

“...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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Chilhowie Pastor to Retire



Rev. Bobby Dunn

Bobby W. Dunn, Pastor of the First Church of God in Chilhowie will retire from the Pastoral ministry at the end of May, 2015. Pastor Dunn is originally from Columbus, Georgia, having felt his call to the ministry at the age of twenty-seven. He graduated from Warner University (College) in 1975 and took his first pastorate in Reedville, Virginia along with his wife, Jackie and son Jeff.

Pastor Dunn moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1979 and pastored the Middle River Church for eight years, where his sons Jason and Jeremy were born. He left Maryland and pastored briefly in Atlanta and then moved to Chilhowie in 1989. After 25 successful years in Chilhowie and a total of 40 years in the pastorate Pastor Dunn will retire at the age of 70 ½. He and Jackie will remain in the Chilhowie area.

Mark Your Calendars

State Youth Convention

March 20-21/ Holiday Inn University @ Charlottesville. If you've not received information yet, contact Rev. Jeremy Bontrager at 574-524-0235

Spring Minister's

Gathering March 13-14, Rev. Mikki Merritt, Presiding Elder N.A.C.O.G – Resource Leader Granby Ave CHOG – Host Congregation

COME TO THE WATER

CWC/WCG Banquet. 2522 Colonial Ave SW, Roanoke, VA 24015 Eastern Region

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2014

Location: Clarion Hotel Historic District 351 York St, Williamsburg VA 23185
Guest Speaker: Sister Vernetta Oliver, Richmond
Cost \$17.50 per person

C.W.C/W.C.G. Spring

Convention April 17-19 Host Congregation Blacksburg FCOG

Cathy Collins, Resource Leader. More information to follow

Men's Ministry Training,

March 28 10:00 – 1:00 21st CHOG Richmond Rev. Silas Oliver Speaking

Pastor's Boot Camp

Camp Christi
April 27-May 1 Dr. Gordon Penfold and Dr. Gary McIntosh –Resource Leaders \$475.00

Indoor Camp Meeting

May 17-22 Chilhowie FCOG Host congregation - Rev. Garry Bates - Evangelist

Middler Camp

July 8 - 11th Camp Christi

Junior/Senior High Camp

July 20 - 25th

Camp Meeting/Camp Christi

August 2 – 8, Annual COGVA Business Meeting August 7 1:00 pm

I've Been Thinkin... About Investments



Rev. Dr. Bob Neace
COGVA State Minister

“God has placed us together in the Church of God in Virginia to teach one another, encourage one another, bear the burdens of one another, and to exhibit the unity of the family of God in all aspects of our life.”

I listen to a gentleman from time to time named Dave Ramsey. He has a daily radio program called, of all things, “The Dave Ramsey Show.” Imagine that! Some of us have actually used his “Financial Peace University” program as a community outreach and opportunity to teach ourselves and churches about financial responsibility. It’s a great tool and if you are unfamiliar with Dave Ramsey, I’d strongly encourage you to see what he has to say about money in relationship to our service to Christ.

In a moment of curiosity, I found myself playing with one of the tools on his website called an “Investment Calculator”. Punching in an initial investment of \$125.00, and investing \$125.00 monthly (\$25.00 per week) at an annual rate of 5% (we can always hope to get great returns on investment, right?) for 25 years, that investment of \$37,500.00 would be worth \$75,593.49, just over double the investment capital. An interesting thing happens if we increase the amount of monthly giving by a mere \$25.00, the amount of capital equals increases as does the interest as it compounds, and the result is an bank account in the

amount of \$90,627.54. The small amounts of money invested moderately of an extended period of time has the potential to reap benefits far greater than most of us imagine.

This has caused me to think along the lines of investments. I am being challenged by the Holy Spirit to look at where I am making my investments. I believe my financial picture is ok. I tithe to my local church, my bills are paid, I give regularly to my pension account, and try to be as generous as possible, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, in my finances. As a Pastor, I have taught my people to invest in the Kingdom of God by challenging those entrusted to my care to tithe regularly, give to others, and the Church I serve gives regularly to entities outside our four walls - local missions, national giving, global missions, and to the Church of God in Virginia. It is my prayer that every church leader in COGVA sets this example.

