



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 83, No. 2 February 2022

GREAT COMMISSION MEALS

March 19 - 25, 2022

East Tennessee District – Saturday, March 19 – 11:30 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE: Golden Corral, 1910 N. Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN 37664

Bluefield/McDowell Districts – Saturday, March 19 – 5:00 p.m.

New Vision PHC (Keith Maxwell, Pastor), 146 Redsky Road, Princeton, WV

Please **RSVP by March 4** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – Monday, March 21 – 12 noon

NOTE CHANGE: Original Italian Pizza, 1128 East Lynchburg Salem Turnpike, Suite 300, Bedford, VA

Shenandoah Valley District – Monday, March 21 – 6:00 p.m.

Good News Ministries (Wanda Myers, Pastor), 18 Kerry Lane, Staunton, VA

Please **RSVP by March 7** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Greenbrier District – Tuesday, March 22 – 12 noon

Cucci Pizzeria, 562 E. Madison Street, Covington, VA

Central West Virginia District – Tuesday, March 22 – 6:00 p.m.

The Dream Center, 224 Pinewood Drive, Beckley, WV

Please **RSVP by March 8** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

New River Valley District – Thursday, March 24 – 6:00 p.m.

Harbor of Hope (Craig Reed, Pastor), 2720 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA

Please **RSVP by March 10** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Southwest Virginia District – Friday, March 25 – 6:00 p.m.

Hillsville P. H. Church (Jeff Pickett, Pastor), 203 Virginia Street, Hillsville, VA

Please **RSVP by March 11** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

March Retired Ministers' Birthdays

March 24

Rev. Thomas Cochran
204 Woodland Drive
Buena Vista, VA 24416



Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

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Conference Board

Superintendent – Preston Mathena
Asst. Superintendent – Mike Dodson
Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Neff
Board Member – Stacy Cope
Board Member – Larry Meadors
Board Member – Wanda Myers
Board Member – Jim Tunnell

Deadline for all script to reach the office:

First of each month for the next month's issue
Email to Sandy Wood at woodsh12@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org





The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena



TRAVIS LOWE APPOINTED AS EXTENSION LOAN FUND PRESIDENT

Travis Lowe will succeed David Parker as Extension Loan Fund president. He brings extensive banking and pastoral experience to leading and managing the Fund's more than \$50 million in assets. He will assume the role and move to Oklahoma City in December.

When the Extension Loan Fund's board began seeking the Fund's next president, they hadn't imagined he would be in the room.

Travis Lowe, who was serving as vice chairman of the Fund's board, was pastor of a thriving church in Bluefield, WV.

But Lowe's history of successful commercial and market lending, combined with a deep commitment to holistic ministry in communities, made him an ideal candidate. Economic development flowed naturally from his pastorate of Crossroads Church (IPHC). He founded CREA Company in 2019, helping to launch a number of businesses in Bluefield. He also partnered with area pastors and Bluefield College to create HopeWords, a writer's conference that brings thinkers and writers to Bluefield. His work has allowed him to take advantage of national platforms to discuss the need for "well-rounded" gospel ministry, ministry that addresses economic as well as spiritual concerns.

IPHC Presiding Bishop Doug Beacham sees Lowe's varied experience as a significant benefit for the Extension Loan Fund. "The IPHC is excited about the selection of the Extension Loan Fund Board of Rev. Travis Lowe as the Fund's new president. Rev. Lowe brings a strong banking background as well as that of a local church pastor to this important position. A gifted writer and thinker, Rev. Lowe is the perfect choice to lead the Extension Loan Fund as it continues to grow and serve the churches of the IPHC."

For his part, Lowe sees the presidency of the Fund as an opportunity to continue serving local churches. "I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead the Extension Loan Fund," Lowe said. "I hope to serve the IPHC well. I also want to honor the legacy of excellence and professionalism that David Parker leaves behind by helping our churches continue to dream, build, and grow."

Extension Loan Fund was founded in 1958 with an initial investment of \$100 by Dr. Lonnie Rex. The fund has grown to more than \$50 million in assets, and it provides local churches with capital to begin and expand, while offering investment opportunity to individuals, congregations, and other IPHC entities.

