk right through and thank GOD. This Temple Gate belongs to God, so the victors can enter and praise.

We had a wonderful trip with our daughter

Cassandra Floyd and family friend Shirley. In Rome, Italy we visited the, Spanish Steps, Trevoli Falls, Sistine Chapel, Colosseum and the Awesome - VATICAN, the Leaning Tower of Pisa France Cannes we visited the, Provence Steps, Cote 'd Amur. We toured Florence - Tuscany and in Barcelona, Spain the main attraction was the SAGRADA FAMILIA - Still under construction - a large Roman Church - to be finished in 2026. We hope to return to see the finished product. We never made it to Naples/Sorrento/Pompeii - the fantastic - NORWEGIAN EPIC SHIP, was caught in the middle of a storm. We had to re-route our destination for safety. All in all, great accommodations, good food, wonderful spiritual sites - especially the VATICAN - (No the Pope did not come out to visit us).

(Continued on page 2)

Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace COGVA State Minister

Christmas is almost here! The time when Christ's birth is observed. Joy becomes a common word in sermons and conversation. The angels were given the responsibility to carry the birth announcement to shepherds watching their flock at night, and in that message was the message of JOY! That proclamation of joy, given to the shepherds, was meant to be shared with all people everywhere. The familiar story found in Luke 2 tells us the source

of the joy being declared was not with the angels, they only bore the news. The source of joy was found in the birth of the baby born in a manger in Bethlehem. This baby was destined for "the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;" and to bear the sin of humanity by dying on a cruel cross, ultimately being raised from the dead and offering life abundantly to all who will avail themselves of His grace.

As followers of Jesus of the twenty-first century, our message is not any different from the angels themselves. Our responsibility in discipling people all over the globe begins with the same message the angels bore to those first hearers of the gospel message – "...I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people..."

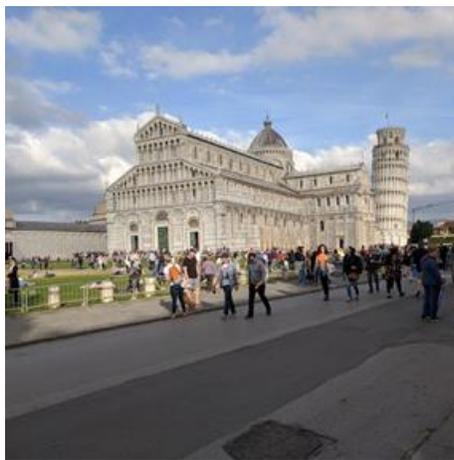
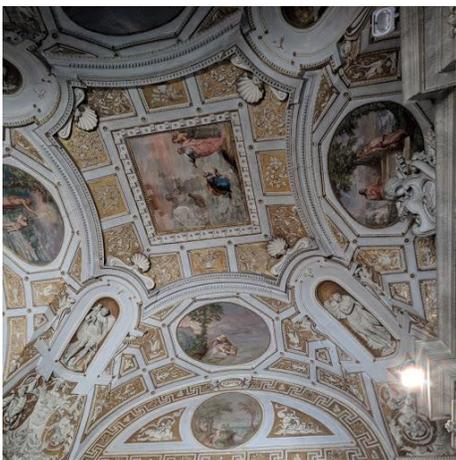
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Murrells Celebrate (Continued)

We traveled with some good spiritual and friendly people. Of course, we opened our availability to anyone who needed to be "ANOINTED" for healing. The group we went with were BREAST CANCER

SURVIVORS and those marvelous women still fighting the GOOD FIGHT. Our daughter Cassandra is a 10-year SURVIVOR - HALLELUJAH. Our God is great and greatly to be praised. George and I are still recovering. Bro.

George Jr. still has some medical issued to overtime - WE GOT THE VICTORY!!! Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Spiritually, Revs. George, Jr. and Edna-Floyd Murrell



Right Now - LOVE

On my way home from work, late, one December night, a man had called into a radio station. They were taking calls from folks telling their "Christmas story."

Clearly an older man, you could hear pain in his voice as he began to talk about a girl he could remember from third grade. The teacher had gone around the room asking what they wanted from Santa, each child had described their favorite toy in great detail and with much excitement.

