

VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC



# MESSENGER

Vol. 87, No. 9 – October 2026

“...he that winneth souls is wise.”

Proverbs 11:30



**Pastor Appreciation Day**  
**Sunday, October 11**



**2026**

THE YEAR OF THE PASTOR

*"I will give you shepherds according to my heart."*

Jeremiah 3:15

# HAPPY Birthdays

## November

### Retired Ministers' Birthdays

#### **November 1**

Rev. Lewis Arnold  
606 Moran Avenue  
Mullens, WV 25882

#### **November 8**

Rev. Jerry Blevins  
196 Talon Drive  
Moravian Falls, NC 28654

#### **November 28**

Rev. Preston Mathena  
48 Orchard View Drive  
Royston, GA 30662

#### **November 30**

Rev. Phillip Martin  
1443 Oilwell Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060



### ***Nora Lillian Bishop – home with the Lord***



Rev. Ms. Nora Bishop, 79, of Princeton, WV, died on September 7, 2026. She was licensed with the Virginia Conference in 1975 and ordained in 1981. She faithfully pastored both Roderfield and Tazewell PHC, as well as ministering in several nursing homes/rehab centers. She also visited the Alderson Women's Prison. Her dedication to the Lord lives on in the many lives she influenced.

## **Appalachian Conference *Messenger***

Vol. 87— October 2026— No. 9

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

First of each month for the next month's issue  
Email to Sandy Wood at [woodsh12@gmail.com](mailto:woodsh12@gmail.com)

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



# The Bishop's Page

Larry Meadors



## ***WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?***

In Psalms 126:1, the people of God who were returning from Babylonian captivity confessed they were now walking out the reality of the dream that had only been in their heart. "We were like those who dreamed." It was a time that sorrow was turned to joy and the harvest was being restored. God restored His people and kept His promise.

I believe we are in a similar season! So many are praying and longing for the Holy Spirit to move in a fresh and new way. No longer do you have to hang your head in disappointment and feeling like a failure. How does this new thing start?

It is time to dream again! These are the words I believe that God is challenging us with. In response, I want to know:

**WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?** Another way to understand this question: What is your vision for ministry? As your superintendent, I want to pray with you about those dreams. I want to see you succeed and the kingdom of God increase.

Here is how to start if you are a minister: complete the online questionnaire at <https://forms.gle/FY2uXpSHW988BW4p9> . I will pray over your responses and use what you share to help shape resources and strategies for our Conference. Return your questionnaire promptly with an added incentive, to be entered into eligibility to receive assistance to attend the 2027 IPHC National Pastors Conference. If you are not a minister, I still want to pray with you about your God-given dream. Write me at [Lmeadors@appconf.org](mailto:Lmeadors@appconf.org)

## **N E W S**

A wonderful opportunity is coming up October 19-21, for you and your leadership to receive information that will greatly benefit you and your church. The Fall Regional Training events are designed with you in mind. Please look over the schedule and attend one that works best for you. As a bonus, a time of fellowship with each other will be part of these sessions. Consider inviting a nondenominational pastor friend from your community to this event.

The 2027 Conference Calendar is online at [www.appconf.org/events](http://www.appconf.org/events). Please use this resource as you are making plans for next year. I would like to encourage you to be involved with your Conference family as much as possible. Our focus is to host events that will help you and your church to grow and be healthy.

I want to welcome Pastor Tony Atkinson to our leadership team as Conference Church Growth Consultant. After he taught at this year's camp meeting, there became an apparent partnership growing where Tony's gifts and talents could be used to help our pastors in the conference. Specifically, he will help our churches with revitalization. This will help multiply the already positive efforts that are flowing out of our Conference Evangelism and Mission Ministry. Please contact Pastor Tony or me if you would like to be in this program.



**Tony Atkinson**, and his wife, Sharon, served as associate/youth pastors for two years at the First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Roanoke, VA. In 1978, they started a church in Belpre, OH. After a tough beginning of only 3 people, the church grew to 750 people. They started planting churches in the region to become IPHC's first multi-site ministry with 10 churches under the mother church. In 2003, the total attendance of all the satellite churches expanded to over 2,000 in attendance.

Pastor Tony's last assignment brought him to Roanoke, VA, to revitalize an existing church that was down to less than 100 people. It grew to over 1,000 people very quickly. On Easter of 2017, over 2,200 people attended the Easter service in the Roanoke Civic Center.

