# Carolina Messenger

www.carolinaministries.org Spring/Summer 2014

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## *Carolina Ministries Coordinator Update*

The position of Carolina Ministries Coordinator is being upgraded from approximately half-time it has been the last two years to 3/4 time status! In the last meeting of the Carolina Ministries Council, after reviewing income levels in both states, it was decided that this is a sustainable way for Carolina Ministries to move forward at this time. The part-time status was initiated due to the economy and the corresponding decrease in church and general assembly income. With an improved economy, income levels have increased. They are not back up to where they were, but have increased sufficiently to move forward.

As of Sept. 1, I will be serving in the Carolinas 'full-time' except for traveling to Guatemala 25% of the time, therefore, it is officially 3/4 time.

The way this will work is Carol and I will be living in Fort Mill, SC again. She will be teaching there and I will be working on a **full-time on a weekly basis** for Carolina Ministries. I will be traveling back to Guatemala to work with groups and to follow up on the ministry that has been established. I will be in Guatemala for up to 25% of the time. Most of that will be during the summer months working with many mission groups from our Carolina churches. With vacations and Vacation Bible Schools and other activities in our churches, these months are some of the slowest for state ministry so the timing will work well.

By the end of this summer, 23 of our Carolina Churches of God will have had representatives travel with us to Guatemala over the last 3 or 4 years. The Carolina churches have made a great investment, as well as impact in Guatemala. Last year alone 700 children have been fed approximately 5 meals a week, 14 houses have been built, over 30 chicken coops have been constructed and multiple homes have new ventilated wood burning stoves for clean air. Over 40 families have received water filters so they have clean drinkable water, clothes and shoes have been provided, children have been sponsored who couldn't afford to go to school, medical clinics and eye clinics have been held, training events for teachers in public and private school have been held, the "Jesus" video was shown to a whole village and over 500 children have heard the Gospel through VBS…(continued on page 2)

## *Carolina Ministries Coordinator Update (continued)*

Give and Teach (the non-profit missions ministry Carol and I have established) is negotiating a three year lease on the same mission house we have been renting and is also purchasing property in one of the Guatemalan villages to build a school/church/clinic.

As you can see much has been accomplished and the Church of God of NC and SC has invested much in this ministry. It is important for us to continue this work but also to grow and expand Carolina Ministries.

This 'full-time'/ 3/4 time arrangement will allow Carolina Ministries to not only continue but expand. This year alone, 36 ministers have started to participate in the S.H.A.P.E. ministry, a successful church consultation process has been established and 2015 will bring a new program called "Elevate" to help provide training to pastors and church members. All of the regular ministries are continuing as well. Carol plans to once again begin leading retreats for Women in Ministry/ Minister's wives as well.

We are looking forward to moving the ministry of Carolina Ministries forward, being more available for ministers, pastors and churches and to be able to sustain and built the missions ministry in Guatemala.

## *New IRS Reporting Required*

The IRS is now requiring all churches to file form 8822-B. This form is an official notice of address and contact person information. The deadline to file as already passed at the time of this printing so if your congregation has not filed this form you need to do it as soon as possible.

This form must also be filled out within 60 days of any change of address, or more importantly any change in the name of the contact for your organization.

For example, if a church treasurer is the contact for all communication, forms etc. for the IRS and you change church treasurers the form must be filled out to notify the IRS within 60 days of the change.

This is a simple procedure but one that must be followed to avoid difficulties and to meet our legal requirements.

See this link for the form:

http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822b.pdf

## Bible Bowl Competition Scheduled

The annual Bible Bowl Competition is schedule for Saturday, April 26, at 1:00 PM in Columbia, SC. Teams have been studying Genesis, memorizing Bible facts and scriptures in preparation for this amazing competition. Teens and children participate in separate divisions. Each team as 4 or 5 participants. This quiz style competition has electronic light boards so the participants can 'buzz in' just like a game show! The children and youth really enjoy it and they learn so much!

