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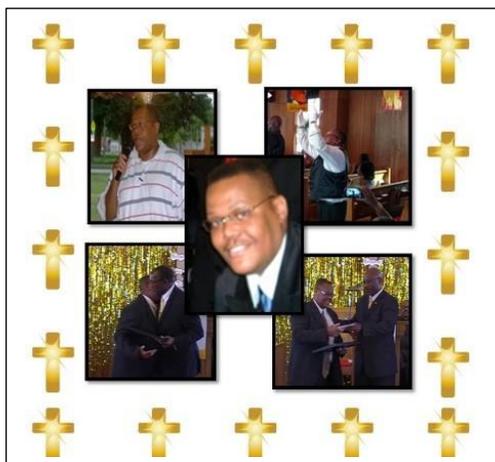
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“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”

Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

## Bellamy Avenue COG Celebrates Men's Day and Its 2016 Man of the Year—Bro. Timothy Peterson

Men's Day is a time to not only celebrate the past year's service to God but also to generate spiritual encouragement for the upcoming year. The theme of the Bellamy Avenue Church of God (Norfolk, VA) Men's Day program on October 16, 2016 was "Breaking Every Chain with the Sword of the Spirit," drawing inspiration from Ephesian 6: 10-18.



The men of the church performed a skit entitled "Break Every Chain," which dramatized the risk of trying to withstand the evils of this world without the right "sword," which is the Word of God. One young believer is distracted by temptations from Satan and soon finds himself chained in sin. Another believer comes to the young man's aid and

tries in vain to combat Satan with "the weapons of the world." Sensing he is no match for Satan, he calls for back up, and is soon joined by other men who wisely confront Satan with uplifted bibles. The men call on the name of the Lord, and soon Jesus comes to their rescue. Satan is defeated and retreats into the gates of hell. But the Lord is not done yet. The young man is still chained in sin. Jesus touches the man and the chains fall. All the men rejoice in the power

of Jesus to save, deliver, and set free. Hallelujah!!!! The skit was followed by a powerful sermon by our guest speaker, Minister Bruce Johnson, who spoke on the topic, "The Steps of a Good Man are Ordered by the Lord."

During the Men's Day celebration, Bellamy Avenue Church of God also recognized the service of one special man, Bro. Timothy Peterson, son of our pastor, Rev. Calvin Peterson. (Continued on page 7)

## I've Been Thinkin...



**Dr. Bob Neace**  
COGVA State Minister

About the election. On November 9th, the American people will have gone to the ballot box and cast a vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Donald J. Trump, Gary Johnson, or Jill Stein. During the course of the last two years, (which I believe is too long for a campaign to run...) campaign promises have been made, accusations leveled, character assassination will have been attempted, and ugliness abounded from all camps. Friendships will have been strained and mistrust planted. Sounds rather ugly, doesn't it. It's because it is...

Someone said recently about this election is that the only certainty is one of

these people will win, and by the time this issue of COGVA News hits the public, someone will be holding the title of President-Elect. Whoever that person may be, let me remind each of us that our responsibility toward those in leadership is to model Christ to a lost and dying world. That includes praying for those in leadership. Paul admonished Timothy, "... I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings [presidents] and all who are in high positions [others in leadership roles, secular and otherwise.], that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, Godly and dignified in

every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;..." (1 Timothy 2: 1b-8a ESV) (Continued on page 3)

## Rich Creek Hosts Community Revival



**Rev. Bernice Warner**

Rich Creek First Church of God was the host congregation for the Community Revival, which took place October 9-13.

Speakers and leaders for this revival included: Pastor Kevin Shirey, First Baptist Church Pastor Ricky Green, United We Stand Ministries, Pastor Betsy Switzer, United Methodist, Pastor David Robertson, New Horizons Family Fellowship, and host Pastor Bernice Warner, First Church of God.

An offering was received each night and rather than using it to offset expenses or pay speakers, this alliance of ministers will be disbursing the money raised to local Christian-based charities.

The Rich Creek community sets an example of the people of God gathering to hear and learn from one another, displaying unity among our Christians in the community, and promoting a "work together" attitude

that the world desperately needs to visualize.

