

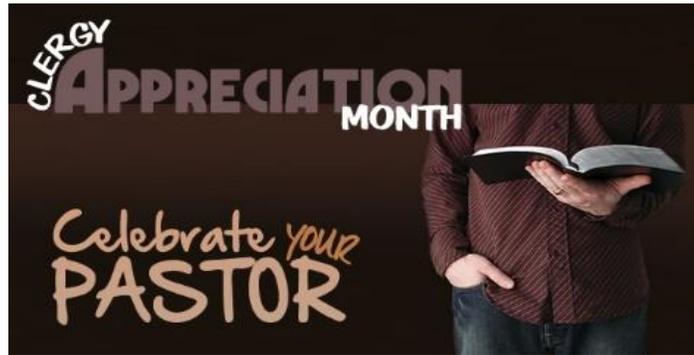
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“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”

Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

October Is Clergy Appreciation Month



October is Clergy Appreciation Month.

With the shepherd doing so much to encourage the flock, wouldn't it be nice if the flock returned the favor? As teachers, counselors, comforters and the ones who unselfishly serve, your pastoral staff and their families could use an extra pat on the back. So go ahead and find your special way to say thanks. You'll be glad you did.

(The following article and above picture are taken from <http://www.thrivingpastor.com/clergyappreciation/index.html>. This website is an excellent resource for clergy and is highly recommended by COGVA News)

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).

(Continued on page 5)

I've Been Thinkin...



**Dr. Bob Neace, COGVA
State Minister**

I've been thinking about the three CHOG Tables and their content. As the church at large has had opportunity to come together and discuss Sexual Ethics, Immigration and Refugee Crisis, and most recently, Racial Reconciliation, I am struck by the notion, we have much to discuss.

I have been a participant in each of these three venues. Serving as a Table Moderator in Vancouver and Philadelphia I shared the sentiments of the people I served in that there was so much information given throughout the day, and yet, there were only two 30 minute sections for actual process and dialogue. Perhaps COGVA can use this to our advantage.

Church of God Ministries has promised to make available on-line the presenters for each CHOG Table sometime after March 2017., I would like to follow up on a proposal I presented in my annual report to COGVA

at our annual business meeting last August. The proposal is this:

When the presentations for each CHOG Table are available to the general public, we will set three separate dates for our own round table discussions. We would spend the majority of that date discussing the ideas, thoughts, and talking points provided (if any) from the specific CHOG Table indicated for that date. It will be the responsibility of each person attending to have invested the time to watch these presentations PRIOR to coming together for our discussion. There will be no opportunities to view CHOG Table presentations the day of our coming together. It will be vital that participants in the dialogue familiarize themselves with the topic ahead of time.

In COGVA, there are many minds and ideas that could benefit, not only COGVA, but the church nationally and even

globally. I would ask that as you read this, you begin to pray with me for wisdom, patience, and understanding as we draw closer to the events of our COGVA Round tables, the dates of which have not been determined (and will not be until we are certain the resources are available).

These are indeed perilous times in our world, our country, and even local settings. I look forward to collaborating with those of us who are concerned enough about our churches and our society to gather together, talk about the issues of Sexual Ethics, Immigration and Refugee Crisis, and Racial Reconciliation. Would you drop me an email at brobob4691@gmail.com to let me know of your interest in participating in these COGVA Round Tables and willingness to pray with me?

Blessings,

Dr. Bob Neace



**Dr. James Lewis
Addresses COGVA
Ministers**

Minister's Fellowship a Powerful Time

The Fall Gathering of Minister's Fellowship of COGVA took place at the Wytheville FCOG September 23. Dr. James Lewis led the sessions in "Aspects in Kingdom Ethics". Those attending through the end

were challenged with the importance of forgiveness and restitution, and the implications of attempting one without the other. The session ended with colleagues in ministry listening to the needs and concerns of one another

and prayer being specific concerning those needs.

The date and location for our Spring Gathering have been set. Joynes Road CHOG in Hampton will be our setting on March 16-17. Programming details will be forthcoming soon.

CHOG Table 3 – Racial Reconciliation

New Covenant Church in Philadelphia, PA was the site of the final CHOG Roundtable discussion. This gathering was the last of three Roundtable Discussions and dealt with Racial Reconciliation. CHOG Table attendees were blessed by the presentations of Diana Swoop, Vivian Moore, Jim Lyon, Reggie McNeal, Milton Grannum and Michael Jones. Some of these names are recognized as voices from within our tribe – The Church of God, while others come to us from other groups. Each one had some things to say and bring to the table and participants within the pew were challenged by the things they said, and the perspectives from which they spoke.

