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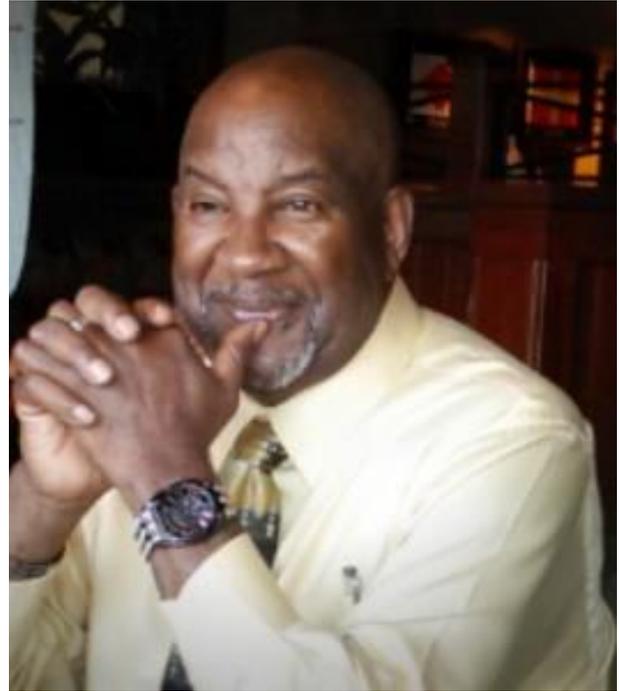
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Mountain Empire Churches of God to Hold Indoor Camp Meeting

Chilhowie First Church of God 257 VA-107, Chilhowie is the site for the Indoor Camp Meeting September 19-24 at 7:00 pm nightly. Rev. Silas Oliver of the 21st Church of God will be the featured evangelist, and Eventide will lead the congregation in worship. Those looking to sing in the choir should be at the church by 6:00 and those wishing to pray before services will gather at 6:45.

Typically, Indoor Camp Meeting has been held in the spring of the year but has not been able to gather since the beginning of the COVID

pandemic. In the four months leading up to this great opportunity for fellowship and corporate worship, Unity Services have been held featuring doctrinal preaching from May through August at the Allison's Gap, Marion, Abingdon, and Atkins congregations. Please prayerfully plan to attend services with us.



Rev. Silas Oliver



Eventide Trio

Neace's Pieces



Dr. Bob Neace
COGVA State Minister

As many have posted in various places on social media where they were when the events of

September 11, 2001, unfolded, I too, am reminded of the same thing. I was preparing to minister in sermon to the residents of one of our local nursing homes. I had just brewed fresh coffee and was pulling together my thoughts while having the television on low volume. By the time I knew my country was under attack, the second plane had hit the twin towers, and there were reports of other targets. The Pentagon would soon be hit, and the news of a plane crash in Pennsylvania would shortly arrive. My appointment was rapidly approaching, and I did not want to leave my post. As I prayed, for my country and its leadership, and those who were trapped in those towers, the thoughts of a sermon to deliver in an hour had dissipated.

Reluctantly, I left the comfort of my home, and went to my appointment with the nursing home residents expecting me at their devotion service. Entering the facility, I could hear as I travelled the long

corridors, seemingly every television tuned into the events transpiring. Upon entry to the day room where church services were typically held, I found a room filled to capacity, many of whom had come hoping to hear some explanation of that which was going on around us. In that moment, I realized I was not prepared for any sermon, but rather, a prayer meeting. As I addressed the folks gathered, we watched for a time on the television brought into that room. I led in prayer, and many others prayed with me that day. The twin towers fell during our time of prayer...

I heard folks say, our world would never be the same after that. I agreed then and yet still agree. But I've also heard the same words concerning various events in the last several years. The buzz words for the first few months of this pandemic were "a new normal." I used that phrase as often as most people who will read this article, but I've come to recognize the folly of such a term. Change in life is inevitable. In the case of 9/11, the circumstances formed around the pandemic, the other societal woes we are dealing with, and ultimately life itself proves nothing ever remains the same. Some things in life make us uncomfortable. Sometimes that uncomfortableness changes us for the good, sometimes not so much. We are wrestling with emotions brought to us from 20 years ago. Some of my colleagues were children on 9/11/2001. Others not even conceived by then. For them, they are reading in the history books about that fateful day. What some of them are also hearing are the stories that came from September 12, 2001. The day after [\(Continued on page 7\)](#)



