

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**

7127 Long View Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410.531.5351

cogdelmarvadc.com

M. Darrell Rice

Administrative Bishop

Marsha Rice

Women's Discipleship
Director

Landon Roberts

Youth & Discipleship
Director

William A. Reid

USA Missions/Strategic
Church Planting Coordinator

Lorinda Roberts

Girls' Club Coordinator/
Credentialing Secretary

Evelyn Myers

Treasurer/Administrative
Assistant

Betty Moore

USA Missions Administrative
Assistant

Angie Sharpe

Youth & Discipleship
Administrative Assistant

Writing *OUR* Book . . .

Marsha and I are thrilled to be given the opportunity to serve the ministers and laity of the Delmarva-DC region for the Church of God. Thank you for your warm reception in our visits to the churches - meeting all the pastors - and in the ministers' meeting last month.

This is the first edition of a newsletter I plan to publish monthly. I understand you're accustomed to receiving a quarterly *Connection* newsletter. Building on that theme and expanding from quarterly to monthly you can expect to read about events, resources, church news and colleagues in my goal of *Getting Connected*. A hard copy of the first few will be mailed to each pastor and a digital copy to all ministers. In addition, Getting Connected will be posted to our website and Facebook page (please *share* often).

I see our journey together as a sort of book-writing adventure. I don't mean a book project that writers tackle with publishers. I mean the one **we** are writing. You. Us. We. Those of us who own Jesus as Savior and Lord and serve together in the Delmarva-DC region.

A book opens before us in this new season of ministry. The Lord has said He will print and publish it. He will accomplish it by *His power*. He is waiting for us to write . . . to reach forth our hand, to inscribe by faith, to respond to His invitation to see a new thing brought forth.

A whole assortment of Bible references rush to mind on writing books of this kind:

- The Book of Acts begins by asserting its contents are the continuing record of Jesus' doings. Significantly, its 28th chapter has no "amen" concluding it. The Acts of the Holy Spirit go on and on. Who will write them? Will you?

- 2 Corinthians 2:2, 3 indicates clearly that our lives are letters that are being written and declared-in-deed to those around us.

- Matthew 25:14 - 30 reveals how Jesus will settle books with us at His return. We will be judged as to how faithful we have been with the life-ministry opportunities He has entrusted to us through the years.

All of this points to one disturbing, challenging fact: *The sovereign God of the universe has committed Himself to write the history of the earth. But He has willed to do it through human instruments, and invites you and me to respond with chapters of bold accomplishments done in Jesus' Name.*

You probably feel as I do, when such an enormous truth begins to dawn upon you: "What can I do? It's too much for me."

But wait. Remember, the power is HIS. He is the Publisher. He's simply looking for writers; for people who will trust the power of His Holy Spirit to work in the common, ordinary affairs of their daily lives. In these beginning months of our ministry together God offers a blank book of possibilities, and now asks what we are going to write. Let's write with wisdom, and in big letters!



- Pastor Darrell Rice

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Billy Humphrey

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **William A. Reid** (Laurel, DE) upon the death of his wife, Reverend Andrea Reid, on October 21, 2016.
. . . the family of **Joseph Strazzire, Jr.** (Street, MD), retired/disabled minister who passed away October 28, 2016.
. . . the family of **Nellie Gray** (Perryville, MD), widow of the late Reverend Edward G. Gray, upon her death on October 20, 2016.
. . . the family of **Alberta Waples** (Seaford, DE), 90-year-old retired minister, upon her death on October 19, 2016.
. . . **Ed King** (Lincoln, DE) upon the death of his mother, Annie B. King, on September 28, 2016.

Please pray for . . .

. . . **Lori Lockemy** (Baltimore, MD) continues to desire prayer.
. . . **Lynn Bowyer** (Baltimore, MD) requests prayer for complications resulting from a diabetic condition.
. . . **Charles Pritchett** (Baltimore, MD) was recently diagnosed with a herniated disk in his neck and may require surgery.
. . . **Philip Morris, Sr.** (Salisbury, MD) was recently hospitalized with pneumonia. He is recovering at home.
. . . **Tim Houston** (Columbus, OH) who resigned the pastorate of the Freedom Church of God (Westminster, MD) after being diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis - also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) and moved to Ohio.
. . . **Ralph Massie** (North East, MD) is scheduled for surgery (addressing bladder malignancy) on November 30, 2016.
. . . **Melissa Payne** (Boonsboro, MD), wife of Pastor Jack Payne, underwent a liver transplant in August and is recovering at home.

