

Getting Connected

A monthly newsletter highlighting the ministry of the Churches of God in
Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C. and the Virginia Peninsula

**Church of God
Delmarva-DC Region
Resource and Training
Center**

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Angie Sharpe

Youth & Discipleship
Administrative Assistant

Jesus' words come to my mind today: ***If human fathers, who at best are imperfect and fallible, know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more shall the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him*** (Matthew 7:11, paraphrase).

In plain words, the Savior was saying that there is no earthly counterpart to either the Father's goodness or His mercy.

Yet so few understand the Father-heart of God.

Jesus said, "[Father,] ***I have declared to them Your name [Your nature]***" (John 17:26). The Gospel-writer writes of Jesus, "***The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him***" (John 1:18). In spite of these words there are still hosts of individuals who have no sense of inner certainty about the manner or the mentality of Father God. So many are dominated by the fearsome image of a stern-countenanced Deity, wielding His scepter in judgment. Yet the Scriptures reply in stark contrast, "***Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever***" (Psalm 136:26).

But God isn't Santa Claus either.

Neither is He "the Man Upstairs," nor a syrupy, maudlin, super-grandpa who doddles around heaven in a semi-senile state doling out platitudes about "being nice," or, "anything is all right if you are sincere," or "love means you never have to say you're sorry."

He is a Father who teaches us, "***As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts***" (Isaiah 55:9). In no uncertain terms, He shows us that His viewpoint and wisdom are so many rungs higher than ours, we're foolish unless we always . . .

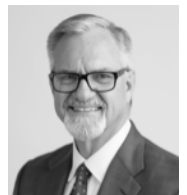
. . . make Him our **point of reference** for counsel. He has the master plan of our life, and knowing the end from the beginning, is best prepared to lead us.

. . . **trust Him** with our destiny. Present trials, suffering, or tragedy may often seem the end - or cause us to wish it were. Yet the Father knows this period isn't the end of a sentence, but a connecting point in the completion of the masterpiece which is His whole story for us.

. . . **wait for Him**. What strange words. As though He were slow! But the slowness is our passage through time - time which He has already transcended. Mysteriously, He is able to both walk with us now, and be stationed at a point down life's road, waiting to welcome us.

In His presence we will be able to look back and say,
"Oh, Father. I see. I see!"

- Pastor Darrell Rice



UPDATES

Regional Council

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Harold R. Bowman

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Josè Torres

Urban Ministry & Benevolence Coordinator

Billy Humphrey

Strategic Church Planting Coordinator/Coach

Chris Lockemy

Please pray for . . .

. . . **Marian Kilgoe** (Farmington, DE) underwent foot surgery on April 30, 2018 and is in a rehab center in Salisbury, MD.
 . . . **Barbara Woodring** (Newark, DE), wife of retired minister - Reverend **Calvin Woodring** - underwent surgery on April 25, 2018. She is recovering at home.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . **Ivan Ackerman** (Oakland, MD) and the Loch Lynn Church of God upon their celebration of the 60th anniversary of the church.
 . . . **Kim and Priscilla Tephabock** (Dagsboro, DE) upon the birth of a granddaughter, Harper Avery Tephabock, born April 5, 2018.

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **Jean Moise Domond** (Laurel, DE) upon the passing of his mother, Marie Isemaelle Honore Domond, on April 14, 2018, in Florida.
 . . . **Kenneth Harper** (Edgewood, MD) upon the deaths of his sister and mother-in-law in the past few weeks.

962 REGISTER FOR ELEVATE 2018

Special thanks to all who worked so hard to make Elevate 2018 an extraordinary success . . . topping the previous record attendance (740) by more than 200. Presenters were engaging, prepared, and deposited valuable insight and information into the ministries of Delmarva-DC churches, pastors, and volunteers.

GENERAL OVERSEER TIM HILL CALLS CHURCH OF GOD TO PRAYER

Delmarva-DC is engaged in the “**Praying for Pentecost**” initiative launched by Dr. Tim Hill, General Overseer of the Church of God - a 40-day call to prayer and fasting (April 22 - May 31). Dr. Hill said, “While we are encouraging everyone to participate, I want to stress we are not recommending just one option for either prayer or fasting. Fasting includes various types and levels, such as one day, several days, one meal, even fasting certain type of foods, such as sweets or meats. Everyone who participates should decide within his or her own heart as the Lord directs.”

Resources are available at <http://www.churchofgod.org/prayingforpentecost>.

EASTERN SHORE CAMPGROUND WORKDAY - SATURDAY, MAY 19

Join Bishop Darrell Rice and Bishop Bill Reid in a day of service and fellowship at the Eastern Shore Campground - Saturday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Pastor Dan Southern has outlined the following projects:

- Weeding, mulching, flower-planting
- Painting - picnic table, pump house
- Electrical - repair light fixtures, replace bulbs
- Carpentry - replace soffit and fascia boards on 2 buildings
- General maintenance - carpet cleaning, mowing, cleaning

Tools to bring:

- Carpentry tools - hammers, saws, ladders, sawhorses (6 and 8 ft)
- Drills, screwdrivers, measuring tape
- Landscaping - shovels, rakes, pitchforks, work gloves

Lunch and refreshments provided. Please contact Pastor Southern to sign up at danthepastor@aol.com.



