

Carolina Messenger

www.carolinaministries.org

The Year in Review 2015

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Back to the Future

Do you remember the Michael J. Fox movies of the 1980's *Back to the Future*? His professor friend developed a time machine out of a

DeLoren car and they were able to travel into the future. As they traveled to the past and the future, they discovered they could impact their present and their future, either positively or negatively.



The Church of God in the Carolinas can do the same...We cannot travel through time, but **we are able to impact our future** and WE MUST!

Most of our churches are aging...I'm not talking about the buildings, I'm referring to the people. The average age of our congregations are getting older every year. We must ask ourselves several questions:

1. How effective is our ministry in reaching children, youth and young adults?
2. What do we need to change in order to be more effective?

The future of your congregation rests upon the answer to that question. If we are not reaching the younger generations then our congregation will not have a future.

Carolina Ministries goal is to help churches succeed in fulfilling the mission of making disciples. We have a number of programs and resources to help. Let us know how we can assist your congregation.

2015 Bible Bowl

The annual Bible Bowl competition was held that the First Church of God in Columbia. The event featured a teen competition against the adults of Columbia First Church of God. The children's event saw Summerville and Branchview place while the team from Columbia First Church took first place. This a great ministry for children and youth to learn Bible verses and facts in a fun way! Plan now to have your group participate in the upcoming competition!



Bible Bowl 2016 Competition Scheduled

The annual Bible Bowl Competition is scheduled for Saturday April 23, 2016, however, now is the time to order your materials and begin practicing. For more information including registration (\$15) and materials, please contact Carolina Ministries.



Leadership Development Opportunity “Shop Talk”

A new leadership development program began this year called “Shop Talk”. Guest speakers share via a conference call line on topics that are helpful to pastors, leaders and volunteers in churches. Participants simply dial a conference all line with an access code. They are able to listen in live, ask questions, or call in at a convenient time and listen to the recording. This year some of the topics covered were: How to Start a Second Service, Growing Your Children’s Ministry, How to Develop and Recruit Leaders, Handling Security Issues in the Church, etc.

“Shop Talk” conference calls are being scheduled to 2016. Be sure to listen in!

Did you know...

Carolina Ministries has a Facebook page...be sure to ‘like’ us!

New Church Plant Charlotte, NC



Carolina Ministries and Iglesia Luz de Vida (Statesville) have partnered together to start a new Hispanic church in Charlotte. The First Church of God of Charlotte, has partnered with them as well by graciously opening their doors to provide a facility for the new church to meet.



The church held it's first service on Oct. 11 after hosting a Hispanic festival of food, music and games on the church lawn. It was a rainy day but it didn't dampen the spirits! In spite of the wet weather, people from the community stopped by and enjoyed the music and the delicious food!

A unity service was held on Sept. 18th, at the church with members of Iglesia Luz de Vida, and members of the First Church of God as they began this new work. Pastor Neil Atkinson (NC GA Chair) Pastor Mike Claypool (Carolina Ministries, Pastor Kevin Shuitt (Charlotte First Church of God) and Pastor Luis Guevara (Iglesia Luz de Vida, Statesville and Charlotte) presided over the service.

Please pray that this new church will make a huge impact as they try to reach the Hispanic community for Christ!



“Elevate” Revitalization Program Launches

2015 saw a new initiative for revitalization, health and growth called “Elevate” kick-off in March. This is a two year program in which pastors and lay leaders attend a two-day workshop twice a year (spring and fall). Nine different systems of the church will be covered over the two-year period.

During the workshop, churches work together to try to plan and implement things they have learned during the conference. In between the scheduled workshops, leaders meet together to continue to implement the programs, ideas and changes they feel will be more helpful to their ministry.



The principles are universal but the application of those principles are unique to the culture of each church and each community. Each church evaluates their own strengths and weaknesses through the information shared in the conference and they are coached through the process of developing their personalized plan for health and growth.



