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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)

Dublin FCOG Calls Mike Hudson to Serve



Caroline and Rev. Mike Hudson

My wife Caroline and I are very excited to be serving at The Dublin First Church of God. I have been the interim pastor for two and a half months now and I feel the Lord working strongly in my life. I am a bi-vocational pastor, also working for Franklin County Public Schools as a school counselor. I

enjoy the challenges of doing God's work both in the church and out in the world as well. I am proud to say that I was raised in the Red Hill Church of God, where my father, Harry Hudson has been the pastor since 1993. Both he, and my late grandfather, Steven King were shining examples of what a Godly man should be for me. I also have had the privilege to attend the First Church of God in Roanoke and learn from Dr. Jim Milner. He has helped me to dig deeper and search farther into God's Word. I also want to thank my brother, Scott Hudson, who is the pastor

of Covenant Community Church of God in Salem, Virginia. Getting to work and worship at his church helped me grow and prepare for having a church of my own to shepherd. My wife, whom I have been married to for three and a half years and I have been blessed to have such a loving congregation to bring us in and treat us like family. Our goal is to honor God in all things and to make the love that Christ has for humanity be contagious. We hope each and every one will think about what he or she can do to glorify Jesus.

COGVA News Celebrates FIVE Years



It was five years ago in October when State Minister Bob Neace began playing with templates and ended two days of self-study to bring about COGVA News. COGVA News' purpose is to inform the larger body of the Church of God in Virginia

and beyond what God is doing in the lives of individual congregations throughout the Commonwealth. This publication has shared such things as food pantry ministries and recognition of local churches and pastors in regional setting. It has also borne information from our national offices and kept our constituency abreast of coming events

sponsored by the State Ministries of Christian Education, Christian Women's Connection, Minister's Fellowship, COGVA Men's Ministry, as well as local events like homecomings and revivals. During its lifetime, COGVA News has sought to serve that purpose well, and we look forward to seeing it continue to serve the larger church in the future.

Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace
COGVA State Minister

Recently, a statement was made to me that caused me to pause. That statement? "You've got to catch a fish, before you can clean him." This simple statement, said in a moment of jest, has some great spiritual significance.

Jesus had well established relationships with each of the disciples, but as it is with all things, there was a beginning point. Possibly, earlier in their lives, each disciple listed in the gospels had

some encounter with Jesus. In the instance of John, the Baptist, they were cousins. Growing up in community as was the Jewish custom, in is not inconceivable that the bulk of disciples knew of Jesus. It is not until the day of His baptism by John his identity as the Son of God is revealed by the presence of the Holy Spirit's descension, and the audible voice of God. The day after that, John points Him out as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"

to two of his own disciples. When Peter, James, and John are introduced in scripture, they have been fishing and mending their nets. They had been unsuccessful in fishing that night and have granted Jesus use of their boat to address the crowd. Closing His message, perhaps as a measure of gratitude but more likely as a great illustration, he tells them to cast their nets into the deep. Once they agree to do this, (Continued on page 10)

Rev. Harold Boyd Moves to Hillsville, VA



Rev. Harold Boyd

I come to you today and in writing this letter with mixed emotions. One part of me is very sad, but in another part, I am happy for what is forth coming.

After a lot of prayer, constant searching, we have come to the conclusion that we will have to leave the area. I will be leaving the end of September to accept the pastorate position at another church. The church Alett and I will be going to is Coulson Church of the Brethren in Hillsville, Virginia. Our new address will be 4159 Coulson Church Rd., Hillsville, VA 24343. I will be starting this new segment of my life on October 1, 2018 and Alett

will follow approximately three weeks later.

We have forged numerous friendships within the Church of God and we pray that those friendships will continue even though we are serving in another denomination. Things have moved so quickly and we are still swimming in our heads and thoughts because everything just became a whirlwind.

We appreciate the numerous prayers that have been lifted for us and I pray that those that are on social media will continue to keep up with us through that.

