

VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC



MESSENGER

Vol. 83, No. 5 May 2022

COMING SOON!

CAMP MEETING 2022

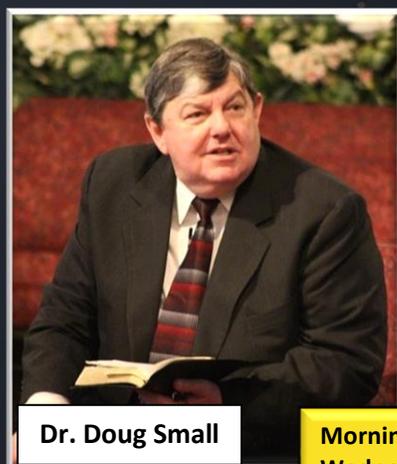


Manny Arango



Dr. Jay Pike

June 14 - 17
7 pm



Dr. Doug Small

Morning Classes beginning at 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday-Friday



Melanie Wayne

INSPIRATIONAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 10 - 9:30 AM

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15



REV. RICHARD B. STURGELL 6/23/48 - 3/29/22

Rev. Sturgell, of Thorpe, WV, was ordained with the Appalachian Conference in 1981. He pastored Landmark Bible and Gary P.H. Church. He is survived by a daughter and a son. He was buried at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Bluewell, where military honors were performed.



REV. MRS. NINA LUCILLE BAYS 11/21/41 - 4/1/22

Rev. Mrs. Bays, of Coal City, WV, was licensed with the Appalachian Conference in 1983. She subsequently pastored both Cales Chapel and Eccles P.H. Church. She is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



REV. MRS. DIANA WOODS OGDEN 12/17/51 - 4/15/22

Rev. Mrs. Ogden, of Elkins, WV, was ordained with the Appalachian Conference in 2010. She and her husband, Conley Ogden, pastored Abundant Life Christian Center and new Beginnings Ministries. She is survived by her husband, one daughter, three sons, three step-children and numerous grandchildren.



REV. MRS. BETTY M. ATKINSON 8/29/33 -- 4/19/22

Rev. Mrs. Atkinson, of Max Meadows, VA, was licensed with the Appalachian Conference in 1952. She co-pastored with her husband, H.T. Atkinson, at a number of churches in Virginia and West Virginia. She is survived by four daughters, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



REV. PATRICK E. WHEELER 6/7/45 - 4/26/22

Rev. Wheeler, of Bluefield, WV, joined the Appalachian Conference in 1968. During his ministry, he pastored several churches in Virginia and West Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Jean, three daughters and seven grandchildren.

**Appalachian Conference
Messenger**

Vol. 83— May 2022— No. 5

Executive Editor – Preston Mathena

Staff

Phone (540) 674-4131
5847 Oak Grove Avenue
Dublin, VA 24084

Evangelism & World Missions Ministries

Larry Meadors
5847 Oak Grove Avenue
Dublin, VA 24084

Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks
5847 Oak Grove Avenue
Dublin, VA 24084

Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter
2473 Ivanhoe Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360
Phone (276) 620-7549

WIN

Donna Hankla
139 Ridgeway Drive
Bland, VA 24315
Phone (276) 688-3709

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Steve Winesett
3414 Water Plant Road
Hillsville, VA 24343
Phone (336) 408-2008

Conference Board

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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



The Good Minister: Practical Ministerial Training Opportunities **Dan Woods**

At Camp Meeting 2021, I was greatly blessed to return to my home conference and offer a series of messages on “Engaging Preaching” (engaging our congregations, communities, and culture with the love and truth of the Gospel). It was a time of renewing old relationships for me—and for making many new friends. And out of subsequent conversations with Bishop Mathena and others, an exciting training opportunity for new ministers in the Appalachian Conference is now taking shape.

Too many ministers learn most important aspects of ministry only by trial and error. This was true when I started and is still true today. We may have a good grasp on our Statement of Faith, for example, but we are at a loss at how to carry out such practical responsibilities as leading a board meeting, creating a budget, conducting a funeral, protecting our families from abuse or neglect, resolving a conflict in the church, or engaging social media in an edifying manner.

