

Getting Connected

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

A Thanksgiving Message

Heavenly Father, I appreciate . . .

You, first, my Father.

I bow, overwhelmed by the abundance of mercy, grace, and glory which You have so profusely lavished upon me and all that concerns me.

I appreciate the changeless things which surround my life . . .

. . . the security in the blood of the everlasting covenant;

. . . the presence of Jesus, Your love-gift Son;

. . . the fullness of Your gift-giving Spirit;

For changeless things, I appreciate you, Father.

I appreciate changing things . . .

. . . painted sunsets, never duplicated;

. . . colored leaves splashing the lawn as this season changes;

. . . the gray hair overtaking my brown;

. . . the eternal prospect of a new body when this one wears out;

For new clothes, new books, new days, and for mercies that are new every morning . . . I appreciate You.

And how I appreciate the immense gifts you have given me packaged in **people**. For the precious friends that flock around this shepherd, for fellow ministers and pastors who make tending beloved Delmarva-DC believers and churches possible, for innumerable volunteers who give themselves tirelessly while the increasing numbers of those they serve open their hearts to the eternal gift of life in Your Son. Thank you, Abba God.

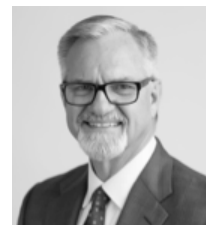
I am crushed with the kindness You have shown me in my family, and that crushing exudes a fragrance of praise rising from the pressure of such beauty abounding upon me. Thank you for my children, who are pursuing Your direction in their lives. Thank you for my grandchildren - five, so far (3 to 12 years old) - alive with eternal capacities.

And for Marsha . . . I am thankful that You have graced me with a gracious and lovely woman who shares my joys, sorrows, trials, and triumphs with patience, understanding, tenderness, and strength as my partner in life.

While lifting my hands in appreciation to You, Father, I pray: ***Let the Spirit of praiseful appreciation abound in the midst of the flock you have privileged me to know and share life with in Delmarva-DC. For these . . . pastors, ministers, lay persons . . . all who read these words, I pray that You would enrich them all with the same joy which floods my soul today.***

And, by the way, Father, I appreciate that You have caused them to love and appreciate me.

For such miracles, I praise You!



- Pastor Darrell Rice

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Marsha Rice

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Director

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USA Missions/REACH
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UPDATES

Our deepest sympathies to . . .

. . . **Billy Humphrey** (Baltimore, MD) upon the passing of his sister, Terri Humphrey Milkowski, of Dallas, TX on October 28, 2017.
. . . **Evelyn Myers** (Baltimore, MD) and family upon the passing of her father-in-law, Reverend Clyde C. Myers, of Baltimore on October 29, 2017.
. . . **Dr. David M. Griffis** (Cleveland, TN), Church of God World Missions Director, and family upon the passing of his father, Reverend Garland Griffis, on October 28, 2017.

Please pray for . . .

. . . **Philip Morris** (Salisbury, MD) underwent surgery on his feet on October 20, 2017, and is undergoing rehab.
. . . **Teri Mullen** (Washington, D.C.) recently had surgery to repair a broken leg and ankle.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . **Shawn Bushman** (Hagerstown, MD), Lead Pastor of the Virginia Avenue Church of God, recently accepted the appointment as District Overseer of the West Maryland District.
. . . **Metropolitan Church of God/Pastor Joseph Mitchell** (Washington, D.C.) as they celebrate the 40th anniversary of the church November 20 - 26, 2017.
. . . **Warren Reid** (Laurel, DE), member of the Delmarva-DC World Missions Committee and founder/owner of Solid Image Construction Company, named "Businessperson of the Year" by the Laurel Chamber of Commerce on October 12, 2017.

Transitions . . .

. . . **J. C. Worley** (Germantown, MD) accepted the appointment as pastor of South Metro Ministries Church of God in Peachtree City, GA, and will continue to pastor GO Church via video and on-site coordination with Pastor David Waldroup and staff.
. . . **Gerald Williams** (Washington, D.C.) accepted the appointment as pastor of the Norwalk, CT Church of God.

Correction . . .

. . . **New Hope Church of God** (Waldorf, MD) morning worship attendance was incorrectly listed as "48" in the last *Getting Connected*. The correct attendance is "480." Our apologies to Pastor Aaron Jones and New Hope Church family.

GO CONFERENCE (11/6/17) - IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER

The Delmarva-DC Regional Office is partnering with GO Church (Pastor J.C. Worley) and the USA Missions Church Planting Office (Bishop Mitch Maloney) to sponsor GO Conference (11/6/17) focusing on church planting and church revitalization. Conference features respected leaders in church planting and revitalization.

