



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 86, No. 9 – October 2025

Pastor Appreciation Day



“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine (1 Timothy 5:17 NKJV).”

October 12, 2025



NOVEMBER RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

November 1

Rev. Lewis Arnold
606 Moran Avenue
Mullens, WV 25882

November 6

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

November 30

Rev. Phillip Martin
1443 Oilwell Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060



CONFERENCE FALL REGIONAL REVIVALS 7 PM

- * October 24 - Good News Ministries - Staunton
- * October 25 - New Life Christian Min. - Roanoke
- * October 27 - Life Changers Christian Ctr - Wytheville
- * October 28 - Voice of Praise - Bluewell

Pastor Tony Suarez – Special Speaker

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 86— October 2025— No. 9

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Board Member – Wes Galford
Board Member – Wanda Myers
Board Member – Todd Porter

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

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org



The Bishop's Page

Larry Meadors



Pastors, I appreciate YOU!

Happy Pastors' Appreciation month to all of our conference pastors. You, and the ministry you accomplish, are to be valued and celebrated. You are a gift to the church. (Ephesians 4:11-13). I really like J.D. Greear's definition of our purpose: "We leaders of the church are simply servants who escort the bride to the heavenly groom." (Gaining By Losing, pg. 44) What a great privilege that Christ has presented to us, his servants. What a most high calling that we share.

So much so that I want the year of 2026 to be the "Year of the Pastor" in the Appalachian Conference. This means our focus will be on pastoral health. Well-being spiritually, mentally, and physically will be the goal. You will see this reflected in our events and resourcing for the year.

We want you to be blessed. As a conference ministry, we pray for you. In fact, each month our staff gathers and prays over the ministerial and church tithes and offerings that have been received, just like you do in your church!

Gloria and I have in our heart to be a pastor for our pastors. We are really enjoying seeing and hearing from you in the Pastors' Huddles that are being held across the conference. I also hope you are finding the text messages helpful in communicating with you. If there is anything we can pray with you about or do for you and your family, please let us know. We love you all.

LEADING WITH CARE: A WORD TO PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

As Pastors & Leaders, you have been set apart and called to be shepherds who watch over your given flock. As shepherds of God's people, we are called to lead with compassion, wisdom, and strength. But leadership begins with stewardship of our own souls, bodies, and emotional health. We cannot care for others and not care for ourselves, or we will be trying to pour out of an empty cup, leading to burnout and potentially ineffective shepherding before we even realize it. Matthew 22:39 says, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" But how do we live out God's design for caring for ourselves and others in ministry, while loving them and ourselves, without burning out or being empty? We often do really well at caring for others, just sometimes forget to apply the same principles to caring for ourselves. Here are some practical applications of the Word that were given to help us do both.

Caring for Yourself: Leading from Overflow

- ❖ **Practice Sabbath Rest:** Take one day each week to rest, worship, and disconnect from ministry demands. Your soul needs space to breathe.
- ❖ **Protect Your Devotional Life:** Guard time for personal prayer and Scripture, not just sermon preparation. Let God minister to you first; He is our daily ultimate fuel and power source. If we don't take time to plug ourselves in, our "battery" life will not be able to sustain us.
- ❖ **Tend to Your Physical, Mental, and Emotional Health:** Check in with your heart and mind. Seek counseling or spiritual direction when needed. Healthy leaders lead healthy churches. Pastors also need a Pastor or mentor that they can call on when they find themselves in need. Eat well, sleep enough, and move regularly. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Just like the church as a physical building has to have regular upkeep and maintenance, even more so does the temple body you have been entrusted with so that you can fulfill your God-designed purpose