I am thrilled to have been asked to help create a series of Saturday gatherings designed to build our competence and confidence in such vital areas of practical ministry. As a start, we are planning to meet each fall to consider together what makes a “good minister” (1 Timothy 4:6):

- **“The Good Minister of Jesus Christ”** – To what are we called? What makes a good pastor? A good minister? A good leader? What happens when we’re not so good? (This is not only the right place to start with new ministers, but it is also a topic that all ministers could revisit often with profit.)

In addition to an annual consideration of “the good minister,” we are planning to offer a series of six more specific ministry seminars (two each year, repeated every three years):

1. **“Meeting Expectations”** – Conducting a good Local Church Council Meeting (and Church Business Meeting). Implementing a wise and visionary church budget (following the Manual, supporting the Conference). Building effective ministry teams that support each other (Local Church Ministries Council).
2. **“Meeting Family Needs”** – Conducting a good weddings, funerals, and other important family events. Conducting good pastoral counseling and conflict resolution in the church.
3. **“Meeting the First Responsibility”** – Building a healthy pastoral family. Modeling and maintaining a godly marriage. Developing good Sabbath rest and re-creation habits.
4. **“Preaching Effectively”** – Becoming a better preacher (in preparation, presentation, and pentecostal power). Resisting ministry fads and perpetuating all that is good in our Pentecostal Holiness heritage.
5. **“Imparting Doctrine”** – Becoming an effective teacher to all generations of our Statement of Faith. Countering current doctrinal drift and heresy effectively.
6. **“Engaging Culture”** – Becoming an effective teacher to all generations of our Covenant of Commitments. Maintaining a good social media presence (in a politicized and sexualized culture).

Please pray for us as we further refine these training opportunities. And pray for the people who need this training most will invest themselves in the process for the good of their families, churches, and communities.

The first session will be held on Saturday, September 17, at the Training Center in Dublin.

In ministry, we are constantly seeing the need for professional counseling, and how blessed we are to have this opportunity to connect with this ministry that can bring healing and restoration for so many. Bishop Mathena



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

An opportunity is available for you and yours to receive Christian counseling from an IPHC ministry partner. “**Beacon Counseling**” provides affordable, in-depth pastoral and biblical counseling with offices in Salem at Christian Life International (CLI) Church and Christiansburg at Victory Restoration Church (VRC).

For decades, I referred people to Christian counselors outside the church without a lot of success. Even though the church paid for the first three sessions, for those in crisis, it was usually not enough. Often individuals would quit going to counseling prematurely or put it off for months to be able to afford it.

Within the last few years, the Lord has developed the idea for **Beacon Counseling**, comprised of trained counselors within our church, as a solution to minister to those with ongoing or complex issues. I thank God that we are seeing healing take place.

The **Beacon Counseling** team at CLI is DJ Sheppard and Pastors Josh and Megan Kestner. In addition, DJ Sheppard has an office in Christiansburg at VRC, providing **Beacon Counseling** in partnership with Pastor Jamey Hutton. To find out more about this affordable, Spirit-filled counseling option for you, your family, or your church and to read about the counselors, visit <https://www.clchurch.org/counseling> for Salem or <https://www.vrcchurch.com/content.cfm?id=9033> for Christiansburg.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan, CLI Church



Pentecost

PRAYER REVIVAL

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1ST - PENTECOST SUNDAY JUNE 5TH

PENTECOST PRAYER REVIVAL

Let us be a part of this global call to prayer!

It's simple.

Open the doors of the church and invite the people to stop in and pray from **Wednesday, June 1st to Pentecost Sunday, June 5th.**

Join thousands of IPHC Churches as we:

- ∞ Open our doors.
- ∞ Pray for a Great Spiritual Awakening.
- ∞ Pray for the church to experience revival.
- ∞ Pray for our family and friends that we might be a light to them.
- ∞ Join thousands of other churches in unison.

