



## Table of Contents

I've Been Thinkin...	2
Granby And Bellamy Avenue Share	
Baptism Experience	3
Snares That Satan Has Set	4
C.W.C./W.C.G. Scholarship Winners Announced	5
Fish Fry Culminates in Joint Ministry	6
Mark your Calendars	8
Why We Need the CHOG Reformation Movement	7

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

*Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)*

## October is Clergy Appreciation Month!



Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church and the community. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments — the spiritual well-being

of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out.

That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17).

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Don't your pastors and their families deserve this kind of recognition? Do something about it today!

For more information and ideas for honoring your pastor, go to <http://www.thrivingpastor.com/clergyappreciation/>

(This article was resourced from the above site)

## *I've Been Thinkin...*



**Dr. Bob Neace**

Not long ago, a by-laws committee for COGVA met to deal with an amendment to our COGVA by-laws in regards to “same sex marriage”. In this article is a draft that will be presented to the Executive Board when they meet November 1 at Camp Bedford. Upon their approval, it will then go through the process of being added to the by-laws on the state level. As the result of the recent Supreme Court’s decision not to hear lower court cases regarding this issue, Sister Goode as Chair and I have decided to give this proposed amendment to COGVA through this venue, with the hope that individual churches would make similar changes to their local by-laws. It is our understanding that any legal protection for the local church and local pastor/staff must come from the local body. In other words, given our autonomous structure, the local church must have this protection for themselves and their local pastor/staff in their own by-laws and/or policy statements. The proposed draft is as follows:

Article XIV SAME GENDER MARRIAGE – HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS

The COGVA is not in agreement with Same

### Gender Marriage

A. The Holy Bible is very specific about homosexual activity being sinful. (For instance, see Romans 1: 18 – 27)

B. The Holy Bible is also clear we are to love all people. ( for instance, See John 15: 17)

C. However, the COGVA is not willing to perform a marriage ceremony for genetically same gender couples, or allow the use our facilities or grounds to perform such a union.

a. Definition of “genetically”— genetic /ge•net•ic / (j.- net'ik) 1. pertaining to or determined by genes 2. pertaining to reproduction or to birth or origin.

\*\*Dorland's Medical Dictionary for Health Consumers. © 2007 by Saunders, an imprint of Elsevier, Inc. All rights reserved.

D. No credentialed pastor, or other leaders of the COGVA shall be in a homosexual relationship.

On a more enjoyable note, many of you received an email concern “Pastor’s Boot Camp” Scheduled for April 27-May 1 at Camp Christi. The cost for this even is \$475.00 (\$425.00 for registration, \$50.00 meals on the grounds and free lodging at Camp Christi – lodging elsewhere is at the expense of the pastor).

Registration is limited to 12-18 individuals. And the cost can be broken into four payments of \$118.75. While this may seem a stiff cost for such an event, we ask that you consider it an investment in ministry. Church leader, as it is Pastor’s Appreciation Month, would you consider having your church make such an investment in your Pastor. After all, the greater the investment in his or her leadership, the more effective your church can be. Also, pastors take note, this does not take the place of our Spring Minister’s Fellowship. That event will take place in March of this year with more information coming soon from the Ministry of Programming.

Lastly, concerning COGVA News. In an effort to make his newsletter easier to print, we will forward fliers to all events as we get them. Information from fliers concerning events will be gleaned from the fliers and placed within the COGVA Calendar section of COGVA News, but fliers will not be attached as part of COGVA News.

As always, thank you for all you do in the Kingdom of God and in the Church of God in Virginia.

Dr. Bob Neace, COGVA State Minister

## Granby and Bellamy Avenue Share Baptism Experience

On September 14, 2014, First Church of God, Norfolk along with First Church of God, Bellamy baptized 8 different people. Pastors Harold Boyd and Calvin Peterson co-officiated. There were 7 from FCOG Norfolk and 1 from FCOG Bellamy. It was a joyous time in the Lord.



It was a great day. These who have chosen this rite come in the recognition of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. They will be cleansed and will rise to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. They will fully

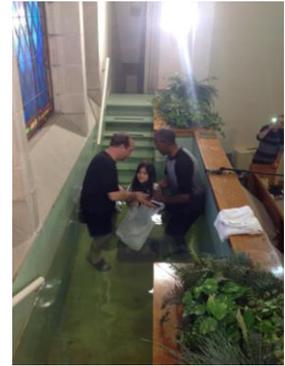
submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit and we welcome them in Christian brotherly and sisterly love.