Caring for Others: Shepherding with Compassion

- ❖ **Be Present and Listen:** People need your presence more than your perfection. Listen deeply and respond with grace. You may not always have the answers and that is okay, be prepared to share that with your sheep and direct them to the Great Shepherd who does.
- ❖ **Equip the Saints:** Don't carry the load alone. Train and empower others to serve (Eph. 4:11-13). Team ministry is vital for spiritual growth of a congregation and ministry. Jesus had twelve disciples to help carry the Word forth to others and then subsequently believers were discipled and sent themselves. Ask yourself, how much more should we ask for help from others that Jesus has sent our way to reach the lost and advance the Gospel?
- ❖ **Create a Culture of Care:** Foster small groups, care teams, and prayer ministries that reflect Christ's love in action. The church is the body of Christ, with many members that have different functions. Be intentional about fellowship and discipleship within the church so that the team of believers Jesus has sent to you can be successful when they are called to "go out" and care for the needs of others.

Capture Balance and Discernment

- ❖ **Know Your Limits:** You are not the Savior. Jesus is. Learn to say no when needed and delegate wisely. Even though “no” is a two-letter word, it seems so difficult to say sometimes when you are the Pastor or in a leadership role because you just want to do all that you can, help everyone that you can, and fix everything that you can. Your limits will be tested; Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness demonstrating that. Seek God first, I promise He will hear you and answer you. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. Psalm 23:1-2
- ❖ **Pray for Discernment:** Ask God daily for wisdom to know when to rest, when to serve, and how to lead with love. Remember, ask and you shall receive. Asking God for the wisdom could be tagged as the easy part but then applying that wisdom and accepting it can be challenging. God knows all, sees all, hears all, and is all, trust Him completely. God has created you as His Masterpiece, He will hold it all together for you.

Dear Pastor and/or Leader, your well-being matters to God, to this denomination and conference, and to each of us reading this. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help; we all need it from time to time. We were called to help each other carry burdens and not bear them alone. When you care for yourself as God designed, you lead from a place of strength, not striving. You move from a place of just surviving to a peak of thriving. And when you model this balance, your church learns to live it too. Be blessed, renewed, refilled, and empowered.

Love, from a person who needs to do better at this too -



Crystal Burton, DNP, MSN, RN
Quality Improvement Facilitator
Carilion New River Valley Medical Center

(Crystal is the wife of Derick Burton, who pastors the French's Chapel P.H. Church.)



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT FAITH TEMPLE

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments" Deuteronomy 7:9.

Fifty years ago, at Camp Meeting in Dubin, VA, a conversation occurred with Pastor Ray Furrow, future church members, and the Superintendent of the Virginia Conference, B.E. Underwood. Pastor Ray Furrow was asked if he would be interested in starting a church in Pearisburg, VA. Following in his father's, Rev. J.L. Furrow's, footsteps he happily and prayerfully agreed to do so.

He considered "pioneering" a new church a labor of love and proceeded to visit prospective attendees. A revival service began on July 4, 1975, in a storefront on the corner of Wenonah Ave. in Pearisburg. After eleven months of worship service in the Thomas building, 20 members agreed to apply for a \$45,000 loan from the IPHC loan fund, so that work could begin on a church building at 1523 Wenonah Ave.

In a miraculous way, people came and volunteered their time, tools, and other resources towards the construction of the church – the men coming from their secular jobs to work into the late hours and all day on Saturday – the ladies showing up with meals twice a day for the workers. Pastors and members from local PH churches would stop by to offer encouragement and support.

After two months of labor, the first service in the new building was held on August 1, 1976. Folding chairs were borrowed from the conference, lights hung down from the ceiling joist and the floor was bare concrete, but the presence of the Lord was there! When questioned about having the faith and courage to build a new church, Pastor Furrow would say, "It's a job that takes grits, grace and guts!" And when asked about finding help, he would just respond, "Anybody will help you do something, but nobody can help you do nothing."

Most of those precious saints who shared the vision with Pastor Ray are no longer with us. However, as they are now enjoying the reward of serving their Lord, future generations are being loved into the kingdom by current members of Faith Temple. It has been fifty years since Pastor Furrow, led by the Holy Spirit, called out to the community to come, hear the Word, be led by the Spirit to know the truth of the Bible, surrender themselves to it and worship the King of Kings and live accordingly!