Ten churches are currently going through the process and most are experiencing success! Two final conferences will be held in 2016 for this group as they complete the Elevate process. The spring of 2017 will present an opportunity for additional churches to get involved and begin a new cycle. Watch for details!

Minister’s Wives/Women In Ministry Retreat Held

After taking a couple years off while facilitator Rev. Carol Claypool was in Guatemala, the Minister’s Wives / Women In Ministry Retreat was re-started in November with great success!

Licensed or ordained female pastors and ministers, as well as wives of pastors and ministers met for a retreat in Gatlinburg, TN Nov. 6-8. They had a wonderful time of worship, prayer, fellowship and bonding together!

Conferences were held Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening and Sunday morning. Ladies took turns sharing in prayer and leading in devotions or worship. Gina Specht led the group in making a craft. Saturday evening featured a meal together at a nice restaurant. The mountain atmosphere proved to be a great place for fellowship, renewal and rest. Plan now to have your female ministers or ministers wives attend 2016! Watch for details.

Pastor's/Minister's and Spouse's Retreat Held

The annual retreat for pastors, ministers and their spouses was held in Feb at Myrtle Beach. Rev. Kevin Summers was the presenter for the conferences. Time was given for break-out groups to discuss their lives and ministry in relation to what was presented. The groups had ample time to pray together as well.



This is a retreat so there was time for rest and relaxation in addition to the training, support and fellowship.



This 55 year's event is scheduled for Feb. 22-24, 2016. Registration information will be arriving soon!



This year's minister's & spouses retreat is scheduled for Feb. 22-24

The retreat will be held at the Springmaid Beach Resort. Rev. Melissa and Rev. Thom Pratt will be the resource leaders. Some scholarships are available. Watch for details!

Does your church need revitalized?

Carolina Ministries offers four options to help your congregation with revitalization.

1. "ThinkNext" is a program to help define the mission and vision of the church and help the church reconnect with their community.
2. Natural Church Development is an 18 month process to help the church work towards health.
3. Elevate is a two year program to help the church revise, redevelop and/or create ministry initiatives that will help the church move forward. Attendance at 4 two day workshops is required.
4. Church Consultations...would you like a team of proven church growth specialist help your church move toward health and growth? Call for more information.

CWC NC Spring Retreat

The North Carolina Christian Women's Connection held their annual retreat at Camp Caraway May 1-2, 2015. The theme surrounded the concept of finding and fulfilling your purpose. Rev. Mike and Rev. Carol Claypool spoke Friday evening about finding your purpose by sharing their testimony about God leading their ministry in Guatemala. Rev. Audra Atkinson and Rev. Mary Knapp each shared inspirational messages on Saturday.

The new CWC officers were also installed on Saturday morning in a ceremony lead by Rev. Carol Claypool. (Pictured below)



This year's retreat is scheduled for April 29-30, 2016 at Camp Caraway. The speaker is Cassie Escrue who is the State President of the Christian Women's Connection in West Virginia.

Plan now for your group to attend. You can contact CWC President Sindie Sigmond at ncwcgwc@gmail.com for more information.



The Year in Review...

Flood Relief in Columbia

October brought record rainfall to the Carolinas and unprecedented flooding in Columbia. As a result, most of the water plants were shut down leaving a large population without water. Carolina Ministries, Church of God Ministries and First Church of God in Columbia partnered together to distribute over 11,000 bottles of water to those in need.

Pastor Richard Rusnak and volunteers from the Columbia congregation delivered water in neighborhoods and set up a distribution center at the church. It met a real need and it allowed the church to give water in the name of Jesus!



Water Distribution Center at
First Church of God, Columbia

Laurens, South Carolina

Usher's Program in memory of the late Virginia T. Suber was held on February 18, 2015 at the Laurens Evening Light Church of God. Sis. Suber was president of the Ushers. Speaker was Rev. Geoffrey Stephens, Pastor of Red Hill Church, Union, SC. Rev. Stephens is Director of Transportation for Laurens District 55 Schools and Supervisor of the late Sis. Virginia Suber.

