

# *The Virginia Christian*



**October, 2024**

[www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian](http://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian)

## Clergy News and Updates

**Rev. Moses Joshua's** father died Thursday, October 3. Moses took an emergency flight back to India as his father was not doing well. He was able to be with his mother during this difficult but important time (see his post below). You can send a message to him at [revmosesjoshua@gmail.com](mailto:revmosesjoshua@gmail.com)

*Appa (my dad) passed away today (Thursday, 3rd Oct.) as mom and I surrounded him with words of love, holding hands, memories, stories, songs, and prayers. Eva spoke words of comfort to dad over the phone. Around 3 pm it rained. We witnessed Appa's face becoming peaceful as his breath slowly ended. We are grateful to all our families, friends, communities around the world who have touched my dad through your love. We celebrate the life Appa lived! Prayers for Amma during this time. Rev. Moses Joshua*

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**Rev. Donna Webster's** (Minister at Perseverance Christian Church, Dundas) mother died this past week. We received the following from Rev. Webster: *"My mother came home last night around 6:30 and she passed around 9:30 pm. It was a peaceful passing with family and her little doggie. She was also surrounded by her grandchildren which provided great comfort. My mother's suffering is over and we are thankful for God's grace and mercy in taking away my mother's pain and suffering. God is good and we know God is covering us all with love and comfort. Thank you so much for your prayers. May we always fondly remember those precious memories our parents leave us."* Please send her a note at [donna.webster.va@gmail.com](mailto:donna.webster.va@gmail.com). Or to the family of Carolyn Edwards at 404 North Water Street, Masontown, PA 15461, or to Donna Webster at 3096 Gigg Road, Dundas, VA 23938.

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**Rev. Tim Dice's** (Westville Christian Church) mother, Dolly, died Tuesday, October 1. Please send a care note to Tim at [revdice49@gmail.com](mailto:revdice49@gmail.com)

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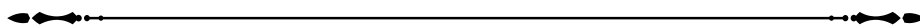
**Rev. Michael Week's** father passed away early this week. His father, Rev. Gary D. Weeks, was well known in the Camping Ministry and Conference Management both in Oklahoma and the wider church. He was instrumental in my own early beginnings as a minister and love for camp and conference ministry. Michael is on his way to Oklahoma and has requested prayers for him and his family. Send Michael an email at [pastormichael@slashcc.org](mailto:pastormichael@slashcc.org).

## **Every Other Week Zoom Calls to Meet Ongoing Needs in Disaster Areas**

I will be hosting every other week zoom calls with anyone throughout Virginia who might want to share/connect/learn what and how we might link to the current needs of the ongoing disaster areas. I have found so many great things going on and thought an ongoing zoom gathering would help connect people to be able to coordinate our efforts. Come join on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday (starts November 6th at 12:00 noon). This may change and adapt but for now we will start with a lunch hour check in and adjust from there. As I learn from these conversations I will also share more.

**Here is the zoom link...<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273?pwd=MkxtZlZsR2wrYWNFMIlVXKoh3ay9ZlZ09>**

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## **Prayer for Disciples and others in Florida.....North Carolina.....Tennessee**

Please be in prayer for our Disciples and others in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee who were affected by the hurricanes. There will be opportunities to participate together in at least 2 organized Mission Camps, and likely more in the future, BUT for now lets focus on Clean up buckets and providing gifts to Week of Compassion. Too often as the next disaster happens, the world and news cycle move on YET I AM HERE TO AFFIRM FROM EXPERIENCE - Disciples and Week of Compassion are the ones who are handed the responsibility to be there long after the new spotlight has moved on. Keep sharing the story, give to Week of Compassion and be ready to join a mission experience in the Spring, Summer, and likely on into the fall for a few years.

<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/give.html>

Bon Air Christian Church collecting CWS cleanup buckets - contact: [worship@baccdoc.org](mailto:worship@baccdoc.org) or call 804-272-6228. List of supplies: <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets>

BSD



## **Keep helping but beware of fraud and rumors**

Spread the news and lets keep focused on helping people. It is going to take all of us. During times like this, like I remember from my time during the floods when I served in Iowa, misinformation and fraud tend to rise as well. During the confusion then and now, some are creating false rumors and others are using the chaos to trick many out of their money. Recently it was brought to my attention that there are individuals who are creating fake emails in my name and requesting money and other items from churches and individuals. I am not the only religious leader being targeted so help your people be aware of these issues. Remember, the best way to give money to help is to direct it to <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/give.html>. They are a safe and trusted ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and have already reached out and are helping. Also, please visit this site below if you or anyone hears rumors that seem unbelievable. Let's keep focused on the great task in front of us to help as much as we can.

