



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 78, No. 1 September 2016

**“Not to us, LORD, not to us  
but to your name be the glory...”**

**–Psalm 115:1**



**NEW CONFERENCE CENTER OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE**



**Appalachian Conference**



## MINISTRY AMID THE DEVASTATING WEST VIRGINIA FLOODING



**Inside the Caldwell Church**

It was a Thursday afternoon. The sky had been overcast all day and continued to darken as the minutes passed. June 23, 2016, will be remembered by all who experienced it as a day of horror. Around 1 p.m., the rain started, and in a short time the main street of White Sulphur Springs was flooding. The creeks were rising from the countryside, and debris was filling the creeks. In town, people began to gather inside their homes, out of the storm. By 2:30, the creeks that feed into the city had met in a roar. In less than 15 minutes, people were trapped in their homes, their cars, and some in their attics, as the water moved in waves and madness, cresting over bridges, moving mobile homes like houseboats, and lifting structured homes off their foundations. Cars and trucks of all sizes were floating like marshmallows, and people were screaming for help to be rescued, only to hear, "I can't get to you."

One block from the church, on Mill Hill Drive, many families lost all their possessions, some lost their homes, and others lost their lives. The Nicely family, who lived there, lost a father, daughter and grandson, who were in the attic when a wave of water hit the house, collapsed it, and washed it all downstream. All three lost their lives. Just below the Nicely family, in a small community called Little Mexico, only three houses remain of the nine that were there. Belinda Scott, who lived in the community, was severely burned when her home was washed off the foundation and gas exploded. She held onto a tree and cried out for help for six hours. No one could get to her, not even her husband, who watched and waited until he had to be moved from the scene by a rescue team. She died three days later in the hospital.

Pastor Gene Sizemore and others were trying to help, but could not get past water and roadblocks, but by phone and text were able to check on the safety of our church family. After meeting with our food bank director and others to consider how we could help in such a disaster, the pastor called Bishop Preston Mathena, and through his connection, we were able to secure the help of the IPHC DRUSA feeding truck from South Carolina.

The DRUSA truck team cooked for 10 days and served over 1,100 meals each day. We set up a 40-by-40-foot tent, donated by Gillespie Productions of White Sulphur Springs. For a period of 21 days, our team of volunteers gave out over six tractor-trailer loads of donated goods. Church groups came from Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia to help clean homes and the community. The Union Mission of Charleston, West Virginia, and church groups from Rocky Mount, Virginia, Wytheville, Virginia, Georgia, West Virginia and Ohio brought supplies and donations. To date, August 9, 2016, we have raised over \$50,000 in monetary donations.

In Greenbrier County alone, 16 souls lost their lives. Statewide, over more than 1,200 homes have been destroyed or damaged. In the midst of tragedy, God opens the door of opportunity to minister. We have begun to distribute the monetary contributions to flood victims through a voucher program. We want to thank Bishop Preston Mathena for his help, as well as the church groups who came and volunteered time and energy to serve. Most of all, we are grateful for the prayers.



*–Submitted by Pastor Gene Sizemore*

**Thank you, churches and individuals, for the contributions you have sent to the Conference office that are not yet reflected in this total. God will bless you for giving.**

## REV. MRS. MARY J. DODSON ENTERS REST

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Jackson Dodson, 95, of Altavista, went home to be with the Lord on July 20, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Henry Dodson; son, Rev. Mike Dodson; and daughter, Dr. Nancy Bennett. Her funeral was held on July 23, 2016, at Tree of Life Ministries with Pastor Mike Dodson and Dr. Nancy Bennett officiating. A life spent in service is now rewarded for faithfulness.

## OCTOBER RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

### October 1

Rev. Mrs. Marysue Freeman  
P.O. Box 1886  
Morehead City, NC 28557

### October 5

Rev. Richard Kingrea  
P.O. Box 6654  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

### October 10

Rev. Carl Early  
75 Church Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

### October 23

Rev. William Carico  
2453 Creekview Drive  
Galax, VA 24333

### October 3

Rev. Clarence Aker  
324 Apache Run  
Max Meadows, VA 24360

### October 9

Rev. James Abram  
1153 Rosenbaum Road  
Bluefield, VA 24605

### October 12

Rev. Mrs. LaTrissia Black  
4004 West Main Street  
Princeton, WV 24740

### October 31

Rev. Mrs. Barbara Early  
75 Church Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

**MESSENGER**  
(USPS 621-580)

Vol. 78 — September 2016 — No. 1

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR — Preston Mathena**

#### STAFF

Phone 540-674-4131  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### EVANGELISM & WORLD MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Larry Meadors  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

Ron Fredericks  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Kathy Mathena  
103 Windsor Circle  
Bluefield, VA 24605  
Phone: 276-326-3000

#### WIN

Donna Hankla  
139 Ridgeway Drive  
Bland, VA 24315  
Phone: 276-688-3709

#### MEN'S MINISTRIES

Quent Baria  
1712 Vineyard Street  
Bluefield, WV 24701  
304-952-9227

#### Deadline for all script to reach the office:

1st of each month for the next month's issue  
Email to woodsh12@gmail.com.