All this being said, however, leaves a conviction from the Holy Spirit that I trust challenges not just me, but each person reading this article. I am challenged in how well I

invest in others, and in the Kingdom of God as a whole. Investment is not just about our money. It encompasses my relationship to others and how well I invest in others has a direct bearing on how well I function within the Body of Christ. Seeking Holy Spirit guidance, I am convinced I have work to do by making better investments of time toward the building of better relationships with my brethren across COGVA. I am further convinced, however, this burden is not mine alone to bear. God has placed us together in the Church of God in Virginia to teach one another, encourage one another, bear the burdens of one another, and to exhibit the unity of the family of God in all aspects of our life. So let me make these challenges statewide and locally:

1. When we have opportunities to gather as brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God, let’s make every effort to invest the time and resources it takes to make that happen.
2. When we come together, let’s focus on what God is doing among the brothers and sisters that are there.

(Continued on page 8)

God's Miraculous Provision in Chesapeake

Dear Saints and Friends

I want to give God the glory for the great things he has done. A couple of months back I was looking for a baptism pool for our new church renovation, and as I was calling around and out of state, I began to get a little discourage at finding a fiber glass one near Chesapeake VA. The one company I called said they didn't have one to fit my dimensions and that I would have to have one made, and it would have to come from Alabama, and I would have to pay for the delivery. So all of a sudden it went from about \$1700 to about possibly \$6000 dollars, I was afraid to tell my wife what the folks said because I didn't want to put a damper on our budget. But saints, God is so good and mindful of all our needs. So talking to a contractor who has just renovated another church, told me that he just replaced one there and that he had one for sale about \$500 dollars. I didn't think much of it, and didn't know what kind it was, and I said OK, but today he called me and un-expecting said that he was going to bring the Baptism Pool by, because he needed storage at his place, so not thinking about it much I said OK.

So after a little while, I was on my way to the grocery store, just before dusk, I decided to stop by church and see the pool, and saints I was floored, because it was the same baptism pool that I had looked at with the Church Supply Company, God brought me one just like it with the heat pump and other accessories and its 15 feet long with stairs on both side, it was very huge so I took these pictures to show them to my wife who also had not seen it yet. As I got back into car to head to the store, I began to think of how big and good this blessing was, and I began to rejoice and cry, that God gave me a miracle, for I thought that I was going to have to pay 5K or 6K to have it made and delivered from Alabama, and God had it delivered to me for free, and the actual cost was \$500 dollars for the pool. It pays to wait on and trust God. He is thinking of us even when we are not thinking of him. Out of all the things that we have gotten for the new church, this means more to me than anything, for it testifies to me that God is honoring our work and efforts, by getting to the core of this ministry efforts to help saved souls and baptize them in the

name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Thank God for this wonderful Gift.

Pastor Ricky Ricardo Morris

Church of God in Chesapeake, VA



The baptistery we wanted to order.



The baptistery with all equipment God provided



Out of the packaging



Prep work!



Rev. Rick Morris Church of God Chesapeake

“Jesus Invites Us to Follow Him”



Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III
Pastor/Joynes Road CHOG

“Righteousness must start in our own individual lives.”

We are asked to treat each other with more kindness, courtesy, humility, patience and forgiveness. We do have high expectations of one another and all can improve. Our world cries out for more disciplined living of the commandments of God. Again and again during our Lord’s ministry, He issued a call that was at once an invitation and a challenge. To Peter and his brother Andrew, Christ said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). To the rich young man who asked what he must do to have eternal life, Jesus answered, “Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and come and follow Me” (Matthew 19:21). And to each of us Jesus says, “If any man serve Me let him follow Me” (John 12:26).