Again, this is very hard to make this announcement and the State Minister is

fully aware of everything that is transpiring. We love each and every one of you and all of you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Please, if you ever up our way and want to stop in and visit we would welcome you with open arms.

We pray that God will continue to do miraculous things in the Church of God in Virginia and just know we continue to walk that spiritual journey with you, just from a longer distance.

In Christ,

Harold Boyd

Pastor, FCOG Norfolk

Rev Perry Blankenship Honored by National Association for Rural Mental Health;

By Ron Manderscheid, PhD, Exec Dir, NACBHDD and NARMH

New Orleans never disappoints and neither does the National Association for Rural Mental Health annual summer conference. When the two came together this past weekend, the effect was electric.

NARMH held its 44th annual conference in New Orleans this past weekend. The theme, "Rural Resilience," reflects a growing national concern about the uncertain future of our rural and farm communities, and the need to improve availability of behavioral health services to those who call these areas home.

The conference keynotes punctuated several very important issues now confronting rural America: the new farm crisis, growing veteran populations, impoverished communities and a lack of insurance parity. By contrast, the conference work sessions showed how resilience is expressing itself in new services and approaches for our rural communities.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell opened the conference by asserting that a new national awareness is developing regarding the essential nature of good

mental and addictive health. She challenged all participants to be aware, to reach out, and to take action on improving behavioral health services in our rural and urban communities.

In the opening keynote, Charlie Griffin, MS, recently retired research assistant professor at the Kansas State University College of Human Ecology, described the nature of the emerging farm crisis and its similarities with previous crises in the 1960s and 1980s. He noted that it not only is an economic issue, but also predominantly a personal and family crisis for farmers living through it. Depression, suicide, and family breakup are pressing effects of this crisis.

Harold Kudler, MD, recent retiree from the Department of Veterans Affairs, recounted the history of the VA and its relevance to our current rural situation. Today, most veterans are from rural areas, and most return to these areas. Many suffer from the effects of war—PTSD, TBI, depression and anxiety. And many have difficulty becoming reintegrated into their communities. The VA and community providers must provide needed help.

Perry Blankenship, Project Aware Coordinator for McDowell County School

System, described the plight of McDowell County, West Virginia, and its rapid economic and social decline in the post-coal era. However, he also showed how hope and resilience can be mobilized by local coalitions to address problems in McDowell county and other similar areas.

The final keynote was presented by Torie Keeton of the Kennedy Forum. She highlighted the importance of health insurance parity for our mental health and substance use care benefits. If we are to achieve many of the critical care goals discussed throughout the Conference, good parity enforcement will be required.

This year's NARMH awardees are:

Victor I. Howery Memorial Award — Lori Irvine, NARMH Secretary

MDGoing to Bat Award — Harold Kudler

Peter G. Beeson Rural Arts Award — New Orleans Musicians' Clinic and Assistance Foundation

Ann Schumacher Rural Clinical Practice Award — Perry Blankenship

<https://www.behavioral.net/blogs/ron-manderscheid/policy/rural-resilience-narmh-s-44th-annual-conference-new-orleans>



Cynthia and Pastor Perry Blankenship (M.A., M.DIV., MBA, M.Ed., LPC, LSC) serve the Bluefied FCOG. In addition to the pastoral responsibilities, he is also the Project Aware Facilitator/ McDowell County (WV) Schools and Volunteer Chaplain (Princeton Hospital)

Men's Ministry Changes Name/Clarifies Vision



VISION: To reach the lost, serve our communities and support our churches.

2019 THEME: Men of God Called and Positioned for Effective Ministry.

We feel it is time for our ministry to evolve from the training mode to the action phase. The plan is to have the men's leadership contact churches we wish to visit. We will then ask those churches to inform us of what outreach ministries they are involved in. We will then take the three to four hours we have been spending in training and eating to join with the church in an action ministry. Some of the ministries can include helping at the local food

bank, helping at the local boys and girls club, visiting senior citizen homes or helping to organize and dispense items from the church's pantries. We can even join with the churches on community walks introducing the church's mission by passing out literature. On the walks, we could even pick up debris from the sidewalks in the neighborhood. This way we can have a positive effect on people and the local Church.

