

The Virginia Christian



March 31, 2024

Clergy News and Updates

Sudden Death of the Regional Minister of Nebraska

Rev. Chris Morton died suddenly on March 18 when his heart stopped beating and the doctors were unable to get it restarted. Rev. Morton and I attended seminary together and were under are of the Upper Midwest Region at the same time, so our connection goes back a ways, but his sudden death in this way has caused shockwaves across the church and, in particular, the Disciples of Nebraska. I ask for your prayers for the members and churches of the Nebraska Region and for all Regional Ministers. Below is the announcement from the moderator of the Nebraska Region. Our General Minister and President has already reached out in loving care and nearby Regional Ministers have offered their support. In my role as the Regional Minister who is tasked with coming alongside all regions in transition, I will be journeying with them as well. Take time today to breath, give thanks and grace to as many as possible. We never know how many days we have on this earth so make each one count.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/12a64582901/4875e05f-e3db-4c6e-8904-8a3df5a841e7.pdf?rdr=true>

Blessings,
BSD

.....

Rev. Angele Saunders Johnson

Rev. Johnson has accepted the call as DCEF's new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The Board of Directors Executive Committee voted unanimously to bring her on board as an officer. Rev. Angele's first day will be Monday, April 1, 2024.



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Rev. Jim Compton

Rev. Jim Compton announces his retirement (again). Bedford Christian Church to honor Rev. Jim Compton as he wishes to formally retire (again) from ministry. The church leadership has asked and he has agreed to be named "Pastor Emeritus." Send him a note at jecnwc@aol.com

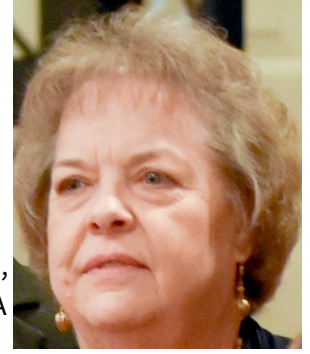
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Rev. Jerry King

Rev. Jerry King announces his retirement from Snowville Christian Church in Hiwassee, VA. After a thriving ministry, growing membership and multiple baptisms at Snowville, Rev. King has announced his intent to retire at the end of May. Send him a note at jking7172@gmail.com

Rev. Anita McCauley

The congregation of First Christian Church (DOC) in Shenandoah, VA is pleased to announce a Service of Installation for Anita McCauley on April 28th during the 11:00 worship hour. Our Regional Minister, the Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning will deliver the message.



Reverend McCauley began her ministry with us last September. She is an ordained DOC minister with a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary, 2020. Master’s Degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth Univ., 1994. BA in Sociology from Mary Baldwin College, 1989 and AAA in Mental Health/Human Services, 1986.

Pastor Anita supported her late husband’s ministry at Disciples churches in Salem, Maurertown, and Ashland. Her youngest son currently services a DOC congregation in Alabama. Pastor Anita has shown energy and enthusiasm in her leadership over the past seven months, and she has embraced our efforts to make this a Year of Renewal and Revival.

In addition to the Service of Installation on April 28th, we will honor our senior members with the annual Over 75 Luncheon after the worship hour. The celebration will end with an opening of the time capsule that was buried as part of our 100 Year Anniversary in 1987. We will take a look to see what’s inside! A display of the contents will be part of our 2024 Homecoming in September.



Rev. Mark Poindexter

Rev. Mark Poindexter announces his retirement from West Side Christian Church in Portsmouth, VA as of August 11, 2024. Rev. Poindexter arrived at West Side in July of 2015 and, along the way, served in many ways throughout the region and wider church. His leadership has been greatly appreciated including his willingness to serve on the planning team to bring back the Clergy Retreat this year. Send him a note of congratulations and appreciation at pastormark@westsideccdoc.org



West Point Christian Church, West Point, VA

West Point Christian Church of West Point, VA announces they have called Tom Willburn to serve as their next pastor. Tom has applied to enter the commission ministry program and come under care of the region. More information and contact will be coming soon.



Rev. Karen Fritts

Rev. Karen Fritts was officially Commissioned as a Minister at Macedonia Christian Church. Rev. Fritts has been serving as their pastor, along with her husband Rev. Paul Fritts, for some time now but it was such a joy to celebrate in worship this past Sunday with the official act of commissioning Rev. Fritts into ministry. On behalf of the Commission Unit of the Commission on Ministry, we rejoice with Rev. Fritts. Send her a note at karen.fritts6785@gmail.com

Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center Employment

Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center is looking for a seasonal maintenance manager for the 2024 season. This is a perfect opportunity for a retiree or teacher looking for seasonal work, or for anyone with the skills looking for a change of pace in the mountains of SW Virginia. Job Description is available upon request, but the duties would include grounds and building maintenance with supervisory responsibilities for staff assisting with those duties. The position is open to commuters or housing can be provided, pay commensurate with experience.

Email admin@craigsprings.org for more information.



