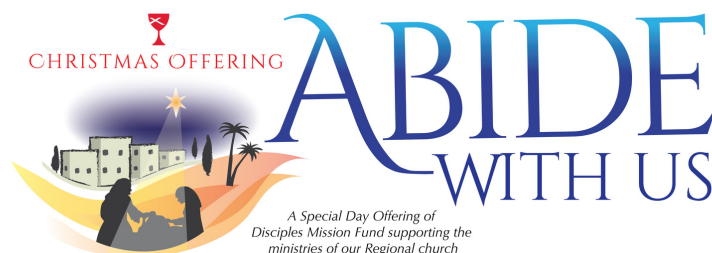


The Virginia Christian

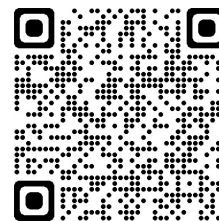
December 2023



Please accept this video as a blessing and my deep thanks for the gift of serving as your Regional Minister these 4 and 1/2 years. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all of you!

Blessings,
BSD

<https://youtu.be/qwK7zdZG-Yo?si=rSng12WZ15i7kAKf>



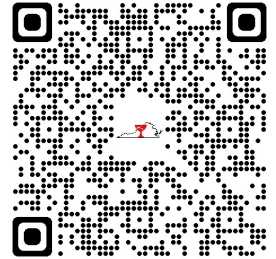
Prayer Concerns and News

Reverend Coretha Loughridge

We received word on Friday, December 8 that Rev. Coretha Loughridge died. Coretha was a former minister at Boones Mill Christian Church, Fairview Christian Church, was the Area Minister and Interim Regional Minister for the Christian Church in the Southwest Region and Interim Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Virginia. A memorial service will be held after the first of the year and we will provide more information when we receive it. My heart is saddened but I share with you the words from Rev. Johnny Loughridge, “Coretha is floating around, probably giggling somewhere.” I can just see her smiling and laughing.... Condolences may be mailed to: Johnny Loughridge, 2312 Glen Cove Place, Lynchburg, VA 24503 Please hold the family of Coretha Loughridge in your prayers.

Rev. Gordon Lee

Rev. Gordon Lee, retired minister who served at Centennial Christian Church, McCoy and Poole Christian Church and possibly other congregations I am not aware of, died Wednesday, November 29. The family has asked for donations to be made to CCINVA and directed to Special Camp. <https://www.ccinva.org/online-giving>



Deacon Gwendolyn Reid

Deacon Gwendolyn Reid, a member of Mt. Olive East Christian Church passed away November 30th. Gwendolyn Reid was very active in the Christian Church (DOC), and very active in Disciples Women’s Ministry on the local, regional and international levels. Wright Funeral Services & Crematory, Martinsville, VA handled Gwendolyn’s arrangements. Please keep Deacon Gwendolyn Reid’s family in your prayers.



Rev. Dick Garrett’s (Retired Minister) Wife, Marsha, died November 20th. The Garrett’s have been members of First Christian Church in Hampton, VA. Send an email to Rev. Garrett at ramg00@charter.net



Beth Hamilton Wright (Sarah Elizabeth), passed away on December 2 from a very short battle with liver cancer. She was the remaining child of Rev. D. Jack Hamilton (deceased) and Vivian Hamilton. Beth had one son Drew. Please keep Vivian and Drew in your prayers.



Reverend Kevin McNeil

Rev. Kevin McNeil has been called to serve as Interim Regional Minister in Tennessee. We rejoice for him and the Tennessee Region. He will begin his new call on January 1. Please send him a congratulatory note/email at revymac@yahoo.com.

Tennessee Regional Executive Committee calls Interim Regional Minister and President Rev. Kevin Lorenzo McNeil has accepted the call as The Christian Church (DOC) in Tennessee's Interim Regional Minister and President.

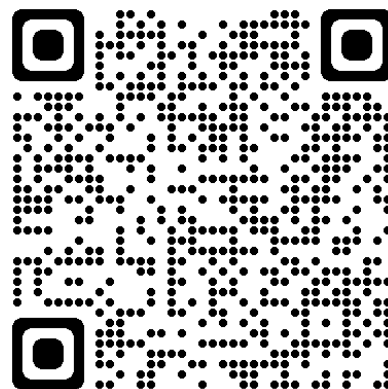
Rev. McNeil is the Senior Pastor of Bethany Christian Church in Roanoke, VA, and is the immediate past Moderator of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in the Virginia Region. He also serves as a General Board member of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in the United States and Canada. Rev. McNeil is a certified Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation trainer and member of the Commission on Standing for the Region of Virginia of the Christian Church (DOC). Rev. McNeil has served as Campus Pastor at the University of Lynchburg and spent seven years as a teacher in Roanoke City Schools and spent over ten years in adult alternative education. Rev. McNeil also currently works as a small business consultant in Roanoke, VA.



Youth Retreat February 17 - 18, 2024

The Virginia Youth Council has been meeting all last year and they are ready to host their first all region youth retreat this coming February. The secret to a growing church is to see, and lift up the evidence that God is working mightily among us! SO.....Go and tell it from your pulpits and seek out that 1 or 20 youth in your flock and make sure they find their way to the Virginia Youth Retreat in February! Together we are stronger!

Register Here: <https://www.ccinva.org/youthministries>





Virginia Youth Retreat

Hosted by the Virginia Youth Council

When: February 17-18

Where: Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center

Who: 9th-12th grades

What: An overnight youth event. Come chill and have some fun with our theme “Blessed not Stressed”



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27



@virginiayouthcouncil