You are welcome to come and observe the competition so your church might participate next year.

*News From Around the Carolinas…*

## Minister's and Spouse's Retreat Held

This year's retreat featured Rev. John Newton as our speaker/facilitator. Rev. Newton is the pastor of the Church of God in Kokomo, IN, has planted a church in Centerville, OH, and has also worked with Church of God Ministries in Anderson, IN.

40 participants enjoyed conference time, prayer and worship, as well as free time to renew and recharge. One of the highlights of the retreat is simply having time to fellowship and connect with peers in ministry. Through the years, many great friendships have been formed.

Next year's retreat is scheduled for Feb. 24-26, 2015 at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle

Minister's and Spouse's Retreat

## S.H.A.P.E. Kick-off

In January, Rev. Paul Dreger, National Shape Director from Church of God Ministries lead a two day orientation conference for 36 participants in the Shape program. Since that time, pastors and ministers have been meeting in their cluster groups on a monthly basis.

SHAPE (Sustaining Health and Pastoral Excellence) is a program designed to sharpen the ministerial skills and help meet the emotional and spiritual needs of our leaders. The program requires a three year commitment of meeting eight or nine times a year (on a monthly basis).

The cluster groups read books together, encourage one another and pray for each other. Those who have not been able to participate will have a chance in the future. Additional groups may be formed within the next year or so depending on the need.

## Leadership Training Planned "Elevate!"

Carolina Ministries will be working in partnership with Texas Ministries of the Church of God to bring a church growth and leadership development process to the Carolinas called "Elevate". 85% of the churches who have gone through this two year training process have grown.

The process involves a two day training retreats both spring and fall, with pastors, ministers and lay leaders. Churches can only participate if the pastor and lay leaders attend the trainings. It has been found that leadership and church growth training is much more effective when lay leaders participate in the training with the pastors. The process also includes two follow-up conferences (one day events) with the pastors six to eight weeks after the two day retreats. On-going coaching with the pastors and leaders is available. The training investigates nine different systems within the church, including the Weekend Service System, the Evangelism System, the Assimilation System, the Discipling System, the Ministry System, the Stewardship System, the Leadership System, the Strategic System and the Communication System.

More details will be coming in the days and weeks ahead. The kick-off for the first group of churches is being scheduled for spring of next year.

## Marshville, NC

We are celebrating 105th year in praises to God from whom all blessings flow, to God we give thanks. We had dedication to honor Sister Queen Sturdivant as Mother of the Church, she had family and friends and lots of grandchild for the occasion. Mother Queen is oldest member of our church and is very, active. She is an Honorary Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent attends all ministries where she is a member. She is a truly a Woman to be honored.

Sunday School Ministry: Teacher Sister Mary Gillespie gives an update: Our goal is get more people in Sunday School. Last quarter we increased to 27 members. Our goal this quarter is to double it. Sister Mary Gillespie is planning a trip to South Carolina to see a place called " A Man Named Pearl House". He was allowed to landscape at the South Carolina Capital and the Court House. He is a self-taught topiary artist, sculptor named Pearl Fryar who offers a message that speaks of respect for self and others and shows what one person can achieve when he allows himself to share the full expression of his humanity. In this life you're gonna have obstacles, don't let those obstacles deter you from your goal is the message for our youth. Sister Mary Gillespie and Minister James Logan are powerful teachers who love to share the Word of God.

Sunday March 16, 2014, we are excited about FAMILY and FRIENDS DAY! All our families and friends from near and far come together to enjoy, appreciate and celebrate life. God is Good!

January 26, 2014, we celebrated Rev. JR Atkinson's Fifth Pastoral Anniversary. God's house was filled with loving praises and thanksgivings and blessing for the Shepherd he has placed within our sanctuary.

## Williams Chapel Church of God Aiken, SC

Associate Pastor Robert Reed reports that Williams Chapel Church of God is busy serving in the community through prison ministry, tutoring students from kindergarten to high school, not just in Math and Language Arts but in God's Word as well. They are also active in sharing God's Word in local assisted living and nursing home facilities. They are faithfully trying to fulfill the Great Commission to reach the lost for Christ!

