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2024 Camp Meeting Taking Shape July 22-26



Ben Liston was saved under his father's ministry in February of 1998 and was called into the ministry at a young age. He began his ministry at the age of 14 in Monroe, OH. In 2011 Ben was called as worship pastor at the Tytus Avenue First Church of God in Middletown, Ohio. In May of 2016, Ben and his family were called to pastor the Stanton (Continued on page 9)



Pastor Cornelius N. Atkinson was installed as Senior Pastor of Wilson Heights First Church of God in Charlotte, NC in February 2004. Born in Brooklyn, NY, reared in New Haven, Ct., and then moved to Charlotte, NC in 1988. Pastor Atkinson earned a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Shaw University. Pastor Atkinson continued (Continued on page 9)

Greg Alexander grew up in a home that was centered on the Church and gospel music. His grandfather taught at the Stamps Baxter School of Music in the 1940's. His parents were singing in gospel quartets before he was born. It was only natural that gospel music would be his life.

As a young child Greg accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at a Church of God camp meeting in Craigsville, West Virginia.

Greg attended West Virginia University Institute of Technology and Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. He finally received his degrees in Music Industry and Music Education at WVU Tech in 1992. There, Greg met his wife and partner **Tammie**. They knew from the beginning they (Continued on page 3)





**Dr. Bob Neace COGVA
 State Minister**

Neace's Pieces

Almost ten years ago, dad passed into eternity. He had held unforgiveness toward several people throughout his life, and in his

last year, began to come to grips with the fact that unforgiveness toward others hinders a healthy relationship with Christ. There were some intense conversations about that. Some of which were very difficult to bear. My parents divorced after twenty years of marriage, and some of his bitterness stemmed from the events leading up to that situation. Just as it normally is, there was plenty of blame to go around, none of which bears bringing to light now.

In the last 48-24 hours of his life, I could not shake the notion I needed to have a conversation with my dad. He and I sat together as we dealt with his strongest issue of forgiveness involving my mother. For over forty years the mention of mom would set off an avalanche of bitterness barely rivaled in the people I know. It was a very intimidating thing to know I needed to address this issue one more time, knowing his days were short. In the conversation, I asked him if he thought it was time to let go of his bitterness and hatred and offer

forgiveness for the hurt he had incurred and ask for forgiveness for the hurt for which he was responsible. To my relief he said yes, and I made the phone call to mom I had earlier braced her to accept if it were to come. Over the next little while, a conversation was had my siblings and I had almost given up as hopeless.

My dad would pass away the next morning, free from the bitterness he had harbored for decades.

Today, I find myself in a similar season with my mother. For the last twelve months, my siblings and I have watched her health decline. In that year, I listened to her as she has shared private moments and memories that have haunted her for years. Some things of which resulted in her own harboring of anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness toward others, and that harboring has had repercussions on people with whom she is close. A few weeks ago, she and I had some very difficult conversations that resulted in her acknowledgement of her own unforgiveness for those who have hurt her, and her acknowledgement that there are those she has hurt. In that conversation, mom became repentant and prayed a prayer that could easily be one of the sincerest prayers of repentance I have heard in my ministry.

At this writing, mom is still with us on this side of eternity.

It is difficult to put these thoughts on paper. Some will say these are notes that probably should stay private in my own journal, **(Continued on page 3)**

(Neace's Pieces Continued) but I share these thoughts today with several veins of hope. Among them are the idea that no circumstance in which we find ourselves is without hope.

Dad waited until the final hours of his life to be freed of the imprisonment of such bitterness. Mom has enjoyed more of that freedom than he did, and I believe it is the grace of God that has allowed her the opportunity to hear and see things that have been blinded from her sight prior to repentance. Another reason for sharing these thoughts is to challenge each of us to be open to the Holy Spirit's leanings to have such conversations with anyone to whom we are directed at the time when we are prompted, and to develop that sense of discernment Paul speaks of when writing to the church at Corinth.

