

“...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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## Water's Edge CHOG "F.I.T." Campaign a Success!



Les Bush, Pastor Larry Messick, Pastor Steve Roby, Pastor Terry Rolen watch as the mortgage burns

Water's Edge Community Church of God in Virginia Beach has been known to be "Most passionate about what is most important." They completed a financial campaign with a celebration on May 17, 2015. This campaign resulted in the retirement of the mortgage on their church building. The campaign was started three years ago by former Pastor Larry Messick. The mortgage was nearly \$300,000 at that time. "With the uncertain economy, I thought the church should set an example to become debt

free," said Pastor Larry during the Mortgage Burning Service. "The people went out on faith to retire such a large debt in such a short period of time." The congregation averaged about 120 in attendance at the time. "The term F.I.T. stood for 'Free In Three' and was kicked off with a banquet in April of 2012. The members of the congregation caught the vision and responded wonderfully and made three year giving commitments."



South Wall of Worship Center

One wall of the Worship Center was painted with joining hands in the shape of a heart and the scripture from Romans 13:8 which says, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law." (NIV)

## I've Been Thinkin...



*Dr. Bob Neace,  
COGVA State Minister*

In March, 2014, my dad was diagnosed with lung cancer. He opted for treatment of the cancer via radiation and chemotherapy. The treatments were successful in that it shrank the tumor, but also revealed a hole that had been eaten through the trachea and into the esophagus. The result of this was an inability to swallow. While all the muscles worked in his throat, anything that was

swallowed was easily diverted into the lung, rather than the stomach. By this time last year, my sister, brothers, the rest of my family, and I knew that if my dad lived through Father's Day weekend, it would be our last with him here on this side of the grave. This year will be our first without the ability to visit or call him.

Nineteen years ago, I experienced the joy of becoming a dad. On June

23, 1996, my son, Caleb was born. Within days of what we thought was a healthy baby, we learned of a congenital heart defect that would take divine intervention to repair. From the joy of fatherhood to the horror of realizing he may never come home with me was an experience others have had but none would wish on anyone else. At the age of 49 days, the Lord called my son home.

Cont. on page 8)

## Honoring Our Fathers



**Rev. Rick and Marsha Watt**

When I went to visit my Dad as a child of divorce, he paid for everything. As I grew and went to college, he still did that. If we went out to eat... he took the bill. It is said that once we do something with any regularity, it becomes our job. Well, it seemed normal to me that "the Dad pays". Even when I was married with two children, we would go to see Dad at Tablerock Lake and he would take us all to Branson to see the shows and go out to eat... and he paid. I was grateful, but I must admit that it had grown to be habit that he paid. One Christmas I asked my wife if we could do something big for Dad. She agreed gladly. We bought him a desktop computer and my

Dad was blown away. It seems that gift-giving (paying) was one of my Father's ways of communicating his love.

My heavenly Father is the same. It can seem to us that it is His "job" to heal us, to fix situations, and to make sure that all of our provisions are there for us. The fact is that He has made it His job and He promises many gifts in His word. That doesn't mean that we should receive all of that and "expect it" without gratitude. I can tell you a bunch of things that I'd like to have, but I don't NEED all those things. I can also tell you many things I have that I need to appreciate and give thanks for. God inhabits the praise of His people. One of the ways I

experience His presence is when I contemplate His goodness and His gifts and I give Him thanks.

One of the gifts God gives is an earthly father. I grew up without mine being around much, but when I did see him, he was generous with me. I actually spent more of my adult life with him than my childhood life and he was a wonderful grandfather to my children. I told him often that I loved him. I thanked him for the things he did for me and gave to me. I thanked God for him while he was here, and I continue to thank God for him.

(Continued on page 4)

## Wellons Street CHOG Experiences Revival

On May 28, 29 and 31, the Wellons Street Church of God, Suffolk had our Spring Revival. Rev. Silas Oliver, Jr., pastor of the Twenty-First Street Church of God in Richmond was the speaker. Pastor Oliver boldly proclaimed the word and we were blessed in a mighty way. The theme for the revival was "Elected for God's Service".

On Thursday night, the subject was "Are you full of it?" His text was Acts 6:1-5. He reminded us of how Stephen was a man full of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, full of grace and full of faith. His challenge to us was, if we are to be the man or woman of God that God desires us to be, our life will have to consist of the things that Stephen exemplified in his life. As Stephen did, it is necessary for us to show

dedication and commitment in what we believe.