Additional information, prayer resources & videos that you can share can be found at the following links (English & Spanish): <https://iphc.org/ariseinprayer/>

Also: https://youtu.be/rhs4GC_VmNg

ARISE IN PRAYER

TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH INTO A HOUSE OF PRAYER



World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



MEET THE ETHERIDGES

Hi there! We're Sean and Katie Etheridge and we have three children, Elsie (7), Bryan (5), and Liliana (2). God has called us to go to Eastern Europe, specifically the areas of Romania, Moldova, and the people of Ukraine. God has called us to bring a message of HOPE to these regions and people who feel that their situations are hopeless. We have a living HOPE to bring to them in Jesus Christ! Each letter in the word HOPE stands for a people group that God has called us to reach. H - The hurting who are lost, unreached by the Gospel, who are trying to drown their pain with alcohol and drugs. There is no pain, emotional or physical, that He cannot heal! O - The Outcasts and marginalized people group, the Romani (gypsies) who are constantly told they are less-than and unimportant. The least will be the greatest in God's Kingdom and all are welcome to be a part of His Family! P - The Prostitutes who have been sold into Modern-day slavery, and those who are in danger of becoming so because of the low job opportunities in their country. These girls are not defined by what has been done to them or the choices they have made. They can be made a New Creation

and have a New Identity in Jesus Christ! E - The Exiles who were forced to flee their country because of Putin's War. There is an indestructible home waiting for everyone who believes! This message of HOPE is vital in today's broken and hurting world with everything that we have been encountering in the last couple of years. This message of HOPE changed the world 2000 years ago, and it CAN change the world again today. It starts with you and me - the Body of Christ, The Church. Will you partner with us to reach Eastern Europe with the message of HOPE?

Contact us here if you would like for us to speak to your congregation:

email: katie.r.etheridge@gmail.com

phone: 7575820809

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seanandkatie>

Missions Update

- **Rileys**- We would like to welcome the Rileys as members of the Appalachian Conference! They recently transferred their membership from the Heartland Conference. David, Michelle, Bradyn, Callie and Brittyn will be back home this summer for a short itineration. They hope to see you all at Camp Meeting.
- **Ukraine**- The IPHC Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund (#41502P) has been sending desperately needed funds to this war-torn country, **\$160,000 so far**. Your conference giving has raised \$27,400. Please continue to give through your church to this ongoing need. You can learn more and keep up to date by going to <https://iphc.org/missions/update-from-ukraine/>

"The hope now, with the dispersion of the millions of Ukrainians across Europe, is that many others will also be carrying the gospel of Christ. For years, our missions school in Kiev trained leaders and pastors in the hope that they might evangelize across Europe. Some did, but most planted churches in Ukraine. Now, many are rooted out of Ukraine and are scattered across Europe. May there be a mighty harvest in the wake of this dispersion."

Bob Cave, Regional Director of Eurasia and the Middle East

- **Conference Project 2022**- The One Mission/Two Goals Project giving so far for the year is Senegal (#11417P) \$5,319 and Conference Church Plants (AC-33) \$1,444. A promotional video is available at <https://appconf.org/media/yx77xpc/2022-special-projects>
- **Global Service**- Friday night of Camp Meeting, June 17th, will be a special night! Dr. Doug Small will be challenging us from the Word of God. There will be updates from World Missions Ministries. Please bring your global offering that night as we believe together to go over \$200,000 this year!

Help Our IPHC Family in the Congo

The following is an appeal from Ernest Turner, who is the IPHC WMM Regional Director for West Africa:

Bishop Ejiba Yamapia is over the IPHC work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He has the rare opportunity to ship a container of humanitarian aid back to the Congo. The only catch is that he has to gather the "Aid" and pack the container. With this in mind, if any of you know of Pastors or Churches that would like to donate any of the following to this cause, he would be most grateful:

- Christian books, Bible commentaries, Bibles, study materials
- Musical instruments, new or used – useable keyboards, etc.
- Clothing – for adults and children
- Agricultural equipment - Farming tractor (small), lawnmowers, chainsaws, small mechanical hand-ploughs (tillers) etc., to give economic growth to the surrounding urban communities
- Generators – gasoline or diesel
- Church furniture, pulpits, pews, choir robes (often used for Bible School graduations.) communion sets
- School supplies - backpacks, pens, pencils, notebooks
- Bicycles and toys for children
- Bicycles & motorcycles for pastors in rural areas
- Vitamins and medical equipment
- Any other items that may be valuable to help those in need

The items will need to be brought to the Dublin Campgrounds by May 16th for shipment to Leesburg, Va.