In the same respect, we plan to make an aggressive effort to receive the men's dues of \$20.00 per year. With these funds, we can help people in need. We need not have a large treasure of money when there are people in need. Pending

ratification of the following, this ministry would also like for to go forward identified as the COGVA Christian Men's Fellowship.

Dates for Christian Men's Fellowship are as follows:

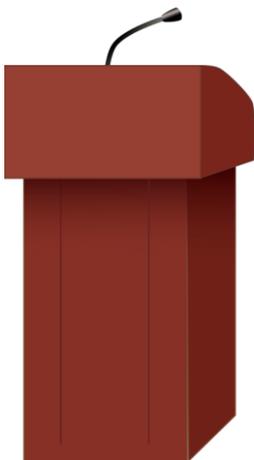
January 5, 2019
Goodview First Church of God
1228 Parish Road
Goodview VA. 24095

April 6, 2018 - TBA

August 2018
Camp Christi
4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA. 24073

October 5, 2018
Bellamy Avenue Church of God
112 Bellamy Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23523

COGVA Churches Seeking Pastors



Atkins FCOG, First Church of God, 6118 Lee Hwy, Atkins, VA 24311
Pulpit Committee Contact – Harold Henderlite – 276-591-8996,
hhenderlit@gmail.com

Chatham Hill FCOG, 363 Hill Lane, Saltville, VA 24370
Pulpit Committee Contact – Calvin Lucy – 276-698-4213

Gordon Road CHOG, 10613 Gordon Road, Spotsylvania 22553
Pulpit Committee Contact – Al Diehl – 804-580-0453 or
keepback500ft@yahoo.com

Rich Creek FCOG, 217 Church Street, Rich Creek, VA 24147 – Pulpit Committee Contact:
Barbara Nunes - 540 726 2929

Dr. Green Receives Harman Stokes Community Award



Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III



Dr. Simeon R. Green III, Pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton, Virginia; Member of Historic Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens as Chaplain and Vice-President in the Aberdeen Gardens Historic & Civic Association Inc. was awarded the HARMAN STOKES COMMUNITY AWARD for Community services with distribution of food at Joynes Road Church of God (JRCOG) with the local FOOD BANK OF VIRGINIA, Visitation to the sick and shut-ins in the Aberdeen Community and its surrounding Neighborhood Partners; Distributing school supplies to the schools in Hampton’s District 10 as well as attending Activities and meetings involving improving the community and uplifting the spirits of those who come in contact with the Pastor and members of JRCOG. [The actual Award was given to Pastor Simeon R. Green III, October 7th 2018 as a result of his absence at the Gala due to our dynamic Revival Service October 3rd-5th 2018 “Take Heed to Your Ministry, Stir Up the Gift of God” – Speaker – Rev. Arnetta McNeese Bailey DD, member of Sherman Street Church of God; who was also present on October 6th and 7th as Executive Director speaker for the Christian Women Connection and delivered Sunday morning sermon.]



“What We Did Not Expect” at Water’s Edge Church

The Food Pantry at Water’s Edge Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, has been in operation for over 6 years. As with most food pantries, we started out very small. We are still only open on Tuesday afternoons but have grown over the years and now serve almost 300 families which is more than 1,000 people each month. Our monthly total of food distributed is more than 18,500 pounds or more than 9 tons of food. We operate a refrigerated box truck to transport the food to the church for distribution.

What we did not expect is the other areas where we help the community. Last year, the Virginia Beach Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs or SECEP contacted us and was wondering if we could help some of the Autistic students gain some job skills by helping within our

pantry. Of course, we said “yes”, and they have again returned for this school year. They bring two students and they help us as we help them develop skills for their future.

This was easy for us because we have two other young people who have an intellectual disability (at least that is the description used by one of their mothers) who help us weekly. They have also been diagnosed with Autism but are able to greatly help us in the pantry. We also have another woman with Downs Syndrome who comes and volunteers each week.

