

The Virginia Christian



Spring 2011

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Week of Compassion and churches respond to tornado victims

“That won’t happen here.” How many times have you heard or made that statement concerning natural disaster? This spring, many people throughout the Southeast have experienced the destructive power of tornadoes. On Friday, April 8, tornadoes touched down in the southwest Virginia towns of Pulaski and Draper, damaging and destroying many homes. A week later, on April 16, tornadoes hit the Gloucester and Deltaville area of Virginia, damaging and destroying buildings and homes, including the home of Philippi CC pastor, Rev. Mike Cook.

Responses to both situations were immediate, both from Week of Compassion and from volunteer help. Friday night, Regional Minister Lee Parker began making contact with Rev. Randy Winn, pastor of First Christian, Pulaski, concerning the situation there.



The steeple of Philippi CC in Deltaville was damaged, but the congregation worshiped the next morning.

Within 24 hours, Rev. Parker had contacted Brandon Gilvin of Week of Compassion, which, by Sunday afternoon, had committed to sending a grant check in the amount of \$4,000 to help the victims. A similar scenario played out the next week, with another WOC grant for Deltaville.

Doug and Nancy Hardymon, members of Snowville CC, helped set up an emergency shelter at

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Calendar:

- Craig Springs 50th Anniversary Celebration – June 3-5
- General Assembly in Nashville – July 9-13
- Men’s & Women’s Retreat at Craig – Sept. 9-11
- Women’s Retreat at Blackstone – October 14-16



*Regional Minister
Rev. G. Lee Parker*

Reflections from the Regional Minister

Growing up in a church family provided me with a solid foundation for a growing faith. In terms of my Christian nurture, some was at home, some in Sunday school, a little in worship, but most at church camp. I attended almost every summer from fourth grade until college. As a teen I was able to be a counselor at Junior Camp, where I was teacher and learner—mostly learner. Church camp is a unique setting for Christian education. Compare the hours in one week of church camp with the total hours of Sunday school during the year. Church camp wins. As a context for Christian education, church camp is an exciting and wonderful opportunity for teaching, learning, fellowship, fun, encountering the Holy Spirit, building lifelong relationships, and helping campers (and adults) in their faith journey.

Growing up in North Carolina, I spent most of my church camp time at Camp Caroline, but also at Camp Leach (Episcopalian) and Christmount. Situated on the Neuse River and Dawson Creek, Camp Carolina has tall pine trees and giant mosquitos. It was at Camp Caroline that I first articulated my sense of call to ministry. Church camp is a place where many have felt God's call to ministry. I believe church camp grounds are sacred ground.

When the Christian Church in Virginia bought Craig Springs in 1960, it didn't take long before that property became sacred ground, as numerous volunteers helped to prepare for that first summer of church camp in 1961 and continuing over the fifty years since, as campers of all ages have spent time on the mountain. Work weekends and worship, friendships built and water pipes laid down, music made and meals consumed—all infused by the presence of the Holy Spirit—have transformed a run-down resort to a place where God is encountered. Come celebrate these fifty years of "Ministry on the Mountain" the first weekend of June. We're kicking off the celebration with a special section on Craig Springs in this edition of *The Virginia Christian*.

The Virginia Christian

Editorial Team:
Amy Moore
Lee Parker

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Pulaski Elementary School almost immediately after the hit. "We saw God that day," said Rev. Jonathan Webster, pastor of Snowville Christian. The next morning the church held a spring cleaning and had arranged to have 12 students from a nearby college. When the students didn't show up, all the food the ladies prepared for the students went to good use; Doug took the food to the shelter and it was gone in fifteen minutes.

Doug and Nancy Hardymon started volunteering with Disciples Volunteering after Hurricane Katrina. Doug commented, "I never thought I would see a tornado hit here in southwest Virginia."

On Sunday, the Red Cross called Snowville Christian to help with 125 lunches for families affected by the tornado. Several hours later the request increased to 150, and the next day, 300 were requested.



Volunteers from Snowville CC included (l. to r.) Rev. Jonathan Webster, Doug Hardymon, Janet Dishon, Charlotte Meredith, Barney Meredith, Donna Webster and Gene Grayson.

Snowville Christian contacted the Rev. Gina Rhea at First Christian, Radford, and within two hours, the ladies of that church called to say 150 lunches were ready. "This was a tangible expression of God's love," said Donna Webster, member of Snowville Christian and Director of Women's Ministries for the Region. "So many times we look elsewhere to demonstrate the love of Jesus, and sometimes God seems to wake us up to our own community's needs. I believe in global missions, but we must have faith that God will provide the means and time for us to do both."