#### CONFERENCE BOARD

*Superintendent* — Preston Mathena  
*Assistant Superintendent* — Mike Dodson  
*Secretary/Treasurer* — Frank Neff  
*Board Member* — Larry Meadors  
*Board Member* — W.A. Mills  
*Board Member* — Wanda Myers  
*Board Member* — Jim Tunnell

**MESSENGER** (USPS 621-580) is published monthly by LifeSprings Resources, 2425 W. Main St., Franklin Springs, GA 30639, for the Appalachian Conference. Subscription price \$2.00 per year. Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to MESSENGER, 5847 Oak Grove Avenue, Dublin, VA 24084.

**WEBSITE:** [www.appconf.org](http://www.appconf.org)

**CREDIT GRAPHICS:** *Thinkstock.com*



## Church Planting in the U.S.

A snapshot of church planting today in the U.S. reveals how they are effective in winning the lost. Church planting is gaining more attention and resources from major denominations and movements. Led by Ed Stetzer, Church Planters Leader Forum (NewChurches.com) has released new research on this topic. They surveyed over 1,200 church plants that have been ministering since 2007. The report provides a comprehensive view on what is happening in church planting and identifying the trends.

\* Many church plants are effectively reaching the lost. By year 3, the new churches are averaging 18 new commitments to Jesus Christ per year. Furthermore, 34 percent of those churches have a majority with an unchurched background. By comparison, an established congregation sees an average of 1 person saved per year.

\* The average church size for a 4-year-old church plant is 124 people.

\* Almost half of the surveyed churches became financially self-sufficient by year 3. Conversely, if the church was not financially independent by year 4, it was increasingly unlikely to be so.

\* Texas leads the way with the most new churches planted. The Northeast, with the bulk of the population and fewest number of churches, had the lowest number of new plants.

\* New churches that are committed to a highly public presence experience a higher attendance by almost 2-to-1. A public presence was defined as meeting in a common place, such as a school. The underlying principle is that churches who make an effort to be where people are and make an effort to communicate in a manner consistent with the public at large, such as a digital presence, are making more disciples.

\* Churches who are committed to multiplying a new daughter church within their first 3-5 years have a higher attendance by almost 50 percent.

Continue to pray for our new church plants: Life Church – Claypool Hill, Va.; New Hope Outreach Center – Harrisonburg, Va.; Nueva Vida – Lexington, Va.; Convergence Church – Staunton, Va.; The Well of Living Water – Forest, Va.

Our region needs new churches! There are resources and support to turn your God-birthed church planting vision into reality. Pray for mother churches and church planters to join with us in faith to see God's kingdom expand!

**National Back to Church Sunday – September 18**

**IPHC World Missions Ministries “Missions Fest”  
September 16-17 – Burlington, NC**



# Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

[www.appconf.org](http://www.appconf.org)



## Discipleship Ministries Summer Wrap-up



As the summer draws to a close and we look forward with excitement to the fall, the Discipleship Ministries department would like to stop and celebrate the young people who were a part of the summer ministry programs and the many adults who worked and volunteered their time, talents and energy to make it all possible.

During four weeks of Youth Camp, our Girls' Ministries/Boys' Ministries Day Camp, Boys' Ministries weekend and Girls' Ministries weekend, we had the opportunity to minister to approximately 600 kids and about 150 adults. They experienced the thrill of riding go-carts, cooling off in the pool, the excitement of laser tag and the climbing wall, as well as recreation activities designed to build relationships and have fun. They also were being challenged in discipleship classes focusing on the call of God to HOLINESS, tremendous worship services, and the move of God's Spirit. Students of all ages were led to make a commitment to Christ as Savior, go deeper to experience a life of sanctification and being filled with the Holy Spirit, and in some cases, realize



the call of God to ministry! Some of the greatest moments were had just sitting around sharing and laughing with old friends and making new ones. Altogether, they produced an awesome time with God, students and leaders. Camp Maranatha continues to prove to be a life-changing experience for all who come. Stories continue to be told by adults who say they are involved in some type of ministry today because of an experience they had while at Camp Maranatha. We still believe that God is using Camp Maranatha, in conjunction with the local church, to change lives today! Make your plans, and make plans now for your young people to experience "Camp Maranatha 2017: Not My Life, HIS" or one of our summer ministry programs for girls or boys!