Pastoral transitions . . .

. . . **Harvey Tyler** retired as pastor of the Crisfield, MD Church of God on September 11, 2016. He continues to make his home in Westover, MD.
. . . **John Thorne** (Atlantic, VA) resigned the pastorate of the Chincoteague, VA Church of God and accepted the interim pastorate of the Crisfield, MD Church of God on September 25, 2016.
. . . **Cliff Ramsundar** (Bel Air, MD) resigned the pastorate of the New Covenant Church of God in Bel Air, MD and will relocate to Myrtle Beach, SC the week of November 13, 2016.
. . . **Kevin Stanley** was appointed senior pastor of the Chincoteague, VA Church of God on Wednesday, October 12, 2016.
. . . **Brian Whitelock** resigned the pastorate of the Pocomoke City, MD Church of God (end of August) and accepted a pastorate in Hawaii and will also serve as Hawaii State Youth and Discipleship Director.

Concert of Prayer

Saturday, January 21, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Life Source International Church
7000 Rossville Blvd, Rosedale, MD

BRUCE DEEL TO LEAD TRAINING - NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Pastor Billy Humphrey will host a **Best Practices** workshop (free of charge) for pastors and lay leaders involved in benevolence, care and urban ministries on Monday morning (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - lunch included), November 7, 2016, at the Delmarva-DC Regional Office in Columbia, MD. Leading the workshop is urban ministry practitioner Pastor Bruce Deel - founder and CEO of City of Refuge Atlanta and inner-city Church of God pastor. With almost two decades of experience and 20,000 lives transformed, City of Refuge is a leader in the business of social and spiritual transformation - attracting some of the most influential business and governmental leaders in Atlanta to come alongside and fund their outreaches to the poorest and most marginalized persons in Atlanta. Reserve your place by texting Billy Humphrey at 443-306-4814.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES CHRISTMAS BANQUET - MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

The 2016 Delmarva-DC FAMILY Christmas gathering is set for Monday evening, December 5, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Heritage Community Church in Severn, MD (see enclosed flyer). The banquet is FREE to all retired ministers, spouses and widows. In addition to the incredible fellowship and delicious food, the program includes music from the world-renown Howard University Chapel Choir under the direction of Dr. Ned Lewis. The Howard University Chapel Choir serves as the resident choir for Sunday chapel services, and is nationally recognized for providing the finest and diverse sacred music. The choir consists of students, faculty, staff, and other vocalists from the wider University community with a repertoire spanning the full spectrum of sacred music genres including classical, anthems, spirituals, gospel and contemporary traditions. Their Christmas presentation promises to be "off the charts." Register today!

FEED DELMARVA-DC TO DISTRIBUTE THANKSGIVING TURKEYS

Delmarva-DC churches will pick up turkeys and food at the Baltimore Dream Center on Thursday, November 17, for distribution to needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday season. The goal is to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 1000 families. By networking with a variety of agencies the cost of providing a family meal is \$10. Prayerfully consider making a contribution to REACH Ministries today. A gift of \$100 feeds 10 families. Any amount an individual or church sends will immediately be put to use to assisting those in need.

DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS ADOPT GEORGETOWN, GUYANA TO "SEND THE LIGHT" TO THE CARIBBEAN

A great need coupled with a great opportunity demands a great response. World Missions Representative, Dr. J. Martin Taylor, challenged the ministers recently to examine the need and opportunity to spark a revival of church planting in the Caribbean by sponsoring the "Send the Light" city of Georgetown, Guyana. In the regional ministers' meeting, there was a unanimous vote to commit ourselves to raising \$250,000 over the next 18 months to establish a church-multiplication center in Georgetown that will reach the Caribbean with the Gospel.



OCEAN CITY, MD | 1.27-29.2017

PREMIER

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FOR TICKET ONLY PRICES CALL THE DELMARVA-DC REGIONAL YOUTH DEPARTMENT AT 410-531-5351