On Sunday, July 13, 2025, the congregation of Faith Temple, in Pearisburg, VA, ended a weekend celebration of 50 years of God's faithfulness to the ministry of Faith Temple! The weekend celebration included music and Word from former pastors and their families – Pastor David Lawson, Pastor Jeff Rhea, Pastors Eric and Camie Pennington, and Pastor Debra Hutton, with special singing and ministry on Sunday with the Furrow Family. Liam Furrow, the great grandson of Pastor Ray Furrow, made his singing debut on Sunday afternoon!

The Lord shared this word with former pastor, Eric Pennington, about the 50th anniversary. The Lord said to him, "Faith Temple would experience a Pentecostal harvest. Souls would be saved, and lost sheep would come back home. Get ready for a Pentecostal harvest!" Pentecost happened 50 days after Passover; 50 is associated with "Pentecostal." Pentecost means 50. It is the celebration of first fruits where Israel would offer a bread offering to thank God for a bountiful harvest for the year.

We, the congregation of Faith Temple PHC, look forward to continuing to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and beyond.



– Submitted by Emily Perkins



World Missions & Evangelism

Wes Galford



GLOBAL MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

CALLED TO SERVE, DESIGNED TO BUILD

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we step into October, we are surrounded by the majesty of God's creation. The vibrant colors of autumn leaves, the crisp morning air, frost on the rooftops, and the comforting fragrances of the season remind us of the Lord's elaborate and awe-inspiring design. Nature seems to echo the glory of God, and in that same spirit, many of our churches enter this season with a renewed sense of purpose and momentum.

Fall is a time when outreach takes center stage. As we transition from the busyness of summer, we refocus our efforts on reaching our communities with the hope of Jesus Christ. It's a season of transformation, not just in nature, but in hearts and lives. We pray to see the lost found, lives changed, and churches filled. It is a powerful opportunity for evangelism to flow through the Body of Christ, illuminating God's redemptive plan.

The Gospel remains our greatest message. In John 3:16, Jesus says, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* And in Luke 19:10, we are reminded of Jesus' mission: *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

When we understand the heart of God's plan, we cannot help but be compelled to share the Gospel, locally and globally.

This October also marks the final stretch toward fulfilling our 2025 **Go Offering** goal. This offering is not about taking something from you; it's about God getting everything **to** you and **through** you. When you partner with IPHC churches around the world, you're investing in the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Only Heaven will truly reveal the weight and impact of your generosity.

We believe that every dollar given is connected to a soul, tied to salvation, restoration, sanctification, and the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. Your giving matters. Your sacrifice matters. Your obedience is opening doors for the Gospel to reach places you may never step foot, but where your impact will be felt for eternity.

I want to say, Thank you!

- Thank you for answering the call.
- Thank you for believing in God's mission.
- Thank you for giving beyond comfort so that others might receive eternal hope.

As we look ahead with faith, we are trusting God to help us meet, and exceed, our \$200,000 goal. Whether you have already given or are still prayerfully considering your part, please know: your obedience is making a way for the Gospel across the globe.

This fall, let us continue to labor together locally and globally, until every tribe, tongue, and nation has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. May we have high expectation of what God is doing in our community and around the world.



A word of gratitude from our missionaries, the Dunlaps:

To the Appalachian Conference,

Thank you! We have seen many of you at your churches, around conference events, or during youth camp during our furlough in the States. And now, on October 22, we have tickets booked to return home to the Dominican Republic, where we serve as regional directors over the Caribbean/West Indies.

When we arrived back in the USA in February, we knew that furlough would look different this time around. We were traveling with our, at the time, 4-month-old. We knew that the logistics of travel, balance of parenthood and ministry, and desire to visit with many of you would stretch us in many directions. However, by the grace of God, we put forth our full effort to fulfill every available opportunity possible during these 8 months in the States.