Lowe succeeds retiring president David Parker, who has led the fund since 2009. Parker announced his retirement earlier this year.

"The IPHC is grateful for the dedicated service of Mr. David Parker," Bishop Beacham said. Under his leadership the Extension Loan Fund grew substantially. Mr. Parker's commitment to our local churches and our investors has been a stable feature of this important financial ministry of the IPHC."

For more information about IPHC Ministries, visit our Web site at iphc.org. Details and resources for the Extension Loan Fund are available at elfiphc.org.

Congratulations to Travis Lowe on his new appointment in his new role as president of Extension Loan Fund (ELF). We are thankful for his years of ministry in the Appalachian Conference in various capacities, as a youth pastor, church planter, senior pastor, as well as serving on the Discipleship Ministries board. I am very confident that Travis will be effective in leading the Extension Loan Fund (ELF). Many blessings to him, Jessi and his whole family during this transition.

Bishop Preston Mathena



SHEILA MELKI AVAILABLE FOR MINISTRY

Hello, my name is Sheila Melki. I have been a licensed minister for the IPHC Appalachian Conference since June of 2017. I have served as a Children's/Youth Pastor for seven years at the Cool Spring P.H. Church in Thaxton, Virginia.

For about a year, the Lord has been speaking to me about evangelism. I am so excited because He has placed many messages on my heart and a hunger to travel to other churches and share what He has placed on my heart! I am available to preach on Sunday mornings, whether as a special speaker or if a pastor needs someone to fill in while they are out.

In Christ's love,

Sheila Melki

540-798-1324

Underdog59@yahoo.com



World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



The Blacks Retire from Missions

Rick grew up in Montcalm, West Virginia, so he has always been connected to the Virginia/Appalachian Conference. After we were married, we lived in Ohio for a couple of years before moving to West Virginia. That is when I became connected to the Conference.

We were active members of the Montcalm Church for many years, where we served in a variety of positions — Rick as Sunday School teacher, deacon and Sunday School Superintendent. I was also a Sunday School teacher, Girls' Auxiliary leader and Church Secretary & Treasurer. We both served as Children's Church pastors.

In 1996, we moved to Oklahoma for Rick to return to college. Our plan was for him to go on short-term mission trips and I would stay home and support him from there.

After graduation, he became restless. His desire to do more grew. I, (LaTrissia), was working a full-time job as an Executive Secretary in Church Education Ministries at the Resource Development Center, Bethany. OK. Rick came to my office one day and asked me the question, "You want to go to Costa Rica?" I asked, "Why?" He said he had been talking to Brenda Clowers and she told him they needed someone in Costa Rica and that we had all the qualifications. Thus, we began the process of applying to be missionaries.

We met with the World Missions Board and were accepted as missionaries. We both received our minister's license and were ready to begin our itineration.

Our first service was at the Royal Rangers National Council held at Ridgecrest, NC. We were appointed as Royal Rangers Missionaries, as one of our objectives when we got to the field was to help establish the Royal Rangers ministry in Costa Rica.

We worked hard and were able, through the generosity of many pastors, churches, friends and family, to go to the field in March of 2002.

We were told that our priority was learning the language. However, when we arrived, we already had a construction team in the mission house. They were building a dining hall on the conference grounds next door to the mission house. They were the first of many teams we hosted while in Costa Rica. At each break from school, we usually had a team. We always looked forward to meeting new people.

While we were in Costa Rica, Rick and I updated/remodeled the mission home. A member for one team paid to have cabinets built in the kitchen. Another team removed the old, wooden, flea-infested floors, filled the holes with concrete and then had tile laid throughout the entire house (on both sides. The mission house is a duplex.) He worked on the Conference dining room after the team left; welding the trusses, attaching them to the walls, putting on the roof, creating doors and window coverings and installing lights and ceiling fans.

After one team left, he spent every Thursday-Sunday for over one year in a coastal town working with the local church finishing a church, and later the parsonage. This church has now doubled in size and added classrooms.

My jobs while there were People to People Co-Ordinator, Financial Secretary, serving as hostess, cooking, cleaning and laundry. The last three jobs were made much easier by team members who made everything more enjoyable.