However, He said he'd never forget it, a little girl in the back of the class, wearing an old and tattered sweater said all she really wanted was a coat. That was all.

Class was dismissed, and he got home as fast as he could and begged his parents to buy her one, and they told him, "if she returns from your holiday break without one, we will buy one for her."

That little girl moved away sometime over the course of that Christmas break, and he said he never saw her again, but that he often wondered around this time if she ever got that coat.

I heard this story a few years ago, and I remember it each year around this time.

Love is not something we

can afford to wait on. Love is not something that only takes place during a few, fleeting, there-and-gone occasions in our lives. Love should be something that happens constantly, as soon as we make the choice to do it.

Love might make you vulnerable, it might cost you something... when we see the infant Christ, lying in a manger, wrapped in some strips of cloth, held in His mother's warm arms, we know that to be true. He gave up power and glory, coming here for you and I... simply out of love for a people who could never return, in full, the price He would pay for their sins. My sins. Your sins.

But He came.

Love means you have to put yourself out there for people who, in all real truth, may not accept you, or return the love you've given them. 1st John 4:19 is an excellent example of our motivation to love, and Christ is our perfect example of how to love- "We love, because He first loved us." Selflessly, at every moment, in every circumstance, from his birth, to His death on the cross- He is our example. If you removed every red letter from the Bible, and all you had were the descriptions of how Jesus encountered, and

navigated the world during His time on earth, if all you had were the verbs... what He did for those He met with, you would still have a clear and perfect picture of how to love.

Just like that man on the radio that night, with regret in his voice, remembering his classmate, we can't afford to miss an opportunity to love people like Jesus did. There is nothing to wait on. There is no cue or indicator as to the best time to show love to someone. "Right now," will always be the best time. Make love happen wherever you are, without delay.

We never know how long we will have to seize the opportunity to love someone, we don't know how long they'll be a part of our lives, likewise, we don't know how much time we have to be a part of someone else's life.

This Christmas season, and into the New Year, don't be hesitant to reach out in that Christ-like love to someone, anyone, or everyone.

Be vulnerable.

Be out there.

Be open.

Be giving.

Be kind.

Right now- Love.



**Rev. Matt Holman Youth
Pastor Anderson Church of
God/Bristol**

"Love means you have to put yourself out there for people who, in all real truth, may not accept you, or return the love you've given them..."

W.C.G./C.W.C. Cottage Roof Is Replaced – “WELL, GLORY!”



Throughout the course of the spring, summer, and fall, differing teams came together to cover the shingled roof of the cottage at Camp Christi. With caretaker Mark Aufrecht at the helm, volunteers from the Christiansburg, Wytheville, Walmsley Blvd (Richmond) and Abingdon congregations, as well as Cape Community Church of God in Cape Girardeau, MO were able in several settings to cut the metal, fasten it down, replace the

vent cap, and complete all the roof repairs.

COGVA would like to thank Mark Aufrecht, Pete Canciglia, Jessica Willis, Ron Putnam, Diana Aufrecht, Chris McMurray, Lance Jenkins, Randy Heath, Claude Neace, and Bob Neace for all their work and dedication this project and trust each have been a blessing to the C.W.C. and COGVA as a whole.



Too Small to Make A Difference?

"No one who thinks they are too small to make a difference has ever spent a night with a mosquito." That's an African proverb shared by Ernie and Lori Nicholas when presenting recently at our church. Lori then put the same truth in a different way by quoting from a hymn, "little is much when God is in it." I disagree wholeheartedly with the church growth and development experts and consultants who believe and teach that size of congregation (attendance or membership) is THE measure of a congregation. Perhaps they do that because it is far easier to count numbers than use a more qualitative measure.

I think the emphasis on size as THE measure of a congregation is wrong and, more importantly, is not to be found in Scripture. What measures are found in Scripture? The Apostle Paul mentions three repeatedly in his church letters: faith, hope and love. These terms are usually plural in Greek and to be applied therefore to the body (the church). Faith and love are complementary and refer both to the loyalty of the congregation to the Lord and His mission, as well as to one another. The congregation with faith and love is the one

that sticks together when times get tough. They encourage and exhort one another; they stay together even when disagreeing on "disputable matters"; and they stay true to their devotion to the Lord. The congregation with hope is the congregation that continues to trust that the Lord will be faithful in making a bright future, though the present is not so bright. They continue to hope that the Lord is present, sovereign, holy and will keep His promises now and eternally.