## Pittsboro, NC

Our Wednesday Bible Study has been a 26 unit study, "Training for Service, Basic Bible study for every Christian." Certificates were presented to attendees on Sunday March 9, 2014. The course was taught by our interim Pastor, Rev. Edward McAdams.

We initiated a Sunday School class for teens and young adults, aged 13 to 30. The first session was on February 9, 2014.

The Women of the Church are busy preparing for the Annual Women's Day on April 6, 2014. The morning speaker is the Rev. Ophelia Livingston of First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Sanford, North Carolina.

Rev. Cornelius Atkinson of Wilson Heights First Church of God in Charlotte, will be coming to give us an overview of the responsibilities of the Church Ministries and Auxiliaries on Saturday April 12, 2014.

Please continue to pray with us and for us as we seek a permanent Pastor.
Ada C. Peoples

## Save Our Kids Plans Event

On May 24 along with God's help my ministry (S.O.K-SAVE OUR KID'S) will be doing our 3rd March. We will have 2 distinct speakers. One secular speaker and one non-secular. Pastor David Lockhart will deliver the word and then a mortician from New Jersey will bring his own brand of 'up in your face' message to the youth encouraging them to stop the killing. Evangelist Jerry G. Hubbard - Concord, First Church of God

# Summerville Baptizes Seven People

The Summerville Church is excited about some new growth and opportunities lately.

On February 16th we baptized 7 people in the morning worship service.
In Nov. we installed a brand new sound system and video system in the church and it has opened up many new and exciting possibilities. We used it on March 7th to have video worship night, where many from all generations came to worship to some of the best contemporary worship songs to date.

We've started a new men's group where we are averaging 17 men. We have transitioned from a very traditional worship style to a blended style with guitars, drums, keyboard, and even a Cello (beautiful). It is wonderful to see what God is doing here and to him be all the glory.

# First Church of God, Darlington

First Church of God is continuing to see exciting things happening within our fellowship. Pastor Kendall Williams, former senior pastor of Grand Strand Community Church in Myrtle Beach, SC, has been serving as our Interim Pastor since November 2012. He and his wife Sissy, were a part of our fellowship before God called them into full time ministry. On his retirement from full time ministry and from the Grand Strand congregation, they returned to Darlington and shortly after stepped in to assist the church. We are grateful for his leadership in this transitional time within the life of our fellowship.

We are excited as we prepare for Easter and Holy Week activities as well as plans for some outreach opportunities this summer. We give God praise for His faithfulness to our fellowship and ask for your prayers as we move forward.

# South Carolina Planning Unity Event

The South Carolina General Assembly, the South Carolina Presbytery of the Church of God, Carolina Ministries along with the Unified Credentials Committee of South Carolina are working together to plan a unity event on Oct. 25, 2014. This event will take place from 3:00 until 5:00 PM. Please 'Save the Date" and plan to join us as we come together. The details of what will take place are still being planned but the purpose is clear...unity within the Body of Christ!

# Church Health Consultations Available

Carolina Ministries and the Church Development Team have developed a Church Health Consultation Process. When invited to a church, a team of successful and experienced pastors conduct interviews with members of the congregation, meet with boards and committees, interview the staff, facilitate focus groups and gather other data.

From this information and based on their experience, they analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the congregations and make recommendations to the congregation. The congregation then makes the decision as to whether or not they desire to move forward with the growth plan. If the congregation accepts the plan, coaching and assistance is provided as needed depending on the individual situation and recommendations. This process is proving itself to be very effective in helping churches who want to grow.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact Carolina Ministries. 704-469-8585

## Fairview Church of God, NC

Exciting things are taking place at Fairview! We are excited about the completion of our extended Fellowship Hall as well as our Men's Ministry Upper Room Prayer group that meets every 2nd Sunday morning @ 8:30am.