Pastor Tony was previously the founder and General Manager of Christian Family Radio, which continues to broadcast throughout the mid-Ohio Valley. He was also the founding Bishop of the Ephesians 4 Network, covering "part and partial" of 8 states. Tony has personally guided the beginning of 2 successful mission works in Kenya (with 39 churches) and Uganda (with 6 churches).

Pastor Tony and his wife, Sharon, have two daughters and 7 grandchildren.



# SHADY SPRING PURCHASES NEW CHURCH BUILDING



**Pastor Benny & Gloria Harper**

The Shady Spring Pentecostal Holiness Church would like to thank the IPHC for the support given to us in the purchase of our new church building. The Lord gave me a vision for our church to look for a larger church building. I started praying and seeking God for direction in making this a reality. For three years everything I had looked at didn't work out.

On January of 2026, the Presbyterian Church, located approximately 150 yards from our current church, closed and sought to sell the church building. I received an invitation to come view the church building to see if we would be interested in purchasing.

This church had a lot to offer that our current church building did not, such as the ability to seat more people as growth comes, a children's classroom, and a youth room. But it also needed repairs. All the ceilings and floors had to be replaced and the walls needed painting.

I had a meeting with my church leaders and, after going over all the church offered and all the repairs and with the vision the Lord had given me, we decided to make an offer. Once the offer was made, The Presbytery of West Virginia accepted the offer immediately.

I called Bishop Larry and shared my vision with him and we began to talk about what the Lord was doing. Immediately he was on board with me and our vision. He got me in contact with the IPHC Extension Loan Fund and they made the process easy for us to get the loan for our new church building and extra to remodel our church.

Our congregation pulled together and we replaced all the ceilings, all the floors, and painted every wall, among other things. The Lord blessed us beyond measure and every obstacle was met with willing hearts. We are very grateful for a church family that pulled together and supported this vision and saw it come to pass.

The Lord gave us an extra blessing, as we sold our current church as soon as we moved into our new church building. We have a new church building to grow the kingdom of God and came out debt free.

A special thank you to Bishop Larry Meadors and IPHC Extension Loan Fund for making this possible.

Submitted by Pastor Benny Harper

"Pastor Benny has been doing a great job leading this congregation for 16 years. It is a very vibrant and growing church. I commend him for his vision and how he has successfully and effectively led this church through a time of transition." LM



# Harvest in the Mountains: When God Shows Up Under a Wedding Tent



It is an absolute miracle what God can do with a wedding tent.

It all started when Tony Robertson's niece got married and they bought a couple of wedding tents for the occasion. That sparked some talk about a tent revival, and before long, a partnership between Cornerstone Church and New Village P.H. Church completely bloomed into a 15-day revival featuring Pastor/Evangelist Tony

Robertson, Pastor/Evangelist Emmett Bourne, and Pastor Courtney Blankenship.

We kicked things off on Sunday, August 23rd, right in the thick of the summer heat. Even with the weather, people started showing up from all over the New River Valley. Crowds kept growing every single night, hitting a high of 187 people, with our lowest night still bringing in 116. In total, we had 11 different churches represented. We even had a couple of Mormons show up to see what was going on.

Worship was powerful right from the start. Woven for Worship led the first night, Pastor Jordan Myers from Family Worship Center took Monday, and the rest of the nights were covered by the Cornerstone Praise Team or the New Village Praise Team. On top of that, every single evening we had special songs from individuals who just walked up and volunteered to sing.

God moved in incredible ways throughout those 15 days:

18 people saved

8 people baptized

6 filled with the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues

6 delivered from demonic possession

And countless renewals, refreshings, rededications, and other deliverances.

We saw some truly jaw-dropping examples of the Holy Spirit moving. A practicing witch came, got delivered, and went straight home to throw away all her tarot cards, crystals, and everything else tied to witchcraft. One local woman who had been completely bedridden with severe anxiety and depression was delivered and is now regularly attending services. We had another lady drive all the way down from Beckley who had been in bondage to anxiety and depression for 14 years—and she was completely set free. We even witnessed an older woman who hadn't walked on her own in ten years get up and walk.

We also had several nights where 10 to 15 Virginia Tech students showed up. One night, they even joined in on the praise and worship at the end of the night, which turned into an all-out youth-led worship service. This has led to an invitation to speak at Virginia Tech on October 3rd at 7:00 PM, at McBride Hall, Room 100.

The impact didn't stop at the altar. The revival led to 9 new members at Cornerstone and 11 at New Village, and multiple people now regularly attend both churches.