After leaving the field in 2006, we have continued to work in World Missions and working with teams.

Once you become a missionary, you are one for life, even if you are retired. We will continue to serve until God calls us home. – Trish Black

Thank you, Rick and Trish, for your servant-hearted approach to the gospel. Rick, your building skills and go getter attitude have made a mark in missions. I personally appreciate all your hard work on the conference teams where we worked side by side. Trish, your support work has been vital for the Central American mission field and on many trips. I appreciate that you are still dedicated to missions by serving as the local church missions director at Voice of Praise. Well done, and may God's favor and blessing be on you and your family! – Larry Meadors

The Foundry

A foundry is a workshop where metal is forged by heat and pressure. This is also the new name for Healthy, Growing Multiplying Churches, or HGM. This past month, close to 30 pastors and ministers came together in the spirit of Proverbs 27. This passage says that iron sharpens iron, and so we believe that ministers can have a positive effect on each other. The various topics of teaching were conducted by Bishop Preston Mathena, Larry Meadors, Wes Galford, and Todd and Tammy Porter. There was also a time of sharing needs and praying for one another. And then there was great time of fellowship around the lunch meal.

You are invited to the next Foundry meeting on March 14. These meetings exist to help build community among us so that you are encouraged in life and in ministry. You are also welcomed to join a peer group. These sessions are led by our conference coaches for the purpose of fellowship and encouragement.



Great Commission Meals

One of the signs that spring is coming is the arrival of the Great Commission Meals (GCM). These annual events are sponsored by World Missions Ministries. It is an expression of thanks to the pastors and church mission directors for their faithful promotion of all the ministries of missions.

These meetings are also an excellent forum to interact with our dedicated missionaries. Finally, you will find great fellowship around the table.

Check the schedule on the cover and attend a GCM that is convenient to your schedule. Please note that the East TN district meeting has had to change locations.

One Church One Mission One Year

God is answering our prayers for church planters! Since the Arise banquet last October, we have started praying earnestly and specifically for our region to have new churches. Suddenly, there are 3 potential planters that have been identified! These 3 planters represent the North and West regions of our conference. Please continue to pray for planters and mother churches to arise in the East, South and Central areas. A church planting intensive training is planned for March. Please contact the conference office about this event and how you can be sponsored to attend.

"Saying a thing gives birth to a possibility."

Doug Small, Prayer: The Heart of it All



Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



Pastors, Youth and Children's Pastors and Leaders:

Make your plans for your youth and children to be a part of these exciting ministries....please help us by passing along this information to your leaders and congregation.

BIBLE QUIZ: This year we will be studying the book of Matthew. One of the greatest equipping tools we give our students for survival in this present day is an understanding and love for the Word of God. Bible Quiz encourages them and gives them the opportunity to commit His Word to memory! See the enclosed flyer and get your young people involved!

FINE ARTS: a REDESIGNED Fine Arts program has been released for the 2022 season. In an effort to more fully embrace the vision and mission of Fine Arts by recognizing talents and gifts, and the development and equipping of leaders, the ministry has become more individual focused and less competition focused. Some basic changes you will see: less division in categories, and we will not be awarding medals, but we will be recognizing students. There will be greater opportunity for advancement and scholarship at both Conference and national levels, and an opportunity for mentors to invest in their lives. Our focus will be on the students and equipping them to use their gifts in the church, for God and ministry.

Guidelines for both Bible Quiz and Fine Arts can be found on the Appalachian Conference website:

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-National-Bible-Quest-Guidelines-FIN-9.pdf>

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-National-Fine-Arts-Guidelines-FINAL-9.pdf>

Youth Camp:

Extreme Teen: June 20 – June 24 (ages 14 - 17)

Camp Pastor: Josh Lafferty

Worship: Emmanuel College

Destiny Junior Teen: June 27 – July 1 (ages 11 - 13)

Camp Pastor: Tim Bennett

Worship: Abigail Eversole

Adventure Kidz Quest: July 5 – 8 (ages 7 - 10)