Our Deacons & Trustees 1st Pack-A-Pew Program was huge success the last Sunday in January. On Feb. 9th, our new Missionary President Lori Allen planned a great CandleLight program. Our speaker was J. R. Atkinson pastor of Marshville FCOG who did a wonderful job. The Youth Praise Explosion was awesome in Feb. it was a packed house with youth singers & praise dancers. God has also blessed Fairview with an awesome Praise Dance Team and Coordinator, Stacey Huntley.

We are planning our 9th annual Family & Friends Day on April 27th.

## Seigle Avenue First Church of God

Pastor Daryle Garner celebrated 16 years of service at Seigle Avenue First Church of God on January 26, 2014. The theme of the occasion was “We’re Moving Forward”, founded on Philippians 3:14. In the morning service, Dr. Barbara Peacock, founder of Providence Ministries, challenged the congregation to move forward by getting deliverance from the things that take you away from God. During the afternoon celebration, Pastor Cornelius Atkinson, of Wilson Heights First Church of God, charged the church family to press forward toward the purpose of God’s call on your life. Both messages were uplifting and reminded all who heard, to ‘press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus’.

Seigle Ave. is also excited about Focus 40 and Living Extreme to the glory of God. Each Sunday starting March 16 we will be hearing Extreme testimonies or examples of love, reaching, connecting, growing and living. We will also be praying on a conference call every Thursday night at 9pm starting March 13 focusing our time of prayer on one of the 5 Strategic Values. We are excited and expecting extreme change for those that will commit to getting involved.

## Sneads Ferry, NC

Our church recently teamed up with 5 other local churches for a weekend youth retreat. Some beach houses were donated for our use and different churches provided the meals, which made it a free event for the students. 50 teenagers came and spent the weekend going through a study on Song of Solomon and God's intention for dating, relationships, and sex. I had quite a few memorable moments with the guys house (jumping in the ocean at midnight, mud football, drum circle sessions, and 14 lbs of bacon), but the best part was seeing the Holy Spirit at work. The students really connected well through video/discussion sessions, skits, and an emotional question and answer time with several different couples. Saturday night we covered pornography addiction and I was overwhelmed as the guys openly shared their struggles and spent time praying with each other. Everyone involved is already talking about doing something similar next year on another topic. I have been praying for two years about seeing this kind of unity with the youth here, praise the Lord.
Pastor Aaron, New River Community Church
Sneads Ferry

## Branchview Church of God Concord, NC

Interim Pastor Sam Hinton reports that we are having great services. The people seem positive as they are moving forward in transition.

The ministries of the church seem to be going on smoothly. The Church Development Team of Carolina Ministries continues to provide leadership and assistance to the congregation.

The search for a Senior Pastor is continuing as we are hopeful to have one possibly as soon as the summer. The future Branchview is bright!

*Impact…*
*How is your community better off because you are there?*

# News from Church of God Ministers Serving in other Congregations

LIVE Church is blessed to be almost six years old. We are in a permanent building after 5 years in schools. We hosted another LOL (Live Out Loud) youth rally. This is our third event. We have been united with several area youth groups and have seen great moves of the Spirit. Our own Pastor Jonelle had the vision for LOL and now nearly 100 youth are involved in the area. We have built a puppet stage and the team started with their first practice this past Sunday.

We also had our first Elders meeting with three men of God serving as Elders in the body. We installed two youth interns last month and a Family Life Pastor. We are saving for air conditioners. Hopefully to install before the summer.

We are also preparing for another Undivide gathering. This is a vision that our pastoral team had to join churches of all denominations together. We will join together March 29 th in Morganton. Our last event drew over 15 churches and 600 people.