During the gathering, Jim Lyon, Director of Church of God Ministries reminded us – “The greatest tool in hell’s hand to thwart heaven’s ends is division in the body of Christ!” The Church of God has historically preached this doctrine of unity, and has been the example to other groups in its earlier days. The story about Lena Schoffner’s sermon at an 1897 camp meeting in Alabama has become legendary. Black and white members of that community had come together to worship, and, as was mandated by the law of the day, were separated by a rope. During her sermon on

Ephesians 2, Sister Schoffner, called for the removal of the rope, and as it was taken down, the altars lined with people of both races praying with one another, seeking the will of God in unison with one another.

While we hail this as a defining moment in our history, one must continue the story. Later that night, the place where this historic meeting took place was dynamited by those outside the fellowship of God’s people. Strong Biblical preaching, especially that which challenges the status quo of our society, now as well as then, and in each generation, will cause our ugly enemy, the adversary himself, to raise his hand and wield the weapon of divisiveness. It behooves us to destroy this tool he so aptly uses by being diligent in our efforts to work together in holiness, unity and love. Listen to the words of D.S. Warner’s hymn, “The Bond of Perfectness” -

“How sweet this bond of perfectness,
The wondrous love of Jesus;
A pure foretaste of heaven’s bliss,
Oh, fellowship so precious!

Oh, brethren, how this perfect love
Unites us all in Jesus!
One heart, and soul, and mind we prove
The union heaven gave us.



Oh, praise the Lord for love divine
That binds us all together;
A thousand chords our hearts entwine,
Forever and forever.”

The Church of God in Virginia has been about the business of unity within the body of believers in our fellowship. Standing in the shadows of Civil War Battlefields that divided our country, the leaders of the former Association and Assembly of the Church of God, along with a myriad of folks, came together to address the need for a unity process to bring these two separate entities into one body. COGVA has been blessed with this unity for over 12 years now. To be sure, there is much work to be done. However, we must praise God in that, though COGVA is not where she’d like to be, let us glory in the fact, we aren’t where we were 20 years ago either.

COGVA representation in Philadelphia consisted of Drs. Simeon (III) & Velma Green, Revs. George & Edna Murrell, Barbara & Dr. Rawleigh Quarles, Dr. Bob Neace, Rev. Harold Boyd, Rev. Silas & Vernetta Oliver, Rev. Pete and Pat Canciglia.



Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez Releases Third Book



Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez

Martinez has enchanted her audience once again with her diverse, evocative, eclectic, soul-piercing, heart-warming, stimulating, and classy expressions of poetry. The author has successfully exhibited a clever way of strategically positioning her readers inside her poetic world, while giving her audience the green light to examine themselves from many different perspectives. The basis of her stylish and unique writing is derived from love; its action, its beauty, its truth, and its promise. This fascinating and enthralling book of expressions brilliantly captures an evolution of the spirit and mind. The author focuses on human relationships, connections and chemistry, spirituality,

passion, truth, faith, and most importantly love. Martinez gathers the information that she utilizes in her writing solely from human observation, and interaction. Allow the author to speak to you, while you experience love in a therapeutic and meditative state. It is the ideal page-turning light read with a tremendous payoff! Enjoy your privileged stay at the five-star Private Suite!

Nicole Yvette Quarles-Martinez, author, model, musician, and mental health therapist, is a native of Roanoke, Virginia. Throughout the many years Nicole has been widely known for her talents, achievements, and success. A graduate of Hollins University with a

Master's degree in the field of psychology, Martinez has successfully implemented and combined the modalities of psychology with the art of writing, and creative expression. Her previous books include *As the Heart Blooms*, and *Male Order Luv*. Some of her passions are writing music, fashion design, playing different musical instruments, learning about different cultures, photography, and dancing. Nicole currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia with her son Cristian Alejandro Martinez. (Article courtesy of <http://outskirtspress.com/bookstore/details/9781478744887>, where copies may be ordered, as well as www.amazon.com.)

State Men's Ministry Gathers at Boykins FCOG



The State Men's Ministry Training the 1st of October was a great success. The Boykins

Church of God did very well hosting and Sister, Goode, Sister Murrell, and Sister Conciglia were also in attendance. Pastor Pete Canciglia did a remarkable job reminding everyone in the training, just like Joseph, we too must go through the fire. COGVA Men's Ministry President, Harold Boyd discussed highlights of his time at the regional convention and subsequent CHOG Table

on Racial Reconciliation in Philadelphia. Afterwards the group enjoyed fellowship then with a meal in the church's fellowship hall. Again, it was great to train and fellowship.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more opportunities of fellowship with Men's Ministry of COGVA. Details of activities throughout 2017 will be forthcoming.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month (continued)

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!