The Sunday School Department had their annual Easter Program, Sunday, April 5, 2015 at 9:45 AM. First Lady Rose Cropp presided over the program. Program consisted of songs, solos, readings and dramatic readings by characters with Resurrection Testimonies that focused on the theme, "Jesus is the Joy of Easter".

The Christian Women Connection hosted a Salad Jamboree Luncheon, Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Theme, "God's Purpose for our Lives." Speaker was Sis. Bessie Dowling, Orangeburg, SC.

Pastor, Rev. Isaac Cropp, Jr

Walker Ave. Celebrates 110 Years! Sumter, SC

The Walker Ave Church of God celebrated their 110 years anniversary on Nov 29, 2015.

Their guest speaker was congressman JAMES E. CLYBURN for this homecoming celebration. His Father served Walker Ave Church of God for 43 years.

Pastor Bobby G. Damon

Sumter First Church

It has been a pleasure to minister with the many people God has brought to our lives. We are blessed with an active ministry team (staff and volunteers), who are always endeavoring to make Christ known in the lives of people.

First, we were blessed with another tremendous Labor Day softball tournament with sixteen teams participating. Nate Didway was the speaker at this year's softball worship service, and our praise team and band with the help of tournament musicians all did an amazing job in availing themselves to the Lord and His people.

Other Fall happenings have included a fall festival, complete with games, food, horse back rides, hay rides, and trunk 'r treating. Then on Sunday, November 8 at our Annual Friend Day we celebrated 100 years of ministry at Sumter FCG. Many people have come to know Jesus and have since lived to make Jesus known since the beginning of the church in 1915. We had a great day with a number of former pastors and associates and members joining with the current FCG family in the celebration. And the Barbecue lunch prepared by Don Goodson provided a great opportunity for us to linger and fellowship. Many thanks to Nina Martin who led a team in making the day and this year of celebration a wonderful time of reflection and rededication.

Of course, Sumter like much of South Carolina was impacted by the October flooding. Our Community Outreach Committee and individual members of the FCG family have responded in offering support to those whose lives have been interrupted and altered by this weather event.

God's love has been demonstrated and people have been helped in the spirit kindness and humility. Many thanks to Becky Fort and Mark Cox and their committee members in leading us to get involved. And many thanks to Sumter United Ministries for all they do in calling the citizens of the Kingdom and Sumter to cooperative relief and restoration efforts.

Grand Strand Community Church

Myrtle Beach, SC

2015 has been an exciting and yet challenging year for Grand Strand Community Church. We are currently involved in the Natural Church Development and Elevate revitalization processes. As a result, we are experiencing renewed direction from God in regards to our vision, ministry direction and unity. God is assembling and equipping our body of believers to enable us to move forward in ministering to the Myrtle Beach community.

God has blessed us with a new Music Director, Bradley Chestnut, and the live music accompaniment has brought a new element of freshness and excitement to our worship experiences.

We recently held "An Evening of Prayer" in which we gathered on a Wednesday night to focus solely on praying for our community and our church. It was uplifting to hear our congregation members cry out to the Lord in sincerity and honesty.

We are enthused about what God has in store for us in the upcoming new year. We can't wait to see what God is going to do. One thing we know for sure is that it will be awesome!

OLD KID ON THE BLOG!!

That is as opposed to new kid on the block! At Thanksgiving our youngest son, Mark, set me up with a blog. The only blogs I had ever read were ones someone had emailed to me and all of a sudden, I was writing one. Many of the posts have been funny and some inspirational. They are mainly memories of unusual events that have happen in almost 53 of ministry. I always answer a QUESTION OF THE DAY. These are questions of faith and life. You can submit a question that has been on your mind. The address for the blog is askapastorblog.wordpress.com.