As Rev. Winn said, "We never dreamed we would be cleaning up after something as destructive as these two tornadoes in Pulaski County, but we are. And I never thought we would be in need of Week of Compassion funds, but we are. Thanks be to God for Week of Compassion and generous donations that help make it happen. God is good."

Oops!

An addition to the 2010 *Virginia Christian* contributors: Poole Christian Church. Anna Mae Croy was misidentified in the list of contributors.

The new pastor at West-side Christian Church is Catherine (Cyd) Cowgill, not Cynthia.

Around the Old Dominion

Martinsville—In February 2009 Snow Creek Christian Church pioneered the Backpack Program in Franklin County. When church board chair Debbie Haynes read an article about children picking through garbage cans for food, she went to the principal of Snow Creek Elementary School to see what could be done for children who may not have enough to eat over the weekends. From that started the church's Backpack Program. Each Friday, children are given a supply of food that will fit in their backpack to take home for the weekend. During the summer months these same families can sign up for a bag of groceries per child each week while school is out. When school starts, the program also helps with back-to-school clothes, shoes, supplies, etc. At Christmas, the school provides names of those who need help, and the children's names are placed on an angel tree. Presently, the church is providing food for 49 children at Snow Creek Elementary.



Richmond—On February 5th, in her home, Mabel Garrison (above right), a 91-year-old charter member of Bon Air Christian Church taught Laura Hollis and Bud and Susan Deihl how to make her famous oatmeal bread. Laura, Bud and Susan were the highest bidders at the November 2010 "Work of Your Hands Auction," a fundraiser for mission projects of the women of the church. Mabel is known within the church for her delicious hot bread and on many occasions has delivered it personally to church visitors. As she taught others how to make her recipe she passed along to another generation the skills that she has honed over 50-plus years of making her bread as well as the "the bread of life."

For an online copy of
The Virginia Christian
go to www.ccinva.org.

The next issue of *The Virginia Christian* will be published in **August 2011**.

Deadline for submissions is **August 1**. Articles submitted for the "Around the Old Dominion" section should be no more than 200 words. Articles and photos may be submitted by mail to the Regional Office or by email to: AmyMoore@jetbroadband.com.

Virginia Beach—Retired Disciples pastor Dr. Bill Austin, who is also a licensed psychotherapist, has been facilitating a Grief Support Group for the Lutheran Family Services in Virginia Beach. Each group meets for eight sessions, and it is free and open to anyone who has experienced a loss. There will be three groups this year.



Radford—Radford Christian and First Christian Radford entered into unity conversations last fall to bring the two congregations together under one roof. Joint worship services on the first Sunday of each month began in January 2011. Pictured above are the worshipers at the first joint service on January 2. A proposal to dissolve both congregations and charter a new Disciples congregation in Radford is currently under consideration.

Richmond—On April 10 Battery Park Christian Church held a sold-out fund raiser, spearheaded by member Judy Pollard. Called An Elegant Afternoon Tea, it was an opportunity to polish the silver, dust off the teacups and decorate hats with spring flowers. While a few brave men were on the attendee list, others agreed to serve as waiters to the crowd of mostly women and girls, who agreed it was a delightful afternoon. Music was provided by Miriam Blake, who conducted a sing-along, with Don Warner at the piano and Rob Peterman on the guitar. Women and girls both competed for the prettiest hats. Finger sandwiches



and desserts accompanied the various tea beverages. Each table was decorated by a volunteer—all unique and all gorgeous.

Dundas—The first Sunday in September 2010 was a sad day for Perseverance Christian Church at Dundas when our pastor, Anthony Westbrook, announced his resignation. After nine years of being our pastor, our leader, our mentor, and our friend, his last day in the pulpit would be November 21st. As the days and weeks passed, however, we began to feel some joy—not that Anthony was leaving, but something great was taking place in our church. In those weeks before Anthony left, we had 2 transfers into our church and 22 were baptized! It was a great time for Perseverance for these 24 to join our church family! We miss Anthony, Georgia and Grace and wish them much happiness in their new home and church. We will never forget them.

FCC Salem models spiritual focus of Holy Week

First Christian Church in Salem, Virginia, is alive and well! Our congregation celebrated the Easter

season with four special worship services. Our spiritually uplifting services began on Maundy Thurs-



day, April 21st, as we enjoyed a re-enactment of the Last Supper. This inspirational service placed each one of us at the Lord's table to partake in his last meal with his disciples.