Speaking of helping people, we have had several people assigned by the court system to do community service and they have done it by serving within our pantry. These arrangements have worked out well and often

those relationships last past their time with us.

It is obvious to me that we help families by supplying needed food to families. At the same time, we receive help from those volunteers I talked about earlier, but we also help those people in return. What we did not expect is our ability to help in the lives of some of our volunteers as they serve us. It amazes me that our food pantry is doing so much more than just supplying food to those who need it.

Jesus said as recorded in Matthew 25:35a, 40b “For I was hungry and you gave me food... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (ESV)

Larry W. Ebinger – Elder - Water’s Edge Church’s Food Pantry Coordinator. 757-619-8091



Groseclose and Marion FCOG Living Out Unity

“Unity Service” are usually planned out events, but not always. The Groseclose and Marion First Churches of God began as the Groseclose church asked if they could use the baptistry of the Marion congregation. Pastor Wagner had several to be baptized, and so in June, the churches came together for their first evening service.

Both congregations were unsure at first but ended

up enjoying the service. Since both congregations struggled with Sunday night attendance, after some conversation, Pastors Bill McCollian and William Wagner decided to do a combined service and “Tag-team” the preaching. Again, the congregations enjoyed sharing music, preaching, and fellowship.

In August, the churches met in Groseclose, and Pastor McCollian preached. September had the congregations back in

Marion with Pastor Wagner preaching. Somewhere along the way, they began to describe the services as “Unity Services.”

These Unity Services are a blessing to both congregations. What started out as just a borrowed baptistry has become much more. Beginning in October, the Atkins First Church of God is being invited to join this move of God. Only God knows where it will end.



Rev. William Wagner



Rev. Bill McCollian

COGVA Budget		
August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019		
		Aug-Oct
Categories	Budget	1st Qtr
		Expenses
1000 State Office		
1100 Business Office	\$3,100.00	\$798.94
1200 Insurance	\$12,800.00	\$3,351.75
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,600.00	\$879.82
Subtotal	\$33,937.50	\$8,639.87
1500 Chair	\$400.00	\$
2000 State Minister		
Reimbursement Fund	\$10,000.00	\$2,407.15
Subtotal	\$10,400.00	\$2,407.15
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
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$500.00	\$
Capital Improvements	\$750.00	\$
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$500.00	\$
5140 Utilities	\$6,000.00	\$657.97
Subtotal	\$12,750.00	\$1,907.98
5200 Camp Christi		
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28
5220 Health Insurance	\$7,000.00	\$1,788.00
5250 Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$4,598.63
5260 Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$287.24
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
Total Expenses	\$110,502.62	\$26,295.15
Total Income		\$21,791.66
Difference		\$4,503.49

Churches Total Giving Through October 31

Churches

Abingdon	\$324.85	Norton	\$912.24
Atkins	\$300.00	Reedville	\$1,627.39
Big Stone Gap	\$0.00	Rich Creek	\$0.00
Birdsnest	\$0.00	Richmond First	\$1,220.00
Blacksburg First	\$0.00	Richmond 21st	\$0.00
Blacksburg Slussers	\$249.99	Roanoke First	\$841.37
Bluefield	\$0.00	Roanoke Staunton Ave	\$0.00
Boones Mill	\$0.00	Rural Retreat	\$457.62
Boykins	\$0.00	Salem	\$0.00
Bristol	\$703.00	Saltville Broadford	\$0.00
Chesapeake	\$0.00	Saltville Chatham Hill	\$125.00
Chilhowie	\$2,069.57	Saltville Allison Gap	\$546.10
Christiansburg	\$2,009.91	Saltville MtnView	\$0.00
Cloverdale	\$0.00	Spotsylvania	\$0.00
Dublin	\$1118.75*	Staunton	\$918.81
Emporia	\$0.00	Suffolk	\$274.00
Fredericksburg	\$0.00	VA Beach/Water's Edge	\$600.00
Glade Spring	\$0.00	Wise	\$2,650.00
Goodview	\$0.00	Wytheville	\$461.06
Hampton Joynes Road	\$400.00	Rental Property	\$3,300.00
Lynchburg Greenview	\$465.75	Totals	\$21,791.66
Lynchburg Mtn View	\$0.00	*Designated	
Marion	\$750.00		
Martinsville	\$0.00		
Newport News Com	\$0.00		
Newport News First	\$0.00		
Norfolk Bellamy Ave	\$585.00		
Norfolk First	\$0.00		
North Tazewell	\$0.00		