On Friday night, Rev. Oliver stirred us up from the text, Nehemiah 6:1-9. His subject was "I refuse to come down." He reminded us that there are times when you have to say no to outside voices, especially those voices that come to distract.

There will be times in our life when we will have to prioritize. There is a call for us to keep in order those things that are most important. If we are to make a difference in the world, the church must go by this standard procedure.

On Sunday morning, at the close of the revival, Rev. Oliver's subject was "How valuable is your salvation?" His text was taken from II Corinthians

4:7-18. He stated that the things that are valuable to us are usually given extraordinary care and treatment. Valuables are things that we tend to cherish. God has given us a priceless possession that far outweighs any valuables that we may have accumulated in this life. Everything that we have accumulated will rust and fade away. Our souls are most valuable, because our souls are secured in JESUS. If we are not careful, we will tend to give more attention to our physical frame than the part that will last for an eternity.

We wish you could have been there!

Submitted by Rev. Melvin Hooker, Pastor  
Wellons Street Church of God Suffolk, Va.



*Rev. Rick Morris shares in song during Wellon Street Revival*

## Mark Your Calendars

### Church of God Convention

June 22 – 25 Church at the Crossings, Oklahoma City, OK  
<http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/church-of-godconvention-2015/>

### Middler Camp

July 8 - 11th Camp Christi

### Junior/Senior High Camp

July 20 - 25<sup>th</sup> Camp Christi

Registration forms for camps have been emailed to pastors, or can be accessed by contacting the state office at [cogvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cogvaoffice@gmail.com)

**Camp Meeting** August 2-8 Camp Christi - For lodging information, contact Diana Aufrecht at [cogvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cogvaoffice@gmail.com) or 540-268-2040

### Fall Minister's Gathering

October 30-31, Abingdon FCOG Host Congregation, Resource Leader scheduled - Jim Lyon, General Director for Church of God Ministries, More details to follow as they are received

## Honoring Our Fathers (continued)

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*“Will you prepare your children for life... and eternal life?”*

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None of us has a perfect dad. Dads are like us... they try their best... are sometimes incredible beyond belief... are sometimes not so perfect... and they struggle with the cares of life like we do. Some of you had dads who were not compassionate and affectionate, but I think that if you look back you'll find some good things and that most of us (if not all) loved him or presently love him as he is still with you.

My dad was not affectionate. That wasn't his love language. He

loved by doing for us or giving to us. He learned to love with hugs and verbal expression by the example of his children, especially me. I needed his affection.

If you're not already a dad, maybe you can think about and plan for it. What kind of a dad will you be? Will you prepare your children for life... and eternal life? If you're already a dad, are you doing that. Do you hug your kids, including the grown ones, and tell them how much you love them?

If you still have a dad, I have to admit that I wish I'd expressed my love and appreciation more. Do you know that dads, whether they admit it or not, thrive on that affirmation? I would rather have my sons tell me they love me and that they see my expressions of love than for them to give me a tangible gift. They are my gift from God. I hope they see God's gift through me. Tell dad about your love. In fact, don't even wait for Father's Day. If dad is gone, tell God to give him the message.

## COGVA Leadership School Completes 17 Years!

On June 13, 2015, the COGVA LEADERSHIP COLLEGE will end its seventeenth year for our summer break. We will start our 2015-16 school year on the second Saturday in October, 2015. We are the Eastern branch of the College and we meet at the Bellamy Avenue Church of God in Norfolk. This has been one of our best years with attendance and participation. We have twenty-four students on our roll and on June 13, we will issue twenty-one certificates of completion. We believe the College is one of the strongest entities of the Church of God in Virginia.

Sisters Wilhelmina Whitehead and Naomi Barney are two special students in the class who are responsible for a large part of our success. Every time we meet, they have enough snacks for everybody and sometimes full meals. We have a very relaxed atmosphere in the classroom. While you learn, you are free to sip your coffee and eat to your heart's desire. We really appreciate these two sisters. We appreciate the love and kindness that they show in helping to build the college. They sure enhance the atmosphere. If the students had to choose

between the food service sisters and the teachers, they might choose the food service sisters.

