

“...Write the vision and make it plain on the tablet so that it might be read quickly.”
Habakkuk 2:2 (LEB)

Christiansburg Congregation Celebrates 125 Years of Ministry

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Rev.s Larry Cook, Lance Jenkins, Ron Mitchell, Jeremy Bontrager, and Charlie Heater

On August 29th and 30th, the First Church of God in Christiansburg celebrated 125 years of ministry. After months of planning, over one hundred current and former believers gathered for a weekend-long “family reunion.” Former Pastors were invited to join in the celebration and each one shared fond memories of their time serving in Christiansburg. The weekend kicked off with a picnic in the church pavilion, where friends and family were able to re-connect with each other

and share many great memories.

A highlight of the picnic on Saturday was the opening of a time capsule, in which items were gathered, placed in a large “pvc” pipe, and buried in 1995 while Rev. Ron Mitchell was serving in Christiansburg. Rev. Mitchell and Charles Miles, who was instrumental in caring for the time capsule, opened it and shared its contents with all in attendance. Many in attendance had placed items in the time capsule and were thrilled

to look back at what they had put in it 20 years ago.



Ron Mitchell Sharing Time Capsule Contents

Sunday morning brought a wonderful time of fellowship and worship. The day began with coffee and doughnuts and a chance to view a slideshow on the history of the church. The congregation of over 130 gathered in the sanctuary at 10AM for a worship service that praised God for His blessings on this church for 125 years.

The opening of worship was AMAZING! The service opened with the singing of “Once Again We Come” as we began (Continued on page 9)

FRANTICALLY TRYING TO RELAX - by Rick Watt



Rev. Rick and Marsha Watt

When I look at scriptures about Jesus trying to "get away" to recoup, regroup, and reload, I see that they found him every time. When He went to refresh, they found Him and wanted His attention to their needs right away. What about Jesus' need to be alone with His Father? How did He cope with the constant demands?

As I sit on this mountain, trying to get away from the

stress and the mess, I realize that my phone and computer aren't always my friends. People text, call, and email me about things they'd like me to do or take care of when I return. I think they must not realize that a growing "to do" pile is stressful. My personality says, "If it needs done, don't wait, do it now." I don't want to be thinking about the many things I have to do upon my return. So,

here's a new saying that I coined today:

"I am frantically trying to relax."

Pastors, I don't think relaxation was designed to be something we have to work so hard to get. Jesus said come to Him when we're weary and loaded down and He would give us rest. I can't help but realized that he had the (continued on page 3)

SEE A NEED PLANT A SEED

An inspiration to have a well drilled for a village in Africa became a reality. Mary Kitts who attends Atkins First Church of God, saw on TV little children having to drink dirty murky water and God spoke to her heart about doing something to help. She had a desire to do a memorial for her deceased daughter. Gladys. Wording is in French and it is wording taken from John 4:13-14. Erin Rockhill, head of Global Missions in Anderson was contacted. She advised of two places

that wells were needed. The one chosen was the place that had no water in the entire village and later found out no church either. Sister Rockhill put us in touch with Larry & LeAnn Sellers, missionaries in the Cote d'Ivoire area who in turn started the process of getting water for this village. Pastor Soukalo said the village of Sokora has about 980 adults and at least three times as many children. So we can assume that the well will easily be serving 4 to 5000 persons daily with

fresh drinking water, not to mention many animals as well. But thank God on June 7, 2015 we received an email from Larry Sellers of the dedication service along with photos from LeAnn. God is so good. Keep in mind Bro. & Sister Sellers took on this extra work and it cost them a lot of time and energy to see the project through. God bless these people. The next seed to plant is a worship (building) place for this village people to come together to find Jesus. Will you help?



Available Pulpit Supply

Dr. Gene Miller
Gate City, VA
(276) 690-2368

Gary Campbell
Chilhowie, VA
(276) 759-2821

Karla Campbell
Chilhowie, VA
(276)759-2825

Trevor Belcher
Bristol, VA
(276) 669-2319

Ben Stultz
Reedville, VA
804) 453-6647

William Watson
Saltville, VA
(276) 496-9196

Robert Buckles
Roanoke, VA
276-701-5173

Joynes Road Church of God to Celebrate

FALL REVIVAL – October 21-23, 2015 @ 7:30 p.m., nightly

FAMILY AND FRIENDS' DAY – October 25, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m