As part of the Discipleship Ministries summer program, we also participated in our National Fine Arts Festival and Youth Quest. The National Fine Arts program consists of Bible Quiz and Teen Talent.

Bible Quiz involves young people ages 6 to 19 who dedicate themselves to the memorization of God's Word. Those 13 to 19 participate not only on the conference level but the national level as well. We were honored to have two teams from Tree of Life Ministries, Lynchburg, representing the Appalachian Conference. We celebrate their overall 2nd-place team win with Jessica Stump, Elizabeth Ancheril and Rebecca Lair. Also, several individual wins by their team members: Jaden Jessup, Jessica Stump and Emory Singleton. The 2016-2017 Conference Bible Quiz program will begin October 2016, and this year's books of study will be as follows: Teens: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Junior: Galatians 1-6 and Ephesians 1-4. For a complete schedule, contact the Conference Discipleship Ministries office. For study material, contact LifeSprings Resources.

We celebrate all the young people from across the Appalachian Conference who participated in and/or attended Youth Quest and the National Fine Arts Festival. The National Talent program is made up of 85 categories in 6 divisions: Vocal, Instrumental, Short Sermon, Drama, Dance, Art and Creative Writing. The Appalachian Conference had 66 entries, with 31 of those placing in the top three: Kylie Stoots - Vocal Solo Female; Levi Horton - Vocal Solo Male; Abigail Liu - Vocal/Instrumental and Piano Solo; Re-Imaged, Crossroads - Vocal/Instrumental Group; Linkous Trio, Christian Life International - Vocal Group; Tiffany Smith - Wind; Jordan King - Strings Bowed; Noah Spencer - Percussion Indefinite Pitch and Rap Solo; Becky Linkous - Piano Solo; Outbreak Youth Hillsville - Instrumental Ensemble and Creative Movement Large Group; Emily Galford and Matthew Stump - Short Sermon; Candace Ogle - Human Video; Youth of Clay Bakers Chapel - Human Video Small Group; Dead Men Walking Crossroads - Human Video Large Group; Chesney Goad - Worship Dance; Relentless Tree of Life - Worship Dance Large Group; Unleashed Youth Valley Harvest - Modern Dance Large Group; Carey Linkous - Painting; Haven Watson and Grace Patterson - Graphics; Bryanna Young - 3-D Art and Fabricated Art; Z J Bittler - Traditional Photography; Savannah Willis - Website Design and Video; Caramel Ice Christian Life International - Rap Group; and Rockapella Christian Life International - Acapella Group.



The Fine Arts program serves to release a generation of youth for global ministry in the 21st century. In our efforts to release a generation of youth, we embrace the multicultural dynamics of the IPHC and welcome and seek to be inclusive of the diversity that embodies the church that God is building. As young people, through the National Fine Arts program, recognize and begin to develop their God-given talents and become involved in their local church serving God and their communities, they can and will make a difference in the church and for the kingdom. The Fine Arts program gives them a platform to begin developing their gifts. For more information about the National Fine Arts program, contact the Discipleship Ministries office for guidelines, registration information and dates for 2017.



**ACCELERANT 2017 – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS! January 26-29, 2017, Gatlinburg, TN**  
Registration info @ [www.accelerantfire.com](http://www.accelerantfire.com)



# Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



Pastor Paulette Phillips

## NOVEMBER 4, 2016 WM FALL RETREAT

Paulette is the wife of Dr. Ron Phillips, pastor of Abba's House of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they have served together for nearly 35 years. Her interests and talents complement and enhance her husband's ministry. Her love and understanding of God's Word is evident as she ministers.

As a conference speaker, she has shared the platform with such women of God as Anne Graham Lotz, Gloria Gaither, Dr. Fuchsia Pickett, and Karen Wheaton.