This whole experience stands as a powerful testament to what happens when local churches finally lay down their dividing walls to seek God together for a fresh outpouring. And it <sup>doesn't</sup> stop here. Thanks entirely to donations collected during the revival, a brand-new, proper 450-person revival tent has already been procured—and another revival is already in the plans.

Submitted by Pastors Tony Robertson & Emmett Bourne



# World Missions & Evangelism

Wes Galford



Dear Co-Laborer,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It's that time of year again! The familiar aromas of pumpkin spice and cinnamon apples fill the air, giving us full disclosure that fall has arrived. Cool mornings and the exquisite beauty of the changing foliage remind us of God's creative nature and His unmistakable handiwork.

Fall is also a season when our churches come alive in unique ways as we minister to our communities through a variety of outreaches, gatherings, and special events. There is something beautiful about the Church stepping beyond its walls to serve, love, and connect with the people God has placed around us.

Growing the Kingdom of God is on the heart of every pastor. We have been called, commissioned, and entrusted with the responsibility of being about our Father's business, not only in our local churches and communities, but around the world. The mission of the Church has always been bigger than ourselves, and every season provides us with new opportunities to fulfill that calling.

As I reflect on the goodness of our God, I cannot help but be filled with joy. God has truly blessed each of us beyond measure. Through His blessings and your faithful stewardship, lives are being impacted around the world, and the Gospel is being proclaimed to the nations.

Your generosity, prayers, and heart for the nations are moving us forward in our Global Outreach journey. Because of your faithful giving, we have already reached **\$140,000 toward our \$250,000 Global Outreach goal for 2026!**

Imagine for a moment what God is doing through your generosity. Because of you, unreached people groups are hearing the Gospel that transformed our lives, some for the very first time. Churches are being planted. Leaders are being developed. And the love of Christ is being tangibly demonstrated to people and communities in desperate need. **Because of you!** That is worth a shout of praise!

Can you imagine the sound of heaven rejoicing as lives are changed and souls are brought into the Kingdom because of your generosity? I believe every dollar given represents a seed of hope sown into lives and communities around the globe, a seed that will produce a harvest not only in nations around the world, but also in our homes, churches, communities, states, and across the United States.

Today, I simply want to say: **Thank you!**

Thank you for who you are.

Thank you for answering the call of God.

Thank you for believing in missions.

Thank you for your generosity in helping send the Gospel from your community to the world.

I truly believe that only heaven will one day reveal the full impact of your giving. There will come a glorious day when you meet souls who came to Christ, families who were restored, leaders who were raised up, and entire communities that were transformed because you chose to give.

### **What a glorious day that will be!**

With God's help and your continued support, we remain hopeful and prayerful as we pursue our **\$250,000 goal for 2026**. I believe God will provide through hearts like yours, burning with a passion for His Kingdom.

No gift is too large, and no gift is too small. Whether you have already given or have never considered giving before, please prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to participate. Your obedience and generosity are helping unlock Kingdom opportunities and eternal impact around the world.

### **Please send this year's Global Outreach Offering by November 18.**

As that day approaches, would you prayerfully consider how God is leading you to be part of this eternal investment?

Let us continue to labor together, not in our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit and with Christ's compassion, until every tribe, tongue, and nation has heard the Good News.

As we enjoy the beauty of this fall season, may we also be reminded that every season is an opportunity to be about our Father's business. The colors of autumn will eventually fade, the leaves will fall, and another season will come, but the work of the Kingdom continues. Lives remain to be reached, churches to be planted, leaders to be developed, communities to be served, and nations waiting to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One day, the seasons of this life will come to an end, and we will stand before our Lord. Until that day, may He find us faithful, about our Father's business and committed to the mission He has entrusted to us.

The leaves may change, the seasons may come and go, but the mission remains. Let us continue to sow faithfully, serve passionately, and reach the nations until every tribe, tongue, and nation has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What a glorious harvest that will be!