Rev. Johnson is a native of Buffalo, New York. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY) with an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology. Rev Johnson completed her graduate studies at Howard University School of Divinity, where she was awarded several scholarships and received the Master of Divinity Degree. Rev. Johnson is a distinguished minister with the Church of God, with its headquarters in Anderson, Indiana. She has served the church locally and nationally. For two years, she was Associate Pastor of the Community Church of God in Glen Burnie, Maryland and served the same church as Interim Pastor for five years. She served as Assistant Treasurer, followed by six years as Treasurer of the National

Inspirational Youth Convention of the Church of God, Chaired the Chesapeake-Delaware-Potomac (CDP) Education Committee, and served two conservative terms on CDP Credentials Committee.

Rev. Johnson was the Director of the Safe Haven Program, a ministry for individuals who are mentally ill and homeless in Washington, DC. She is currently the Director of Women's Shelter for New Hope Ministries, Inc., overseeing two shelters with two hundred homeless women. Rev. Johnson is ecumenical in sharing her gifts with the entire body of Christ. She continues to make herself available through her Evangelistic Ministry. This Ministry has afforded her the opportunity to minister throughout the United States and Canada.

Rev. Johnson is on the Board of Directors of the African Heritage Cultural Institute of America. She is Associate Pastor at Ark Ministries Church of God in Fredericksburg, VA under Pastors Cynthia and James Arkord.

Rev. Johnson recognizes that she has been extremely blessed and seeks every opportunity to share with others. She realizes that God has provided spiritual gifts to be used for the work of the Kingdom and provides opportunities to utilize those gifts. As Rev. Johnson would admit "I'm blessed!" and I give God all the 'glory and praise, with an 'attitude of gratitude!!"

One of Rev. Johnson favorite scriptures is Psalm 27, which inspires her as she seeks to please the lord "DAILY".



Rev. Alberta Regina Johnson

FRANTICALLY TRYING TO RELAX (cont.)

same problem that we do. How do we lay down our pastoral burdens in order to spend valuable time with our wives, with the word, and with our own thoughts?

I think it would be interesting if several of you sent one-paragraph answers (not three page sermons) to share how you "get-apart" to refresh and relax. I realize that the reason Jesus calls us to come to Him for rest is that we re-charge in order to go back into those whitened fields to work. Even the

early farmers who worked all the time knew the value of a good night's sleep.

Some of you men and women are doing too much. You've assumed duties that you should delegate to faithful men and women. You've slowed down on equipping the saints for their ministries because you are doing it all yourselves. You're headed for a stroke, nervous breakdown, heart attack, or even an early death. I am one of you.

Another point: Sometimes it's easier to do it yourself, rather than clean up the mess left by someone else who was supposed to do it. Anybody identify with that? Write me and give your suggestions and insights. Remember: just one reasonable paragraph.

How do I make time for refreshing? How do I know I'm doing too much? How do I know that I need the help of my loving, faithful laity? How do I let them know I need them?

Roanoke FCOG Plans Missions Trip – And Desires Our Participation

First Church of God in Roanoke is coordinating a mission trip to Wounded Knee in the summer of 2016. We would like to invite all churches to be a part of this worthwhile project. If your church would be interested in participating and you have

a church bus that we could take, it would be much less expensive than chartering a bus. The dates available are July 1-9 and July 24-30. We would be happy to visit your church and do a presentation of past mission trips and discuss

costs, fund raising and projects we will be doing. Please contact Bunny Harris at mharris3491@yahoo.com or telephone 540-366-4076, or Judy Jones at JUDITHJONESS@AOL.COM.

Community Participation a Plan to Reach Hampton Community

What a delight it was for me to worship and fellowship with the Joynes Road Church of God family on Sunday, July 19! Pastor Green's kind invitation was the result of numerous conversations and chance meetings at community events, as well as one lengthy conversation in the Pastor's office. Pastor Green took the time to meet with me and educate me about the Joynes Road Church of God, its history and its congregation. He shared his vision for the church to become more engaged in its community and his own personal desire to make a difference here in Hampton. He listened with interest about the history of our school division's "faith and school partnership" and the work the faith community is doing to support our schools and our students. By the end of our first formal meeting, I knew that I had made a new and valued friend, and I