Larry McCaw



Summerville Raises Money for Rwanda

First Church of God of Summerville C.W.C. group marched into the sanctuary with decoy ducks and Tony Abdon doing a duck call to the tune of "When the Saints Come Marching In" for the first part of our fundraiser to supply ducks to the village of Rwanda. The next Sunday we marched in with our decoys to the music and handclapping of "When the Saints Coming Marching In" with our President Beulah Abdon giving a speech on the importance of the ducks to the people of Rwanda. They will provide nutrition and also supply a way for them to earn money by raising then selling the ducks and eggs. We collected enough money to purchase 262 ducks! Thanks to our Pastor, Steve Hartsell for all the support he gives our C.W.C.

Branchview Installs New Pastor



The Branchview First Church of God, Concord NC on Nov. 15th, installed Roger D Hamilton as their Lead Pastor. Roger has served in the ministry for 20 years in several congregations including Dayton (OH), Lansing (MI), and Cincinnati (OH).

His undergraduate degree is from Anderson University with a Master's degree from Ashford University, IA. Roger has served as the Chair of the Governance Board with Ohio Ministries and a member of the National Business Leadership Resource Committee. He has served in Christian broadcasting for 15 years and is currently the Mid Day host (12-3pm est) on Faith and Friends radio (faithandfriendsradio.com) a 24 Christian internet radio station.

He and his wife Terri and three children are excited to be moving to the Charlotte area. Roger began his ministry at Branchview in February 2015.

Health Fair Outreach Held

Salisbury, NC

Solid Rock Church of God, where Rev. Samuel A. Washington serves as Pastor, held a Community Health Fair, August 8, 2015 and the Lord truly blessed! Novant Health and Novant Health Breast Center were both on site.

Novant Health had three volunteer health professionals on site from their "Remarkable You Team" who provided diabetes screening and education; height weight, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), Hemoglobin A1C screenings, etc., to approximately 40 persons.

Novant Health Breast Center brought their Mobile Mammography Unit and along with two technicians, provided screenings and valuable information to approximately 14 women. Novant Health Breast Center also had a registered nurse on site who spoke to both men and women, providing valuable health information.



Solid Rock gave away clothing, shoes, etc. to the community as well as light refreshments, all while sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ. Sister Tierria McCullough, wife of Minister Anthony McCullough of Solid Rock, serves as our Health Coordinator and was instrumental in planning the Community Health Fair along with the Women's Ministry and all of Solid Rock.

Solid Rock also celebrated Men's Day on Sunday July 19, 2015 with guest preacher, Rev. Nasby Mills, Jr., Pastor of Progressive Outreach Ministries, Salisbury, accompanied by his choir and congregation.

Vacation Bible School was held at Solid Rock July 20 through July 24, 2015. The theme was "Jesus, the True Super Hero." VBS concluded with a "Fun Day" for the children that included snacks and fun with video games played on "Game Truck."

Solid Rock celebrated Women's Day on Sunday September 13, 2015. Our guest preacher was Rev. Betty Parks-Lowe, Pastor of Lula Street Church of God, Winston-Salem....Dr. Laura Washington



Exciting Outreach Ministries

Varnville, SC

The Church of God, Varnville, SC has begun a Community Outreach Program where a group of members from the church has gone out into the neighborhood meeting those who live in and near the church. This has been met with great success.

The group was established with a "seed" planted by a young minister who is the Pastor of a church in Beaufort, SC. He has a ministry where he goes into Churches, Countries, or areas that are in need of revitalization and encourage the people in those areas to work to rebuild their places of Worship or community. From this first meeting a group was formed from the congregation. These members have poured their heart and soul into making this outreach a success. They've spoken to people and gotten a list (which was great) of the concerns of the neighborhood and what the neighborhood expect or would like for the church to do.

Out of those visits, a project has begun to make a park for the young people and a walking trail for the people in the area to have as a safe place for recreation. A cookout for the community as well as a health forum is was held (05/02/2015) at the church. We are expecting that God will help us be the Church to reach souls for His Kingdom.