Matthew 3:13-17 recounts for us Jesus' baptism by John The Baptist. In that scripture, we have the Trinity fully centered on one event and that is the baptism of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit was all manifested for all to see and hear at the same time. We have Jesus coming to be baptized, we have The Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus, and we have God the Father's audible voice. Wow, Glory to Jesus, Amen, Praise God...

Baptism is a rite full of meaning – it has meaning for these individuals who commit to Christ today by following in his example. It has meaning for the church body into which

these individuals are received as members and it is a response by God's people to God's saving grace. Baptism is a symbol of cleansing and new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says; "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new". Baptism is an outward expression of an inward experience; therefore, baptism is a beginning rather than an ending. B&S - today these individuals begin their Christian pilgrimage of faith.

Praise God for all those that came forward and we welcome them in the fold of the body of believers.



## Snares That Satan Has Set (Part 1)



Dr. Simeon R. Green III

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:1, he said that perilous times would come. The reason he said perilous times would come is that people would have a form of godliness but deny the power of God. In Matthew, Chapter 13, when Jesus began to explain the Kingdom of Heaven, he said it was like a sower who went forth to sow. As we read through this parable, we find that nothing was wrong with the sower or the seed. The problem was with the ground upon which the seed fell. The seed is the Word of God.

Matthew 13:7 records, "And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up and choked them". Also in verse 22 it says, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful". If we could get the devil to stand back and leave folks alone, the Word of God would have such a dramatic effect on them. However, the devil's job is not to let people get saved from sin and live victoriously with Christ without any problems.

Two snares that Satan has set for us are the cares of this world and the

deceitfulness of riches. They choke out the Word until it becomes unfruitful. This is a challenge that each of us must overcome. Sad to say, many people rest in the fact that they go to church. Some rest in the fact that they have a strong Pastor who preaches the Word. However, things may come up in their life that can contaminate their pure heart. Seemingly, the more conveniences we have in this world, the less time people have to serve God. They push the things of God back a little further. Spiritually, it has the same effect as when you put off eating natural food. At first, you may feel all right, but a few hours later you will feel weaker and weaker. After a while, you may feel sick and the only thing that will help you is nourishment. Often people starve themselves spiritually, and then they wonder why they are discouraged.

Again, I want to draw your attention to Matthew 13:5-7, which states: "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them". I am

convinced that persecution and tribulation are two perils that have done more to stop God's people in their tracks than anything else. As human beings, we do not like to suffer. However, the reality is that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. The Saints of God should spend less energy in figuring out how to avoid persecution and more energy in figuring out how to go through it, and then God can start getting glory from it. The world has heard people's testimonies, heard doctrine, and heard how Christ takes care of everything, and now they want to see it.

I believe we are living in a day and time when many people have forgotten why the Gospel was preached. God wants everyone to go to Heaven. The Bible tells us that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should repent and come to the knowledge of the Truth. People are going to hell because that is where they choose to go. God never invited anyone to go to hell. God saved us so that we can try to get folks to see that they do not have to go there.

Continued on page

## C.W.C./W.C.G. Scholarship Essay Winners Announced

For the last few years, the C.W.C./W.C.G. has offered a scholarship for the best written essay submitted. This year, the theme was “**What Role does Faith Play In My Life?**” The following two essays were chosen and their authors were presented \$100.00 scholarships for their submissions.



**Teresa Baez**

The last few years of my life I have been on what I like to call a "Faith Trail." In almost every aspect of my life I have had to completely rely on God because I could not make ends meet on my own. I had to have faith. I had to practice what I preached.

The actual act of having faith seems so hard. I doubt God and His provision all the time. But in reality, God has specifically told us that he would provide for us and that we are more valuable than the birds in the air. He has proven this to me time and time again. When I moved back to Virginia I was worried about not having a job and being able to find an affordable car. But God, being as great as He is, had all that worked out for me months in advance. A few months before my initial move back to Virginia, I

had a promising job in the industry I love. Within a few weeks of my move home, I was offered the job and had an affordable car. I am still with that job and have recently been offered the assistant manager position. God has also provided me with a more reliable car, affordable rent, and great friends to surround me. Why was I stressed? Why did I doubt God? Why have I ever doubted God? It seems that after God miraculously provides or fixes problems, Satan swoops in to try and make me forget about God's goodness and faithfulness. And a lot of the time, he succeeds. One day I am jumping on the roof top proclaiming God's goodness and then the next day I am in my room almost in tears stressing over a situation at work.