Contact Larry Meadors in advance before bringing items. 540-392-1541 meadorslarry@gmail.com

Look at the list and imagine:

You are a struggling Pastor at small church, with no electricity; wouldn't it be nice to get a generator so you could have some evening services with lights?

You're a young Pastor and have been assigned to a new area, to plant a church, but you have no musical instruments. Wouldn't it be a blessing if someone blessed you with a keyboard and some musical instruments?

You might be a Pastor of a progressive, growing church, but you have no "commentaries, study materials, etc." Wouldn't it be nice if you were blessed with some study books, material that can help you grow? Many Pastors have given their libraries away... but the missionaries can't get them to the field because they are so heavy and extra baggage is so costly on the airplane.

You're a rural Pastor, with a small piece of land that you pay someone to plough for you once a year so you can grow a small crop for your family. Wouldn't it be great to get a small tractor or even a tiller so you could do that yourself and perhaps even bless your neighbor too?



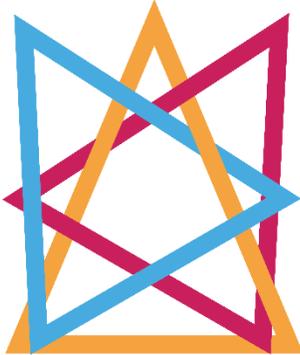
Discipleship Ministries



Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CELEBRATES KIDS AND STUDENT MINISTRIES WITH FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



IPHC FINE ARTS

A little different from years past, but after two years the Appalachian Conference welcomed Fine Arts back to its campus. With a reimagined program and new guidelines that increase its focus on developing ministry and leadership gifts, on Saturday, April 23, students and adults gathered on the campgrounds for the 2022 Appalachian Conference Fine Arts Festival. Even though several hurdles brought changes to the day, it was still an exciting moment and a great time, as young people from across the Conference gathered and shared their talents and ministered in Music, Message, Movement and Media. Junior Students, ages 8 -12, participate only at the Conference level, while teen students, ages 13 – 19 who rate superior, advance to the National Fine Arts Festival in Jacksonville, Florida, July 22 – 25, 2022. Teen students also earn scholarships that can

be used at Emmanuel, Holmes and Southwestern. Fine Arts continues to be a tremendous ministry tool for the local church to involve young people in weekly services, outreach and development of gifts and talents. While all of our students did an excellent job ministering, the following students will advance to the national Fine Arts Festival this summer:

Vocal Solo - Alpha: Claire Dunagan, Valley Harvest Ministries & Laura Garmon, Valley Harvest Ministries

Vocal Solo - Omega: Viktoria Ross, Hillsville PHC; Emme Linkous, Christian Life International & J. J. Maynard, Christian Life International

Vocal Ensemble: Unleashed Praise, Valley Harvest Ministries (Claire Dunagan, Laura Garmon, Elise Kirtner, Alexa Smith, Ethan Liu & Ben Moles) & Ment4More: Galax PHC (Caleb Spurlin, Will Austin, Mary Rachel White & Taitum McPherson)

Instrumental Solo - Omega: Ethan Liu, Valley Harvest Ministries

Short Sermon - Omega: Jeremiah Light, Mossy PHC; Phillip Sweet, Galax PHC & Caleb Waters, Christian Life International

Audible Drama Individual - Omega: Viktoria Ross, Hillsville PHC

Creative Writing - Alpha: Callie Linkous, Christian Life International

Creative Writing - Omega: Hope Ellison, Mossy PHC

Worship Dance Individual - Alpha: Elise Kirtner, Valley Harvest Ministries & Addie Sarver, Christian Life International

Expressive Worship Individual - Omega: Hope Ellison, Mossy PHC & Katlin Snider, Hillsville PHC

Expressive Worship Group: Outbreak Youth, Hillsville PHC (Maggie Carico, Jordan Willis & Josie Belton)