was confident that Joynes Road Church of God would become a valued partner to Aberdeen Elementary School. Following my meeting with Pastor Green and prior to my visit for worship, I connected Pastor Green with Aberdeen Elementary Principal Karla Young and Aberdeen BASE coordinator Erica Knight. He wasted no time in establishing meetings and beginning a relationship with the school and its leaders, and he extended his warm welcome to Karla and Erica to join in worship and fellowship. It has been my joy to participate in meetings, events and worship in numerous houses of faith in our community over the years as Director of Community and Legislative Relations for Hampton City Schools. I have often been inspired and uplifted by the willingness of our community of faith to endeavor to meet the needs of our schools and

our children. I have always been humbled by the warm welcomes I have received. Never have I been welcomed more warmly or treated with such great care and kindness than at Joynes Road! Thank you. Thank you also for the many things I know you will do in this new relationship with Aberdeen Elementary. Imagine how valued our teachers will feel when you treat them to a back to school lunch on September 4! Imagine the possibilities as you begin to explore other opportunities for collaboration throughout the year! Just imagine how our Aberdeen students will feel as they witness the Joynes Road family pouring its time and talents into their educational experiences, their lives, and their futures!

Ann S. Bane Community and Legislative Relations Hampton City Schools

Mary Kitts and Peggy Moore Receive Gratitude for Missions Work

(The following is a portion of an email thanking Peggy Moore and Mary Kitts for their generosity in Cote 'd Ivoire)

Hi Peggy and Mary,

I just returned from the service at Sandre Soukora (I think that this is the correct spelling) around 8pm this evening. We left yesterday evening and drove part of the way, spending the night in the city of Bouake. Then we got up early and traveled 5 hours to get to the village which is literally at the end of the road. We drove on a poor dirt road the last 2 hours through jungle, forest and savannah and between giant rock mountains to get to this remote village, arriving at 9:30am to a large crowd gathered under branches on poles to hold back the hot sun. This is the first time a church service had been held in this village, as our church is actually located in the neighboring village. Many people from both villages were present to witness this special event, including some Muslim leaders and some government officials and three village chiefs. I estimate that at least 150 to 200 adults were present with countless numbers of children running around. It started with lively singing and dancing in true African exuberance. Then I was asked to preach. I based my message on John 4: 7-15, including the passage that you had put on the plaque because many of those present were not

believers and had probably never heard the Gospel, I used this passage to help them understand that God not only wants them to have clean drinking water but also the Living Water that Jesus came to give us for the eternal salvation of our souls. At the end of the message several persons prayed to receive Christ. Then I was asked to do the dedication of the well. I explained how Mary had contacted the Global Missions office in Anderson about helping to drill a well in memory of her daughter Gladys so that others' lives might be blessed by Gladys' life even after her passing. I shared how this information had come to us at just the right time, when we had received a request to put in a well in this village, but had no means to do so. At just the right time, we received your enquiry, when the people of Sandre Soukoura had despaired of ever getting a well. I explained to them that you had send a plaque to be put on the well, but it had not arrived from Abidjan in time to bring with me. But I read to them what would be written on the plaque and said that as soon as we receive the plaque, I will make sure that it goes to Pastor Soukalo who will personally bring it to the village and make sure that it gets put up at the site. We went up to

the well and I had the local village, church and government leaders put their hand on the wall around the well. Then I had Pastor Soukalo pray the prayer of dedication. Then we had the top government official to open the gate and pump the first bucket of water using the new pump. Everyone was clapping and excited about this great moment.

Thanks again for making all of this possible. The local leaders and government officials told me many times to be sure and express their deep appreciation to you. I was especially touched by one older grandmother who came to me several times and said "Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you" many times while holding my hand up in the air and dancing a jig of joy in typical African delight. I am sure that she has had to walk many, many times and many miles to go to a neighboring village to get water when available and then carry it back on her head so that she could have water for her family and to cook with. Now she only has to walk about 20 or 30 feet to get fresh clean water whenever she needs it. She was overjoyed even though our ability to communicate with each other was limited.

Blessings and
Appreciation to you both,
Larry Sellers



Clean Water for the Community



Clean Water Draws a Crowd

Top 10 Reasons to Go to Family Camp By David Ansley



Rev. David Ansley

10: Family camp is for the whole family!

In 2014 CHOG Ministries urged everyone to make plans to participate in a state/regional camp meeting which have ministry activities and opportunities for youth and children. COGVA Family Camp offers such through the ministry of the Youth evangelist, the Children's evangelist, and nursery for evening worship services. Make plans now for next year's Family Camp, July 31 - August 6, and spend the week camping out on the mountain!