I do not want to live life like that. I want to have complete faith. Faith is 'the confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see.' (Hebrews 11:1) I want to have that confidence and assurance 100% of the time and in all aspects of my life; and to do that I need to continually remind myself of God's faithfulness and never forget all that he has done for me.



**Margo Deihl**

Faith is the glue that holds my brokenness together. Faith is knowing that my God keeps His every promise. Faith is not a mere word, but a lifestyle, and it is the way that I want to live – not by sight, but by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). My faith in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been and continues to be my comfort, my joy, and my purpose. Without faith in the Lord, it is impossible to find true satisfaction in life. Faith in God is my anchor and the reason that I can press on with my disability, trusting that my God will never leave me to fight my battles alone.

Since having arthritis from the age of eight, I have sometimes felt as if no one understands, that no one cares, or that no one can feel the pain that I experience. However, I have faith that my God will give me His strength to help me to walk up the steps, to push through the college work, to play my violin a little harder despite pain and swelling, and to live each day with His joy written all over my face. Living with two rheumatic diseases for most of my life has shown me just how vital my faith in Jesus is to surviving the hardships of life. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” My Lord has shown me countless signs of His Presence, reassuring me along life's journey that He knows my desire for healing, and even though I may not see the healing, I can be sure of what I do not yet see. I have faith that I will either be healed on this side of Heaven or the other, and I can place my faith in what I do not physically see.

I desire for everyone around me to see that my faith in Jesus is the reason for my joy and happiness despite the circumstances, and I want Him to receive the glory that is rightfully His. Not a day goes by where I am independent of my faith. Jesus is the reason that I wake up each morning, and I can have peace knowing that every moment of my day has been planned even before I am out of bed. I also cannot forget that I am nothing on my own, and as Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God...” Faith is not something to be kept to myself, but I believe that faith is an action that requires a different way of living. I do not want my faith in Jesus to play only a role in my life, but I desire for my faith to BE my life and for the Lord to be glorified as I strive to be more like Him through being devoted to my Christian faith through my circumstances.

## **Fish Fry at Granby Ave CHOG Culminates in Ministry Partnership with Joynes Road CHOG**



**Rev. Boyd and Dr. Green enter into ministry partnership.**

On September 27, 2014 FCOG, Norfolk hosted a Fish Fry using The Krusty Crab caterer. Almost 90 people were in attendance including the State Minister for The COGVA and 4 sister churches within the local area. This also included our newest church in this area from Chesapeake VA.

Our caterer came prepared with whiting and catfish, hush puppies, coleslaw, and French fries. Various people within the congregation of FCOG, Norfolk provided desserts while other members donated plates, sodas, and other items which made the event even more special and very well rounded.

All were very satisfied and the event ended with FCOG, Norfolk and Joynes Rd. COG signing a partnership in ministry certificate for both churches to support one another in their prospective ministries and

their events. We look forward to many more events and many more opportunities to share with others.

State Minister Neace: "It is exciting to see churches in relative proximity take this kind of action, partnering in ministry together. One of the things we have lost in recent decades is the feeling that we are part of a greater movement, and that we need one another. Please continue to prayer for both of these congregations, and their leadership as they help to set an example for the Church at large."



**Ready for Fish!**

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **Revival/Homecoming Gordon Road CHOG /Spotsylvania**

October 10 - 12 7:00 pm nightly – 10:30 Sunday AM - Dr. Simeon R. Green, Evangelist

### **Revival Joynes Road CHOG Hampton**

October 16-17, Rev. Dr. Rawleigh W. Quarles, Evangelist

### **C.W./W.C.G. Western Region Luncheon**

Marion FCOG  
October 25 @12:00 am  
Martha Williams/Guest

Speaker

### **Executive Board**

**Meeting** November 1 @ 10:30 am. Any items needing to be placed on the agenda for the Executive Board to consider should be sent to the Chair, Rev. Gertrude Goode at [goude9673@aol.com](mailto:goude9673@aol.com) prior to October 27.