Visual Art Painting - Alpha: Emily Collins, Harbor of Hope & Yasmine Adams, Christian Life International

Visual Art Drawing - Alpha: Eli Sweet, Galax PHC & Yasmine Adams, Christian Life International

Visual Art Drawing - Omega: Mariah Quick, Light House Ministries

Digital Art - Omega: Katlin Snider, Hillsville PHC

Also ministering in the Teen Division were:

Short Sermon: Sara Light, Mossy PHC

Worship Dance Group: Addy Sarver & Serena Adams, Christian Life International

Inaudible Drama Group: Adams Group, Christian Life International (Andrew Adams, Yasmine Adams, J. J. Maynard & Elijah Sheppard)

Visual Art Painting - Alpha: Andrew Adams, Christian Life International

Those ministering in Junior Division:

Vocal Solo: Annalise Liu, Valley Harvest Ministries

Vocal Ensemble: Transforming Praise, Valley Harvest Ministries (Annalise Liu, Kenzie Clark, Chloe Smith, Malaika Garmon, Anthony Garmon, Grace Burton, Kayleigh Burton & Kayley Johnson) & Kayleigh & Grace Burton

Worship Dance Individual: Annalise Liu, Valley Harvest Ministries, Kayleigh Burton, Valley Harvest Ministries & Grace Burton, Valley Harvest Ministries

Worship Dance Group: Transformed4God, Valley Harvest Ministries (Malaika Garmon, Anthony Garmon, Grace Burton, Kayleigh Burton, Chloe Smith, Kenzie Clark, Kayley Johnson & Annalise Liu)

Visual Arts Painting: Sadie Sarver, Christian Life International; Toby Collins, Harbor of Hope & Aidah Jones, Christian life International

Visual Art Drawing: Grayson Garmon, Valley Harvest Ministries, Grace Burton, Valley Harvest Ministries & Aidah Jones, Christian Life International

Photography: Sadie Sarver, Christian Life International



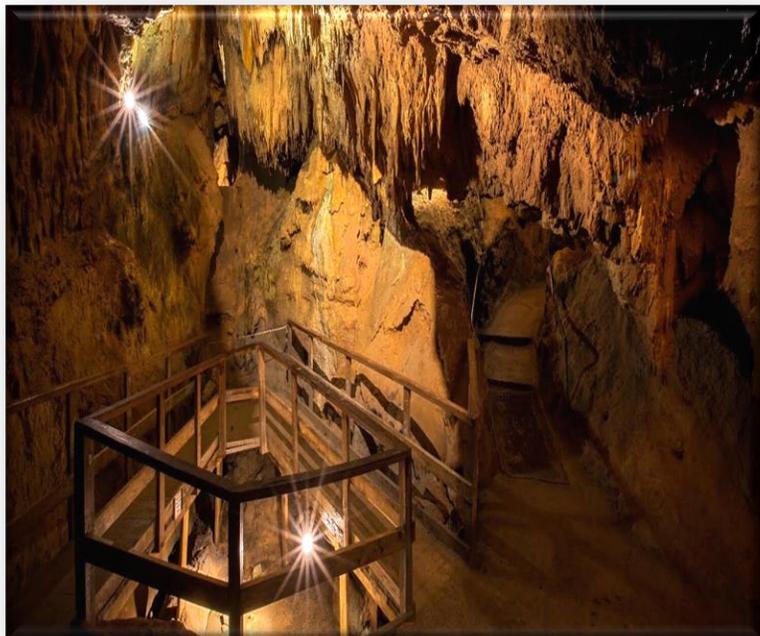
IPHC FINE ARTS



Some of our Fine Arts Students!!

FOR PERMISSION FORM & REGISTRATION GO TO:

<https://appconf.org/kids-ministry-field-day>



MAY 14 KIDS FIELD DAY

Come join us for a day filled with underground adventure. Learn how God creates an awesome place for us to explore 34 stories below ground. This is for children ages 5-12. Cost \$20, includes caverns admission, gem mine, craft, lunch and more. There is also a gift shop.