On Good Friday, the youth of the church presented the Passion

play. What an awesome experience to sit, watch and weep, as we tried to imagine how our Lord and Savior felt on his final day on Earth as a human being. Our youth did a tremendous job presenting this most touching Good Friday service.

Our Easter celebration began with a joyous sunrise service on the lawn, complete with a short sermon and communion.

Fresh-cut flowers and Easter outfits filled our sanctuary with life as we celebrated the risen Savior at our 10:45 a.m. worship service. What a glorious day to be together in God's house!!

—Sara Bell, Church Reporter

**SAVE THE DATE:
JANUARY 21, 2012**



WORKSHOP

FROM VISITOR TO MEMBER

How to create belonging & form disciples in our churches

Rev. Bill Lee, Guest Preacher

**Hosted at:
Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Ave.
Richmond VA 23221**

Sponsored by the Evangelism and New Church Committee

Ministerial Changes

Peter Anderson began as new minister of Edgemont CC, Christiansburg, on January 1, 2011.

A Brief History of Craig Springs

In the early days of the nineteenth century, people would take a stage coach ride to get to the special healing springs of Virginia. Doctors who were familiar with the curative powers of various springs would write prescriptions for the number of days needed for health restoration. People frequenting these resorts ranged from middle class teachers to the president of the United States. History does not say that Craig Springs was on the map as a resort until later in the nineteenth century, mainly because it was further from main roads.

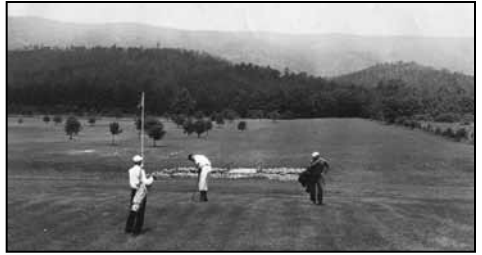
The civil war took a terrible toll on lives, resources, and on the morale of the south. In 1869, the springs became “healing places for the malady of defeat.” The Craig Springs property was sold several times in the later 1800s and in 1885 was sold to J.P. Caldwell, Martin Huffman and 9 others. It is speculated that this is when The Craig Hotel was built (in the background below). Also, at about this time iron ore was discovered in areas in and around Craig County, and



this brought big business. In 1897, the Craig Valley railway lines were instrumental in providing accessibility to the mountain mining business as well as to resort hotels.

In 1902, the 15-acre tract of “All Healing Springs” was sold to J.F. Little and N.S. Buck for \$2,727. Three years later, Little took over the property himself and later sold it for a profit to R.L. Telford. After a brief ownership by Craig-Giles Iron Company in 1908, the Craig Healing Springs Company, Inc. purchased the property. Business was good enough to support two resorts on the property. N.S. Buck opened a resort business on the high point south of the present club house in what had been a private school building. He called it Monte Vista. In the meantime, G.W. Layman made great strides in expanding the primary property at Craig Springs—remodeling the dining room, and adding cottages and a bowling alley across the street. In 1912, a new three-story hotel was erected, The Jefferson (below right), and





building Oak Lodge and adding even more cottages. Even in the 1930s, business prospered, but then came World War II. With gas being rationed, there were fewer visitors, and the property began to deteriorate. After the war, the development

visitors increasingly came to this special place. During the 1920s big parties, dances, and festivals were held at the Craig Springs hotels, and many retirees—particularly from Florida—bought property to build mountain cottages to use during the summer season. Golf courses, horseback riding, tennis, and swimming were all available to the vacationers. A “Craig Healing Orchestra” played for dances, with a “group of cultured and refined teachers and college girls to serve as waitresses.” Then the crash of 1929 happened and the golden era was over.

The property changed ownership a couple of times, then in 1935 landed in the hands of J.W. Oulds, a Methodist from Lynchburg, who expanded the resort by

of interstate highways probably also contributed to the decline. By 1955 the once-famous resort was in a destitute situation.

The property became available for sale, and in 1960 the price was right for the Virginia Christian Missionary Society to negotiate the purchase of Craig Springs Resort. It took a year of renovating, manually digging ditches for water lines,





repairing electrical outlets and roofs, and clearing paths. Many volunteers gave time to this preparation and loved doing it. In fact, 200 people came to one work weekend in May of 1961. The very first camp was opened that summer under the direction of Rev. Rhodes (Dutch) Artz, and thus began a camping program that has influenced the faith formation of thousands of youth as well as adults.