I thank God and the whole CHOG, Varnville for their input in making this a reality.
Pastor Ruthie Williams

Trust Him Women's Conference

Seigle Ave. Charlotte, NC

Seigle Avenue First Church of God hosted a women's Conference June 13, 2015 entitled Trust Him which was sponsored by Pearls of Truth and Wisdom Ministry. Rev. Vera Carroll was the coordinator. The three speakers for the conference were Elder Tjuana McElhaney of Abundant Life Ministries, Gastonia NC, Min. Gloria G. Garner of Seigle Avenue First Church of God, and Rev. Vera W. Carroll, associate minister at Seigle Avenue First Church of God, Charlotte, NC.

Scholarship Program

Seigle Avenue First Church of God had their 2nd Annual WD Bailey S scholarship program on May 23, 2015. The speaker was Andrew Lightsey IV who is a 2010 recipient of the WD Bailey scholarship. He is currently working on his masters degree at Appalachian State University.

Tremendous Ministry Happening at Fairview

The Fairview Church of God baptized three converts on Sunday, April 12, 2015

Ordination - Fairview Church of God is pleased to announce the ordination of Brother Nelson Jackson as Deacon for the church. Brother Jackson served for more than a year and a half as deacon-in-training. In this role he shadowed current deacons in their activities; participated in deacon meetings, carried out spiritual assignment on behalf of the pastor such as visitation of the sick. Regularly participated in Bible Study, Sunday School and Leader Trainings to further develop his spiritual growth. He attended away fellowship services where the pastor was invited to preach. And he has played a major role in the work of the Upper Room Men Ministry 2nd Sunday prayer vigil; sat in on meetings of other auxiliaries at the pastor's request.

Fairview Church of God has a strong Outreach Ministry. Members served lunch each year for the Veteran's Day Observance; Prepared Thanksgiving Basket for the Burnsville Learning Center give away; prepared Christmas survival kits for inmates at the Lanesboro Correctional Institution; Contributed financially toward Anson County Toys for Tots Program and has receive award of recognition in this area for the past two years; and helped a local pastor financially whose home was burned early this year. This is just to name a few of the outreach efforts the Church has undertaken. Plans are in the works to continue supporting the Guatemalan Project and to begin support for the Sex Trafficking Prevention Initiative.

Fairview Church of God participated in Holy Week (Passion Week) Observance with two local churches - Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Church and New Grove Missionary Baptist Church on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On Friday evening Fairview members participated in the Resurrection Weekend service held at Branchview First Church of God in Concord. On Sunday morning Fairview served as the host church of the Sunrise Service for the three local churches. It was a full service followed by a full breakfast. What a wonderful and spiritually uplifting event we experienced.

Recently eight, Fairview Church of God currently has seven youth who are now away from home in colleges and universities around the state - UNC- Greensboro, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina Central, East Carolina University.

Fairview Church of God is pleased to announced its participation in the two - year long Leadership Training sponsored by Carolina Ministries (Elevate). What an opportunity to build on what we know and strengthen leadership as we go forward in the name of the Lord. The members want Fairview to be the very best Church of God it can be.

Bible Study at Fairview especially important. Currently we are studying the Journey of a Lifetime Series (Genesis to Revelation). Although the attendance fluctuates those attending consistently are growing spiritually. Certificates will be awarded to those completing at least 80% of the units covered.

Fairview Church of God is in the process of developing training packets for two individual who are being placed in the Deacon-in-Training Program; One Young Adult Minister-in-Training, One Teen Minister-in-Training; and two Trustee-in-Training Programs.

We will soon formally install one Trustee - Brother Harvey Broadway, One Missionary President, Sister Lori Allen, and two Mothers of the Church - Mothers Ruby Medley and JoAnn Polk.