Wes Galford, Director  
World Missions & Evangelism



# Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

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



# ACCELERANT

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**JAN. 28-31, 2027**



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**THE HERITAGE**  
**-WORSHIP-**



**CLAYTON**  
**KING**

## IN CONCERT



**ELI**  
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**EMERSON**  
**DAY**



**PATRICK**  
**MAYBERRY**

\*Speakers/Artists subject to change

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

Registration opens 10/1/26

# ACCELERANT<sup>®</sup>

**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**

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## Save the Dates 2027

### January

- 28-31 - Accelerant

### February

- 

### March

- 6 - Boys' Ministry Pinewood Derby
- 12-13 - Fine Arts Festival  
(Snow Date: April 9-10)
- 23-25 - Senior Ministry Spring Trip

### April

- 6-8 - Senior Spring Trip
- 17 - Girls Ministry Connect

### May

- 1 - DM Training - WV Region
- 14 - Jerry Sloss Memorial Golf Tournament
- 15 - Senior Spring Rally
- 22 - DM Training - Shenandoah Region

### June

- 13-18 - High School Camp
- 20-25 - Middle School Camp
- 27-July 1 - Elementary Camp

### July

- 
- 20-27 - Youth on Mission

### August

- 12-15 - Young Adult Retreat
- 20-22 - Girls' Ministry Retreat

### September

- 11 - Senior Picnic
- 17 - ATAM Golf Tournament
- 17-19 - Wood to Arrows Mens Conference

### October

- 1-3 - Boys' Ministry Retreat

### November

- 12-13 - Womens Ministry Retreat
- 30-Dec. 2 - Senior Fall Trip



540-674-4131



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



dmsecretary1@aol.com





# Fine Arts Festival

**March 12 - 13, 2027**

(Snow Date: April 9 & 10)

## Save The Date

**More information to come**

**Registration Deadline January 28**



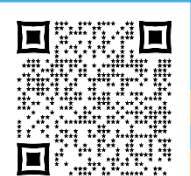
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[www.appconf.org/junior-amp-teen-fine-arts](http://www.appconf.org/junior-amp-teen-fine-arts)



dmsecretary1@aol.com





# CAMP MARANATHA 2027

## Save the Dates

**June 13 - 18**

**High School Week**

Grades 9-12

**June 20 - 25**

**Middle School Week**

Grades 6-8

**June 27 - July 1**

**Elementary Week**

Grades 1-5



540-674-4131



[www.appconf.org/camp-maranatha](http://www.appconf.org/camp-maranatha)



[dmsecretary1@aol.com](mailto:dmsecretary1@aol.com)



# BIBLE QUIZ

Appalachian Conference Bible Quiz presents:  
**LUKE**



NOVEMBER 15, 2026....3:30PM



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE TRAINING CENTER

**CONTACT:**

**PASTOR ZACH ROYER**



540.620.8620



zsroyer118@gmail.com



# Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



## *Vision 4 Education*

Fall is here and we are excited to be joining Holmes Bible College and Emmanuel University for their Vision 4 Education in October. These are two events that we always look forward to. It's a blessing to have students who see the need to attend Bible-based colleges and universities and we love to support them!

October 23 we will attend Holmes morning chapel, and October 24 we will be at Emmanuel University at noon. We will be presenting financial gifts from the Appalachian Conference. I would like to encourage our pastors and churches to consider sending a monetary gift to bless one or both of these great institutions.

You can mail your check to the conference office at [5847 Oak Grove Avenue Dublin, VA 24084](https://www.appalachianconference.org/5847-Oak-Grove-Avenue-Dublin-VA-24084).

Please have all gifts in by October 19, if at all possible.

Thank you for always supporting Holmes and Emmanuel, not only through your giving but through your prayers.



# A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH RITA SPRINGER



RITA SPRINGER IS AN  
INTERNATIONALLY  
KNOWN WORSHIP  
LEADER,  
SONGWRITER, AND  
FOUNDER OF DIVE  
WORSHIP SCHOOL.  
KNOWN FOR SONGS  
*LIKE DEFENDER, NEVER  
LOST, AND AMEN,*  
RITA CONTINUES TO  
LEAD WORSHIP AND  
ENCOURAGE  
BELIEVERS AROUND  
THE WORLD.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM**  
APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE TABERNACLE  
DUBLIN, VA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TAMMY PORTER, WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY DIRECTOR AT [PASTORTAMMY511@YAHOO.COM](mailto:PASTORTAMMY511@YAHOO.COM)

SPONSORED BY THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing/58630?>



## THE THRONE OF SATAN

The church of Pergamos was one of the seven churches that Jesus visited in the book of Revelation. He had a special message for each church. To this church, He mentioned that the Throne of Satan was occupying in their region. He commended those that held fast to His name during this evil reign.