In the early years, the camps were mainly by age group, with a Chi Rho Camp and a CYF Conference, as well as adult events and meetings. There were a few years in the 1970s when joint camps were held with the Christian Church in West Virginia.

Triple Camps were first offered in 1973, allowing three age groups to attend camp at the same time. That same year, Special Camp was started—designed for young people and adults with special needs. Over the years, Christian Men’s Fellowship groups have been a major source of funding for this camp. In 1974, the first Nature



Camp was offered; the next year’s Youth Congress established the guidelines for this

youth-led camp for underprivileged children.

Other camps have been offered through the years, including adventure camps (complete with canoeing and rafting), music camp (which gradually expanded to include art, drama, dance and photography), and more recently GAP Conference for college-age young adults.

An important part of the ministry from the very beginning has been annual Work Weekends. Scores of people have made the trek up the mountain to lend their hands and skills to maintaining and improving the facilities of Craig Springs. Sometimes churches have taken on the upkeep of a particular building.



Just ask anyone who has ever spent time at Craig Springs and the response is the same, “I loved every minute, and I felt God’s presence all around me.” We are grateful to our forefathers for finding this place, listening to God’s call to open this camp, and providing the quality program of outdoor ministries that we now have. We celebrate 50 years of the healing powers of Craig Springs—not just physical healing, but spiritual healing!

—Gina Artz (daughter-in-law of Rhodes Artz)

Do You Remember? Were you there?



A compilation of personal memories and stories heard by Kathy Umberger Witt

Were you there when they paved the front drive for the first time? Big trucks and big men everywhere, at least that is the way it seemed to a little girl.

Were you there to paint the pool? Climbing down the ladder and painting from Friday through Sunday just to get it done. It felt like we even slept in the pool sometimes.

Do you remember the Jefferson Hotel? Were you there to spend the night in one of the rooms in the Jefferson with its creaky old floors and being able to hear what was going on in the very next room? Running around the porches, we made sure not to stop at the one scary room where old Mr. Craig was supposed to have murdered someone.

Do you remember when the picnic shelter was built after the Jefferson was torn down? Were you there when the construction took place, watching the trucks come and the concrete being poured?

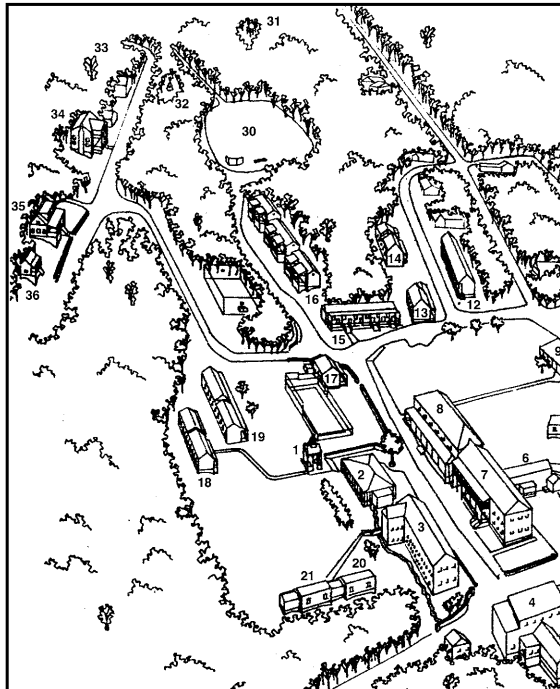
Do you remember when there was a whole week of Work Camp at Craig? Were you there when the teenagers at work camp built the shelters at camp David? Or when campers spent the week making the trail up Potts Mountain?

Were you there when, cutting the trail back to camp, the group came upon a rattle snake? The boys killed the snake and took it back to camp, and Mamie Sue cooked it up for the group to try. My big sister was there and she said it tasted a little like chicken.

I couldn't wait until I was old enough to go to week-long Work Camp but by then it was no more.

Do you remember hiking up Potts Mountain before the trail from the camp was cleared? We would walk down the road from the camp and start up the mountain from some farmer's land. It was an all-day hike back in those days.

Do you remember spending the night at Camp David before making the hike up Potts Mountain?



Were you there the night the skunk visited? It came to camp during the night and walked around the fire as the girls slept in their shelter. Then he jumped into the shelter and proceeded to walk over the sleeping girls as the counselor watched and prayed that no one would wake up or move. The skunk finally got bored or didn't find what he was looking for and waddled off, much to the relief of the counselor.