[https://www.fema.gov/disaster/current/hurricane-helene/rumor-response?](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/current/hurricane-helene/rumor-response?fbclid=IwY2xjawFyI8hleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVlzhbuHxcxqID3iaPYpiy5p6eR67ByFFSwlWciTaoB8sFIIfNbhIlNSg_aem_76eI19sydzTINyiCgEAGVg)

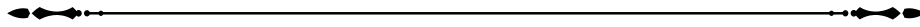
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I am asking that each of you take the time to encourage one of your high school youth to apply to be on the Virginia Youth Council. I do this because this is a great opportunity for them and will help strengthen what we do together as Disciples in Virginia BUT.... I also do it because that is how I found my way to wider church leadership and new opportunities to contribute to the path of my life. My own youth minister took the extra effort to have a personal conversation with me, encouraged me and even helped me fill out the needed forms to become a part of something I really had no way of knowing why it would be so important to me! PLEASE take the time to encourage someone to fill out this link... I know the deadline has passed but we are still looking for leaders. PLEASE look around and help someone like me, open up a door that may change their path of life.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsoR2F-P4Te73GqX8iIp4pBwZYa2UfX1p1uTjHi0fJDLtgPw/viewform>

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At the last General Assembly in 2023, a resolution was passed to make some changes to the design that directly changed or set in motion some changes. General Assembly will now meet in person every 3 years and meet via technology in the in-between years.

Every Congregation will be entitled to 3 representatives to the General Assembly, and set in motion a few changes to the General Church Board and how it will operate. I serve on the team that has been working diligently and faithfully to develop these changes and more will be coming out about that, but in brief:

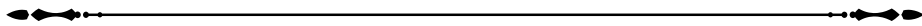
- Every person in the Disciples will be able to nominate someone they know to serve on the General Board, which means when these recommendation forms become available, I want to encourage all of you to consider nominating an amazing leader in your ministry/ congregation.

Because I know any change can be overwhelming and not everyone likes to read by-laws, I put together a video about one of the changes to the General Board and the way we all get to recommend people we know to serve. Share in your networks as these changes are really about creating ways to connect individuals and congregations to the whole church. We are stronger together but we need to know what there is to be “Together” about. Watch and share.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QA\\_xW\\_GoL0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QA_xW_GoL0&feature=youtu.be)

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**Madison Heights Christian Church** Madison Heights celebrated their 120th anniversary. Here are some pictures of that beautiful community.



## **Biblical Storytelling**

Bible Telling Session #2

Theme: "Birth"

What can we learn when we look at the beginning of someone's life? Do you want to learn more about the Bible in a fun learning on-line environment? Do you want to try out your storytelling skills using Bible stories as examples? Join Sheila Arnold for a 6 week on-line course - Bible Telling Class, with a focus on "Birth". Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, starting November 12 - December 17. There is no charge, but registration is required. We will be using "BibleTelling: Telling God's Word" edited by John Walsh, which you have the option to purchase online, but it is not required for the class. The sessions are independent and not progressive, therefore, making it easy to come to all of them or just one. I'd love for you to be at all, but I know life happens.

Go to Sheila's webpage for more information: [www.mssheila.org](http://www.mssheila.org)

Sheila Arnold

Teaching Artist & Storyteller

Artistic Director & Co-Founder of Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST)



## VA CAMP SCHEDULE 2025

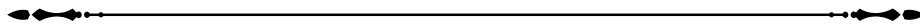
- 6.16-6.21 Intergenerational Mission Trip
- 6.21-6.28 TREC Camp
- 6.22-6.27 Nature Camp
- 6.29-7.4 Special Camp
- 7.6-7.11 Triple 1
- 7.20-7.24 New Covenant
- 7.21-7.26 CAMPDD
- 7.27-8.1 Triple 2
- 8.1-8.3 Family Camp
- 8.3-8.8 Adult Hiking Camp

## CRAIG SPRINGS

- Nature Camp
- Special Camp
- Triple 1 Camp
- New Covenant
- CAMPDD
- Triple 2
- Family

