

Table of Contents

Neace's Pieces 2

Steven Roby
Receives
Doctorate 3

Fincastle Lane
FCOG and
Genesis
Counseling Form
Partnership 4

Rev. Kyle Yates
Accepts Call to
Staunton
FCOG 5

VA C.W.C.
News 7

Men's
Fellowship
News 8

Be the Bridge 9

COGVA
Leadership
College 10

State Youth
Convention 11

COGVA Giving
Records 1

COGVA
Budget 13

COGVA Chair Offers 2022 Greetings



Rev. Silas Oliver
COGVA State Chair

My brothers and sisters, we have survived a tumultuous year, by the grace of God. We have experienced the ups and downs associated with personal and congregational life. God has been faithful as we trust Him to be in this new year. The events of this past year are yet with us as we grieve the passing of significant COGVA members. His grace has always been significant enough to hold us steady during turbulent times. The hymnwriter reminds us that "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; we dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

So, we pray that the faithfulness of God will continue to live as described by His character and that is His immutability, the same yesterday, today and forever. We have suffered loss both numerically and financially. As we continue to pray for all of us who have suffered loss, please be reminded of the faithfulness of God. Financially, we thank you for your support even when your local congregations have struggled. God will continue to provide.

As we anticipate this new year, please keep these thoughts in mind:

1) The Church is a light that is set upon a hill and cannot be hidden. We are tasked even in dark times to shine to the glory of God. Has your congregation been under attack? Are there times when you seem to be overwhelmed? Are the challenges greater than our God? "We have a hope that is brighter than the perfect day, God has given us His Spirit and we want the world to hear it, all our doubts are passed away."

2) Our goals of unity and service remains the same. We may consider different strategies, as we seek to maintain our central purpose of unity and service. Covid has changed our former strategies and we are **(Continued on page 5)**

Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace
COGVA State Minister

If you were to walk into a bookstore that purports itself to be a Christian establishment, it won't be long until you run across a plaque, knick-knack, or even a bumper sticker bearing the text of Jeremiah 29:

11. As a matter of fact, my guess is that you've seen it enough to know the text without taxing yourself too much to bring it to your mind's forefront. But, just in case, here it is: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

This verse offers hope, but taken alone, it offers a hope without accountability for earlier and current behavior. As Jeremiah penned these words. We must remember the context in which he wrote. This offer of hope was being broadcast to those of a future generation on a national scale, and not necessarily to specific individuals within the generation who was receiving this message so often taken out of context. Look at verse four of the same chapter. "Thus says the LORD, of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon." A few things strike me as I read the text. One is the authorship of the letter Jeremiah is tasked with writing.

God Himself! The One who, throughout Israel's history, continued to seek a relationship, only to watch as they spent their time in rebellion toward God. It is understood that the great plan of salvation would be brought about through the cross, and forgiveness of sin would be proffered there, but building to that moment in time God had ordained before the foundations of the world, this nation chosen by God to be a blessing to all nations, continued to reject the God who loved them so. But it was God Himself who inspired Jeremiah to write this missive to the people of his generation. A second observation comes in the same verse. God took ownership of that which had befallen the nation. Verses like these passages cause me pause and, at the risk of stepping into a theological quagmire, I do believe that God does orchestrate certain judgments. This is a case in point. Understand that I do not adhere to a teaching that mandates all things bad have God as their author, but please note, character and behavior, both bad and good, carry consequences. Throughout Jeremiah's ministry, he continues to call a backslidden nation to a right relationship with God. They have, not only rejected the preaching of Jeremiah, but they have also looked to silence him by exiling him and threatening his life numerous times. One might even use the modern-day term of cancelling him.

Throughout Jeremiah's ministry, he has warned them of the judgment in which they now find themselves. The Babylonian captivity he prophesied has

(Continued on page 5)



Steven R. Roby receives a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.)

Steven R. Roby received a Doctorate of Ministry (Dmin.) from Southeastern Baptist Theology Seminary in December, 2021. Congratulations Dr. Pastor Steve!



Dr. Steve Roby and wife Lisa

This effort was a real struggle for Steve because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Roby is an Army Reserve Chaplain and because of this, he was called up to active duty early within the year 2020. This meant he was not only the fulltime Lead Pastor of Water's Edge Church of God in Virginia Beach but then he was also in full time service as a chaplain within the U.S.A. Army. He was also in the middle of his study and process of completing the requirements to his Doctoral program. Of course, he is also a full-time father and husband. The other Elders stepped up and take on more of the responsibility of

serving the congregation. We never missed a beat.