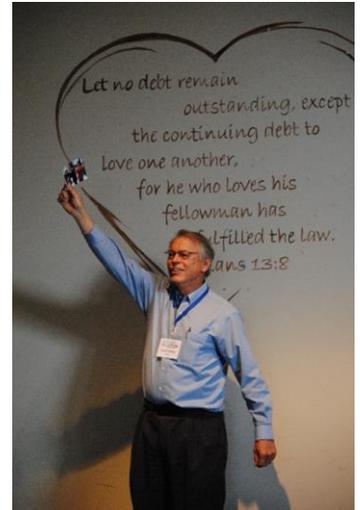
The majority of our students are Church of God, but we do have Baptist and Methodist representatives on our roll. Regardless to your experience or background, we welcome you. If you desire to become a part of this atmosphere, please feel free to enroll by contacting Rev. Gertrude Goode, Lead Teacher at [goode9673@aol.com](mailto:goode9673@aol.com) or Dr. Jim Milner, Dean @ [jmilner357@aol.com](mailto:jmilner357@aol.com).

## Water's Edge (continued)

On the opposite wall was the same scripture within a heart but it was completely covered by pictures of people of the congregation putting their hands together in the shape of a heart. Every month pictures would be removed as the mortgage was reduced which gave the people another visual sign of the progress because each picture represented \$1,000 of the mortgage principal remaining to be paid. On May 17th, with great fanfare, the chairman of the Board of Elders "danced" down the aisle and removed the last picture from the wall. Pastor Terry Rolan and his wife Kristy came in from Florida to attend the event. He was the pastor in 2001 when the current Worship Center was built and the mortgage obtained. The Church of God in Virginia was very helpful and also gave the church a loan but that loan was retired many years ago. "It was 'Family Sunday.'" , said Pastor

Steve Roby, the church's current lead pastor. "We had the children join us during the morning worship service." There was a great 10 minute video telling the history of the church which was formed in 1974 and Carolyn Terray, one of the founding members, spoke more about the early days of the church. The last "\$1,000" picture. South wall of Worship Center The highlight of the day's celebration was the burning of mortgage. The theme for the day was a play on words of the Nintendo gaming system, "We Fit". That was the name of the celebration. It did not promote physical health, but instead, it promoted spiritual and financial health. The three Lead pastors held up the bowl containing the copy of the mortgage. Treasurer Les Bush was given the honor of setting it on fire and said, "A burnt offering ... pleasing to the Lord." The congregation then broke out in applause and loud cheers. "This is a

win for us," said Pastor Steve. "It's a mark achievement. Our people will remember this day, our children will remember it. We could have spread the payments out over a few more years, but with that comes a lot of dollars wasted on interest. The people here have a heart for the gospel. We want to see it advance in Virginia Beach, Hampton Roads, and in all the world. The church is not a building, but we have to gather somewhere. This place, 4141 Holland Road in Virginia Beach, is a place where people gather under the headship of Jesus. He is the subject. After all, 'Jesus began to teach...while all the people were [gathered] along the shore at the water's edge.'" (Mark 4:1 NIV) Later, there was a catered meal, a Bounce House for the children and a Corn Hole tournament to benefit a short term mission trip to Honduras. Yes, Water's Edge church is on the move. Larry Ebinger – WEC Elder