## OTHER LOCATIONS

- Intergenerational Mission Trips
- TREC Camp
- Adult Hiking Camp



### June Multi-Generational Mission Trip:

This past summer 29 faithful disciples from the region of Virginia went to Charleston, SC for our second annual Virginia Region Multi-generational mission. We were able to serve in many ways and were planning on returning for a second year. However, with the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Western NC, we are now planning on going to Western North Carolina from Monday June 16 - Saturday, June 21, 2025. We do not have a lot of details to share at this point because the region of North Carolina is developing plans with Week of Compassion to accept volunteer groups. We have been in contact with Rev. Karen Kelly who is coordinating efforts for the region of NC. If you have questions about our June Mission trip, please contact trip leaders Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster at [jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com) or Diane Clark at 804-712-5728. We do not know when registration will open up, but if you think you will go on the trip, please let Diane or Jonathan know so we can get some idea of how many people might participate. The region of Virginia is also planning other ways to help in this recovery effort.

## **Bon Air Christian Church - House Framing Update**

What a glorious day it was on Sept. 7! The front parking lot at Bon Air Christian Church in Richmond, VA was filled with joy and love, as we worked together to build the framing for a family's new home. With 112 people present, we completed 53 sections of framing in just 2 ½ hours! By noon, the framing sections were loaded on the trailer to go to Hillsville and we had eaten lunch. Wow! Thank you to all who helped build, prepare food, and keep us organized.

There were 13 faith communities represented that day, including 11 Disciple congregations: Bon Air, Gayton Rd., 1st Christian Hopewell, The Ministry Church, Seventh St., Perseverance, Springfield, Olive Branch and Slash Christian Churches. Bon Air Presbyterian, Gayton Baptist and the Islamic Center of Virginia were also represented. The house went to the Fuller Center for Housing-Greater Carroll County, VA, for a young couple with a 3 year old daughter and a second child on the way. The Fuller Center functions like Habitat for Humanity. They held a building blitz the next week and got all the framing and the roof trusses installed in two days, then finished the roof, exterior siding, basic HVAC, plumbing and electrical and drywall within 5 days.

This project happened because of the generosity of so many people and churches. Thank you!



Greetings Virginia Disciples!

I am the new Vice President of Development for the Southeast Zone of the Christian Church Foundation. I will be filling the big shoes of your former representative to the Foundation, Randy Johnson, who retired last month. I am looking forward to getting to know you and am excited about partnering with you in ministry!

In fact, Disciples in the Southeast are near and dear to my heart, as I have predominantly served congregations in many of the Regions I will be serving. My zone will include Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

While I grew up attending Central Christian Church in Lebanon, Indiana, I completed my undergraduate degree in religious studies at TCU in Fort Worth. I received my M.DIV from Vanderbilt and my D.MIN in Homiletics from the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South. I was ordained at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville and have served congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and Georgia. I currently reside in Atlanta with my wife, Marion (a United Methodist Minister), and our children Harrison (15) and Clara (12).

If I can be of support to you or your congregation, please reach out. My email address is [nbrown@ccf.disciples.org](mailto:nbrown@ccf.disciples.org). My office phone number is 317-713-2626. Also, for more information about the Christian Church Foundation, our website is [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org).

Thank you for the ministry you are doing in Virginia. I look forward to partnering with you in ministry.

Peace,  
Rev. Dr. Nathan C. Brown  
VP Development Southeast Zone  
Christian Church Foundation



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## Disciples Church Extension Fund:

**Invest to Bless**

You can, by investing with Disciples Church Extension Fund. Funds invested with us make loans that help ministries thrive, while you earn a good rate of return.

<b>4.65% for 12*</b>	<b>5.15% for 36*</b>
Current Fixed Interest Rate: 4.65%; 12 months	Current Fixed Interest Rate: 5.15%; 36 months

\* Minimum investment: \$2,500 for individuals; \$10,000 for churches/organizations. Rates may change without notice.

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**CCNC**  
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

# BOUNDARIES TRAINING LEVEL 201

*All commissioned, ordained, retired active, and pulpit supply ministers serving in congregational, institutional, or regional ministries are required to take a Boundaries class every five years to maintain ministerial standing with the Christian Church (DOC) in North Carolina.*



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024**

**Location: St Paul's Christian Church  
3331 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27612**

**Register by Nov 6th**

**Class hours: 9 am - 4 pm**

**Cost - \$50**

**(workbook and lunch included)**

**REGISTER HERE!**

**[https://app.aplos.com/aws/events/boundaries\\_education\\_fall\\_2024](https://app.aplos.com/aws/events/boundaries_education_fall_2024)**



The Christian Church (DOC) in NC | P.O. Box 1568 | Wilson, NC 27894 | (252) 291-4047