Actually, the Army was so impressed with the leadership of the congregation that they awarded the elders the Patriotic Employer award for "Contributing to the National Security and Protecting Liberty and Freedom by Supporting Employee Participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force". Each of the elders received an official plaque stating such.

During this 18 months of Active Service, Chaplain Roby was deployed out of state for several months at a time. This significantly slowed down his progress in earning his Doctorate and therefore, delayed his graduation by about one year.

One of the fine things Water's Edge Church does is after a staff pastor has been serving the church full time for 7 years, he is awarded a mandatory two-month Sabbatical paid for by the congregation. Steve Roby came off Active Duty at the end of September and was on Sabbatical for the next two months.

Dr. Roby did not get his diploma just for himself. Much of the time during the process of receiving his degree was developing his Ministry Project. It is titled, The Design of a Strategy for Membership Accountability at Water's Edge Church, Virginia Beach, VA. The Congregation committed, even before the start of the pandemic, to roll out effective church membership.

Upon return from his sabbatical, Dr. Roby said, "I am very humbled and very thankful for this church's diligence in allowing me to do that. I am beyond thankful and want to verbally express
(Continued on page 6)

Fincastle Lane FCOG and Genesis Counseling Form



Partnership

Meeting Needs with Christian Counseling

We live in a time when our lives are being turned upside down by the pandemic, the economy, the challenge of sin, and many other obstacles. Genesis Counseling Center, along with Fincastle Lane First Church of God in Bluefield, VA. has recognized the need for encouragement and support in the Bluefield, Virginia/West Virginia area.

The need for individuals to be able to find Godly direction, guidance, and healing is such a vital part of an individual's need to receive healing, hope, strength, and mercy in our present moment.

Pastor Perry Blankenship has taken an active role with Genesis Counseling Center to establish the presence of Christian Therapy in the Bluefield area. This partnership between Fincastle Lane First Church of God and Genesis Counseling Center will seek to connect with local businesses, schools, first responders, individuals, and other service providers who are willing to help them meet the demand for the mental health needs of this community and surrounding areas.

Genesis Counseling Center along with

Pastor Perry Blankenship has already established a working relationship with Bluefield University and is currently working to establish a



working relationship with Tazewell County Schools. This is only the beginning of what is to come in the two Virginias here in the Bluefield area! There is no doubt the need is great, but we know that through the power of God's leading and this new established service, the need will be met with love, compassion, understanding, and dedication. We hope that this partnership will not only grow in the Bluefield area but will one day grow into other surrounding locations.

People are hurting and they are looking for a place where they can find hope, peace, and freedom. I believe that this partnership will provide a safe place where healing and transformation will change lives. We are ready to help others share the burdens of life and find a partner in their journey as they navigate through the healing process and find total victory through the power of God. We look forward to seeing new opportunities for therapist and other staff members in the near future as this partnership expands and grows under the direction of the Holy Spirit and through the power of prayers. Genesis Counseling Center has proven to be an amazing place for God's work to thrive and for healing to take place.

Rev. Kyle Yates Accepts Call to Staunton FCOG



Rev. Kyle, Kaleb, and Kylie Yates

The First Church of God in Staunton, Virginia is excited to announce the call of Pastor Kyle Yates as our Sr. Pastor. He will begin with us early January! The Staunton church began the pastoral search process in April 2021 and began conversations with Pastor Yates in May. The church extended a call to him in October! We are looking forward to beginning this journey with him as Sr. Pastor.

Pastor Kyle Yates, his wife Kylie and two-year old son Kaleb come to us from Brookville, PA. Pastor Yates served as Sr. Pastor at the Scotland Ave Church of God in Punxsutawney, PA for eight years. Prior to his tenure at Scotland Ave Church of God, he served in pastoral roles with the Free Methodists for two and one-half years. Pastor Yates graduated from Warner University in 2009. His major was Church Ministries with concentration in Pastoral Studies; his minor was Communication with concentration in Photography. He has continued education with the Anderson CARE initiative, S.H.A.P.E Cluster Group and ISL-Doctoral Tract. He was licensed and ordained with the Church of God in 2015. He has also taken courses with the Anderson University School of Theology.