I, along with Shery, Charlie, and Larry, desire your prayers during this bittersweet season, trusting that, though late in life, their complete surrender for our parents to the will of God, will sustain us with the hope that we will spend eternity in heaven together.

(Greg and Tammie Alexander continued) were going to do ministry together. On the day they were married, they sang at a revival that night. Since then God has blessed their ministry together. They have worked together since their marriage in 1992.

In the year 2000 at a Walmart meeting in Bluefield, WV, Greg was asked by a regional manager "Why don't you sing

anymore?" Greg had stepped back from singing to produce and manage the Smoky Mountain Recording Company. Out of that conversation Eventide was born. Initially the members of Eventide were the demo singers for Planet Nashville's southern gospel soundtrack line, which was sold in Walmart and Christian bookstores nationwide. Soon they were singing at grand openings of Walmart stores. It didn't take long for Greg and Eventide to get back to singing in churches.

They have become known over the years as "Truth Singers". Eventide is now Greg and Tammie Alexander.

COGVA Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

Joynes Road Church of God

31 Joynes Road Hampton, VA
23666 Pulpit Committee Chair:
Dr. John Downing Jr.
jwdowning@bellsouth.net.

Anderson Church of God,

1075 Wagner Road, Bristol, VA 24201
Pulpit Committee Chair:
Diane Miller Mamaw24dm@gmail.com
276-791-1707

Tibitha Church of God,

991 Fleeton Road, Reedville, VA
22539 Pulpit Committee Chair: Roberta
Craig robertac@fmg.com 804-453-4750

Groseclose First Church of God

333 Citizens Road,
Rural Retreat, VA 24368
Pulpit Committee Chair: Mike Jones
276-920-1073



KIDS/YOUTH CAMP '24

June 10 -14

"And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed."

Ex. 3:2

"God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!'.....I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt....I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Ex. 3:4; 7; 10

Camp Christi

4704 ROANOKE ROAD,
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073

QUESTIONS??

CONTACT
REV. JEREMY DUNN
(COGVA CE CHAIR)

 jdunn413@gmail.com

 276 685 1314

"But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?' He said, 'But I will be with you....'"

Ex. 3:11-12

"Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them? And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Ex. 3:12-14

To download the entire registration packet, go to: <https://www.cogva.com/camp-2024>



Welcome Letter

Hello Friends!

I am so excited to share this information with you! It's that time to make plans for Youth Camp 2024! The dates are June 10th - 14th. In this letter you'll find some general information about the event and also how you might be able to help us out!

The theme that we have selected is from Exodus 3:14. Moses was led to a place where he finds a bush that was engulfed in flames but not burnt up. God called Moses to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt and from the hands of Pharaoh. What an incredible task! Moses asked, *"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh....."* (Ex. 3:11) We ask that same question, don't we? When God has a plan for our life, when He has something for us to do, we often start by asking *"why me?"* "Me" is the wrong starting position, like starting a marathon from six blocks behind the mark. It's not a matter of what we are being called to do, but a matter of WHO is calling us. God says to Moses, *"I AM has sent me to you"* (Ex. 3:15) and in that little sentence, God tells Moses all he needs to hear. The "I AM" is all he would need. God was directing Moses to keep his confidence in God. When God calls us with a task, He equips us for the task. We ought to start with Him.

This year, we will be joined by a Summer Camp Team from Ohio Christian University. They will be sending a group of students to serve as youth counselors. I am grateful for their help this year, and in the previous years. Such an event would not be possible without willing servants!

There are some ways that you can help! We are endeavoring to lower the cost of registration. Whether your church is planning to send kids or not, would you prayerfully consider a donation for COGVA Youth Fellowship? I often say this to my church, *"If ten people would give \$100....."* So, with that in mind, if 40 people in this massive state would give \$100, youth camp would be paid in full. Imagine what we can do together! For reference, read Acts 2:45. Would you prayerfully consider how you might be able to help curb this cost? Would you prayerfully consider how you might show your support for our youth and children in the state of Virginia?

I can't wait to see you there!