The Lord’s invitation to follow Him is individual and personal, and it is compelling. We cannot stand forever between two opinions. Each of us must at some time face the crucial question: “Whom say ye that I am?” (Matthew 16:15) Our personal salvation depends on our answer to

that question and our commitment to that answer. Peter’s revealed answer was “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16). Many, many witnesses can give an identical answer by the same power, and I join with them in humble gratitude. But we must each answer the question for ourselves – if not now, then later; for at the last day, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is the Christ. Our challenge is to answer correctly and live accordingly before it is everlastingly too late. Since Jesus is indeed the Christ, what must we do? Christ’s supreme sacrifice can find full fruition in our lives only as we accept the invitation to follow Him. This call is not irrelevant, unrealistic or impossible.

To follow an individual means to watch him or listen to him closely; to accept his authority, to take him as a leader, to obey him; to support and advocate his ideas; and to take him as a model. Each of us can accept this challenge. Peter said, “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an

example, that ye should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). Just as teachings that do not conform to Christ’s doctrine are false, so a life that does not conform to Christ’s example is misdirected and may not achieve its high potential destiny.

For those who have not yet embraced the Gospel, following Christ means that you must learn of Him and obey His Gospel. Righteousness must start in our own individual lives. It must be incorporated into family living. Parents have the responsibility to follow the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teach them to their children. Religion must be part of our living. The Gospel of Jesus Christ must become the motivating influence in all we do. There must be more striving within in order to follow the great example set by the Savior if we are to become more like Him. This becomes our great challenge. I witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world. If only we could catch the vision and conform our lives to His teachings, we would find that joy which has been promised to us.

"The Expectant Church"

I wonder if we "hope" someone comes to our church or if we "expect" that to happen. New people bring new people. We seldom gain just one new family. They tell their friends and family and bring them. What if our regular attenders began to tell their family and friends what Jesus is doing in our churches? I've had people tell me that they don't know anyone who doesn't already go to church. My reply is, "Shame on you." We need not limit our search to people we have known for years. We need to be expanding our personal number of friendships and stop expecting them to just wander in our doors. Jesus reached out to people He didn't yet know. We need to do the same.

I expect that God will provide opportunities for new friendships. I don't expect Him to jab me on the shoulder and say, "There's one." If I am expectant in my life, I will seek new friends... I will find them, because that is what God desires. The word says to "GO INTO THE WORLD". It does not say, "Wait for them to come in the doors of your church."

Let me say that some people reject my efforts to reach out to them, but I continue to seek those whom God has prepared

for me. I'm very kind to the tellers at the bank and my attitude is warm and gracious. I await the opportunity to invite them to worship with me. I tell the servers at the restaurant that we're about to pray for the meal and is there anything we can pray for that they need. Almost 100% smile, thank me, and tell me a need. Some have even stayed for the prayer and joined hands with us.

Friends come as a result. And those friends bring their friends. Our people are waiting inside the doors and inside the worship center to walk up to newcomers, introduce themselves, and welcome them. We don't just fellowship with the "insiders" whom we have known for years. I have had people tell me, "I only see my friends here once-a-week and I want to spend time with them." I suggest that they combine with their friend and find someone else they don't know that they can both make feel welcome. They do it. I've had people say, "I don't know which ones are newcomers." Here's a definition: A NEWCOMER IS ANYONE YOU DON'T KNOW YET."

We began with 70 people, four years ago. We now average 220 on a Sunday. I don't know if that is good

or not, but I know that many of the 220 did not know Jesus when they came here. Several marriages have been totally reborn as the husband and wife got to know Jesus and He changed them completely. We've had drug and alcohol addicted people set-free. Lonely people now have a support group.

I wonder how many churches are not "expectant"? The first step is to realize that God wants Christians and churches to grow. If they grow, they'll share. If they share in the Spirit, people will be saved. If they're saved, they will become a part of our church (and sometimes of another church... and that's OK with me). That means I don't aim at numbers, but because we are expectant and fruitful, each soul comes "enclosed" in a body... so numbers increase.

We are not a church without problems. Some of them are "wonderful problems" like "where will we put all of these new babies?" Some are awful problems, like so-and-so is gossiping and backstabbing. More people will bring more blessings and more problems. Bring 'em on, Jesus. I am expecting them... and seeking them.



Pastor Rick and Marsha Watt – Fredericksburg FCOG

"...God will provide opportunities for new friendships."