Along with his call and heart's desire of ministry and teaching/preaching God's Word, he is a multi-award-winning photographer. He has vast experience in the photography field and has received over 280 awards! As he has captured many beautiful moments through his camera eye of the lives of people, places and landscapes, he has captured God's call and the hearts of the Staunton church. We look forward to his leadership and serving with us! We will celebrate his coming to Staunton in an installation service on January 30 (snow date Feb. 6)! We appreciate your prayers as the Yates family make the transition from PA to VA!

Sylvia McDorman, Elder Board
Chairperson



(Message from COGVA Chair, continued) forced to consider other ways of ministry. May God be with us in the process.

3) Finally, we continue to pray one for another that we may be strengthened in our resolve to be the church.

Someone once said, "The church moves best on its knees". I am convinced that during times of challenge, the people of God respond by constant prayer to a Mighty God who is always available to hear the cry of His children.

Be blessed as we anticipate an awesome year in the Lord.

Rev. Silas Oliver, Jr. State Chair

(Neace's Pieces, continued)

has begun in earnest. Among those yet speaking in Jeremiah's day were those who helped to usher in this great calamity. Those who God declared to be liars. They spoke in His behalf without having truly heard from Him. God warned of continuing to listen to those who do not know Him, and yet, presume to speak on His behalf. The true prophet, speaking "Thus says the Lord..." tells the folks to settle in, build houses, plant gardens and vineyards, and establish families so that when the seventy years were up, there would be a nation prepared to receive the blessing found in verses 10-14.

Continuing with this part of Jeremiah's narrative, we find that, after the promise of a future for the nation of Israel, God reminds them their calamity has come because of disobedience to Him, rejection of His attempts at relationship with them, and their willingness to hear only that which pleases themselves.

During the seventy years, there would be the temptation to continue listening to those who had not heard from God. The

Lord, in His writing through Jeremiah, warns against that temptation and challenges those living in the Babylonian captivity to maintain faith and confidence in Him. As they remained faithful to Him, He would indeed see them through their dark national crisis and bring them a bright future.

When reading verses we intend to be consumed on our own selfishness, we need to be cautioned to read scripture in full context, and knowing that, as with this text of Jeremiah 29:11, with great promise comes great responsibility. Let's rise to that challenge.

(Steve Roby, continued) my gratitude to this church's diligence in having that policy in place. It was a wonderful much needed, providential time in my life coming off a year and a half of being called to active duty in the military serving that full time in my role as a chaplain and also serving here on Sundays when I could be here and also completing my doctoral project in the process."

The elders of Water's Edge Church were not concerned about our lead pastor being away from the congregation and having essentially no contact with the church for two months. We have been planning on it for years. The elders stepped up and preached every Sunday. We did not even have any guest speakers as we worked through an 8-week sermon series of the book of Ruth.

We encourage other congregations within The Church of God in Virginia to have effective elders and to implement their own 7th Year Sabbatical policy. Larry W. Ebinger – Elder, Water's Edge Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia

**VA Christian Women Connection
Zoom Meeting**

THEME: "NEW BEGINNINGS!"

**January 20, 2022
7:30 p.m.**



Dr. JoAnn Hearvey

**Celebration Church @ Arrow Heights COG
Anderson, IN**

Pastor: Rev. Handel O. Smith

**ALL are invited!
For Zoom information
Contact: Dr. Velma L. Green
velma.green@comcast.net or (804) 586-9463**





February 5,
2022 10:00 am
**Second On-Line
Gathering of 2022!**

Each man in the Church of God in Virginia is encouraged to take part in the activities of the COGVA Men's Fellowship.

Topic: COGVA Men's Fellowship

Time: Feb 5, 2022 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join us on ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81724827237>

Join us by phone: +13017158592, Meeting ID:,81724827237



*Dr. Simeon R. Green III COGVA
Christian Men's Fellowship
President*



*Dr. Perry Blankenship COGVA
Christian Men's Fellowship
Vice-President*

COGVA Continues Second Opportunity for “Be the Bridge” Discussion Next session January 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm



Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III

Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III will be hosting and leading the “Be the Bridge” dialogue each second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The ZOOM Link for this series of gatherings is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552173879> or you may dial in
1-301-715-8592

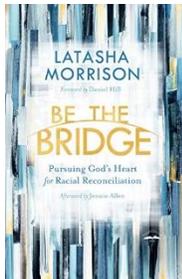
Meeting ID – 82552173879

Passcode - 034680#

Curriculum for these meetings is the same as it was for the first gathering of the Be the Bridge. Each person is asked to read the book, Be the Bridge, Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation” by Latasha Morrison, as well as download the study guide from the site:

<https://shop.bethebridge.com/products/the-bridge-to-racial-unity-discussion-guide-2-0>

This opportunity is for those who have not previously been a part of this conversation and is a great resource for being able to broach the subject of racial reconciliation that is so desperately needed in our time.