Proudly Serving Christ
Proudly Serving COGVA,

COGVA CE / Youth Fellowship



*Christian Women Connection
Annual Convention*

Focus - Stay the Course

April 19-20, 2024

Hosting Church

Richmond First Church of God
6517 Walmsley Blvd, Richmond, VA 23224
Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green, III - Pastor



Guest Speaker: **Rebecca Reynolds**
Motivator, Singer, Speaker & Teacher
Author of "Boy Momma" – Women's Bible Study

COST (Includes the luncheon)

Early Registration until April 4th—\$35.00
Late Registration starting April 5th—\$40.00

Mail registrations and names of attendees to:
Virginia Christian Women Connection
c/o Rosa Riddick
Financial/Stewardship Coordinator
P.O. Box 1415
Hampton, VA 23661

MENU

Chicken, Roast Beef, Country Style Green Beans,
Mashed Potato & Gravy, Roll, Fresh Salad, Variety of
Desserts, Iced Tea & Lemonade
**Vegetarian's Entrée request needs to be indicated when
registering.*

SCHEDULE

Friday Check-in begins at 4:00 pm
Evening Service - 6:00 pm
Saturday - Business Meeting—9:30 am
Worship Service—10:45 am

HOTELS

Super 8 by Wyndham
10300 Hull Street Road
Midlothian, VA 23112
(804) 276-3900
Christian Women Connection
Confirmation Number 86218EE020183
9 Double Rooms Blocked
\$98.00 per night w/taxes \$113.95
Cut-off date is 4/16/2024
Ask for Luis (Manager)

Super 8 by Wyndham
8260 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, VA
(877) 361-2508
Christian Women Connection
Reservations-reference Itinerary Number
5136B428087823
10 Double Rooms Blocked
\$96.30 (Friday Night) w/taxes \$111.96
\$97.20 (Saturday Night) w/taxes \$113.03
Cut-off date is 4/5/2024



The 4 Rs?

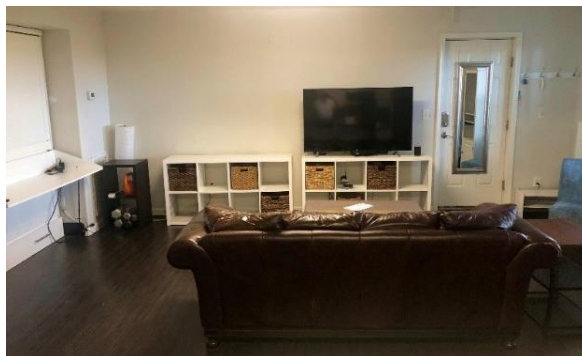
For the third year Larry and Peggy Ebinger are inviting Pastors and Missionaries to visit their home on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in southeastern Virginia. It is available for them to do the 4 Rs - Rest, Relaxation, Recreation, Renewal and Retreat. (OK, so that is 5 Rs.)

The apartment is fully furnished with a complete kitchen and bath. It has WIFI, its own central cooling and heating system, a big screen TV, off street parking and a private door which allows direct access to both the beach and the parking. They actually refer to it as a B&K (Bed and Kitchen). There will never be a charge for the use of this apartment. Last year it was used for about 6 months by a missionary couple in training. This month it has only been used for two long weekends but it will likely see greater use as the summer approaches.

If you are a missionary or pastor, you may make a reservation and/or get more information from Larry Ebinger at (757) 619-8091 or email him at LarryEbinger@gmail.com. The address of the apartment is 1542 Lea View Ave., Norfolk, Virginia 23503. Feel free to check out the location with Google Maps.



Kitchen



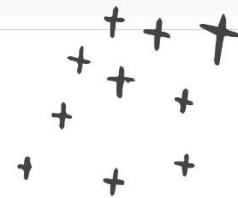
Living Area



Path 2 Beach



Enjoying the Beach



INDOOR CAMP MEETING

Celebrating Unity



Rev. Jessica Hall
Evangelist

Sunday - Friday

May 19 - 24

7:00pm Nightly



Rev. Brandon Pelfrey
Music & Worship

HOSTED BY: FIRST CHURCH OF GOD, CHILHOWIE
257, HWY 107
CHILHOWIE, VA 24319

(Ben Liston continued) First Church of God in Stanton, Ky.