Camp Pastor: Kristi Cain

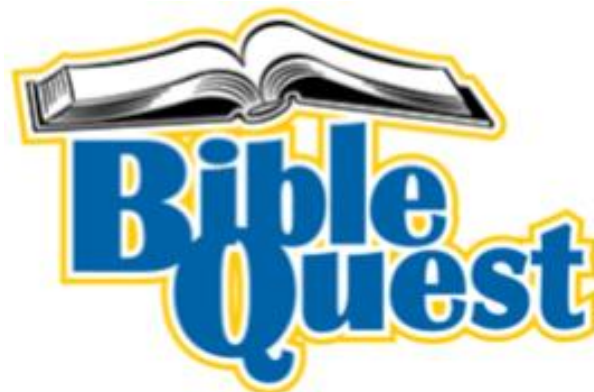
Worship: TBA

We hope to have applications for Campers and Workers released by Ministers' Summit. Please help us by sharing the need for volunteers, as well as encouraging your students to attend Camp. ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE A LIFE!

We look forward to seeing you and your congregations involved in all events. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 540-674-4131 ext. 206 or email: rfredericks58@aol.com

2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

**COME JOIN US IN
2022 AS WE STUDY
THE WORD
TOGETHER**



BIBLE QUIZ

TEENS: MATTHEW & JUNIOR: MATTHEW 1 - 14

2022 GUIDELINES:

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-National-Bible-Quest-Guidelines-FIN-9.pdf>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CONFERENCE OFFICE AT
540-674-4131 EXT. 201.**



IPHC FINE ARTS

**ONCE TEAMS ARE REGISTERED, SCRIMMAGES
AND CONFERENCE DATES WILL BE DETERMINED.**

**Psalm 119:11 "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I
might not sin against You."**

CAMP MARANATHA 2022



Extreme Teen

Ages: 14 – 17

June 20 – June 24

Camp Pastor: Josh Lafferty

Worship: Emmanuel College

Destiny Junior Teen

Ages: 11 – 13

June 27 – July 1

Camp Pastor: Tim Bennett

Worship: Abigail Eversole



Adventure Kidz Quest

Ages: 7 – 10

July 5 – 8

Camp Pastor: Kristie Cain

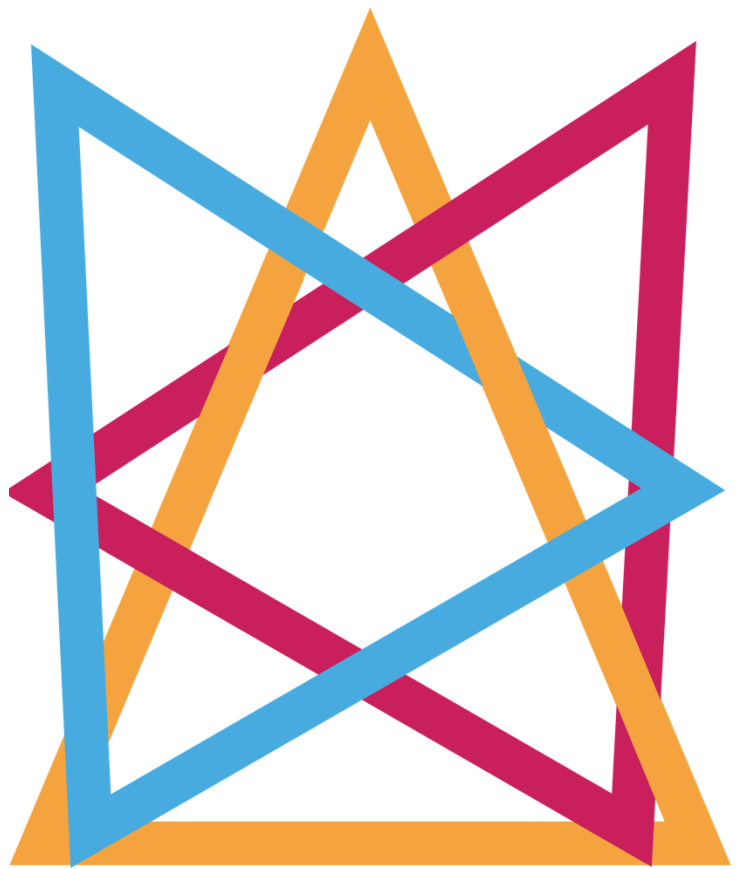
Worship: TBD



**APPALACHIAN
CONFERENCE**

FINE ARTS

**APRIL 22 – 23,
2022**



I P H C F I N E A R T S

CHECK OUT THE NEW GUIDELINES AT:

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-National-Fine-Arts-Guidelines-FINAL-9.pdf>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
OFFICE AT 540-674-4131 EXT. 201!**



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



Women's Ministries

Informational Brunch

This year, Wendy, Kim and I are excited to offer something new to this ministry.