Were you there the 10th anniversary work weekend when the Foster's house burned? Being awakened in the night to the sounds of people yelling and the bell ringing, for a child it was a pretty scary night.

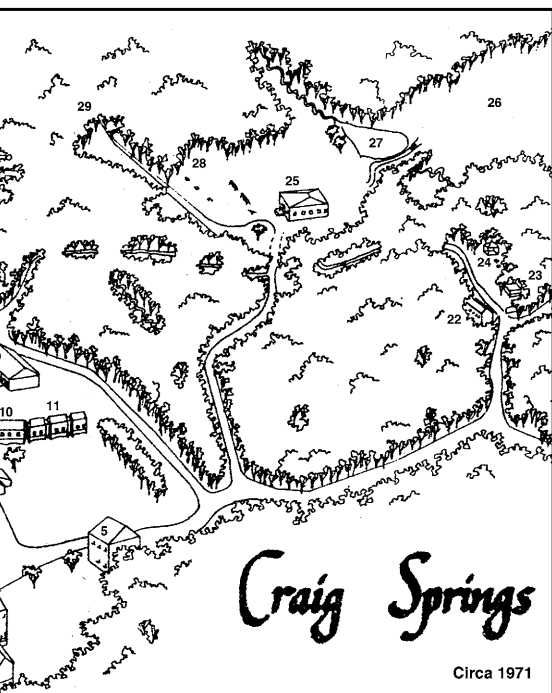
Do you remember the bowling alley? Remember standing at the back of the bowling alley to roll the balls

back and reset the pins by hand? Even if you never made a strike, attempting to roll the little balls at the little pins was still a blast.

Do you remember the store and the post office in the building across the road next to the bowling alley? Remember waiting with anticipation to go into the store with your money and then walking up to the big counter to buy a candy bar or maybe some ice cream? What a special treat.

Were you there for the very first Special Camp? Rev. Musick directed, and a young 15-year-old who came to just help out had to become a counselor for individuals with special needs. It was a life-changing experience for me.

Were you there for the very first Nature Camp? The Youth Cabinet of the region decided to have a camp for kids from cities who never had the opportunity to leave the city. It was an awesome week. Spending time with kids from the inner city and seeing through their eyes the camp and its wilderness aspects has changed the lives of many a



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- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Healing Spring | 19. Monroe Cottage |
| 2. Assembly Hall | 20. Lynchburg Cottage |
| 3. Oak Lodge | 21. Roanoke Cottage |
| 4. Service Building | 22. Storage |
| 5. Garage | 23. Water Pump House |
| 6. Kitchen | 24. Mineral Spring |
| 7. Dining Hall | 25. Club House |
| 8. Central Hotel | 26. Old Golf Course |
| 9. Jefferson Shelter | 27. Pond |
| 10. Alleghany Cottage | 28. Tent-Trailer Camping |
| 11. Charleston Cottage | 29. Road to Mtn. Campsites |
| 12. W. Virginia Cottage | 30. Ball Field |
| 13. Miami Cottage | 31. Tree House |
| 14. Richmond Cottage | 32. Tipi |
| 15. Salem Cottage | 33. Trail to Group Campsites |
| 16. Brookside Cottage | 34. Westover Retreat House |
| 17. Logan Cottage | 35. Summer Manager's House |
| 18. Bluefield Cottage | 36. Campers' Trading Post |

counselor over the years.

Were you there when one of the campers became suddenly ill far from camp? One young man there as a counselor ran the miles back to camp to get help—one of the many heroic acts that have taken place at Craig over the years.

Do you remember the meals in the dining hall? Were you there to eat biscuits and gravy? Scrambled eggs, sausage and biscuits? Were you there to enjoy the wonderful Sunday fried chicken? Remember when we ate family-style, with dishes brought to the table?

Did you know Mamie Sue? I can still see her sitting in her little office off the staff dining room or on the back porch of the kitchen.

Do you remember singing in the dining hall after each meal? Were you there when Dr. Stanger would sing “Dem Bones”? As a little child it was so neat to watch this. He would start the song and everyone would sing along, and then he would have one of the teenagers sing a certain verse like they were the character. I couldn’t wait until I was older and he called on me to sing a certain part.

Were you there when we learned to sing, “What You Gonna Do In A Little Canoe?” Stay in and kiss or get out and swim was always the debate.

Were you there to sing for your mail? Getting mail was a special treat, but to get your mail you always had to sing for the entire dining hall.