Join the DCEF Team

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is seeking a Director of Financial Services. This is a hybrid-eligible, supervisory full-time role located in Indianapolis, IN. The work is overseeing and managing the accounting department staff and processes. The position is salaried and benefits are included. Applications will be accepted until the role is filled. Read full job description here:

<https://disciplescef.org/assets/docs/Director-of-Financial-Services-Jan-2024.pdf>



Seminaries offer Courses for all to consider: These courses are for ministry students or just someone who wants to learn more....

Phillips Theological Seminary: (Intro to New Testament; Christian Ethics; Worship; Overview of the Bible; and Disciples History and Policy)
Seminary: <https://ptstulsa.edu/?s=center+for+ministry+and+lay+training&submit=>

Lexington Theological Seminary: Audit Classes for \$30.00 on Faith-Rooted Anti-Racism, or Stewardship as a Vision and Practice. Follow this link - <https://lextheo.edu/prospective-students/request-information/> - to begin the auditing process or send an email to smoon@lextheo.edu for more information. **Waive application fee with code *LTS1865*.**



Mark your Calendars!

New Church Ministry is excited to announce that its annual Leadership Academy event will be held in Gainesville, FL this year at Meizon Church from October 22 - 25. Pastors of established congregations, those just thinking about forming a community of faith, undergraduate and seminary students, and ecumenical partners are more than welcome to participate. *Stay tuned for registration details!*

<https://newchurchministry.org/leadership-academy/>

Save the Date

Join us for Leadership Academy!

October 22 to October 25
Meizon Church
Gainesville, FL



SAVE THE DATE!

175th Regional Assembly for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia 🍷

We Are Stronger



Acts 2: 46-47

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

May 31 - June 1, 2024

Friday Pre-Assembly

Saturday 10 - 3

The University of Lynchburg

Total Cost \$15 and includes box lunch

We are a MOVEMENT for WHOLENESS in a FRAGMENTED World

JOIN US!
MAY 3-5, 2024
CRAIG SPRINGS CAMP

WORK WEEKEND



Registration: <https://www.ccinva.org/ministries>

**IF YOUR CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO
COME ANY OTHER WEEKEND, PLEASE
CONTACT RON SCHWARZ AT
ADMIN@CRAIGSPRINGS.ORG
540-864-5768**

Camp Registrations are now Open

CCINVA

VIRGINIA CAMPING MINISTRY



Craig Springs Summer Camps - 2024

- June 17 - 22 2nd Annual Regional Multi-Generational Mission Camp - Charleston, SC.
- June 23 - 27 New Covenant Camp is catered for our younger campers. Open to those who have completed 1st through 5th grade.
- June 24 - 28 Nature Camp (counselors report on June 23). A camp experience for young campers who otherwise may not be able to attend camp. Adults serve as mentors to our high school campers. (By invitation only)
- June 30 - July 5 Special Camp is dedicated to campers with physical and intellectual disabilities.
- July 1 - 6 CAMPDD (Culinary, Art, Music, Photography, Dance, Drama), pronounced "Camped," is open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 7 - 12 Triple 1 Camp offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 14 - 19 Triple 2 Camp offers the traditional church camp experience. Open to campers who have completed 3rd through 12th grade.
- July 19 - 21 Family Camp is a weekend getaway open to all ages.

Grand Camp 2024
University of Lynchburg
Date: July 5 - 6, 2024

A weekend retreat for grandparents and their younger grandkids from 4 years old to those who have completed 3rd grade.

TREC Camp - July 13 - 20, 2024

TREC Camp is an interesting Church Camp program based out of Lynchburg, VA. This week will offer you plenty of new challenges and fun. TREC Camp will involve campers ages 13 to 18 in high adventure activities each day of the week. In the past, our activities have included: hiking, tubing, canoeing, horseback riding, mountain boarding, repelling and climbing, zip line and caving. This is a camp for youth who enjoy new challenges and the fellowship of a small camp. Must be able to swim.

Cost: \$420.00

Contact for Registration Info and Medical Forms: Pastor Dan Netting: 540-556-8455/ dannetting@msn.com

2ND ANNUAL MULTI-GENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP TO CHARLESTON, SC JUNE 17 - 22, 2024

THIS CAMP IS FULL

Everyone 11 years of age and above is welcome (11 - 17 yr olds must have a parent or chaperone). Accommodations will be at James Island Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC. We will be building and repairing homes, working in food banks and homeless shelters. (We will have an inside option for those who are bothered by the heat.) We will have devotionals each day and have free time to experience historic Charleston and the beach.

Cost: \$225/person or \$175.00 if you provide your own transportation.

Contact: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster - 434-774-8494 jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com

Register: <https://ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry>

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry>



WWW.CCINVA.ORG

NATURE CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED!