So often we get messages from pastors and ladies asking about starting a WM in their church. They have questions regarding, "What is Women's Ministries?" "How do I start a WM?" "What does WM do?" The list goes on and on.

We wanted to offer an opportunity for ladies throughout the conference to be able to attend an informational brunch in your area. Therefore, we have set aside three Saturdays in 2022 to make this happen. All brunches will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 12:30 p.m.

March 5, 2022 - Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship
Natural Bridge, VA

May 14, 2022 - Life Changers Christian Center
Wytheville, VA

August 6, 2022 - Point of Contact Ministries
Bluefield, WV

We will take this time to present to our ladies what Women's Ministries is all about.

My board and I would love to fellowship with you, encourage you and help you establish a healthy, growing WM in your church. Women's Ministries is a vital ministry in our churches today and we would like to see all of our conference churches have this to offer their ladies.

Please consider joining us for a brunch in your area. If possible, please RSVP to me one week prior to attending the date of your choice. For questions or to RSVP, contact me at pastortammy511@yahoo.com 276-620-7549.



World Intercession Network

Donna Hankla



“THEY HAVE TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN”

Acts 17:6

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

Paul and Silas came to the capital city of Macedonia, known as Thessalonica. This was a city of about 200,000 people. Paul decided to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the synagogue. Paul’s message convinced many Jews to accept the truth of the Gospel.

However, there was a group of Jews that would not believe, and desired to obstruct Paul’s mission. Jealousy motivated them to oppose the Gospel! They set the city in an uproar with untrue words and accusations. They searched for Paul and Silas but could not find them. So, they attacked the house of Jason, the house where the disciples were staying. Their accusations were really compliments to the power of the Holy Spirit!

THREAT TO INFIRMITY

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on a Sabbath when a woman with an infirmity was seen. Jesus saw her pain and suffering. She was bent over! She had suffered with this evil affliction for 18 years! Today would be the last time that she would be under such bondage!

Jesus saw her and said, *“Woman, you are loosed from thine infirmity.”* And he laid hands on her. Immediately she was healed and stood up straight! (Luke 13:11-15)

THREAT TO DEMONS

It was well known that demons afflicted people. However, a greater force was present. Jesus cast devils out of men, women, and children. He set them free from the pain and bondage caused by demonic activities. When Jesus arrived in the country of the Gadarenes, a *“certain man, which had devils for a long time,”* approached him. The man had no clothes and he lived among the tombs. (Luke 8:26-40) The demons in the man cried out, *“What have I to do with you, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech you, torment me not”* (Luke 8:28). The presence of Jesus was a threat to demons and is still a threat to them! Jesus delivered the man from a legion of demons.

HOW TO TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

STUDY QUESTION

Name the man who ministered with Paul when he was stoned at Lystra. (Acts 14) _____

March Calendar

- 
- 5 W.M. Brunch - Natural Bridge**
 - 13 Women's Ministries Day**
 - 14 The Foundry - Training Center**
 - 18 Fine Arts Registration Due**
 - 19 ETN Great Commission Meal - Golden Corral-Kingsport**
BLF/MCD GC Meal - New Vision
 - 21 ROA/CVA GC Meal - Original Italian Pizza, Bedford**
SHEN GC Meal - Good News Min.
 - 22 GRN GC Meal - Cucci Pizza**
CWV GC Meal - Beckley Dream Center
 - 24 NRV GC Meal - Harbor of Hope**
 - 25 SWV GC Meal - Hillsville PH**
 - 26 Bridging our Ministries Virtual Event**
 - 28 Call to Prayer - 8-9 pm**
 - 30 Women's Ministries Virtual Event**