Do you remember the summer of the torrential rains, when the



Photos courtesy of Rev. Bob Mooty



creek became a raging river that ran right over the road into the swimming pool and into the glass house?

Do you remember Junior High Camp and naming your group and building a camp site in the woods? We would build a table by lashing sticks together between two trees and make a lean-to with sticks and a big piece of plastic. We would cook over our camp fires: hobo stew in aluminum foil and baking biscuits on a stick.

Were you there for a solid week of rain during Senior High Camp? Nothing to do but walk in the rain under shared rain coats. Clothes were wet for a week but God was still present.

Do you remember the tree house? Were you there to camp out in the tree house—sleeping on the hard floor inside the tree house, or if you were brave enough sleeping on the wooden deck at the bottom, or in the hammock that was hung there?

Do you remember the rockers on the porch of Central? Were you there when a skinny blond boy and a skinny dark girl would sit together in the one big rocker? I thought it was so cool to see these two teenager friends who could share a rocker. They were skinny, but the rocker was also pretty big.

Do you remember taking the trek to the swinging bridge? Remember playing in the creek and swinging into the water from the rope in the tree? To this day I don't know whose land we were on but we sure had fun there.

Do you remember MAD Camp and performing in the end-of-camp productions?

Do you remember the ball field? Were you there to challenge another group to a game? Sometimes it was softball and sometimes it was kickball. Everyone always got to play—no one was left out.

Were you there to dig in the dirt bank on the right field side of the ball field for geodes? What a treasure when you found one.

Were you there to star gaze? Many nights were spent laying on the ground of the ball field looking up at the stars and trying to find the different constellations.

Do you remember when the evening snack during camp was cookies and bug juice? You never knew what flavor of bug juice you were going to get each night but it was a real treat.

Do you remember Senior High Camp? Were you there when the hill glowed in the dark with glow sticks? To this day I can still see the green glow of jagged lines on the hill in front of Monroe.

Were you there when the main room in Central was decorated for Senior appreciation? Silver Milar was hung and draped to make a special showcase for the teens who were aging out of camp.

Were you there for the silent auction fundraiser for Nature Camp? Oh some of the things we auctioned. What fun.

Do you remember when the store and the bowling alley were torn down? Watching the destruction of this important part of Craig

history was a sad time for many, and more than a few tears fell.

Do you remember the caretakers of the camp over the years? Were you there when the Fosters were there—the blond, curly-haired family?

Were you there when Jap and Ruth Umberger were there? Talk about work camp. They got so many things accomplished.

Were you there when Jesse and Mary Kearns were there? Others came and went through the years. Some names I never knew.

Do you remember CMF/CWF Retreats? Were you there to hear some of the many great speakers who joined us over the years? September at Craig Springs is glorious. We had great fellowship and enrichment.

Over the past 50 years there have been many changes and people have come and gone. But many things have remained the same. These are probably the things that matter the most to those who love Craig Springs: friendships formed and a relationship with God strengthened in a place filled with the Holy Spirit. There have been many young people—as well as the not so young—who came to Craig and returned home changed forever by the experience they had while there. God has touched many lives through the serenity of Craig Springs and the ministry that takes place there. We pray that this ministry in the mountains of Virginia will continue to touch lives and lead people, young and older, to God's work.



***Celebrating 50 years
of MINISTRY on
the MOUNTAIN***

June 3-5, 2011
at Craig Springs

A weekend of remembering
and reflecting on 50 years
of outdoor ministry
at Craig Springs.

Food, fellowship,
and memory lane await!

Come join the festivities
for the whole weekend
or just for a day.

Registration details,
including the schedule
and lodging options,
can be found online at
www.craigsprings.com.

Save the date!
**Men's & Women's
Retreat**

September 9-11, 2011
(originally Sept. 23-25)
at Craig Springs

Registration forms
will be available soon.

**Special Camp Offering
Sundays on July 3 and 10**

We ask for your support of Special Camp by participating in Special Camp Offering Sundays on July 3rd and July 10th as a congregation or individual. Special Camp is a Christian camping experience held at Craig Springs for young adults and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Special Camp is a fun-filled week of Bible lessons, singing, crafts, and family group activities. Our campers arrive on Sunday afternoon and move into their designated cabins. Each weekday we have a morning keynote followed by crafts and family time. In the afternoon we have swim time, canteen (snack), and camp activity time. Each evening is special, with a carnival night, a total camp birthday party, a talent show, and a dance. The end-of-the-week slide show on Friday morning is the perfect end to a great week!