To: All Ministers and Youth Leaders

From: Amy Jones Williams, Adult Advisor, Nature Camp, June 22nd-28th

Hello to all of our highly esteemed Disciples of Christ Leaders in Virginia,

I am Amy Jones Williams, one of the Adult Advisors of Nature Camp, and I need your help getting teen youth who will have just completed the 9th grade this summer through just graduated to be Counselors for Nature Camp. Nature Camp was started in the mid 1970's. Some influential people who started Nature Camp were Crusher Bowers, and others such as Ellen Canode and Elaine Wilson Austin who were influential adult leaders.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar, Nature Camp is a camp for underprivileged children, pardon me if I do not use another term, but this is the term I use over "at risk" or other terms. At Nature Camp, we pair a teen youth, who applies to be a Counselor, with an underprivileged child, known as camper, to be together throughout the week of Nature Camp, where a very special bond is developed between the two. We have a plethora of adult supervision, but Nature Camp is actually run by a Youth aged Director and Assistant Director who are teens themselves, and this allows them to learn leadership skills and hopefully "plants the seed" for ministry in their future. Before the campers get there, our teen counselors go through training, which is necessary and helpful for the week ahead.

At camp, the campers are greeted by their very own Counselor, who takes them to their room where they have their name and a stuffed animal waiting for them on their bed, so they know they are accepted and welcome there. The stuffed animal serves as a friend to comfort them at night and they take them home to keep forever. We also have a "store" with gently used clothes displayed just like in a store, where the campers can go "shopping", and they love doing that! We have worship every night, and a time each morning for singing & receiving a message to help them develop a sense of spirituality. We have a games, a talent show, dance, a cookout, craft time, swimming every day, and a night swim one evening. One day we have farm animals come to us, kind of like a mobile petting zoo! We use the camp curriculum to help encourage good self-esteem, develop empathy for others, and feel like they are at a safe place where they know they will be fed, have their own bed to sleep in, and have a person who is their very own to take care of them as mentors throughout the week. Nature Camp changes lives, it is hard to explain, but if you ask anyone who has participated in prior years, they can confirm this.

Because teens have to have just completed 9th grade to be a counselor, that only leaves them with 3 summers to be a counselor. When Covid hit, we had to cancel Nature Camp two summers in a row, and that left only a few teen counselors who had counseled before and could come back the summer of their graduation year, and we are almost having to start from scratch getting teen counselors to participate again. After a couple of summers, they will love it, just like they have in the past, but we need to have more teen counselors to come to Nature Camp. It isn't like "babysitting", it really is a blast, they feel what a true sense of purpose is, and they get a lot of breaks & time to have fun with each other as counselors. All of them who counsel always want to come back, I promise! I was a Counselor back in the day and it had such an effect on me I am still involved!

I sign off for 75 hours of community service work for all of the teens who counsel, and I write great referral letters for colleges, jobs, whatever they need!

If there is any way you could possibly encourage your youth from just finished 9th grade until just graduated to please come to Nature Camp, all of the Adult Advisors and I would be so incredibly grateful! If you or they have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Thank you for your time and thank you all for everything you do for the DOC in Virginia and for Craig Springs! I appreciate each one of you!

Amy Jones Williams
Cell: 804-357-0996
Amy.jones@vibonline.org

2024 Virginia Disciples Women Seminary Scholarship Application

2024 VA Disciples Women Seminary Scholarship Deadline is postmarked by August 15, 2024

The Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Fund was established to assist women preparing for the Christian Ministry.

The amount available each year is determined by the amount in the fund. The amount of the award is based on financial need, and the number of applications (up to \$2,500).

GUIDELINES

1. The applicant must live in Virginia.
2. The applicant must be a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for a least one year prior to making application.
3. The applicant must currently attend an ATS accredited seminary and be under the care of the Commission on Ministry in Virginia at the time of the application.
4. The applicant must show financial need.
5. A completed application form and transcript, if available, must be mailed to Virginia Disciples Women Scholarship Fund, 1290 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502. A picture for publicity will be required if a scholarship is awarded.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Permanent Address: _____ School or Temporary Address (if applicable): _____

Email: _____

PLEASE STATE BRIEFLY YOUR PLANS AND GOALS

EDUCATION

Current Institution (Seminary): _____

Address: _____ Entrance Date: _____

Number of credits or classes completed _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Previous Institution(s): please list each institution and the dates you attended.

CHURCH ACTIVITY

I am under the care of the Commission on Ministry in _____ Region.

Local: Please identify home congregation(s):

District:

Regional:

General Church:

FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of education for one year

Financial Resources available:

Tuition: _____

Scholarships: _____

Books: _____

Savings: _____

Housing: _____

Yearly Net Income: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Please explain any unusual circumstances or expenses that may affect your situation.

THE ONLY WAY OUT: UNPACKING RELIGIOUS TRAUMA

THE 2024 TURNER-WARREN LECTURE
ON LIFE AND FAITH

GUEST LECTURER
REV. DR. AMY ARTMAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
4:00 PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
3109 RIVERMONT AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VA 24503



Bill Spangler-Dunning, Regional Minister / bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Mary Anstice, Administrative Assistant / ccinvaoffice@gmail.com

Susan Gordon, Secretary / ccinva_sg@hotmail.com

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