Rev. Dr. Simeon Green III
31 Joynes Road
Hampton Virginia 23666

Dear Rev. Dr. Green III,
I am inviting you to our Aberdeen Elementary School's Dinner with Dad event on December 4, 2018 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Aberdeen Elementary School.

At last year's event, we had over 100 fathers in attendance. Male figures are essential to the youth. If the youth have a positive relationship with their fathers or father figure actively and academically, they will make better relationship choices; they will have high self-esteem, the youth will believe they can achieve their goals, with understanding the importance of working hard to do so. This event is in efforts to bring an enjoyable gathering to our community. And increase meaningful family time together.

To have you as our guest speaker would be an honor to the people who will be there and our school community.

We would like to hear your ideas on believing in your student as it relates to increasing meaningful family time together.

Please contact me at 757-825-4460 or by email at kdebntatum@hampton.k12.va.us. If you have any questions.

We look forward to your response, and we hope you'll accept the invitation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kim Debnam-Tatum
Family Engagement Specialist



“Neace’s Piece (Continued)”

they catch more fish than their nets could handle. Jesus then changed their occupation from fishermen to “fishers of men.”

Jesus spent three years teaching, training, living out and modelling discipleship before He ascended into heaven. During that time, he performed great miracles, frustrated the establishment of the Pharisees, and above all, pointed the way to reconciliation with the Father that would be brought about by the giving of His own life. But again, each disciple had a point in their life they had been “caught” by the love of Christ, but I guarantee, none of them in the beginning were prepared to do the things Jesus would ask of them through their ministry. All but two (John the Beloved and Judas, who killed himself) would die at the hands of martyrs. Their commitment level to Christ would grow to that point but was not there in the beginning. In other words, they had been “caught”, but Jesus spent time “cleaning them” so they could be used in the Kingdom of God. They

had been caught, cleaned, and prepared for the work of ministry so when the Holy Spirit was given to empower them, the Holy Spirit had a place in which to dwell, and thus empower them to have tremendous ministries.

The principles of Paul’s letters, and the admonition to live as Christ, were written to Christian people. In Romans, we read, “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:” In the next two letters, they are addressed to “The church of God which is at Corinth.” Galatians carries the greeting of, “to the churches of Galatia,” which is the only letter written to more than a single church. At Ephesus, where Timothy serves as pastor, “To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ.” Philippians, Colossians, and both books of Thessalonians carry similar greetings.

There are times when we as the church read Pauls’ writings, as well as others and try to apply the spiritual maturity they require of us the those who are not Christians.

This leads to frustration on our part, as well as for the person(s) to whom we apply them. A friend to whom I used to serve as pastor once said in a Wednesday night Bible Study it was not right to “...expect a newborn baby to have a 30-year-old head”. In other words, older Christians must allow new-born Christians to grow, but I’d like to take that a step further and state, it is vital that the church recognize living Godly and Christ-like can only take place after relationship with Christ is established, and not before. When we place these things in that order, it will certainly relieve many frustrations within the church.

As supposed seasoned Christians, sometimes we would do well to remember what my friend had said about cleaning the fish. Catch them first (introduce them to Christ), then with God’s help through discipleship, clean them (teach them through example), and set them loose for ministry.



Virginia State Youth Convention

GALATIANS 5:13
 FREEDOM TO LIFE
 VASYC2019
 T-Shirts \$10



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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.cogva.com

COGVA News Submission Guidelines

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

articles 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

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

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073