News from Taylors, SC

I thank God for the opportunity to pastor Taylors FCOG, it is a unified church in both word and deed. We just completed an eight month journey through the book of Acts, a study of the early church and how a few men took the Great Commission seriously and but a great church. We are beginning a new Wed night series on world and domestic religions prefaced by an in depth study of Christianity for it is vitally important to be rooted and grounded in the word of God, emphasizing rightly dividing the word. We are in the planning stage of a community cookout with a 'jump house' for the children. We are very proud to have the Justin Clack family as new members in our congregation, the moved here from the state of Minnesota.

Subject: How we found Taylors FCOG

I was raised in the great state of Louisiana. I grew up primarily in the Bastrop First Church of God in Bastrop, Louisiana. Praise the Lord, I was saved at the Louisiana state campground in Pollock, Louisiana when I was nine years old (I'm 41 now) and was baptized back in Bastrop shortly after I returned. I've attended congregations associated with the Church of God my whole life. Given my choice, I prefer congregations with a LOT of older Christians citizens. The Bible clearly states in many places the old are to set the example for, and teach the young. I want my sons and daughters to have experienced Christian mentors and peers to learn from. As we were re-locating from Minnesota to South Carolina, we began looking around for churches in the area. There was a Church of God congregation up near Greenville, South Carolina (Greenville and Anderson are about 30 miles apart).

At this point let me say, I search for everything on the internet. The church in Taylors had a very nice website of its own. The pastor put up videos of every sermon. I was able to watch the sermons on-line. I even watched part of a recent revival service. It was great! I finally got in touch with the pastor one Saturday while the children and I were returning from fishing on a rural lake in Minnesota. We spoke and he gave me a brief introduction to the congregation and himself. I was sold. I accepted the job in Anderson, and we have been attending Taylors First Church of God ever since.



of

In conclusion, we are thankful that God led us to the Taylors First Church of God. It has been a real blessing to us. While it is a bit of a drive, it is worth it. We've had a rough year this year. My father passed away. My wife's grandfather passed. My youngest daughter had to be hospitalized. Through it all it was comforting and helpful to have a good church family to turn to in hard times. There is a close fellowship amongst the members of our congregation that is a great blessing.

With regard to my search for a church, perhaps I may humbly offer some observations to churches with regard to advertising your congregation. I would strongly suggest having a website. Be sure and have a link to a map showing where your church is. Put up pictures of recent activities at your church. That's very helpful. It's great to post sermons so people can watch them. Be sure and clearly describe the beliefs ascribed to by your church. Be sure and check your state organizations website. Make sure they have a link to your website and updated contact information. I'm no expert, but I don't think it is too difficult to put up a website. Pastor Russell is in his 80s and he created our website and maintains it all by himself!

Sneads Ferry Leads Community Church Partnership Youth Event

In late February our church teamed up with 6 other local churches for the second annual community beach retreat. This year's theme was "God of the Broken" and we spent the weekend looking at the problem of evil, why bad things happen, and God's response to our brokenness.

It was the first event of this size as more and more students signed up and brought friends; we ended up with 90 students and 15 adult volunteers. We were able to keep costs down by having churches sign up to provide meals; some local businesses gave us free food or great discounts. Our church members also gave several hundred dollars to sponsor students from families in need.

The whole weekend was a great example of the body of Christ functioning as one. Our worship band featured students from three different churches who had been practicing together for weeks. We had a mix of large and small group sessions, and many of the adults shared their personal stories of how God brings healing to broken people. Most of the students go to the same school and loved the chance to hang out and do crazy things like jump in the ocean at midnight.

God worked in some incredible ways while we were there. One girl made a decision to follow Christ for the first time Saturday night. She said that her family isn't religious at all, but being around students from our group made her feel so different that she had been hoping for a chance to make that decision. Another student told me how she had been abused by her father and realized as another adult shared a similar story that she needed to forgive him. Another student returned to their family and told them for the first time about their eating disorder and thoughts of suicide and sought help. This event also started a discussion with the other churches about how we can work together even more as a community to reach students.