**VA Christian Women Connection
Zoom Conference
"Inspirational Session!"
Period of Prayer and Praise Testimony**

ALL ARE INVITED



Rev. Barbara Parker

September 16, 2021

7:30 p.m. (EST)

For Zoom Information: Contact

Velma L. Green via email

velma.green@comcast.net



Fairfax Church Allows Ministry Opportunity for Afghan

The following is an email I received from the Fairfax Church. With their permission, I share the following opportunity to minister with them:

Hey Fairfax, we are continuing to evaluate long term ways that we can respond to the Afghan refugee crisis. In the coming weeks, we will have opportunities focused on resettlement of families that stay in this area. We will let you know what those opportunities are, so stay tuned.

But for TODAY, here are 3 practical things you can do RIGHT NOW to respond to the URGENT NEEDS of these precious individuals and families, all created in the image of God and arriving daily in our city.

1. Need for relators, landlords, or property managers that are able to offer rental properties to Afghan families being resettled in the Northern Virginia area (specifically Woodbridge, Manassas, Sterling and Fredericksburg). Looking for properties between \$1500-\$2000 per month. If you have any housing leads or contacts, please contact Brooke Luther at brookeluther@fairfax.cc

2. Immediate needs for unaccompanied children arriving at Dulles Airport for clothing and hygiene bags. Project details are here if you can help. <https://app.vomo.org/project/immediate-relief-for-afghan-children>

3. Donate to our [Afghan Relief Fund](#)- Click 'Afghan Refugee Relief Fund' on the drop-down menu. Funds will be used to help local agencies we are in partnership with meeting both immediate needs of families arriving to Dulles, and long-term needs for families being resettled in Northern Virginia.

Our hearts break as we watch these evacuations and loss of life unfold.

Please continue to join us in prayer for the people of Afghanistan and our military.

Thank you for helping in these practical ways!

Rod

Donations given to support the rebuilding effort in Haiti can be sent to Church of God Ministries Disaster Relief fund (Project # 45.04502) and marked "2021 Haiti Earthquake":

<https://faithlife.com/coggm-c/give?funds=4743>

COGVA Continues Second Opportunity for “Be the Bridge” Discussion Next session September 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm



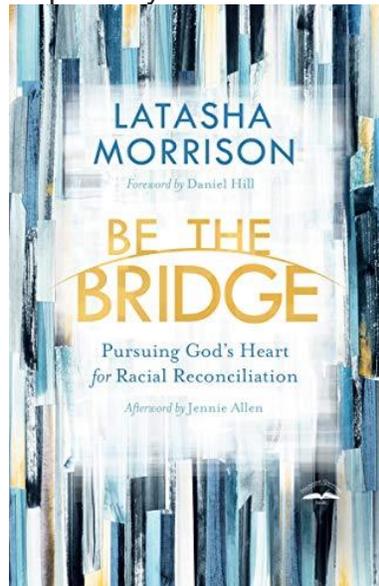
Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III

Rev. Dr. Simeon R. Green III will be hosting and leading the “Be the Bridge” dialogue each second Monday of the month for 9 months at 7:00 pm. The ZOOM Link for this series of gatherings is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552173879> or you may dial in: 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID – 82552173879
 Passcode - 034680#

Curriculum for these meetings is the same as it was for the first gathering of the Be the Bridge. Each person is asked to read the book, Be the Bridge, Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation” by Latasha Morrison, as well as download the study guide from the site:

<https://shop.bethebridge.com/products/the-bridge-to-racial-unity-discussion-guide-2-0>

This opportunity is for those who have not previously been a part of this conversation and is a great resource for being able to broach the subject of racial reconciliation that is so desperately needed in our time.



This book can be purchased from the aforementioned website for Be the Bridge, but can also be purchased from numerous local bookstores, as well as online sites such as the following:

www.discoverbooks.com

www.thriftbooks.com

www.christianbook.com

COGVA Men's Fellowship

invites you to gather with us via ZOOM
Saturday, October 2nd at 10:00 am with



Dr. Simeon R. Green III
COGVA Men's Fellowship
President



Guest Speaker:
Rev. Melvin Hooker

Topic: Psalm– 51

This group meets
every
month on the First
Saturday of each
month:



Rev. Perry Blankenship
COGVA Men's
Fellowship Vice-
President

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81724827237>

Or you may dial in by calling 1 301 715 8592

and when prompted, give Meeting ID: 817 2482 7237

Dues of \$20.00 quarterly for the COGVA Men's Fellowship should be made out to
Men of the Church of God and mailed to
Tonee Haywood/Treasurer
12327 Doles Road
Zuni, VA 23898 Phone: 757-334-4575
email at tonee9452@gmail.com

COGVA MEN AND MINISTERS TO HOLD JOINT EVENT

Save the Date and be watching for exciting news about the joint venture for the Minister's Fellowship Friday, November 5, and the Men's Fellowship the following day of November 6th.