In July of 2023, the Lord called Ben and his family to pastor the Chillicothe First Church of God in Chillicothe, Ohio. Ben and his wife Julia married in 2011 and have 3 daughters Lydia (9), Ava (7), and Amelia (4).

Before entering full time ministry, Ben founded and operated a funeral trade service, funeral home and crematory. Ben has studied at the Cincinnati School of Mortuary Science and Mid-America Christian University. He currently serves on the Pastors Fellowship Steering Committee and as a At-Large Evangelist in the Church of God. Ben is passionate about the local church and personal soul winning and is eager to encourage and equip the local church to once again capture a burden for lost souls.

(Cornelius Atkinson Continued) his Master of Divinity work at Shaw University Divinity School.

Pastor Atkinson is married to his wonderful wife Audra Mitchell-Atkinson, a Director of Pricing at Lowes Hardware Corporation, Mooresville NC. They are the proud parents of three adult children, Jadda Camille Atkinson, Jessica Nicole Atkinson and Aubrey Sevone Alexander.

Pastor Atkinson is an energetic speaker with an expository narrative style that allows worshippers under the sound of his voice in teaching or preaching to

grasp and apply God's word to their everyday lives. Pastor Atkinson believes that "No one under the sound of his voice shall leave the same way they came in, but leave with a greater revelation of God in their life."

Above all, Pastor Atkinson is an anointed man of God, who has been called and commissioned to equip the Saints for victorious kingdom living and service. He has preached, lead conferences and served in leadership with the former NC Church of God Ministerial Campground Association. He is also actively involved in numerous religious and community organizations within Mecklenburg County, state of North Carolina and in the United States. Pastor Atkinson has served as the NC General Assembly of the Church of God State Chairman for two terms leading a leadership team to oversee over 40 churches and organizations. As an anointed leader, he is well sought out as a preacher, teacher and in leadership training, and he has preached in countless mainline denominations.

Pastor Atkinson is a Preacher, Teacher, and Visionary. During his tenure at "The Heights", as he calls it, the church has developed and evangelistic vision, and grown dramatically both in laborers for the harvest and in ministries to edify the body of Christ.

Believing that Gods call, charge and commission to his people is for them to be involved and take responsibility in civic duty, family, community, and work place beyond the church walls.

COGVA Leadership College Continues on Zoom



Remaining Schedule

May 11 – 9:00 am

June 8 – 9:00 am

Rev. Calvin Peterson will use F.G. Smith's "What the Bible Teaches"

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82990090129?>

To Dial In: 1.301.715.8592

Meeting Id: 82990090129# Passcode: *526431#

COGVA Income

August 1 2023 – March 31, 2024

Church	Budget	Other	Kitchen Fund	KB	Total Giving
Abingdon	\$ 2,679.33			\$535.81	\$3,215.14
Atkins					\$
Big Stone Gap					\$
Birdsnest					\$
Blacksburg First	\$4,076.11		\$400.00		\$4,476.11
Blacksburg Slussers	\$666.64				\$666.64
Bluefield	\$ 2,267.75				\$2,267.75
Boones Mill					\$
Boykins	\$600.00				\$600.00
Bristol					\$
Chesapeake					\$
Chilhowie	\$ 2,977.31				2,977.31
Christiansburg	\$ 9,701.46				\$9,701.46
Cloverdale					-
Dublin		\$3,389.96			\$ 3,389.96
Emporia					\$
Fredericksburg	\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,000.00
Glade Spring					\$
Goodview					\$
Hampton Joynes Rd	\$800.00				800.00
Lynchburg Greenview	\$ 1,372.29				\$1,372.29
Lynchburg Mnt. View	\$ 1,832.50				\$1,832.50
Marion					\$
Martinsville					\$
Newport News Cmnty					\$
Newport News First					\$
Norfolk Bellamy Ave	\$1,648.00				1,648.00
North Tazewell					\$
Norton	\$2,085.67				\$2,085.67
Pearisburg	\$500.00				\$500.00
Reedville	\$ 3,342.09				\$3,342.09
Richmond First	\$ 2,602.81			\$ 230.20	\$2,833.01
Richmond 21st	\$1,400.00				\$1,400.00
Roanoke First	\$ 4,502.98			\$410.08	\$4,913.06