Sneads Ferry Ministry Highlights

After 4 and a half years at New River Community Church of God in Sneads Ferry, **Pastor Aaron Holman** and his wife Sarah and daughter Kristine will begin serving the Church of God as Senior Pastor in Thayer, Missouri around Thanksgiving. His last event was the Carolina Ministries Youth Convention, to which we sent 30 youth and adults! God has certainly blessed his ministry here and we will miss them greatly. Thank you Lord for sending them our way!

From the Elevate Conference

We have formed a Church Health And Ministry Planning (CHAMP) Team to help us move forward on better communication inside and outside the Church. Below are the four goals we are currently working on:

Goal #1: "The First Sunday of every month during the Sunday School hour, food will be provided in the gym to encourage fellowship among the church."

Goal #2: "To develop a Social Media Team to provide information about church activities and daily encouragement through social media."

Goal #3: "A packet will be given to visitors and families who have not yet received one that will include the church mission, contact information, and information regarding all ministries and regular events at NRCC."

Goal #4: "Develop a video team that creates videos of people's testimonies and promotes NRCC's impact on people's lives. These videos will be shared at least quarterly. The team will be developed by January 1, 2016. Thank you God for the Elevate Conference and Team willing to make a difference!

We thank God for the many **salvations and baptisms** this year at NRCC and through the Camps and Conventions of the Carolinas! So far this year we have baptized 27 people with another baptism scheduled for Nov. 15! One family had 7 of its members baptized throughout 2015. Glory to God for changed



Youth Convention Update

The youth convention was held at Great Wolf Lodge Nov. 20-22. Eric Reedy did a great job as our speaker and Alana Story led the worship. There were many decisions and re-dedications to Christ!



The Student Leadership Team did a phenomenal job organizing and planning the convention!



This year we welcomed some new members as other members rotated off the SLT. We would like to express our appreciation to Rev. Bob Cook who has served as our chair of the SLT, Youth Camp Director and was the overseer of the youth convention for 10 years! Thanks Bob for your faithful years of dedicated service!!!!

Children's and Youth Camp

This year there were 146 people in attendance in total. The kids camp had 40 while the teen camp had 106. Both groups represent an increase over last year! Jaime Davis that a fantastic job speaking at the children's camp and the speaker duties were shared by four of our youth ministers for the teen camp. It is reported as being the best camp we have ever had from a spiritual level with a large number of commitments and re-commitments to the Lord. One evening there was a spontaneous hour and a half testimony service after the evening service in which the Lord moved in a powerful way!

Next year we are moving the teen camp and kids camps to different dates, with the Kids Camp starting that Friday afternoon July 22nd running through Monday morning July 25th. The teen camp will start on Monday afternoon, July 25th, and run through Friday morning July 29th. This will allow some councilors to serve both camps and shorted the Kids Camp one day which may encourage some kids to come.

Guatemala Missions Update

Give and Teach

2015 was a great year of ministry in Guatemala. Groups our Carolina Church of Gods came from Archdale, NC, Columbia, SC, Sneads Ferry, NC, Boiling Springs, SC, West Columbia, SC, Statesville, NC, Sumter, SC, Hickory, NC and a second group from Archdale. There were other groups outside the Church of God that also participated.

Numerous houses, stoves and chicken coops were built. Evangelistic films were shown with decisions made for Christ at each showing. The Gospel was shared through VBS with hundreds of children. The feeding program was expanded to six different sites with around 100o children involved.

A team of architects, engineers and surveyors spent nearly two weeks helping develop a master plan for the property that is being purchased by Give and Teach. The long range plan is develop a ministry center that will house a medical clinic, a school tutoring program, a church, a conference center, housing for a missionary, a team house and a children's home. Funds are currently being raised to begin the project.

Give and Teach has received a matching grant for 2016. If \$25,000 is raised for the project, the donor is giving another \$25,000!