***Tour is not recommended if you are unable to perform physically demanding walking or climbing up and down numerous stairs in a dimly lit, cool, wet environment. Please wear non-slip, closed-toed shoes and bring a light jacket, as underground temp is 52.**

Hosted by Boys' and Girls' Ministries:

For more info, call Freddie Sweet Jr. @ 276-233-8983 (please leave message if no answer) or email applaconfmrr@outlook.com or Elaine Wood @540-357-5614 or email girlz4jc@gmail.com

**LUNCH AT NATURAL
BRIDGE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

**21 GILMORES MILL RD.
NATURAL BRIDGE STATION, VA
24579**

**OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS
TO CONSIDER EXPLORING
(ON YOUR OWN)**

**NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK
DINOSAUR KINGDOM II**

**VIRGINIA GOLD ORCHARD
NATURAL BRIDGE ZOO**

**VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER
VIRGINIA SAFARI PARK**

**Caverns at Natural
Bridge**

**6313 S Lee Hwy
Natural Bridge, VA**

May 14, 2022

10 am

**Please be there about
20 minutes early**

GIRLZ MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2022

AWAKEN

AUGUST

5-7TH
\$70

EACH CHILD/LEADER

AGES 10-17



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LIZ
DICKSON



WORSHIP WITH
MANISHA CARVER
& WORSHIP TEAM

● APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS ●

5847 OAK GROVE PL., DUBLIN, VA 24084

RETREAT WILL HELP BLESS VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE IPHC DENOMINATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 540.674.4131 OR 540.357.5614

DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Speaker: Brad Huddleston - 'Digital Cocaine'



May 21, 2022

Appalachian Conference Training Center

Morning session at 9:30 am

Afternoon Session for Women's Ministry,
Men's Ministry and Youth & Children

(Sessions will offer time for questions & answers as well as planning)



*Brad Huddleston is an internationally respected speaker, consultant, teacher and author on the important issues such as technology and culture. He has worked with universities, schools, churches and law enforcement, and spoken to hundreds of thousands around the world on both the advantages of well-used technology tools and the dangers of the growing trend toward technology addiction. Brad has an on-going collaboration with the Bureau of Market Research (BMR) and its Neuroscience Division at the University of South Africa. Brad has a degree in Computer Science and a Diploma of Biblical Studies and is a credentialed minister in the Acts 2 Alliance (A2A) movement in Australia. He's also a frequent guest on radio and television and author of *Digital Cocaine: A Journey Toward iBalance* and *The Dark Side of Technology: Restoring Balance in the Digital Age*. Brad and his wife, Beth, live in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.*