This book can be purchased from the website for Be the Bridge, but can also be purchased from numerous local bookstores, as well as online sites such as the following:

www.discoverbooks.com

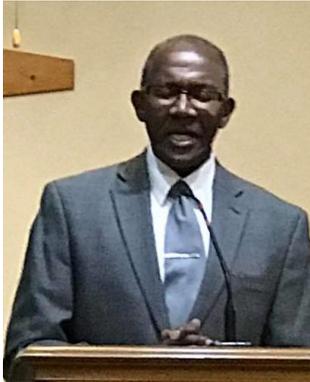
www.thriftbooks.com

www.christianbook.com

COGVA LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

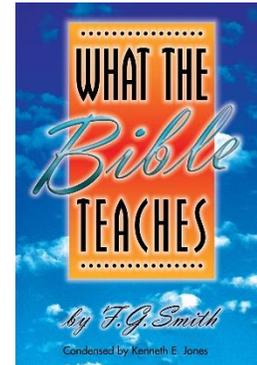
Will meet via ZOOM until further notice each Second Saturday monthly at 900:am. The link or call in opportunities can be found highlighted at the end of this flyer

The books being studied for the Fall Semester are:



Taught by
Rev. Calvin Peterson

What the Bible Teaches
By F. G. Smith

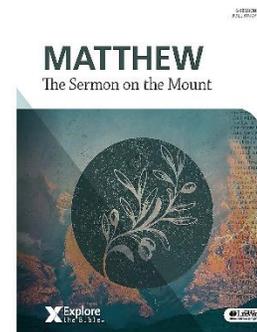


Taught by
Rev. Silas Oliver

The Master Plan of Evangelism 2nd Edition by Dr. Robert E. Coleman

Each student is responsible for purchasing their own books and here is an added blessing:

There will be no tuition for this school year.



Regular dates for COGVA Leadership School are every month on the Second Saturday of each month

Robert Neace is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Leadership College

Time: February 12, 9:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Sat,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86369201873?pwd=OXI2c1loQTZDM0w4RUYxR2I2UzBpQT09>

Dial by local number:

1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 863 6920 1873

Passcode: 933218



"AND THIS IS THE VICTORY
THAT HAS OVERCOME THE
WORLD... OUR FAITH"
1ST JOHN 5:4



Speaker
Jed Worline

**Virginia State Youth Convention
2022**

March 11-13, 2022

**Holiday Inn Conference Center
Staunton**



**Dalton
Bishop**

Worship Leader

\$99 Early Bird Reg.

Postmarked by Dec. 15th

\$109 Early Reg.

Postmarked by Jan. 31st

\$129 At the Door

Send in \$50 Deposit to Lock-in Rate

(Balance Due Jan. 31st)

Registrations can be printed at cog-
va.com

Contact COGVA at 540-268-2040

BEHOLD!!! There are still some scholarships available!!!; Make sure to register and if you have questions, please call Rev. Scott Stedman at 540-290-4310. All registration information can be printed from <https://www.cogva.com/registration-info>