Special Camp is supported throughout the year by Disciples Men's groups in the Region as well as many congregations and individuals. The monies sent for Special Camp pay for camper and counselor participation costs as well as crafts, nursing, and activity supplies. The cost per camper is \$400, which includes the camping fee for one camper and a portion of one staff member.

Please mail your offering to the Regional Office indicating "Special Camp Offering" in the check memo line. An acknowledgement letter will be mailed to you upon receipt.

—Janice Austin,
Special Camp Director

Global Mission Partnership moves ahead

In the year since we voted at Regional Assembly to become a Global Mission Partner, plans have moved ahead under the leadership of the Global Mission Partner Team, headed by Rev. Jim Perry. With the help of Bob Shebeck of Global Missions, we have determined to partner with CEDECOL, an alliance of Protestant Christian groups in the South American country of Colombia. CEDECOL deals with a number of social justice issues, from peace to women's and children's issues to economic justice. There is great potential in this partnership, for both partners.

You may ask why Colombia? It was the thought of the Team that Colombia would be more accessible to visit and have exchanges with than other countries not in this hemisphere. Also, there was a recent Woman-to-Woman Worldwide delegation to Colombia, and so we would have some great resources for education and understanding. Finally, with all of the issues facing the church and people of Colombia, we felt there were many avenues of interest that would appeal to a broad range of Virginia Christians.

As we move ahead in establishing connections, it helps to remember some of the goals for a Global Mission Partnership. In this partnership, we seek to experience Christian unity that reaches across cultural, racial and national boundaries. We hope to

share in spirit, service and fellowship together. We seek greater understanding of each other and issues our churches face. We hope to develop lasting friendships, and support each other spiritually. We also seek to deepen our own spiritual vitality through these experiences and fellowship with our fellow Christians. The purpose of the partnership is to expand the horizons of our local churches and to assume a sense of responsibility for one another.

So what does this mean for the local congregation? What does it mean for you? A Global Mission Church PRAYS for its partners, missionaries and the world. It EDUCATES its members of all ages about global issues. It SEEKS JUSTICE for the "least of these" in the international community. It RECEIVES the gifts of the global church. It GIVES to the work of global mission. It SENDS its members into the world to share the Good News. It GROWS in sharing the story of God's mission with others. Some of the ways we do this are an exchange of delegations with our Global Mission Partner, and plans are getting underway for sending a delegation there. Other ways to be involved are to be in prayer for our Global Mission Partner, to include them on church prayer lists. We can highlight our Partner on special Sundays like World Communion Sunday, World Day of Prayer and Pentecost. We

can be multicultural and include international liturgy or songs, or learn the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. Our children, men and women can exchange letters with our Partner or we can host a Mission Fair, with displays and foods and games from our Partner's country. We can utilize the Disciples Women curriculum on Colombia, or have our Sunday School classes focus on Colombia in whatever curriculum they are using. We can go on the internet to learn more about Colombia, and Global Mission Partners, and educate ourselves about justice issues facing Colombia. We can host our partners when they visit, and lift up Global Missions as a part of our DMF giving.

—Rev. Debra Harmon, pastor of Edinburg CC, is a member of the Region's Global Mission Partner Team

Woman-to-Woman Trip representative chosen

Rev. Joan Daniels, pastor of Zion CC, Beaverdam, will represent Virginia as a participant in the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, August 28 - September 11, 2011. The group of twelve will be co-led by Sheila Spencer (Disciples Women) and Sandra Gourdet (Division of Overseas Ministries). This is the nineteenth Woman-to-Woman Worldwide experience. Virginia has had a representative on every trip. If you are interested in helping raise the \$4000 needed for Rev. Daniel's journey to the Congo, send your contribution to the Regional Office, designated for Woman-to-Woman.

Update on Jon and Dawn Barnes

In March 2011, Jon and Dawn began a new ministry with the Mozambique Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, based in Maputo, Mozambique. Dawn serves as an HIV and AIDS coordinator, and Jon serves as project and development officer.