Here are the steps to register for the conference and receive the comped ticket:

1. Visit www.goconference.church
2. Then Click "Register Now"

FEED DELMARVA-DC THANKSGIVING MEALS

The annual Feed Delmarva-DC Thanksgiving Outreach - providing opportunities for churches throughout the region to minister to their communities - is funded through designated REACH donations. 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. A gift of \$100 feeds 10 families.

JOB OPENING - DELMARVA-DC REGIONAL OFFICE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Evelyn Myers, Treasurer and Administrative Assistant, announced her retirement to the May 2, 2017 meeting of the Regional Council, effective at the end of the year. Bishop Darrell Rice is accepting applications and resumé's. If interested, please contact him at mdr2020@msn.com. The Regional Council plans retirement recognition for Evelyn's 35 years of service at the Christmas banquet.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES CHRISTMAS BANQUET - MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

The 2017 Delmarva-DC FAMILY Christmas gathering is set for Monday evening, December 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Heritage Community Church in Severn, MD. 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 Reverend Niyi Adams, saxophonist extraordinaire, carols lead by Reverend Thom Dawson, and emceed by the incomparable Charlotte Music. Registration form enclosed.

NEW CHURCH LAUNCHED IN GEORGETOWN, DE

On Sunday, September 24, 2017, Curtis and Amy Jones launched Discover Church in Georgetown, DE, with more than 100 in attendance, one salvation and one re-dedication. The attendance has held strong - close to 100 - each week following the launch. Curtis and Amy were trained through ARC (Association of Related Churches) and Church of God USA Missions. They are one of the first church plants to access funding via the Church of God Church Planting Bank. Discover Church currently meets at Sussex Central High School, 26026 Patriots Way, Georgetown, DE 19947. Check this new church out at: www.discoverchurch.cc.

DELMARVA-DC RESPONDS TO DISASTER RELIEF

Churches across Delmarva-DC responded to the recent barrage of natural disasters with funds, supplies, and on-site assistance. More than \$100,000 has been contributed to assist victims in Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean. To highlight a few . . .

- Ebenezer Church of God (Hyattsville, MD/Pastor Oliver Subryan) shipped 7 containers of supplies to various Caribbean islands over a seven-week period.
- Riverside Community Church (Aberdeen, MD/Pastor Jason Evans) sent a team to Puerto Rico with more than 200 boxes of clothing, as well as medical, personal hygiene, and cleaning supplies.
- Pastor Dan Southern (Seaford, DE) led a team to the Houston, TX area to help with demolition and re-building efforts.
- Delmarva-DC churches purchased more than 30 semi-truck loads of water and supplies for Texas and Florida.
- An anonymous donor sent 6 high-capacity generators to the British Virgin Islands.

CHURCHES INVOLVED IN NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

At the 2017 Delmarva-DC camp meeting, Bishop Rice and Dr. Michael D. Reynolds (Chicago, IL) introduced Natural Church Development (NCD) - focusing on church health. Since then, Bishop Rice has hosted 2 Zoom meetings with Dr. Reynolds and pastors interested in NCD. To date, 7 Delmarva-DC churches and pastors are participating at some level of involvement with the NCD process of assessing and addressing issues related to church health. The Regional Council approved a cooperative plan to assist local churches in sharing the cost of NCD assessments and coaching. If interested in knowing how your church can benefit, please contact Pastor Andy Stevens (Milford, DE), certified Natural Church Development coach, at info@andyismycoach.com. Also, access NCD information at <http://ncdamerica.org>.

CHRISTMAS PLANNING RESOURCES

Christmas is the biggest opportunity of the year to share Christ with your community. Pastor Craig Groeschel and Life Church (Edmond, OK) provides an "Open Network" of FREE tips and tools that help maximize Christmas services. Download festive graphics, songs, videos, messages, training kids' lessons and more to make your Christmas and advent services shine. New Christmas resources are regularly added, so check often. To access these FREE resources go HERE: <https://open.life.church/christmas>

Concert of Prayer

Saturday, January 20, 2018

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

Life Source International Church - 7000 Rossville Blvd, Rosedale, MD

Premier

WINTERFEST | FEBRUARY 2-4
OCEAN CITY, MD // OCEAN CITY CONVENTION CENTER



Robert Madu



Chris Purso



Eddie James



Kevin McGlamery



The Katinas



Mike Miller



Kaylee & Erica Tuttle

Registration Info

MYWINTERFEST.COM | \$135 PER PERSON
COGYOUTH@CHURCHOFGOD.ORG
423.478.7220

CONVENTION SERVICES ASSOCIATES
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