Church of God Virginia

News Jan. 2022

Volume 10 Issue 3

CHURCH
OF GOD

COGVA Giving Records Aug. 1, 2021 - Dec. 31 2022						
Churches	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Abingdon	\$200.00		\$438.00	\$404.15	\$313.00	\$1,355.15
Atkins						\$0.00
Big Stone Gap						\$0.00
Birdsnest						\$0.00
Blacksburg First			\$600.00			\$600.00
Blacksburg Slussers	\$83.33	\$83.33	\$83.33	\$83.33	\$83.33	\$416.65
Bluefield						\$0.00
Boones Mill	\$22.00					\$22.00
Boykins					\$500.00	\$500.00
Bristol						\$0.00
Chesapeake	\$22.00					\$22.00
Chilhowie	\$221.34	\$341.57	\$208.41	\$288.37	\$350.54	\$1,410.23
Christiansburg	\$589.11	\$582.87	\$523.45	\$1,553.66	\$700.73	\$3,949.82
Cloverdale	\$22.00					\$22.00
Dublin						\$0.00
Emporia						\$0.00
Fredericksburg		\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Glade Spring						\$0.00
Goodview	\$22.00					\$22.00
Hampton Joynes Road	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00		\$500.00
Lynchburg Greenview		\$172.30		\$293.21	\$133.36	\$598.87
Lynchburg Mtn View				\$630.00		\$630.00
Marion				\$875.00		\$875.00
Martinsville						\$0.00
Newport News First 20th Street						\$0.00
Newport News First Randolph Road						\$0.00
Norfolk Bellamy Ave	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$1,020.00
North Tazewell						\$0.00
Norton	\$397.56	\$291.25	\$313.50	\$352.68	\$287.94	\$1,642.93
Reedville			\$1,225.00			\$1,225.00
Rich Creek						\$0.00
Richmond First			\$1,997.87			\$1,997.87
Richmond 21st	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Roanoke First		\$805.50		\$703.81		\$1,509.31



Church of God Virginia

News Jan. 2022

Volume 10 Issue 3

CHURCH
OF GOD

Roanoke Staunton Ave	\$22.00					\$22.00
Rural Retreat	\$142.50	\$251.04	\$141.96	\$241.32	\$156.42	\$933.24
Salem						\$0.00
Saltville Broadford	\$150.00				\$150.00	\$300.00
Saltville Chatham Hill	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$125.00
Saltville Allison Gap		\$165.28	\$188.26	\$165.47	\$237.13	\$756.14
Saltville MntView						\$0.00
Spotsylvania				\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Staunton	\$322.55		\$448.28	\$283.46	\$252.68	\$1,306.97
Suffolk						\$0.00
Virginia beach	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
Wise		\$1,860.00		\$1,400.00		\$3,260.00
Wytheville	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$950.00
Faithlife						\$0.00
Brotherhood Mutual Refund			\$290.00			\$290.00
Credit Card Cashback	\$110.00			\$27.50		\$137.50
Individual Donation						\$0.00
Totals	\$3,445.39	\$7,172.14	\$7,377.06	\$9,320.96	\$5,484.13	\$32,799.68

COGVA Budget August 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022			
		Aug-Oct	Nov-Jan
Categories	Budget	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr
		Expenses	Expenses
1000 State Office			
1100 Business Office	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 859.55	\$ 665.98
1200 Insurance	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 3,496.75	\$ 3,718.75
1300 Office Manager	\$ 14,437.50	\$ 3,609.36	\$ 2,406.24
1400 Income Taxes	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 884.58	\$ 589.72
Subtotal	\$ 35,837.50	\$ 8,850.24	\$ 7,380.69
1500 Chair	\$ 400.00	\$ -	
2000 State Minister			
Salary	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Reimbursement Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 763.05	\$ 866.93
Subtotal	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 3,763.05	\$ 2,866.93
3000 Executive Board/Standing Ministries			



Church of God Virginia

News Jan. 2022

Volume 10 Issue 3

CHURCH
OF GOD

3100 Executive Board	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$ 800.00	\$ 84.64	\$ 13.36
3300 Ministry of Christian Education	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3600 Ministry of Program	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3800 Ministerial Fellowship	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
3900 Church Property Team	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 84.64	\$ 13.36
5000 Property and Maintenance			
5110 Camp Bedford			
5110 Caretaker	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 1,312.50	\$ 875.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Improvements	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
5140 Utilities	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 620.55	\$ 529.87
Subtotal	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 1,933.05	\$ 1,404.87
5200 Camp Christi			
5210 Caretaker	\$ 26,565.12	\$ 6,641.28	\$ 4,427.52
5220 Health Insurance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.01	\$ 833.34
5250 Utilities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,519.88	\$ 1,844.32
5260 Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
5270 Capital Improvements	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
5300 Legal Fees	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Bonus	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Subtotal	\$ 49,515.12	\$ 12,411.17	\$ 8,630.18
Total Expenses	\$ 111,802.62	\$ 27,042.15	\$ 20,296.03
Total Income		\$ 17,994.59	\$ 14,805.09
Kingdom B. Transfer for State Minister Salary		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Difference		\$ (6,047.56)	\$ (3,490.94)