Roanoke Staunton Ave					\$
Rural Retreat	\$ 753.39				\$753.39
Salem					\$
Saltville Allison Gap	\$1,158.99				\$1,158.99
Saltville Broadford	\$300.00				\$300.00
Saltville Chatham Hill					\$
Saltville MtnView					\$
Spotsylvania	\$ 2,313.00				\$2,313.00
Staunton	\$ 2,855.25				\$2,855.25
Suffolk					\$
VA Beach	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00
Wise	\$12,100.00				\$12,100.00
Wytheville	\$880.00				\$880.00
Investment Fund	\$ 2,970.80				\$2,970.80
CD Interest	\$ 4,328.56				\$4,328.56
Insurance Refund	\$ 294.00				\$294.00
Individual Giving	\$1,500.00				\$1,500.00
Pakistan Donation					\$
Credit Card Cashback					\$
Total	\$75,508.93	\$3,389.96	\$400.00	\$1,176.09	\$80,474.98

COGVA Expenditures

August 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Categories	Budget	Aug-Oct 1st Qtr Expenses	Nov-Jan 2nd Qtr Expenses	Feb-April 3rd Qtr Expenses
1000 State Office				
1100 Business Office	\$4,900.00	\$1,085.06	\$ 1,760.53	\$ 605.78
1200 Insurance	\$16,500.00	\$4,030.75	\$4,259.75	\$4,030.75
1300 Office Manager	\$14,437.50	\$3,609.36	\$3,609.36	\$2,406.24
1400 Income Taxes	\$3,600.00	\$884.58	\$884.57	\$589.73
Subtotal	\$39,437.50	\$9,609.75	\$10,514.21	\$7,632.50
1500 Chair	\$400.00	\$	\$	\$
2000 State Minister				
Salary	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Reimbursement Fund	\$3,000.00	\$384.81	\$1,850.20	\$264.23
Subtotal	\$15,400.00	\$2,217.89	\$1,119.99	\$2,264.23
3000 Executive Board/Standing Ministries				
3100 Executive Board	\$50.00	\$	\$	\$

			\$	\$
3200 Ministry of Church Service/Credentials	\$800.00	\$	-	-
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	\$	\$	\$
5000 Property and Maintenance				
5110 Camp Bedford				
5110 Caretaker	\$ 5,250.00	\$1,312.50	\$1,312.50	\$875.00
5120 Campground Expenses (Maintenance)	\$1,000.00	\$881.28	\$120.07	\$95.01
Capital Improvements	\$500.00	\$	\$	\$
Camp Bedford Mkt/Advertising	\$250.00	\$	\$	\$
5140 Utilities	\$6,200.00	\$764.10	\$1,616.21	\$1,669.62
Subtotal	\$13,200.00	\$2,957.88	\$3,048.78	\$2,639.63
5200 Camp Christi				
5210 Caretaker	\$26,565.12	\$6,641.28	\$6,641.28	\$4,427.52
5220 Health Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$1,250.01	\$1,250.01	\$833.34
5250 Utilities	\$12,500.00	\$4,929.27	\$2,495.53	\$1,428.05
5260 Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$	\$	\$
5270 Capital Improvements	\$2,000.00	\$	\$	\$
5280 Vehicle Maintenance	\$250.00	\$	\$	\$
5300 Legal Fees	\$600.00	\$25.00	\$30.75	\$120.00
5400 Ministry Expenses	\$100.00	\$	\$	\$
Christmas Bonus	\$1,500.00	\$	\$1,500.00	\$
Subtotal	\$50,015.12	\$12,845.56	\$11,917.57	\$6,808.91
Total Expenses	\$119,102.62	\$27,631.08	\$26,600.55	\$19,345.27
Total Income		\$29,821.99	\$26,468.01	\$11,833.13
Kingdom B. Transfer for State Minister Salary		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
CD Interest				\$4,328.56
Investment Fund		\$	\$	\$2,970.80
Difference		\$5,190.91	\$2,867.76	\$(1,787.22)