HELP YOUR PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES FEEL APPRECIATED

1. Figure out what you can do personally to recognize and honor these leaders. A simple card, an invitation to lunch, a promise to pray for them or an offer to babysit, wash a car or mow a lawn make wonderful statements.

2. Share the concept of Clergy Appreciation Month with others in your congregation and challenge them to join you in some kind of formal planning. You might consider a special service of affirmation, a potluck event or planting a tree in their honor. The sky is the limit!

GUIDE TO CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Our Clergy Appreciation Month Planning Guide is available online with complete step-by-step instructions and pages of exciting celebration suggestions.

http://media.focusonthefamily.com/pastoral/pdf/CAM_Guide_2012.pdf It also

includes long-term ideas for the proper care of your pastors and their families.

This complimentary guide can be reviewed, downloaded or printed immediately.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

We believe that the concept of clergy appreciation started with the Apostle Paul as he was establishing the first Christian churches. In 1 Timothy, he wrote, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). And, in 1 Thessalonians, he said, "Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Accordingly, over the centuries, decades and years, pastors have been recognized and honored, either formally or informally, by many denominations and local churches at various times of the year. It has been a long-standing practice.

Focus on the Family named and began emphasizing Clergy Appreciation Month in 1994, reminding congregations that it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staffs and pastoral families throughout the year, but suggesting that they set aside the month of October for a special

tangible tribute. For those churches that preferred a single weekend, we recommended the second weekend of the month. However, honoring a church's entire pastoral staff and their families can be done at any time — and, in fact, should become a normal part of a church's ongoing care of these special families throughout the entire year.

Our goal is that every pastor (including staff ministers) and his or her family would feel appreciated by those they serve. To assist congregations in this process, we have developed a planning guide (in both English and Spanish) intended to facilitate and publicize a CAM celebration. We also attempt to promote the concept ourselves each year through radio, newspapers, magazines and any other means at our disposal.

Over the years, we have been privileged to work in partnership with many publishers, bookstore chains, radio networks, news syndicates, musicians, denominations and other church groups, and have made many friends. Many of these fine organizations promote some form of clergy appreciation on their own. We think this is great! We feel that the fact that no one "owns" the idea of honoring pastors gives the campaign special inertia of its own — or from God.



Blessings at the COGVA Picnic



September 10 marked the COGVA Unity Picnic on the Bedford Campgrounds.

Dublin's own group, TRIO led us in tremendous worship, and Rev. Silas Oliver brought a powerful word from the Lord. It was great to see the smiles of those gathered, and to hear the laughter of the saints.

Once we had enjoyed the worship of the Lord, we moved from the tabernacle to the dining hall. The spread of food was tremendous. Given

the crowd assembled, it would have been easy to be nervous as to the supply of food, but as always, the ladies of the Church of God, along with the blessings of the Lord, made certain that no one went away hungry, but rather, probably more full than should have been. There were seventeen churches represented and a good spirit shadowed the atmosphere. It was said then, as in other fellowship gatherings, "we need to do this kind of thing more often." Perhaps the Ministry of Programming will lead this venture...



White Sulphur Springs FCOG, WV Benefits From COGVA Work Camps

Teams from COGVA Congregations have gone to White Sulphur Springs to minister to one of the congregations devastated by the flooding in June. Christiansburg FCOG sent a team July 26-27 and Another team coupled with Abingdon FCOG went there as well September 12 – 17.

As was stated in the COGVA Annual Business Meeting by Jeremy Dunn, the damage to this church, its community, and others in the same and surrounding counties was beyond description. In White Sulphur Springs

FCOG, all of the wall covering from three feet down has to be replaced, along with the flooring in the fellowship hall. At the end of the work camp in September, all the flooring has been removed and is now replaced. The wall covering in the hall has been removed, sheet-rocked, and is ready to paint. Work remaining to be done includes demolition of a kitchen that had been added on to the fellowship hall in recent years, siding replaced where the brick facing has been washed away, plumbing to be re-done in

each of the bathrooms, and some electrical work. Those interested in forming work camps to this small congregation, or others in W.V. should contact Thom Pratt of West Virginia at (304) 757-9222.

The following 2 pages contains pictures of the work camps and some of the work being done. Please continue to pray for those who's lives have been devastated by the floods in West Virginia, Louisiana, and now those affected by Hurricane Matthew.





Yearbook Registration Questions and Answer

Register to affirm your connection with Church of God Ministries, an organization that seeks to fulfill God's mission in the world: To make disciples of all nations.