The last "\$1000.00" Picture

**COGVA Budget**

August 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Aug-Oct 1st Qtr</b>	<b>Nov-Jan 2nd Qtr</b>	<b>Feb-April 3rd Qtr</b>	<b>May- 4th Qtr</b>
<b>1000 STATE OFFICE</b>					
<b>1100 Business Office</b>	<b>\$3,800.00</b>				
Postage		\$ 98.00	\$101.55	\$ 99.85	
Telephone		\$129.29	\$122.91	\$123.38	\$ 44.94
Internet		\$108.00	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$36.00
Office Supplies		\$233.46	\$175.53	\$32.68	
Office (Word)		\$29.97	\$29.97	\$29.97	\$9.99
Web Page		\$29.82	\$ 29.82	\$ -	
New Web Site			\$173.85		
Accounting (taxes)		\$110.00	\$235.00	\$130.00	
Yearbook					
Computer AntiVirus				\$89.99	
Safe Deposit Box Fee					
Credit Card Finance Charge		\$73.04	\$51.36	\$70.07	\$29.98
New Computer/applications					
<b>1200 Insurance</b>	<b>\$14,300.00</b>				
Property		\$2,951.75	\$2,951.75	\$2,951.75	
W/C		\$348.25	\$348.25	\$348.25	
Special Risk			\$24.00		
Van/Camp Christi			\$123.00		\$123.00
<b>1300 Office Manager</b>	<b>\$14,437.50</b>	\$3,609.36	\$3,609.36	\$3,609.36	\$1,203.12
<b>1400 Income Taxes and Social Security</b>	<b>\$3,320.00</b>				
VA State					
Federal		\$834.83	\$961.04	\$801.74	\$215.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,857.50</b>				
<b>2000 STATE MINISTER</b>					
<b>2100 Salary Package (Salary, House, Etc.)</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	\$2,250.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
<b>2200 Travel &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>		\$1,456.34	\$676.07	\$762.85
<b>2300 Expenses for State and National Meetings</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>		\$595.20	\$1,001.89	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,600.00</b>				
<b>3000 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/STANDING MINISTRIES</b>					
<b>3100 Executive Board</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>		\$197.94	\$37.74	
<b>3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>			\$35.75	\$49.83
<b>3300 Ministry of Christian Education</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	\$28.91			
<b>3400 Ministry of Evangelism</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>				
<b>3600 Ministry of Program</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>				
<b>3800 Ministerial Fellowship</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>				

<b>3900 Church Property Team</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>				
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,400.00</b>				
<b>5000 PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE</b>					
<b>5110 Camp Bedford</b>					
5110 Caretaker	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	\$1,250.01	\$1,250.01	\$1,250.01	\$416.67
Health Insurance	<b>\$840.00</b>	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$70.00
<b>5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>		\$80.00		
Vehicle Maintenance	<b>\$300.00</b>				
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	<b>\$500.00</b>				
<b>5140 Utilities</b>					
Power		\$570.03	\$1,310.75	\$1,902.11	\$358.45
Propane		\$55.00	\$334.37	\$85.00	\$25.00
Telephone		\$85.04	\$92.94	\$117.45	\$38.94
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,640.00</b>				
<b>5200 Camp Christi</b>					
<b>5210 Caretaker</b>	<b>\$26,565.12</b>	\$6,641.28	\$6,641.28	\$6,641.28	\$2,213.76
5220 Health Insurance	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	\$1,788.00	\$1,788.00	\$1,788.00	\$596.00
<b>5250 Utilities</b>					
Power		\$3,798.18	\$2,820.71	\$2,183.81	\$738.76
Water		\$942.56	\$267.14	\$83.97	\$32.81
Propane		\$256.84			\$90.00
<b>5260 Maintenance</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	\$333.33	\$333.33	\$333.33	\$333.33
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	<b>\$500.00</b>				
<b>5270 Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>		\$700.00		
<b>5280 Vehicle Maintenance</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>				
<b>5300 Legal Fees</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	\$60.50	\$9.16	\$70.75	\$120.00
<b>5400 Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>				
Christmas Bonus			\$1,300.00		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,265.12</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,762.62</b>	<b>\$26,825.45</b>	<b>\$27,882.56</b>	<b>\$25,562.20</b>	<b>\$8,258.43</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>\$27,808.59</b>	<b>\$29,388.27</b>	<b>\$26,351.35</b>	<b>\$7,621.88</b>
<b>Difference</b>		\$983.14	\$1,505.71	\$1,408.45	\$(636.55)

## Church of God in Virginia

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.cogva.com](http://www.cogva.com)

## I've Been Thinkin... (continued)

Sometimes, there are no answers to the "Why" questions our circumstances bring. I don't know why these things have been so prevalent on my mind recently, unless it would simply be the date and timing of them. But what I do know is this. We serve a great God who is still in control, in the big picture of tragedies on a global scale, and yet He is very personal in my life. He brings peace and comfort when no one else can.

There will be a time when everything will make sense, and it is up to us to maintain our Christian

faith. When things get confusing, turned on their side or even upside down, let's continue to "look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith".

The words of Paul remind us, "...We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body... All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is

reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 1 Corinthians 4: 8 – 11, 15 - 17

### *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.

## COGVA

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