Obituaries



Cathy M. Atkins

This is to acknowledge that **Cathy Marie Atkins** departed this life on Tuesday, May 10, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia. Cathy was born on July 29, 1958 to the late Mike Atkins Jr. and Corene Avent Atkins in Greensville County, Virginia. Her upbringing included attending church, sharing in a loving, caring and structured environment, and hard work, especially in education.

Cathy graduated from Greensville County Senior High School in 1976 with numerous awards in education and sports, which included basketball and softball. Cathy maintained a special bond with coach, Dr. Rachel P. Young, until Dr. Young's recent passing. For thirteen years, Cathy worked full-time and attended Virginia Commonwealth University. Cathy served as an advisor which positively impacted many to this day. She graduated from VCU in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in

Office Automation and Management. The family was so proud of Cathy's educational accomplishments because she was always dedicated and determined to succeed. Cathy was a true and dedicated Dallas Cowboys fan and enjoyed going fishing with family and friends.

Soror Cathy Atkins joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. during the Spring of 1979 into the Eta Theta Chapter on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. Some time after graduation, she joined the Alpha Phi Zeta Chapter, the graduate chapter in Richmond, VA. She was a dedicated active member and leader for many years where she served on numerous committees and in several elected positions. Most notably, she served as the Chapter President of Alpha Phi Zeta Chapter from 2005 - 2009 and the undergraduate advisor to Eta Theta Chapter for many years. She was also known for her superior skills of creating chapter publications such as journals, programs, brochures, invitations and tickets.

Most recently she enjoyed connecting with the sorority's alumni of her chapter at VCU for their 45th anniversary and continued to support her graduate chapter designing publications.

We will always remember Cathy's faith and belief in God, which began at an early age when she attended the Washington Park Church of God in Emporia, Virginia. Cathy became a member of the Twenty-First Street Church of God in 2011. She served as church secretary from 2011 until the time of her passing. Her secretarial duties included providing weekly church

bulletins, annual updates to the church directory, composing resolutions for deceased members and overseeing internet issues and email distributions. She also at times assisted Bro. Harold Parker with teaching the adult Sunday school class. Cathy was the go-to person to drive the church van when church members needed to go out of town for revival and/or other services. On more than one occasion, Cathy drove the pastor and first lady to Florida. She also served as the recording secretary for the Church of God in Virginia for two terms. Cathy was a devoted member of the church and

state association, always willing to assist wherever and whenever help was needed.

Cathy was preceded in death by her mother, Corene Atkins; father, Mike Atkins, Jr.; sister, Gladys Harrison Vassor; and two brothers, Thomas L. Atkins and Mike Atkins. She leaves to mourn her memories, her brother, Percell Atkins; five sisters, Edith M. McCray (Robert), Velma L. Jones; Janet A. Walker, Sandra Johnson and Brenda Robinson; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, friends and associates.

Naomi Green departed this life February 26th, 2024. Mrs. Naomi Green, age 68, of Richmond. She is survived by her son Aaron E. Johnson; two brothers Simeon R. Green III (Velma) and Frederick D. Green Sr. (Jacquelyn); nieces, nephews; a host of cousins; and other relatives and friends.

Remains rest at Joseph Jenkins Jr. Funeral Home, 2011 Grayland Avenue where Mrs. Green can be viewed Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and where funeral services will be held Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Barbara Parker (eulogy). Interment private. Family and friends assemble at the funeral home 10:15 a.m. Saturday.



Naomi Green