9: It's fun!

Okay, this one's from my kids. We spend the week in a cabin (or hogan if you will), and part of the fun is staying in the cabin. They also have fun swimming, swinging, playing games, playing ping pong, playing basketball, and at camp fire time.

8: Home-cooked meals.

Volunteers, mostly from the Abingdon congregation, serve up some delicious meals, from breakfast Monday through Saturday lunch. They are assisted by other volunteers, and one afternoon by Dr. Bob Neace when he makes his trademark chicken and dumplings.

7: Fellowship.

Whether around the table, on the porch, in the book tent, or outside the

tabernacle after the worship service, there are multiple opportunities for fellowship. Sure we can get snapshots of one another's lives through social media, but at Family Camp we get the opportunity to have real dialogue with one another, face to face. We have the opportunity to renew friendships, really listen to one another's concerns and trials, pray, share memories and laugh.

6: Men's ministry.

In case you missed it, Men's Ministry in COGVA is back! We learned about being Godly examples to youth in our congregations. We exhorted one another to serve together in COGVA, particularly in working together on finishing projects at Camp Bedford and Camp Christi. We laughed together a bit too.

5: Women's ministry.

According to my wife, CWC ministry during Family Camp gives women the opportunity to fellowship with one another, hear about missionaries around the world and locally, and enjoy some world-famous hot dogs! It also gives women the opportunity to support those missionaries by making and selling home-made crafts and baked goods. And the Friday night entertainment is not to be missed!

4: Experiencing Unity.

At Family Camp unity is more than just a topic of conversation, it is lived out. Unity is experienced as all of us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, eat with one another, talk with one another, learn with one another, pray with one another, and worship with one another. In other words, we experience the "bond of perfectness" which unites our hearts together into this community called COGVA.

3: Worshipping God.

The music and singing were great but do not constitute all of what worshipping God is about. We worshipped God at Family Camp by responding to His call to gather together, and coming before the Holy and Almighty God, bowing before Him and submitting to His will. We worshipped God by praising God, praying to God, hearing from God through the preaching of His Word, and responding to how we heard the Holy Spirit speaking. One of the most memorable acts of worship is seeing brothers and sisters going to the altar, responding to what God has spoken to them during worship.

2: Growing as Disciples.

This one also came from my kids. Whether it (Continued on page 10)

" Unity is experienced as all of us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, eat with one another, talk with one another, learn with one another, pray with one another, and worship with one another."

COGVA Budget

August 1, 2014 - July 31, 2015

Categories	Budget	8/1/2015
1000 STATE OFFICE		
1100 Business Office	\$3,800.00	
Postage		
Telephone		\$48.77
Internet		\$36.00
Office Supplies		\$32.98
Office (Word)		
New Website and Domain		
Accounting (taxes)		
Yearbook		
Computer AntiVirus		
Safe Deposit Box Fee		
Credit Card Finance Charge		
1200 Insurance	\$14,800.00	
Property		
W/C		
Special Risk		
Van/Camp Christi		
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$1,203.12
1400 Income Taxes and Social Security	\$3,320.00	
Federal		\$293.34
SUBTOTAL	\$36,357.50	
2000 STATE MINISTER		
2100 Salary Package (Salary, House, Etc.)	\$9,000.00	\$750.00
Pension Contribution	\$450.00	
2200 Travel & Expenses	\$4,000.00	
2300 Expenses for National Meetings	\$2,600.00	
SUBTOTAL	\$16,050.00	
3000 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/STANDING MINISTRIES		
3100 Executive Board	\$1,000.00	
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$300.00	
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$75.00	\$36.75
3400 Ministry of Evangelism	\$50.00	

3600 Ministry of Program	\$2,000.00	
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$100.00	
3900 Church Property Team	\$75.00	
SUBTOTAL	\$3,600.00	
5000 PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE		
5110 Camp Bedford		
5110 Caretaker		
Health Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$416.67
	\$840.00	\$70.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)		
Capital Improvements	\$1,000.00	
Vehicle Maintenance	\$750.00	
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$300.00	
	\$500.00	
5140 Utilities		
Power	\$6,000.00	
Propane		\$227.40
Telephone		\$55.00
		\$40.69
SUBTOTAL		
	\$14,390.00	
5200 Camp Christi		
5210 Caretaker		
5220 Health Insurance	\$26,565.12	\$2,213.76
	\$7,000.00	
5250 Utilities		
Power	\$14,000.00	
Water		\$1,717.41
Propane		\$269.71
5260 Maintenance		
Camp Christi Mkt/Advertising	\$4,000.00	
5270 Capital Improvements	\$500.00	
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$750.00	
5300 Legal Fees	\$500.00	
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$400.00	
Christmas Bonus	\$300.00	
SUBTOTAL	\$1,300.00	
	\$55,315.12	
TOTAL		
	\$125,712.62	
Total Expenses to Date		\$7,411.00
Total Income for Each Month		\$4,724.49
Difference between Expenses and Income		(\$2,687.11)