Below is a list of our most Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the benefits to registering the church/minister?

Registration is a form of identity. When you register your church or your pastor, you are affirming your connection with Church of God Ministries. You are publicly acknowledging your connection to an organization that seeks to fulfill God's mission in the world—to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18–20). When you choose to register your church and your pastor, you are joining a body of believers together, in unity, and boldly proclaiming that you will work together with the movement to fulfill this mission, this call to action.

Are there tax implications for not registering?

Yes; failure to register, thus disassociating yourself with Church of God Ministries, means that you must have your own 501(c)(3) in order to send out annual tax contribution letters to your donors.

Are there any penalties for not registering? Will I lose my credentials?

The credentialing bylaws state that failure to register for 2 or more years MAY RESULT in your state revoking your credentials. This decision is up to each state to enforce.

What is the cost of registration for the church/minister?

Church registration is \$65. Minister registration is \$40.

Is there a discount for retired ministers?

Retired ministers may register for free—thank you for your years of service!

Is there a discount for registering early or a late fee after a certain date?

No

How do I register as a minister? As a church?

To pay by credit or debit card, simply go to www.chog24-7.org and create your account, or to log on to your account if you have already created one. To pay by check, simply e-mail customer service at customerservice@chog.org to request a paper registration form. If you need further assistance, please call customer service at 1-800-848-2464 and we will be more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.

Will you send out paper registration forms? If yes, when?

To be fiscally responsible, we will only send these out upon request.

If I need help with registration, will someone from your office be able to assist me?

Yes, but we ask that you please be patient as we work to return all calls in a timely fashion.

What are the deadlines?

To begin or renew registration?

We no longer have registration deadlines as it is now a “rolling” registration good for 365 days.

To be registered to have information printed in the 2017 Yearbook?

If you wish to make sure that your information is printed in the Yearbook, you will want to make sure that your current registration is “ACTIVE” during the months of October–December, as the list will be pulled at some point in those months for the printer.

What methods of payment are available?

MasterCard, Visa, Discover, debit card or a check may accompany your paper registration.

Can I register online and still pay by check?

No, you will need to request a paper registration and send it along with your check.

When is my check payment due?

Again, with the new rolling registration, you just want to make sure that you always show an “ACTIVE” status, so there is really no “due date.” However, if you wish to appear in the annual Yearbook, you will want to make sure your current registration is “ACTIVE” during the months of October–December, as the ACTIVE list will be pulled at some point in those months for the publisher.

When I renew, am I good for 365 days from that date, or when I was set to expire?

If you are currently “EXPIRED” you will be good for 365 days from date of renewal. If you are currently “ACTIVE” 365 days will be added on to the end, or date that you were set to expire.

Mark Your Calendars

October

9th Installation Service for Rev. Rick Hayes and family as the new Pastor for CHOG/Chilhowie, Time to be announced

9th – 13th Rich Creek Community Revival...sponsored by local ministerial association! First Church of God Sunday to host @6:pm Monday – Thursday @7:00 pm, Community pastors to speak each night, featuring host Pastor, Bernice Warner Thursday

22nd @ 11:00 am CWC Western Region - October 22 at 11:00 AM – Marion First Church of God Cost-\$10, Guest Speaker- Cassie Escue (West VA CWC State President)

Central Region - November 5 at 12:00 NOON - Blacksburg First Church of God
Cost - \$10, Guest Speaker - Lori Egan (Fredericksburg VA)

Eastern Region - TBD

2017 Spring Convention - April 28 & 29, 2017 - Riverside Church (Fredericksburg VA) Guest Speaker - Arnetta McNeese Bailey

16th Homecoming and Celebration for 75 years of God's faithfulness for the Abingdon FCOG. Common Bond will be in concert in the AM Service with dinner to follow the service

29th – 30th Dr. Jim Lyon will be the Facilitator for Joynes Road Church of God's Fall Annual Conference—10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Community Leaders Meeting—1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Voices of Norfolk Concert—5 p.m. and will be the Guest Speaker for 11:00 a.m. Worship Service and 4:00 p.m. Unity Service Joynes Road CHOG/ Dr. Jim Lyon, Guest Speaker
30th Unity Service Marion FCOG, 419 Chatham Hill Rd, Marion, VA 24354

November

5th @12:00 NOON CWC Central Region - November 5 at 12:00 NOON - Blacksburg First Church of God - Cost - \$10, Guest Speaker - Lori Egan (Fredericksburg VA)

24th Thanksgiving

30th Not a holiday, but should be... ☺

December

25th Christmas

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Back Page Story Headline

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

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