There is still some space for groups in the summer of 2016 and many weeks are available during other times of the year. If you would like to form a group or join one of ours, please contact Mike or Carol Claypool for more information. 803-493-2683
giveandteach@gmail.com



2016 Dates

Feb. 22-24	Minister's & Spouses Retreat
March 11-12	Elevate Part 3
April 23	Bible Bowl
April 29-30	NC CWC Retreat
May 14	NC Pastor's Meeting
July 10-13	NC State Convention
July 22-25	Kids Camp
July 25-29	Youth Camp
Sept 10	SC GA General Assembly
Sept 16-17	Elevate Part 4
Oct 1	NCGA General Assembly Meeting
Nov 18-20	Youth Convention

FYI...Pre-Tax Contributions

Congress Agrees on IRA Charitable Rollover.

This week, Congress has [reached a preliminary agreement](#) to restore the IRA charitable rollover retroactive to January 1, 2015 and make the provision permanent in future tax years. With the provision restored, taxpayers age 70½ or older can give up to \$100,000 from their IRAs and Roth IRAs to qualifying charities without having to pay income tax in 2015 on the withdrawn amount.

This allows retirees to pay their tithe up front and not pay taxes on their Required Minimum Distribution each year. This can be a great savings for the retirees and a great blessing to our churches!

Church of God Ministries News

The General Assembly of the Church of God voted in June to go to a bi-annual national convention. It will be held in Wichita, KS in June of 2017 (every odd year). The International Youth Convention will continue to be held on the even years. In the even years, Regional Events will be held. In 2016, three Regional Events are scheduled: April 26-28, Vancouver, WA June 21-23, Anderson, IN Sept 27-29 Philadelphia, PA

More information may be found at www.jesusisthesubject.org

News from Church of God Ministers

Serving in other Congregations

95 Baptisms

The Bridge
Goldsboro, NC

Jeremy White, Church of God minister who serves as the campus pastor of The Bridge in Goldsboro, NC reports that they had 170 decisions and 95 baptisms this year. They are also expanding our kids ministry at our Goldsboro Campus and will be going from 7,000 sq ft to 10,000. Excited what God has in store for us in 2016!

LIVE Church is growing. Growing in numbers but especially in the things of God. We are not settled on being comfortable but desire to see Him at work every time we meet.

We are expecting. Anticipating and believing for the miraculous. Three weeks ago we had our annual church camp out in the mountains. I arrived several hours early to set up and while unloading I tripped and twisted my ankle pretty badly. Being a man of faith, I immediately reached down to pray over it for healing. The Lord spoke to me and said to wait. He wanted to heal me during the evening campfire service and He was going to use the children to heal my leg and ankle. I was obedient and never told anyone. That night after I spoke I revealed what had happened and asked any children who wanted to see God heal me to come over and lay hands on me. I asked a twelve year old, Cam Morgan to anoint me and lead the prayer as was what God had said. After prayer, I was asked about my leg. I spoke boldly that it was healed. Here's a key. To have our faith answered we must speak the promise. We live by faith not feelings. The reality was that my leg still hurt but His Word was that I was healed. I ONLY spoke the healing. In the morning, when asked again about it, I had forgotten the leg totally because there was NO pain nor did it ever return.

Praise God.

The next Sunday a girl was healed at church. She had suffered from tumors in her stomach, neck, and other areas. After coming to the altar with such determination she spoke that her identity would not be the sickness anymore. She proclaimed THESE ARE NOT MY TUMORS. A few days later doctors confirmed they were gone. They had no idea how but there was no more sign of them. Amen

Many miracles have been witnessed at LIVE Church over the years but there seems to be a stirring of greater things recently.

Our founding fathers saw many healing miracles. E.E. Byrum saw many healed during his ministry. The Church of God has had a deep connection to faith healings for over 100 years. Now is the time for the next major revival outbreak. It has been described and expected. Join with us as we usher in the last great outpouring of revival as JESUS prepares for His return. Pastor John Henderson