Event is Free - Lunch Provided

Appalachian Conference Training Center

Please RSVP by May 16th to

dmsecretary1@aol.com or call 540-674-4131, ext. 201 or

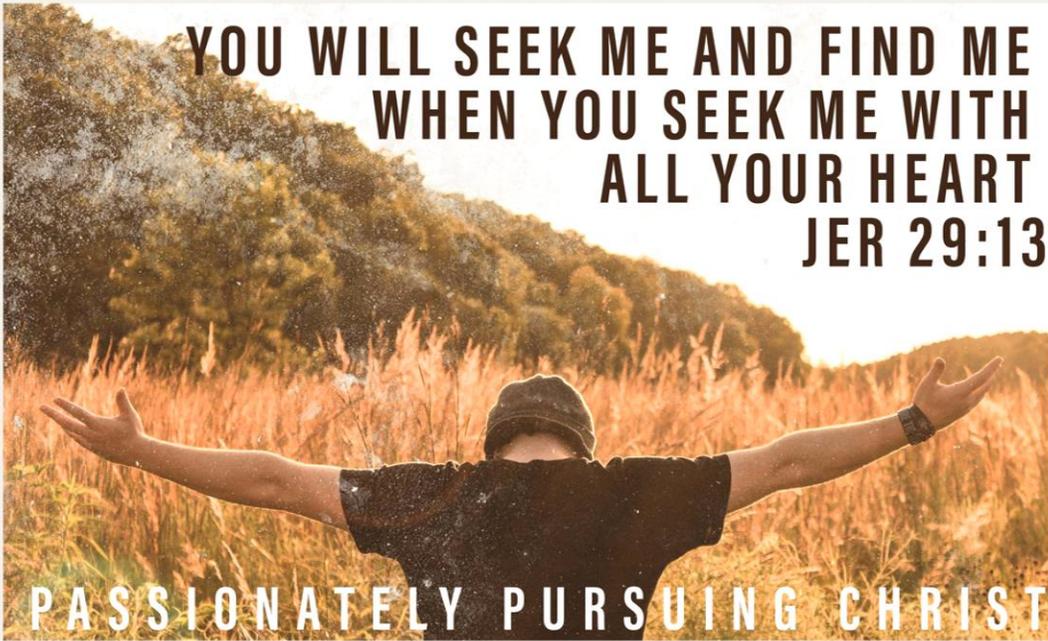
Register Online @

<https://appconf.org/day-of-discipleship>

Appalachian Conference Discipleship Ministries Department

DOWNLOAD REGISTRATIONS FORMS @

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/YC-APP-2022-FINAL-2.pdf>



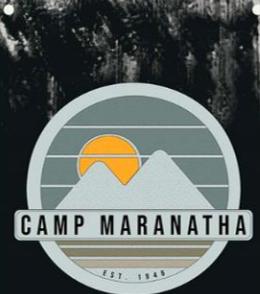
**CAMP
MARANATHA**

**20
22**
DUBLIN VA

JUNE 20-24 \$189	Extreme Teen 14 - 17 yrs Camp Pastor: Josh Lafferty Worship leader: Emmanuel College
JUNE 27 JULY 1 \$189	Destiny - 11-13 yrs Camp Pastor: Tim Bennett Worship Leader: Abigail Eversole
JULY 5-8 \$179	Adventure Quest - 7 - 10 yrs Camp Pastor: Kristie Cain Worship Leader: CLI Team

**YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME
WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH
ALL YOUR HEART
JER 29:13**

PASSIONATELY PURSUING CHRIST

MAILING ADDRESS DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES 5847 OAK GROVE AVENUE DUBLIN, VA 24084 CONTACT NUMBER 540-674-4131 EXT. 201 EMAIL DMSECRETARY1@AOL.COM	FOR REGISTRATION FORM GO TO APPCONF.ORG EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 6 \$10 DISCOUNT	
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**CAMP WORKERS NEEDED!!!
ONE WEEK WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE
and THE LIFE OF A STUDENT!!**

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED @

https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-CAMP_WORKER-APPLICATION-FINAL.pdf





Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



THE 21ST MASTER'S SEEDTIME GOLF CLASSIC BLUE RIDGE GOLF CLUB - GALAX, VA

MAY 20, 2022

SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S MINISTRIES OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE

All Participants will enjoy:

- 🏌️ 18 holes of golf
(Shotgun start at 9:30 AM)
- 🏌️ Green fees and riding carts
- 🏌️ Snacks and Drinks provided
- 🏌️ Lunch and Awards at the Close of Tournament

The following prizes will be awarded:

- 🏆 Trophy for each 1st, 2nd & 3rd place players.
- 🏌️ Longest drive on a designated hole.
- 🏌️ Prize for closest to hole on all par 3 holes.
- 🏌️ Putt-off contest winner.

Fee includes:
 1 Mulligan
 1 Red Tee
 1 Free-Throw per player

REGISTRATION FEE: \$70 per person or SPONSOR a TEAM for \$280.00

For questions and inquiries, you may contact:

Steve Winesett, Men's Ministries Director

336-408-2008 or men.appconf@gmail.com

Appalachian Conference IPHC Office 540-674-4131

**HELP KIDS GO TO
CAMP!
SPONSOR A HOLE!**

SPONSOR a HOLE for \$100.00

Contact Ron Fredericks, 276-233-4742

Rfredericks58@aol.com

DM Department, 540-674-4131, ext. 201

Email: dmsecretary1@aol.com



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



Honor Your Mother



Mother's Day! A day to celebrate that lady in your life who carried, labored and nurtured you. A day when you are reminded that it took sleepless nights and busy days to raise you. A day when you take a moment to reflect on memories of your mother and remember, God used her to bring you into the world.