Mark Your Calendars

Revival – 21st CHOG - Richmond

September 13 – 15
 Sunday _ 11:00 and 4:00,
 & Monday – Tuesday at
 7:00 pm Evangelist – Rev.
 Alberta Regina Johnson

Reformation Renewal Rally – Abingdon FCOG
 Rev. Bobby Dunn
 preaching September 20
 @ 6:00 pm and Monday
 @7:00 pm, Rev. Kenny
 Howard preaching Tue -
 Wed @ 7:00 each night.

Revival – Joynes Road CHOG Hampton October
 21-23 @7:30 nightly and
 Friend's Day October 25
 @ 11:00 am Evangelist –
 Rev. Alberta Regina
 Johnson

Fall Minister's Gathering
 October 30-31, Abingdon
 FCOG Host Congregation,
 Resource Leader
 scheduled - Jim Lyon,
 General Director for
 Church of God Ministries,
 Hotel Info: Quality inn &
 Suites, 930 E Main Street
 I-81 & Highway 58,
 Abingdon, VA 24210
 Phone 276-676-9090
 Rates – \$88.00 + tax per

night (Must ask for Church
 of God in Virginia for this
 rate)

Holiday Inn 940 East
 Main, Abingdon, VA
 24210 Phone: 267-676-
 2829 Rates – 128.00 + tax
 per night

C.W.C./W.C.G.

Western Region
 Luncheon – October 24 –
 Details pending

Central Luncheon
 Saturday, November 14,
 Roanoker Restaurant,
 Speaker T.B.A.



Christiansburg 125 Year Anniversary (cont.)

with a series of heritage hymns and traveled through time to our modern worship setting, celebrating and praising God while remembering each era. The sound coming from the congregation while they sang each song was overwhelming! As I stood on the platform with the worship team, it was impossible to not become emotional in worship with the voices and hands being lifted up praising our God this morning!

As we traveled through time with our music selections, a history of the church was shared, and each Pastor was

recognized for his or her service to the church. Each former Pastor, along with a former Pastor's spouse, Jonette Savage, were invited to share reflections of their time in Christiansburg, focusing on how God shaped their ministry and blessed them and the congregation while they served together.

At the conclusion of an incredible time of worship, the congregation gathered in our fellowship hall to break bread together. Everyone had a wonderful time visiting. We also gathered items from our current congregation and a few from those who have moved on to place in a

new time capsule, to be opened in 25 years. We are placing several of the original items back in to the time capsule along with the new pieces to symbolize the unity of God's church for 125 years.

The congregation of the First Church of God in Christiansburg has been blessed by God from its inception. We look forward to continuing on in our journey of faith for years to come, making disciples, equipping for ministry, and transforming the culture of Christiansburg in the name of Jesus! Praise His holy name!



Praying Prior Service

Church of God in Virginia

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.cogva.com

Top Ten Reasons to go to Family Camp (cont.)

is through the sermons of the preaching evangelist, the lessons of the teaching evangelist to the adults or the youth and children's evangelists to the youth and children, or the presentations in the CWC cottage, there are many opportunities to grow deeper as a disciple throughout the week.

1: Experiencing God!

Every aspect of family camp that has been described thus far can be said to be a way to experience God. But there is one more way to experience God at Family Camp. Paul said that creation itself is evidence of God. Coming up on the

mountain, seeing the beauty of the surrounding landscape, the morning mists, feeling (and appreciating!) the gentle breezes, hearing the rolling thunder, you experience God as Creator and are compelled to proclaim with the songwriter, "My God! How great Thou art!"

COGVA News Submission Guidelines

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 ultimately be submitted to the Executive Board of COGVA, the entity to which COGVA News holds itself accountable

CHURCH OF GOD IN VIRGINIA

4704 Roanoke Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073