Given that October was Pastor's Appreciation Month, Thursday night all Pastors were given a gift and honored by the community and the evening was capped with a "Meet and Greet" in honor of State Minister Bob Neace. An opportunity of food and fellowship was enjoyed by those who could attend after service.

## Joynes Road CHOG Completes Fall Conference

Church of God Ministries General Director, Rev. Jim Lyon, was the guest of the Joynes Road Annual Conference Saturday, October 29, 2016. A portion of the day was spent with the administrators of the Hampton, Convention and Visitor's Bureau Center as presentations were made concerning the viability of one of our regional and/or national Church of God conventions being hosted in the area.

Upon leaving there, Rev. Lyon addressed the conference on his theme for the Church of God movement, "Jesus is the Subject." His passion for the church to get back to her reason for existence, Jesus, was clear and on display throughout this

session, and as he spoke to the area churches during the Unity Service on Sunday afternoon.

The afternoon brought opportunity for the city of Hampton to be showcased by Mayor Donnie Tuck and Vice-Mayor Linda Curtis, School Superintendent, and other various community leaders who have a passion and desire to see their communities grow and thrive. Among the other leaders was, chair to the Aberdeen Gardens Historic and Civic Association, Mr. Claude Vonn III. His passion and enthusiasm for honoring the community's heritage and legacy was unparalleled.

To cap off the evening, the Voices of Norfolk concert

Choir came to offer praise to our Lord.

"Calvary's Mercy" provided music for the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Congressman Bobby Scott was in attendance. Rev. Lyon spoke, challenging the congregation to "Be Bold, Reclaim Your Neighborhood", which was also the theme of the 4:00 pm Unity Service for the Church of God congregations in the Tidewater Area.

At the close of service, City Councilman Will Moffit presented proclamations, on behalf of the Mayor and the City of Hampton to Rev. Lyon for his participation in this weekend's conference and to the family of Deaconess Alberta C. Woods.



**Rev. Jim Lyon**



**Dr. Simeon Green III, Rev. Jim Lyon, Will Moffit**



**Voices of Norfolk Concert Choir**

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

When the final determination is made as to who will lead our country, will you please make an effort to lift her or him in your prayer, asking for God to send them Christ-like minds with which to surround themselves? Will you add to the peace of our nation

and its emotional well-being by spending time in prayer seeking wisdom and leadership for those in our country, state, and especially our congregations? Let's spend some time as church members, modeling Christ and His love rather than mirroring

the world and its political processes.

It is my prayer that, regardless of the political landscape, we lift our leaders in prayer, that it would be possible for us to live "peaceful and quiet lives, Godly and dignified in every way."

## C.W.C./W.C.G. News



October, 2016

Dear Sisters,

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am reminded of all that God has done for the CWC/WCG this year. It seemed the windows of heaven opened and God's blessings poured out in abundance.

I want to thank every unit and church that has participated in our foreign mission's project, "Cows for Rwanda." As a state, we collected \$15,400 which allows us to purchase 22 cows! This has been, by far, our biggest project ever. The CWC/WCG has always been so generous and I pray you will continue to be so.

Enclosed, you will find the minutes to our Fall Planning Conference Call. I encourage you to look it over. Much was accomplished during this session. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Our foreign mission project for this coming year is "Hope to Walk" Phil Johnson, founder of Hope to Walk, spoke at one of our conferences this summer. Those who heard him speak had a great desire to do something to help this ministry. Here is a link to their website: [hopetowalk.org](http://hopetowalk.org).

The missionary cottage at Camp Christi needs new flooring and a new roof. It was decided to make the cottage our domestic project. We want to take care of what God has given us, so I trust you will take this project to heart.

There are several state officers' positions that will open up in April. It has been decided to combine some of the positions. Review the minutes to see what they are. Sometime, in the near future, you will hear from the nominating committee asking for your nominations. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to serve. Ask your ladies to consider serving also. There is real joy in serving Jesus and real joy in serving in the CWC/WCG.