Psalm 139:13 says, *"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb."*

It was in your mother's womb that you were formed, a safe place for a tiny baby to grow and prepare for an entrance into the unknown world. It was in the innermost part that you were shaped and molded by Almighty God.

He used your mother. She may have been the best at mothering, maybe she struggled. No matter the circumstance, she was created to bring life to you.

May 8 is the day to honor our mothers. If you are blessed to still have her with you, as I am, let her know how much you appreciate and love her. If she is no longer with you, take the time to honor her and cherish your memories.

Wendy, Kim and I want to take this opportunity to let all ladies know that you are honored on this Mother's Day. May you know how special you are.



You are invited:

Want to know more about Women's Ministries or how you can begin or grow this ministry in your local church? Join myself, Wendy and Kim for a Women's Ministries Informational Brunch at Life Changers Christian Center in Wytheville, Va, on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. There will be fellowship, food and a time to learn more about who we are and what we do.

This is a free event. All you need to do is RSVP to me by May 10. All ladies are invited to come. Whether you are a WM Director, board member or just a lady curious about this ministry, you are welcome to join us!

RSVP:

pastortammy511@yahoo.com

276-620-7549



YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Matthew 16: 16

Jesus chose a certain location to ask his disciples a very important question! We tend to miss the significance of this city known as Caesarea Philippi. This city was a mixed pagan city consisting of Greeks, Romans, and Jews. They were sitting at the crossroads of a famous temple dedicated to Caesar Augustus, who had brought peace to the Roman Empire. For this feat he was called, "The Prince of Peace."

A famous spring of water was found at the back of the temple. This spring was believed to be controlled by the god Pan. Idol worshippers brought sacrifices to the temple of Augustus. They would throw the sacrifice into the spring of water. Tradition states that if the sacrifice sank into the water, the god's answer to their requests was, "Yes." However, if the sacrifice did not sink, the god's answer was perceived as, "No." This temple honored Caesar Augustus, the adopted son of Julius Caesar. Both of these men were considered to be gods by the Romans!

Even more impressive was the background with Mt. Hermon. It is known as "sacred mountain." It is the highest mountain in ancient Israel, boasting of majestic snowy peaks, just over 9,000 feet above the sea. Many scholars believe that Mt. Hermon was the site of the Transfiguration. Both Mt. Hermon and the pagan temple attracted idol worshippers.

COURAGE

In this location, it would take great courage to boldly proclaim Jesus as the Son of the Living God. The pagan idols were dead gods, inferior to Jesus! NOW was the TIME FOR THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD to reveal His authority, and his true identity, for in this place both humans and spirits heard the answer of Peter.

Heaven, Hell and Humans close by heard Peter boldly announce that "Jesus is the Son of the Living God."

PRAYERS

Research suggests that there are approximately 4,300 religions in the world. Most all of these religions practice some form of prayer. Nearly 75 percent of the world's worshippers practice one of the five most prominent religions: *Christianity *Buddhism *Hinduism *Islam *Judaism

But only ONE of these many religions prays to THE LIVING GOD! When you pray, do so IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD!

Study Question: Who did Jesus say revealed the answer to Peter, regarding who men said He was?
Matthew 16 _____

JUNE RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

June 6

Rev. Ron Neff
3133 Linville Court
Lenoir, NC 28645

June 12

Rev. Ms. June Canavesio
8152 NW 25th Street
Bethany, OK 73008

June 17

Rev. D. L. Board
2243 Pilot Road
Christiansburg, VA 24382

June 24

Rev. Larry Roberts
259 Snow Vista Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

9:00 am

Bring a crew!



**CONFERENCE
WORK
DAY
May 23**



Help needed!



Lunch will be served

MAY CALENDAR

- 5 National Day of Prayer
- 6 Deadline-Early Youth Camp Registration
- 8 Mother's Day
- 14 Girls' & Boys' Ministries Day Event
- 14 W.M. Brunch-Life Changers
- 20 Men's Ministries Golf Tournament
- 21 Discipleship Development-Conference campgrounds
"Digital Cocaine" with Brad Huddleston
- 23 Conference Work Day
- 30 Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- 30 Call to Prayer 8 pm