The congregation without faith, hope and love, no matter what their size may be, has more than a few persons who attend when they feel like it, or whenever they have nothing better to do. They have persons who run to other congregations at the first sign of trouble or disunity. The congregation without faith, hope and love, no matter what their attendance may be, has persons who walk away or from or ignore others who are suffering; walk away from the Lord when they themselves suffer; and stay away from the Lord long afterward.

Another measure mentioned in John's gospel is answered prayer. Such is the "fruit" John writes of in his gospel (see 15:1-8, esp. v.

7). Regardless of size, we should be asking whether prayers are being answered. If they are, then we are, as Jesus said, "abiding in him." At our "small" church we have seen answered prayers, and miraculously so, for healings from cancer (even Stage 4), back pain, broken necks, and many more.

What about that measure implied in the proverb above: making a difference, particularly in the kingdom? Just a brief example of how I have seen that in our "small" church. Two ministries that we either have prayed for, and/or financially supported, are Mercy Ships and Hope to Walk. One of our members, Agness, has a neighbor for whom we prayed as she set sail with Mercy Ships earlier this year. Agness also had spoken to her neighbor about Hope to Walk at some point. Her neighbor called her just a few weeks ago and told her about the difference Agness had made in the life of a young boy she would never meet. Her neighbor had gone into a village in West Africa where a boy had an over-sized foot that required amputation. The staff from Mercy Ships had performed the necessary surgery, but did not know what to suggest

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Rev. David Ansley
Balcksburg First
Church of God



LEADERSHIP FOCUS-STYLE OPPORTUNITY EXTENDS BEYOND MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES

For the first time, a Leadership Focus-style opportunity has been extended beyond ministerial candidates. Leadership Focus was designed to come alongside Credential Committees and provide a unified and consistent training program for men and women who have received and accepted a call to ministry and want to seek credentials in the Church of God. Now a new program—LifeGivers—opens the door for any servant of God to further develop into the leaders he has made them. For the pastor who was ordained thirty years ago but desires to retool and invest in finishing well, for layperson looking for encouragement and tools to give life, or for the board member who wants to bring some ideas to the local church to help the congregation give life together—LifeGivers is the accessible and affordable Church of God solution.

The team that brought you Leadership Focus has joined hands with leaders and coaches across the nation to offer curriculum and encouragement designed to help you receive and give life. A number of training courses, called “cells,” each scheduled to last

between four and six weeks, will be offered three times a year. Cells about leadership competencies to world religions to Church of God beliefs and history, the LifeGivers experience puts you together with other learners from across the country via online video conference, led by well-known Church of God coaches, and at a pace that is comfortable, yet intentional.

Most cells will meet online weekly. Some will meet every other week. If you’ve ever taken an online course, you’ll find LifeGivers to be similar, but not in every way. The interaction with a live coach and peers adds a uniquely interactive component. It’s not about just watching a video and downloading assignments; you’re learning together with others also eager to grow in their personal Christ-centered calling.

“We’re trying to be realistic,” Church of God Ministries’ Jeannette Flynn explains. “We’ve designed LifeGivers with those who have a family and a job, and perhaps only have two to three hours total in a week to spare.”

Conveniently, each cell is available a la carte. Only one cell has a prerequisite. Lifelong

learners are encouraged to pick and choose which topics would benefit them most, while many may opt to take the many of the always growing list of cells. Can’t begin with the winter 2019 kickoff cells? There will be three times a year when cells are open for enrollment!

What about cost? Thankfully, these high-quality offerings are affordable. An introductory offer is now available for only \$75 per cell, which is half of the cost of a Leadership Focus cluster. A group rate is also available for churches: five applicants for only \$300.

We are excited to see the ripple effects of this new initiative as it spreads.

LifeGivers cells are led by some of the nation’s most insightful and revered coaches, and each one explores a new topic like discipleship, leadership styles, community outreach, and systems and processes. You can sign up for any or all cells, and complete them online with a schedule that fits your needs.