Plans for the 2017 Spring Convention are well under way. It will be held at Riverside Church of God in Fredericksburg on April 28 & 29. The theme for this weekend is "Shout for Joy," and Arnetta Bailey McNeese, CWC Executive Director, will be our guest speaker. Eastern Region units will be contacted after the holidays asking for their help with food and door prizes. Please begin praying for this convention now.

It has been a great concern of mine that many of the CWC/WCG units have been dissolved or do not participate in any of the activities. We need to find ways to reach these units and encourage them to be a part. I often say that many hands make light work. Just imagine what we can accomplish for God's kingdom if we all put our hands to the plow. Let's renew the vision of who we are and what is our purpose, which is: "To build relationships with women everywhere, and to provide ministry resources to the Church of God and to other groups for connecting women through relationships, spiritual formation, and service, and to train and empower women for leadership in peace building and reconciliation." (taken from the Christian Women Connection, Anderson, Indiana)

May God richly bless you as we enter this holiday season!

Blessings,

*Racheal Baez*

Virginia CWC/WCG President

## Roanoke FCOG Participates in Decision America Tour

Franklin Graham began his Decision America Tour in 2016 by visiting all 50 capitols in order to encourage Christians to pray for America and to vote. He writes: "America is in trouble, and God is our only hope. We must confess our sins as individuals and as a nation and call on Him to heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14)." He came to Richmond on October 12th, and eleven people from The First

Church of God in Roanoke attended this event, which according to reports from a local newspaper, was attended by around five thousand people. Graham's tour, which does not make a specific affiliation, encourages Christians to pray for American and its leaders. He stated: "this election is about the Supreme Court and many people in the media don't want us to think about that."

Rev. Graham had all of us stand and hold hands and pray for ourselves, our nation, our families and our government leaders. What a blessing to be a part of this family of God as we enjoyed the beautiful weather, the fellowship of many Christians from across Virginia, and the music of Dennis Agajanian.



Roanoke FCOG Delegation



Rev. Franklin Graham

## COGVA State Youth Council Prepares for Convention

Packets for the 2017 Youth Convention have been mailed! Dates for this convention are March 31-April 2, 2017. Registration cost per student is \$45.00, \$10.00 T-shirt, plus hotel costs. Attendees will be staying in either of two hotels in Christiansburg, VA. The cost per room is \$109.00 + tax per night and each room should sleep four people.

As you receive the packet, you will find that all events related to the convention will take place at Camp Christi, 4704 Roanoke Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073. There will be no meals provided on the grounds, as this is not a weekend of youth camp or camp meeting.

We are excited to have as our Worship Leaders, the band called "The Shine

Effect." They are an energetic group of young people who are ministering their talents for Christ in venues like Celebrate Recovery, Youth conventions, and many others throughout the country. You may visit their website anytime by using [www.theshineeffect.net](http://www.theshineeffect.net) as a link.

Our speaker is Nathan Heady, who serves as Sr. Pastor at Friendship Church in Cookeville, TN. His website is [www.friendshipcookeville.com](http://www.friendshipcookeville.com). He has served our youth in the Churches of God in Missouri and are pleased to have him scheduled with us this spring.

We ask that you take note of all deadlines. As a reminder, the deadline for

registration and t-shirt orders is a February 15, 2017 postmark, and in order to receive the discounted rooms at the hotels, reservations must be made by February 21, 2017.

Lastly, I ask you to begin to pray, if you are not already doing so, that God will use this event to magnify His Son, Jesus Christ throughout all that takes place during this special weekend. We ask you to be in prayer for the band, the speaker, conference leaders, but especially for the students whose lives stand the real possibility of being impacted for Christ for a lifetime.