MAY IS WORLD MISSIONS MONTH: *SEND THE LIGHT TO GEORGETOWN, GUYANA*

A brochure is enclosed describing the need, the vision, and the plan to evangelize, plant birthing churches, and provide an evangelism and training center that will reach the entire Caribbean with the gospel. Each church is asked to receive a special missions offering (weekend of your choice) during the month of May and bring it with you to the Delmarva-DC camp meeting Sunday night, June 24, 2018, for our annual world missions offering.

SENIOR ADULT NATIONAL TALENT WINNERS

At the recent Smoky Mountain Jubilee senior adult talent competition in Gatlinburg, TN, Delmarva-DC came away with two national winners:

- **Nick Ferguson** (Waldorf, MD - New Hope) - for his vocal solo in the music division
- **Cookie Sandridge** (East Baltimore, MD) - for her quilting in the arts and crafts division

Congratulations to these extraordinarily talented winners!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINISTERS COMPLETING EXAMS

On April 19, 19 ministers successfully completed ministerial exams. Congratulations to the following:

Exhorters:

<i>Charles Levering</i> (North East, MD)	<i>Edwina Reid</i> (Edgemere/Baltimore, MD)	<i>Kimberly Ross</i> (Living Faith/Ft. Washington, MD)
<i>Josh Bair</i> (Christian Life/Baltimore)	<i>Polly Tober</i> (Freedom/Westminster, MD)	<i>Josh Gangl</i> (Life Community/Great Mills, MD)
<i>Jimmy Munn</i> (Lifeway/Bridgeville, DE)	<i>Mary Ramsey</i> (New Covenant/Bel Air, MD)	<i>Kevin Ramsey</i> (New Covenant/Bel Air, MD)
<i>Linda Jenkins</i> (Clarence St/Seaford, DE)	<i>Daniel Hockensmith</i> (Lifeway/Bridgeville, DE)	
<i>Callie Nicholson</i> (New Hope/Waldorf, MD)	<i>Antwalyse Henderson</i> (New Hope/Waldorf, MD)	

Ordained Minister:

<i>Michael Diggs</i> (Life Source/Rosedale, MD)	<i>Peter McPhun</i> (Living Hope/Laurel, MD)
<i>Chris Benjamin</i> (Ebenezer/Hyattsville, MD)	<i>Luis Macanlalay</i> (National Filipino/Ft. Washington, MD)

Ordained Bishop:

<i>Marvin Compton</i> (New Hope/Waldorf, MD)	<i>Matthew Green</i> (Mt. Pleasant/Smithsburg, MD)
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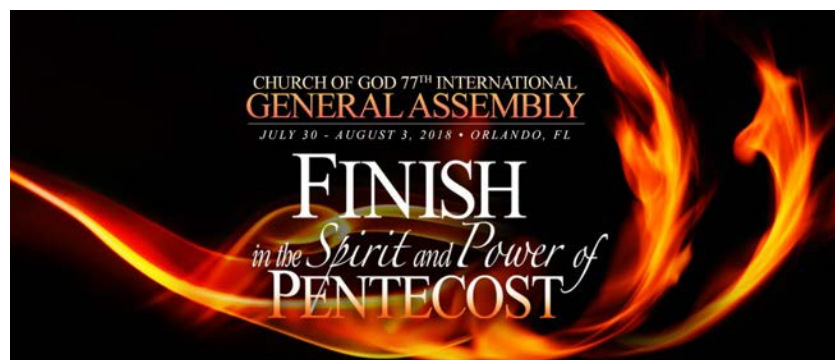
APPLY FOR MIP AND CAMS BY JUNE 30, 2018

The Regional Ministerial Development Board is accepting application for the fall sessions of the Ministerial Internship Program (MIP) and Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS). CAMS is designed to prepare the ministerial applicant for the first stage of credentialing. Those wishing to advance from Exhorter to Ordained Minister are required to enroll in MIP for a 10-month internship. Request information and applications from Lorinda Roberts, credentialing secretary, at lorinda.roberts@cogdelmarva-dc.org.

DELMARVA-DC PASTORS/LEADERS ON TRACK TO BECOME NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COACHES

On April 4 - 5, the regional office hosted the national director for Natural Church Development, Dr. Petr Cincala, to begin the process of certifying coaches to help address the health concerns of local churches. Certified coach and NCD trainer, **Pastor Andy Stevens** (Milford, DE), facilitated a large portion of the training as well. The following participated in the training:

Darrel Morris (Bridgeville, DE)	Michael & Cindy Cooper (Baltimore)	Jon & Lisa Lowery (Rockville, MD)
Matt Green (Smithsburg, MD)	Neil Malakas (Laurel, MD)	Steve Hall (Severn, MD)
David Bowyer, Jr. (Baltimore)	David Sulcer (Westminster, MD)	Landon Roberts
Darrell Rice	William Reid	





SAVE A CITY

July 25-29, 2018

MINISTRY



SERVING

Short Term Missions Trip

BALTIMORE MD / WASHINGTON DC

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443-306-4814 / BILLYHUMPHREY@ME.COM
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\$35 PER PERSON / INCLUDES T-SHIRT & FOOD