Camp Christi is our site and rooms are free but it is imperative for those who plan to stay to make reservations by emailing the state office at cogvaoffice@gmail.com or via phone at 540-268-4271.

We are asking everyone to make plans for attendance, and bathe both events in prayer. There are more details concerning programming, but again, we are asking you to save these dates!

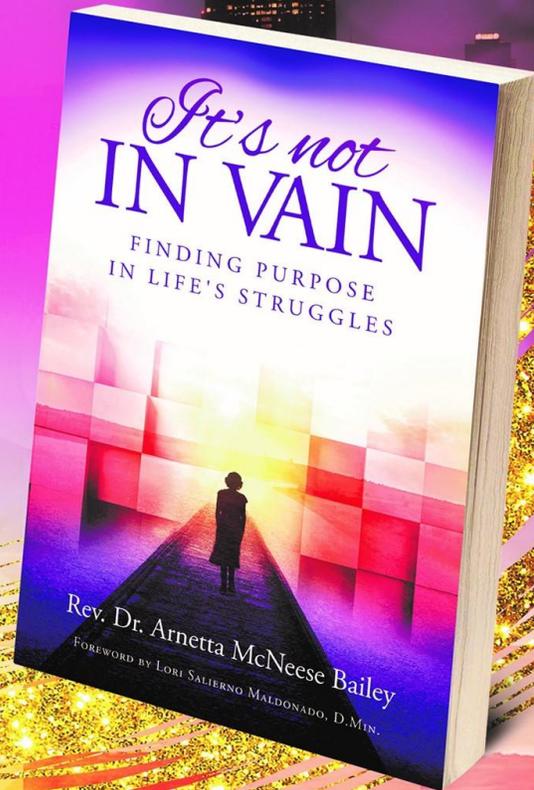
(Neace's Pieces Continued) and for several months following. During that time, we were all Americans... Democrats and Republicans put down their differences to recognize and see beyond that which divides us, and just began to see ourselves as... Americans. For a while, we exemplified what it was to say we are the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

For a while, church sanctuaries were fuller than they had been in a long time. People who had not been in church for much of their adult lives remembered back to Sunday School lessons that told them of a God who loved them so much that He "gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." They lived out the promise that those who are raised in the admonition of the Lord, would not ever be able to get away from those seeds of Christian love that were planted within them. It even seemed a revival might be afoot, but it didn't happen.

Church attendance began to wane and our politics began to take center stage again. While we had a common enemy, the nation seemed to be able to put aside differences and pool our resources, but the further we got from that common enemy, the more divided we, as a nation, became. The church, at her peril, seemed to have lost her focus, as well. It seems we have

learned well from the world, rather than setting the example of unity to which we are called. We have allowed division to take root in too many sectors to count. It seems leadership often tends to let selfish motivations guide our decision making. Many times, it is the unwillingness to confront those things that might cause friction among those with whom we share a relationship with Christ. I hear rumors of church splits at the national level and see it among churches in general settings. There are things being said and done in various sectors around the country that must make the enemy whose name is Satan, shout with glee. If he can keep the church divided, whether it is among denominational lines, political affiliations, and even racial/ethnic boundaries, the church remains handicapped. Church family, this cannot be allowed to happen in COGVA. Most congregations in COGVA maintain relationship with sister churches and recognize the value of those relationships. Please keep that up! Amid so much dissension within a variety of church fellowships throughout the country, I ask you to join with me in making a commitment that COGVA not fall into the temptation of division among the church but resolve to live out the unity of the body for which Christ so desperately prayed in John 17.

BOOK TOUR 2021



- Aug 28-29 : St. Louis, MO
- Sept 17-18 : Mesa, AZ
- Oct 16 : Citrus Heights, CA
- Nov 6 : Springfield, OH
- Nov 13 : Hampton, VA
- Dec 11-12 : Jackson, MS

*Rev. Dr. Arnetta
McNeese Bailey*