This passage of Scripture confirms that territorial spirits can influence regions in an evil manner. Apparently, in Pergamum, persecution was noted, because a faithful martyr named Antipas was mentioned. (Revelation 2:13)

However, the Throne of Satan goes back much further in history, even before the earth was created by God. Satan's efforts to erect his own throne began in the heavenlies. But it was short-lived. He was quickly cast out of heaven. His expulsion was as rapid as the flash of lightning. Jesus confirms this fact in a conversation with His disciples.

*And He said unto them, 'I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven' (Luke 10:18).*

Satan's attempt to build his throne in heaven and exalt it above God's Throne is revealed from the book of Isaiah.

*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations (Isaiah 14:12)!*

Notice that Satan had access to governments and nations. He worked through government leaders who opened their hearts to him! The people of these nations suffered under the rule of these leaders.

*For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (Isaiah 14:13).*

### CAST DOWN TO EARTH

There was a war in heaven between Michael the archangel and Satan. The Throne of Satan would not be established in heaven! His fall from heaven would be good news for heaven but not for earth.

*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9).*

Heaven gives a warning to earth regarding this fall of Satan.

*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time (Revelation 12:12).*

Satan still wanted a THRONE. So, he looked for areas to house his throne. He also looked for people in leadership positions to support his throne and his evil missions!

## BATTLE IN THE WILDERNESS

A spiritual meaning of wilderness is a place of testing. This was the battlefield that Satan chose to confront Jesus. The devil was on his own turf, but Jesus still prevailed.

The devil took all of the advantages that he could. He did not come against Jesus on fair terms. He waited until Jesus had fasted 40 days and 40 nights and was hungry. (Matthew 4:2) His first temptation was to urge Jesus to turn the stones to bread. (v. 3)

Jesus responded back to the evil one with God's Word.

The next temptation of the devil was to have Jesus jump off the pinnacle of the temple and call on the angels to save Him. (v. 5) The height of this temple was noted to be about 150 feet! But Jesus would not tempt the Lord thy God. (v. 7)

The last temptation confirmed the true power that Satan had over the kingdoms of this world. These were obtained after the fall of Adam and Eve. He told Jesus to bow down and worship him, and in return he would give the kingdoms to Jesus!

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me (Matthew 4:8-9).*

Jesus told Satan to get behind him. Jesus would only worship the Lord thy God. (v. 10)

Then the devil left him. This was a great victory for the Kingdom of God!

## TWO LESSONS

Jesus demonstrated two tactics to win spiritual battles and to see the devil leave.

First, Jesus countered with the Word of God! He did not state His own opinions or argue. The Word of God was His weapon!

The second weapon was resistance. Jesus resisted the devil. Scriptures tell us to resist the devil and he will flee from us. (James 4:7) He did not tolerate the devil or ignore him.

## THE SWORD OF THE LORD AND GIDEON

Gideon thought that he was the most unlikely candidate to defeat the Midianites when the angel of the Lord appeared to him. (Judges 6:11) He informed the angel that his family was poor and that he was the least in his father's house. (v. 15)

The Midianites devastated the Israelites by destroying their crops and terrifying them so that they hid in caves. (Judges 6:1-7) Baal and Asherah were the evil spirits that ruled the nation of Midian. The erection of their idols permitted the evil spirits to raise up an Evil Throne. But God had heard the cries of His children and would soon destroy this enemy.

Before Gideon rose to power, he tore down the altar of Baal over his father's house. He built the altar for God and offered a bullock upon it for atonement. (Judges 6:28)

Then with only 300 men Gideon defeated the Midianites. The men were divided into three companies to ambush the enemy. Each man was given a trumpet, an empty pitcher and a lamp (candle). They also had a sword. (Judges 7:16)

When Gideon signaled, they blew their trumpets and broke the pitchers. Then they shouted, *The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon* (Judges 7:20).

The noise of the pitchers and the lights brought great confusion to the enemy, so that they turned upon each other. Gideon won the battle! (Judges 7:22)

## QUESTION ABOUT THE THRONE OF SATAN?

Can Satan's Throne stand against the army of God? When God's people begin to pray and speak God's Word, devils flee, diseases leave, the sick are healed and oppressions of the enemy are removed.



- |       |                                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 1     | Daylight Saving Time ends        |
| 7     | Men's Ministries Rally           |
| 11    | Veterans Day                     |
| 13-14 | Women's Ministries Rally         |
| 17-19 | Encore Ministries Christmas Trip |
| 23-24 | Harvest Train                    |
| 26    | Thanksgiving – Office Closed     |
| 27    | Office Closed                    |