God is moving in LIVE Church and we are excited to be His servants. Rev. John Henderson

## Vision Of Hope Christian Center

Durham, NC

Vision of Hope Christian Center is elated to report continued invigoration and spiritual enthusiasm as we labor diligently with the
less fortunate, needy, lost, elderly, and Sister Churches. Durham Rescue Mission remains our major thrust, as we have taken on more facilities. In February our Evangelistic Outreach labored in Los Angeles, CA and we also enjoyed the trip.
We take great pleasure in the great fellowship we experience with First Church of God-Carrboro: Pastor Priscilla Davis and Cedar Street Church of God with Bishop Timothy L. Warren and congregants. Pray for us as we labor in His Vast Vineyard.
Rev. Helen Durham Russell, Pastor/Director.

Our Sunday morning service has taken off and we are averaging over 200 people! We will probably be starting a 2nd Sunday Morning service in the Fall. With Thursday night service and two Sunday services in the fall we could be averaging nearly 600 in weekly attendance!

We are excited about our incredible leaders who are basically in staff positions, but they are volunteers. They have owned the vision of The Bridge and are doing a great job of pouring in their teams. They have given me invaluable insight and fresh eyes to see what we are doing well and what we need to tweak.

We have revamped our NEXT STEPS (Discipleship Process). We offer Connections, Discovery and Ownership. Connections is the 4th Sunday every other month after church for 20 minutes where we get to know peoples stories and have some Chick-Fil-A cookies. Discovery is held 3 times a year where people discover their personality and passions and how God can help use those at The Bridge. We offer ownership 3 times a year where people hear about the history and vision of the church and can commit to become an Owner (Member). We ask before they make this commitment they have a relationship with Jesus, have been baptized, serving in a ministry and are giving. Without these 4 essentials they really aren't owning it.
The response has been overwhelming and people are getting connecting like never before!

**Jeremy White**
**Goldsboro Campus Pastor**
**the bridge**

# *Upcoming Events*

## Youth Convention Planned for November 21-23

Carolina Ministries Youth Convention is scheduled for November 21st -23rd at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord.

Our theme this year is "Let Go Let God". Our speaker is David Colp from St Joseph, Michigan. Worship will be led by The Outpouring. This year we have a special concert by OBB (Oswald Brothers Band). They were on the Winter Jam tour last year and we are excited to have them.

Registration is $150 and includes all speakers, conferences, activities and meals starting with breakfast on Saturday. We also will be participating in a service project again to benefit Operation Christmas Child. On top of registration each group is responsible for their own room reservations, which Great Wolf offers to us a much reduced rate. Plan to come be a part of a GREAT convention and enjoy the facilities of the Great Wolf Lodge. Please contact Bob Cook at 336-909-0886 or pastorbobc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

## Kids and Teen Camp:

## July 27th- August 1st

Camp Dixie Fayetteville, NC. Cost $250 Camp starts Sunday July 27th with registration beginning at 5:30 PM. Our first meal together will be breakfast on Monday and conclude with breakfast on Friday. Camp Dixie offers us canoes, paddle boats, go-carts, putt putt, swimming and "the Blob".

Our speaker for teen camp is Hallie Scott. Registration is due by June 15th. More information will be coming soon. Please contact Bob Cook at 336-909-0886 or pastorbobc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Minister's Day is Tuesday. There is meeting for all commissioned, licensed and ordained ministers and pastors gathering at 9 AM, worship at 9:30 and meeting at 10AM and conference with Michael Thigpen to follow. Lunch is planned together somewhere locally. Evening worship includes ordination, presentation of McCall Award and Communion, please wear vestments.

Plants award presented on Wednesday night. Wed. night will also include a combined adult and youth service. Barnabas offering to support pastoral and congregational development and learning will be received on Wednesday.

## Presbytery News and Dates…

**May 24 State Brotherhood Day (Greenville)**
**June 14 Campground Rally & SS Picnic**
**July 11-13 State Youth Convention**
**July 26 State Brotherhood (Laurens)**
**Aug 1-3 State Camp Meeting**
**Aug 23 Minister's Meeting**
**Sept 20 CWC Prayer Retreat**