For more information or to become a LifeGiver, visit CHOGLifeGivers.org.

“To catch the reader’s attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

COGVA Budget August 1 – November 30

Categories	Budget	Aug-Oct 1st Qtr Expenses	Nov-Jan 2nd Qtr Expenses
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$3,100.00	\$798.94	\$ 99.94
1200 Insurance	\$ 12,800.00	\$3,351.75	\$3,415.08
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$1,203.12
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,600.00	\$879.82	\$293.27
Subtotal	\$33,937.50	\$8,639.87	\$5,011.41
1500 Chair	\$400.00	\$	\$
2000 State Minister			
Reimbursement Fund	\$10,000.00	\$2,407.15	\$1,355.35
Subtotal	\$10,400.00	\$2,407.15	\$1,355.35
3000 Executive Council/Standing Ministries			
3100 Executive Board	\$400.00	\$	\$
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00	\$	\$
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$50.00	\$	\$
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$50.00	\$	\$
3600 Ministry of Program	\$50.00	\$	\$
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$50.00	\$	\$
3900 Church Property Team	\$50.00	\$	\$
Subtotal	\$950.00	\$	\$
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$416.67
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$500.00	\$	\$
Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$
5140 Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$657.97	\$234.51
Subtotal	\$12,750.00	\$1,907.98	\$651.18

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	\$4,598.63	\$1,017.88
5260 Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$287.24	\$100.00
5270 Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 250.00	\$	\$
5300 Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$25.00	\$
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$100.00	\$	\$
Christmas Bonus	\$1,300.00	\$	\$
Subtotal	\$52,465.12	\$13,340.15	\$3,927.64
Total Expenses	\$110,502.62	\$26,295.15	\$10,945.58
Total Income		\$21,791.66	\$9,656.47
Difference		\$4,503.49	\$1,289.11



For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green, III
SEA Chair
Rev. Reginald Alford SEA
Vice Chair
Rev. Hosea Anderson
Host Pastor

Southeastern Association of the Church of God
125th Annual Camp Meeting
December 26th – 30th, 2018
“Preach & Teach Christ”
Acts 8:1-8

As We Celebrate..... Jesus isn't just the reason for the season. He is the reason for everyday life and we celebrate the symbolism of His birth. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21



The Southeastern Association of the Church of God would like to wish each of you a *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*. During this incredible season reflect on advent, the birth of the forever reigning Messiah, and give good things to others, we pray that your light will shine with the love of Christ, that your heart will ponder the things God has done and the blessings He has given.

~ Registration ~

Adults (ages 18 & up)
Registration Only - \$50.00
Registration and Meals - \$60.00
Registration, Meals and Lodging - \$75.00
Youth - \$35.00 (Ages 11 – 17)
Youth - \$25.00 (Ages 10 and under)

~ Accommodation ~

Comfort Suites - \$75.00 (single & double)
2911 Riverwest Drive Augusta, GA 30907
Telephone: 706-434-2540



~ Order of Service ~

Registration – 5:00 pm
Daily Institute – 9:30 am Rev. Dr. Judith Williams

- **Men's Day - Wednesday, Dec. 26th**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Arnetta McNeese Bailey
Evening Worship - 7:00 pm
- **Youth Day – Thursday, Dec. 27th**
Speaker: Rev. Tomeka Addison
Brockington Street Church of God
Morning Worship - 11:00 am
Evening Worship – 7:00 pm
- **CWC Day – Friday, Dec. 28th**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Joyce O'Connor
Williams Chapel Church of God
Morning Worship - 11:00 am
CWC Business Meeting – 2:00 pm
Evening Worship – 7:00 pm
- **SEA Camp Ground Day – Saturday, Dec. 29th**
Speaker: Rev. Cornelius Atkinson
Wilson Heights First Church of God
Morning Worship - 11:00 am
Annual Business Meeting – 3:00 pm
Evening Worship - 7:00 pm
- **Senior Day – Sunday, Dec. 30th**
Sunday School - 9:30 am – 10:45 am
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Arnetta McNeese Bailey
Morning Worship - 11:00 am

~ Camp Meeting Speaker ~



Rev. Dr. Arnetta McNeese Bailey
Sherman Street Church of God
Anderson, Indiana
Executive Director of the Christian
Women Connection



Who We Are

The National Inspirational Youth Convention is an annual Christian youth conference that ministers to hundreds of people who worship, learn, and fellowship together. It is affiliated with the Church of God, headquartered in Anderson, Indiana and is an auxiliary of the [National Association of the Church of God](#), headquartered in West Middlesex, PA.