### **Virginia State Youth Fall Retreat**

Camp Christi November 7-9 \$10.00  
Theme: "Be Bold"

### **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

### **Pastor's Boot Camp**

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

## Why We Still Need the CHOG Reformation Part 2 of four)

2. Denominations are still manmade and restrict Bible truth.

There is still a need to "come out of Babylon".

Most every denominational protestant church came from a revival in the existing church led by Godly persons who "discovered" new or forgotten truths of the Bible. I believe this was all according to God's plan to restore the church. The Roman church of the Dark Ages was built on hierarchy, ceremony, and manmade catechism. 1600 years later the remnants of that false church are still around in many denominations. I know of no other group other than the COGRM that has an expressed purpose as in the words of Naylor and Byers –

There's a mighty reformation sweeping o're the land

God is gathering His people by His mighty hand

For the cloudy day is ending and the evening sun is bright

With a shout of joy we hail the light

And in another of their songs –

The day of sects and creeds for us forevermore is past

God's unity joins all the saints upon the world so vast

We reach our hands in

fellowship to every blood-washed one

While love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done

3. The gift of salvation is still misunderstood. The two most prevalent teachings on salvation are that you can never be sure you got it, or that you can be sure and you will never lose it. There are still several large traditional denominations that never give an altar call or talk about being saved because they don't think it is possible.

Instead they stress joining the church and the giving of Christian service. On the other hand the largest groups in Christian denominations practice accepting Christ in what they call the eternal security of salvation. The COGRM still is needed to preach the conditional security of being saved. People need to know that they can be saved but they also need to know that they still have the free will to go back against God and lose their salvation.

4. The gift of sanctification is still not received. Holy living is thought to be either impossible or confused with spirit practices. In the majority of denominations sanctification is never mentioned as a gift of God. If talked about at all it is reserved for the clergy as a dedication to

Christian service. In some churches sanctification refers to buildings, furniture, and implements consecrated for use by the church leaders. The work of the Holy Spirit is limited only to salvation if talked about at all.

In another large branch of the Christian church the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in unknown tongues, and special gifts and powers have replaced sacrificial holy living. The idea of "entire sanctification" was fundamental to the early COGRM, but even that terminology has lost favor because of misunderstanding. Yet, how can a person be partially sanctified? It is like being a little bit pregnant. If you are truly sanctified you will be "cleansed of all unrighteousness" is the promise. Sanctification is a 2nd gift from God after the gift of salvation and it requires a 2nd decision on our part to accept it. It is both an event in our lives when we accept God's 2nd gift of grace and a lifetime of growth in the counseling of the Holy Spirit. and live out the experience of entire sanctification. (This article has been broken into four parts. For the article in it's entirety, please contact Rev. Lowell Stultz at [l.stultz@cox.net](mailto:l.stultz@cox.net).



Rev. Lowell and Nancy Stultz.

## Church of God In Virginia

4704 Roanoke Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

PHONE:  
(540) 268-2040

FAX:  
(540) 268-2040

E-MAIL:  
[drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com](mailto:drbobneace@virginiachurchofgod.com)  
[cogvaoffice@virginiachurchofgod.com](mailto:cogvaoffice@virginiachurchofgod.com)

---

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.virginiachurchofgod.com](http://www.virginiachurchofgod.com)

## Snares That Satan Has Set (continued)

Some people believe that once they get saved, they will not have anymore problems and that everyone will treat them right, but that is not realistic. The moment you start to live for God, you will provoke the devil.

First Peter 4:6 states, "For this cause was the Gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the Spirit". Child of God, you must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. You are a witness to folks who are dead in trespasses and sins, to show others that God can take a sinner and change him or her into a

Saint. Before Peter wrote those words, he said in verse one, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind". As a child of God, you must settle this in your mind, because that is where an individual can lose his victory. Suppose you were sitting in a recliner at home and God laid it on your heart to visit the sick. The devil would say, "You don't feel well yourself, and you know you have to go to work tomorrow morning". By the time he stopped talking, you would not even get out of the chair to do what God laid on your heart. You would be

defeated in your mind before you even start. Peter was letting us know that we must have it settled in our mind, "I am going to suffer for Christ".

### ***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 serves 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

4704 Roanoke Road  
Christiansburg, VA 24073