[www.abbashouse.com](http://www.abbashouse.com)

Music Road Inn  
Pigeon Forge, TN

\*\*\*\*\*

Room Rates:

\$136 + taxes

Call: (865 )429-7700

Deadline for this rate:

October 5, 2016

\*\*\*\*\*

Pre-Registration:

\$20

Deadline:

October 21, 2016

\*\*\*\*\*

*"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death"*

Phil. 3:10 (NKJV)

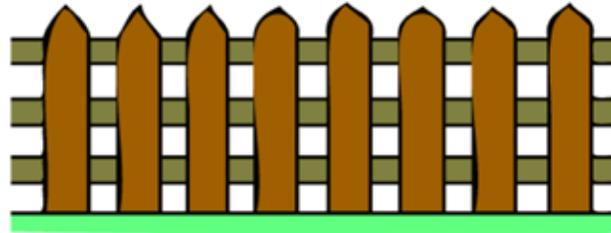
### MAIL TO:

DM SECRETARY  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084  
(earmark – WM Fall Retreat)



## HIDDEN BY HIS HEDGE!

JOB 1:9, 10



*“Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Does Job fear God for nought? Have not You made a hedge about him, and about all his house, and about all that he has on every side? –Job 1:9, 10*

Notice that God’s hedge surrounded JOB, his HOUSE, his FAMILY, and ALL that he possessed. Satan was hindered by this hedge!

### THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

King David also recounts God’s protection. He states: *“The angel of the LORD encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them”* (Psalm 34:7). David escaped death several times as King Saul pursued him. A jealous spirit possessed King Saul, and he was driven to kill David. Thank God for the angel of the Lord!

### THE ANGELIC ARMY

The king of Syria sent a great army against the prophet Elisha. FEAR gripped Elisha’s servant as he saw this army. The servant cried out, “Alas, my master! How shall we do?” The Prophet prayed for the Lord to OPEN the servants’ eyes! Suddenly, the servant saw the mountain FULL OF HORSES AND FIRE round about Elisha. He saw the angelic army! No harm came to Elisha or his servant! (2 Kings 6:15-17)

### GOD SEEKS SOMEONE TO MAKE UP A HEDGE

*“And I sought a man among them, that should make up a hedge, and stand in the gap before Me, for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none”* (Ezekiel 22:30).

JOB made a HEDGE of PROTECTION for his family. Early in the mornings, he prayed and gave offerings for his children (Job 1:5).

### WILL YOU?

Will you be like Job? Will you offer up prayers of protection for:

- \*Your family?
- \*Your possessions?
- \*Your city?
- \*Your nation?

**GOD IS LOOKING FOR YOU!**

**MESSENGER**  
**(USPS 621-580)**  
**5847 Oak Grove Avenue**  
**Dublin, Virginia 24084**

Periodicals Postage Paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639

Address Service Requested

## **TRINITY TEMPLE HOLDS SUCCESSFUL BIBLE STUDY**

On June 20, 2016, Trinity Temple, Welch, West Virginia, concluded its 12th Bible study class with 20 in attendance, five of whom received perfect attendance recognition for not missing any of the 13 lessons of The Journey Into Powerful Prayer, A Study of the Lord's Prayer, which was taught by Sister Carolyn R. Bishop. Those with perfect attendance were Dorothy Hamilton, Martha Carter, Robin Pruitt, Theresa Rice and Brian K. Lockhart. I am very proud of each one.

Tokens of appreciation were given to each person attending, and great food and refreshments were enjoyed by all. The class blessed Sister Bishop with a beautiful appreciation card and a monetary love gift for her study and dedication to the Bible studies. Sister Bishop also received a special gift from Sister Dorothy Hamilton of Jesus praying in the garden, as well as three Dump Cooking recipe books.

Trinity Temple has been having two annual Bible studies since the fall of 2010, each one 13 weeks long: one in the spring and one in the fall, with a summer break. Everyone who attends seems to enjoy the Bible studies and getting into God's Word and sharing in the discussions.

We are happy and thrilled with our Bible studies and how much the students have grown in the Lord. We thank God for His continual blessings upon the classes, those who attend, even from other churches, and the increase He has given. We cordially invite others who may want to be in a Bible study of God's Word to come and be blessed. We have a fun time in the Lord, learning more about God's Word and sharing life's experiences. We have also seen God answer many prayer requests that we have prayed about at the end of each lesson. God recently blessed greatly when one of our students rededicated their life back to God. What a wonderful experience that was for us in Bible study. To God be the glory!

*–Submitted by Rev. Carolyn R. Bishop by request of Pastor Dan Pruitt*

### **MARANATHA COLLEGE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>CLASS</u></b>	<b><u>INSTRUCTOR</u></b>
September 16 & 17	IS 323 Ministry Across Cultures	Harold Presley
October 21 & 22	EM 243 Communication Principles	Ed Wood
November 18 & 19	LEAD 313 Spiritual Authority	Frank Neff
December 9 & 10	TBA	Jeff Willhoite