Blessings,

Brother Bob Neace,  
Ordained Representative  
for the 2017 Youth  
Council

# Virginia State Youth Convention of the Church of God Presents

With Special Guest Speaker



Nathan Heady  
<http://friendshipcookeville.com/>

Theme:

Actively Trust

Theme Verse:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5



[www.theshineeffect.net](http://www.theshineeffect.net)

To Lead in Worship for  
Virginia State  
Youth Convention  
of the Church of God in Virginia  
March 31 - April 2, 2017



Camp Christi, Christiansburg, VA



Registration:  
\$45.00 plus  
hotel costs

Site:

Holiday Inn  
2725 Roanoke  
St.  
Christiansburg,  
VA 24073  
540 382-6500

Fairfield Inn  
2659 Roanoke  
St.  
Christiansburg,  
VA 24073  
540-381-9596  
109.00 = tax per  
night

## Bellamy Avenue COG (Continued)

Tim has served faithfully as the church worship leader, usher president, and music director. He is member of the drama ministry and van ministry. He represents the church at community civic league meetings. He was elected as Chaplain and has the privilege of leading prayers for the needy and sick among us as well as the security, safety and prosperity of the community.

Timothy is a strong advocate of COGVA

programs, often traveling across the state to participate in various activities—to the glory of God. For 10 years Timothy served State Usher President. Timothy is frequently called upon by other local churches to be the worship leader for various programs or to train their ushers. At the recent state men’s training event hosted by Pitman Road Church of God, Boykins, VA, Pastor Harold Boyd (State Men’s President and pastor of First Church of God,

Norfolk) expressed his personal thanks to Timothy for leading the devotional period of song, praise, testimony and prayer.

For his exemplary service to God, the church, and the community, Bellamy Avenue Church of God proudly recognizes Timothy Peterson as the 2016 Man of the year. We thank God for this young man of God!

I want to thank God, Bellamy Ave COG, and the State Men’s Ministry for this award. With the help of the Lord, have followed Psalms 84:10: for a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I’d rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. I want to hear the Lord say, well done thy good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over few, I make you ruler over many. Come and receive your crown.  
Timothy L Peterson



<b>COGVA Budget to Date</b>			
<b>August 1, 2016 – October 31, 2016</b>			
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>1st Quarter Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$3,500.00	\$865.54	\$2,634.46
1200 Insurance	\$14,800.00	\$3,491.00	\$11,309.00
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$10,828.14
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,320.00	\$ 879.82	\$ 2,440.18
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$36,057.50</b>	<b>\$8,845.72</b>	<b>\$27,211.78</b>
1500 Chair	\$800.00	\$	\$800.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
2000 State Minister			
Reimbursement Fund	\$16,050.00	\$1,423.05	\$14,626.95
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$16,050.00</b>	<b>\$1,423.05</b>	<b>\$14,626.95</b>
3000 Executive Council/Standing Ministries			
3100 Executive Board	\$800.00	\$	\$800.00
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00	\$38.20	\$261.80
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$75.00	\$	\$75.00
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$50.00	\$	\$50.00
3600 Ministry of Program	\$2,000.00	\$24.32	\$1,975.68
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$100.00	\$	\$100.00
3900 Church Property Team	\$75.00	\$	\$75.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,400.00</b>	<b>\$62.52</b>	<b>\$3,337.48</b>
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$3,749.99
Health Insurance	\$840.00	\$210.00	\$630.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00	\$	\$1,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$750.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$300.00	\$	\$300.00

Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$500.00
5140 Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$968.59	\$5,031.41
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,390.00</b>	<b>\$2,428.60</b>	<b>11,961.40</b>
5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	19,923.84
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,788.00	\$5,212.00
5250 Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$4,739.58	\$9,360.42
5260 Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$	\$4,000.00
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$	\$500.00
5270 Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$	\$750.00
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$500.00	\$	\$500.00
5300 Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$48.50	\$451.50
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$300.00	\$	\$300.00
Christmas Bonus	\$1,300.00	\$	\$1,300.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$55,415.12</b>	<b>\$13,217.36</b>	<b>\$42,197.76</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$126,112.62</b>	<b>\$25,977.25</b>	<b>\$100,135.37</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$23,974.31</b>	
<b>Difference</b>		<b>( \$2,002.94)</b>	

## Mark Your Calendar

### November

24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving (State Office Closed)

30<sup>th</sup> Not a holiday, but should be

### 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

## Church of God in Virginia

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[cogvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cogvaoffice@gmail.com)

We're on the Web!

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

## Submission Guidelines for COGVA News

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 – Sis. Cathy Atkins, and State Minister – Dr. Bob Neace.

## CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

4704 Roanoke Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073