From its inception, the convention has moved from state to state, convening between Christmas and New Year's Day. The first president, Gabriel Dixon, held the initial convention in Chicago, IL in 1938.

For over 75 years, the gathering has successfully attracted youth groups and families, won people to the Lord, and developed new leaders. According to the convention's 13th president, Dr. Diana Swoope, the convention has met continuously since 1938, with the only exception being, "two years during World War II due to travel restrictions imposed by the government."¹

During the 2016 Centennial Celebration of National Association of the Church of God, the history of the convention was highlighted in this [video](#). More historical information on the convention can be readily obtained from Dr. James Earl Massey's book *African Americans and the Church of God*.

What We Aim To Do

Link: Help believers connect and build relationships with each other.

Incite: Encourage youth to use their gifts & talents for the Kingdom.

Fortify: Strengthen youth ministry in NACOG churches year-round.

Transform: Inspire spiritual encounters that inform and lead to life change.

Theme Scripture: Titus 3:3-6

"For we too were once foolish, disobedient, misled, enslaved to various passions and desires, spending our lives in evil and envy, hateful and hating one another. But "when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us in full measure through Jesus Christ our Savior." (NET)

Theme: "The Third"

In an effort to focus on and celebrate the Holy Spirit, we are asking, "What would happen if youth, adults, and seniors were baptized, filled, led, enlightened, kept and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Third Person in Trinity?"

¹ Swoope, Diana Cook. *Shout Jubilee! 50 Years Touching the Lives of Youth, A History of the National Inspirational Youth Convention of the National Association of the Church of God.* Privately Printed, 1990.

For more information and registration process, go to <https://www.niyc.org/>

Virginia State Youth Convention



Speaker and Illusionist
John Michael Hinton



Worship
Allan Scott Band



Conference
Allan Scott



Conference
Matt Holman

Virginia State Youth Convention

March 15-17, 2019

Kirkley Hotel and Convention Center

Lynchburg, Virginia

**\$89 Super Early Bird
Registration Postmarked
by Nov. 15th**

\$99 Early Bird Reg. Postmarked by Dec. 15th
\$119 Early Reg. Postmarked by Jan. 31th
\$139 At the Door
Send in \$50 Deposit to Lock-in Rate

Registrations can be printed at
www.cogva.com (click Youth)

Send Registrations to:
COGVA, 4704 Roanoke Rd.
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Contact COGVA Office if you need Paper Registrations Mailed
cogvaoffice@gmail.com or 540-268-2040

Church of God in Virginia

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073

PHONE:
(540) 268-2040
FAX:
(540) 268-2040

E-MAIL:

brobob4691@gmail.com

cogvaoffice@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cogvacom

Too Small to Make A Difference?

to the family about their son's future with only one leg. But then Agness' neighbor spoke up and let them all know about Hope to Walk. Turns out she was the only person aboard the ship of about 1,000 crew who had heard of Hope to Walk. Yet God

placed her in that specific village, with that specific family, to give that boy and his family hope. Mercy Ships was able to contact Hope to Walk and request a visit and consultation to get the boy a prosthetic leg.

We may be a small congregation but as that

African proverb put it, we know we are not too small to make a difference. In faith and love we continue to be loyal to a great God who continues to answer our prayers and continues to work through us; and we trust and hope He will continue to do so as we abide in Him.

Neace's Pieces (Continued)

In a promotion I heard not long ago, a statement was made that has stuck in my head ever since. It was, "May we be agents of God's grace." That is my prayer this Christmas Season, that I might be an agent of God's grace to

others, those in the church, and those who have yet to become a recipient of that immeasurable grace.

Kathy, Abby, and I want to wish each of you the merriest of Christmas

days, and I look forward to what the Lord will do through COGVA in 2019.

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 – Sis. Cathy

Atkins, and State Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.

CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073