Summary of COGVA Expenditures YTD 2014/2015			
August 1,2014 - July 31st, 2015			
		Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan
Categories	Budget	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
1000 STATE OFFICE			
1100 Business Office	\$3,800.00		
Postage		\$98.00	\$101.55
Telephone		\$129.29	\$122.91
Internet		\$108.00	\$108.00
Office Supplies		\$233.46	\$175.53
Office (Word)		\$29.97	\$29.97
Web Page		\$29.82	\$29.82
New Web Site			\$173.85
Accounting (taxes)		\$110.00	\$235.00
Yearbook			
Computer AntiVirus			
Safe Deposit Box Fee			
Credit Card Finance Charge		\$73.04	\$51.36
New Computer/applications			
1200 Insurance	\$14,300.00		
Property		\$2,951.75	\$2,951.75
W/C		\$348.25	\$348.25
Special Risk			\$24.00
Van/Camp Christi			\$123.00
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$3,609.36
1400 Income Taxes and Social Security	\$3,320.00		
VA State			
Federal		\$834.83	\$961.04
SUBTOTAL	\$35,857.50		
2000 STATE MINISTER			
2100 Salary Package (Salary, House, Etc.)	\$9,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$750.00
2200 Travel & Expenses	\$4,000.00		\$1,456.34
2300 Expenses for State and National Meetings	\$2,600.00		\$185.00
SUBTOTAL	\$15,600.00		
3000 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/STANDING MINISTRIES			
3100 Executive Board	\$1,000.00		\$197.94

3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00		
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$75.00	\$ 28.91	
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$75.00		
3600 Ministry of Program	\$75.00		
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$800.00		
3900 Church Property Team	\$75.00		
SUBTOTAL	\$2,400.00		
5000 PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$1,250.01
Health Insurance	\$840.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00		\$80.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$300.00		
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00		
5140 Utilities	\$5,000.00		
Power		\$570.03	\$1,310.75
Propane		\$55.00	\$338.56
Telephone		\$85.04	\$92.94
SUBTOTAL	\$12,640.00		
5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	\$6,641.28
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,788.00	\$1,788.00
5250 Utilities	\$12,500.00		
Power		\$3,798.18	\$2,820.71
Water		\$942.56	\$267.14
Propane		\$256.84	
5260 Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$333.33	\$333.33
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00		
5270 Capital Improvements	\$1,500.00		\$700.00
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$500.00		
5300 Legal Fees	\$400.00	\$60.50	\$59.16
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$300.00		
Christmas Bonus			\$1,300.00
SUBTOTAL	\$53,265.12		
TOTAL	\$119,762.62	\$26,825.45	\$29,209.38
Income		\$27,808.59	\$29,388.27
Difference		\$875.14	\$178.89

Church of God in Virginia

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.virginiachurchofgod.com

Good News about First Half of Fiscal Year!

On the previous two pages, it is worth noting and drawing attention to the fact that WE ARE MEETING BUDGET! Praise the Lord for this wonderful news. Though some months are tight, it is the faithful giving and the frugality of ministries working together that have enabled us to operate in

the black. Some months have shown our giving well over budget, while some showed a shortfall, but over the last six months, COGVA has been blessed. We praise God for this wonderful report and ask your continued prayers as we seek to be wise stewards with all that He provides.

We serve a great God who will "meet all (y)our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 19

I've Been Thinkin... About Investments (continued)

3. Pray for our brothers and sisters who were not able to attend a specific function, without making assumptions as to their absence, and showing enough concern about them to make contact with them.

4. Be diligent in building relationships, investing our time and concern in the life of those with which we serve. I thank you for reading the entirety of this article. A minister once said to me early in my ministry that if I ever expected to be

successful in ministry, I must be transparent and willing to "preach what is hot with (me)". This is what I have done today. I trust you may have been challenged as I have been and I ask for your prayers as I endeavor to serve Christ better than I ever have.

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. Gertrude Goode, Vice-Chair – Rev. Steve Hency, Secretary – Rev. Sylvia

McDorman, and State Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.

CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

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