CLERGY WOMEN'S RETREAT

Finding Balance for Busy Lives

Monday, October 17 - Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

Holly Lodge

9275 Barnes Road, Toano, VA

(www.wcrc.info)

PROGRAM PRESENTER: PAMELA BRO

Registration Fee ~ \$65

(Includes shared lodging, meals and program fee)

Single Room Registration Fee ~ \$130

(Includes private room, meals and program fee)

Dinner out together on Tuesday evening


is at individual's expense

Lynchburg College News

- Lynchburg College looks forward to welcoming the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to campus when she gives the Baccalaureate address to the class of '11 in Snidow Chapel, May 13, 2011.
- Anna Wright, Lynchburg College student and a member of Independence CC in Ashland, Virginia, died in a single-vehicle accident last summer, leaving behind grieving friends and teammates at Lynchburg College. Anna was a health promotion major, scheduled to graduate this May. She was the starting goalkeeper for the women's soccer team. On March 1, nearly 180 students participated in a 5k run/walk in her memory to raising money to drill wells in Uganda. Since the tragic loss of their daughter, Anna's parents, Darrell and Nancy Wright, have become enthusiastic about helping Anna's soccer coach, Dr. Todd

Pray for those attending
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 Saturday, July 9 - Wednesday, July 13
 in Nashville, Tennessee

For more info,
 or to share *your*
 story, go to
www.Disciples.org/GA.



Olsen, in his efforts to improve the lives of villagers in Gulu, Uganda, by providing clean water. "Anna had such compassion for people," Nancy Wright said of her daughter. "She wanted to help them."

- Renovations of Snidow Chapel were completed over the winter holiday break. Two new handicap accessible restrooms were added to the main floor narthex area of Snidow Chapel, making facilities available without climbing stairs or leaving the building. In addition, the small restroom at the back of the chapel was converted into a sacristy, donor plaques were updated and the portrait of Mr. Snidow was restored.

Expanding the Table

PENTECOST OFFERING 2011 

Received in most congregations on June 5 and 12, 2011.

Join the efforts of New Church Ministry in Expanding the Table in the United States, Canada and right here in our region by supporting the



Pentecost Special Offering. This offering, divided evenly between our region and New Church Ministry, helps to fund recruitment, coaching and training of new church ministers. By Expanding the Table, you and New Church Ministry are reaching out to serve multitudes and to share God's message in new ways.

Youth Retreat seeks to build bridges in Region

A group of 20 youth and 8 adult sponsors gathered at Eagle Eyrie for a weekend retreat April 16-18. The theme for this year's retreat was "Man in the Mirror," which taught us to look in the mirror before judging other people. The weekend started off with fun icebreakers and worship. We chose to begin our worship with the song "Open the Eyes of My Heart" because our main focus was for our eyes and our hearts to be open to learning and accepting.



The first full day started off with a wonderful breakfast followed by small groups. In small groups we talked about self image and our image of others. Before lunch we had a workshop with Rev. Sekinah Hamlin. She led us in exercises of how to think outside the box. After lunch we rejoined with Rev.



Hamlin to talk about the Piedmont District Convention's Youth Commission and the Region's Youth Ministry Commission, and what things we have in common.



Then members of each respective commission spent some time together coming up with the best way to describe their commission to the other group. We came back together, and after learning about each other, presented ideas about how we could do things within our churches to bridge the gap between PDC and YMC. After dinner, new YMC representatives were elected and the praise band from Fairview CC, Lynchburg, "24/7" put on a great concert.

The next morning we woke for a final breakfast and packed up to leave. In the closing worship service we recapped the week and expressed our gratitude towards one another. This weekend was not only a retreat but a great learning experience. I would like to personally thank all that helped put this together from the YMC, PDC, and youth sponsors.

—Sarah Page Jones,
Vice President

Kid's Korner

Do you plan to attend the 2011 General Assembly in July in Nashville, TN? Will you be taking your children with you? The General Assembly is a great place for children and youth to grow in their faith and to meet other young people from across the country. This year offers some great "child-friendly" programs and ideas. Childcare will be provided. For school-age children, there will be an exciting program called "CSI Investigators." The children will explore how the Christian story interacts with our daily lives and the problems that face our world. Like the last Assembly there will be a "Family Friendly Area" in the assembly hall where parents and guardians can be with their young children for the worship services. Plan now to make the 2011 General Assembly a family experience.

Christian Family Week can be celebrated any time of the year, not just in May. There are some wonderful materials on the DHM website (www.discipleshomemissions.org). This year's theme is "Healthier Living for All God's People," focusing on the national efforts to reduce childhood obesity. It encourages congregations to promote healthy living within the life of the church and to get involved in community efforts to address the issue of lack of access to healthy foods as one of the major causes of obesity.

There will be another Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training Sept. 23-25 at First Christian in Salem. Also coming up is the bi-annual Children Welcome Conference, February 23-25, 2012, in Kansas City. This year's theme is "From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks of Faith."

—Elaine Austin, Belmont Christian Church,
(austindrva@cox.net).

Regional Staff

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