We were able to visit 40 churches throughout the Southeast, met with several of you over a meal or at a park, and slept in 18 different locations! We recognize some of you wanted to have us in your church, but our calendar was full. We thank you for grace, understanding, and continued partnership in ministry as we look forward to prioritizing your congregations on our next furlough.



We are so grateful to the Appalachian Conference and to the IPHC for providing the opportunity and platform for missionaries to share with local churches what God is doing in the world. We firmly believe a portion of the missionary calling is to testify to the nations what God is doing in the nations.

As you remember our family in prayer, please pray for the Lord to help us as we acclimate our daughter, Everleigh, back into life in the Dominican Republic. Secondly, when you pray for our ministry, pray for the Lord of the harvest to send the laborers. We believe God is calling a generation, not just the young, but all ages, to participate in the great harvest that is to come. Pray the Lord would raise up missionaries, church planters, and national workers to go into new fields of the Caribbean.

Blessings,

The Dunlaps

On behalf of the Appalachian Conference, thank you, Chris, Alicia, and Everleigh, for your faithfulness, sacrifice, and dedication to the call of God on your lives. It has been a joy to see you throughout your furlough and to witness the fruit of your ministry both here and across the Caribbean.

As you return to the Dominican Republic, know that you do not go alone – you go with the support, love, and prayers of this conference family. We bless you in the name of Jesus with renewed strength, fresh vision, and divine protection. May Everleigh adjust quickly and may your ministry continue to flourish in new and powerful ways.

To our churches and partners: thank you for continuing to pray, give, and send. Together, we are fulfilling the Great Commission.

In Christ's service,

Wes Galford

World Missions and Evangelism Director
Appalachian Conference, IPHC



Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



Appalachian Conference Bible Quiz

ROMANS



2026 Schedule

October 12...3:30pm

January 11...3:30pm

February 15...3:30pm

March 15...3:30pm

For Additional Information

Contact:

Pastor Zach Royer, Director

(540) 620-8620

zsroyer118@gmail.com



BIBLE QUEST



Scrimmage Location
CLI Church

1 CLI WAY
SALEM, Va. 24153

THE IFF

(The Initiative for Faith and Family)

Appalachian Conference Discipleship Development

October 18, 2025 / 9:30 – 2:30 pm

Registration: \$15 per person
includes lunch & book
(maximum \$100 per church)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: PASTORS COME FOR FREE: JUST REGISTER!



Michelle Anthony

*Director of
The Initiative for Faith & Family*



Tim Shepard
Program Director

Inspire

Equip

Support

What others are saying:

"I have both taken and taught the IFF class. I believe IFF has the ability to reach the whole family in a way not every ministry does...in the home in fun and practical ways, laying a foundation of discipleship and faith" Miya Clower, Administrative Assistant NBCF

"I was introduced to the IFF by participating in a Zoom class based on the Spiritual Parenting by Michelle Anthony. A book that I wish my wife and I could have had as a resource for when we were raising our children. I felt so strong about the material that I purchased 50 copies to hand out to parents...." Rev. Craig Reed, Pastor Harbor of Hope

"What an awesome privilege God gives us to disciple His children, biological or those He places in our path. Just as Michelle Anthony described herself, I want to be the best parent. The Spiritual Parenting book gives practical and biblical teaching on raising children with the help of our faith community to know who they are in Christ, to commit to Him, lead them by example to know His voice, to depend on Him alone and to serve others..." Emily Perkins, Giles County Head Start Site Administrator

"The book Spiritual Parenting was truly eye-opening. It challenged me, inspired me and gave practical tools to guide children toward a genuine relationship with God. As a Children's Director, I found it to be an incredible resource for equipping parents in our church, and as a parent myself, it spoke directly to my heart and home life..." Brittany O'Neill, Director of Children's Ministry NLCM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CONFERENCE OFFICE
540-674-4131 EXT. 201 OR REGISTER ONLINE**

4 CEU's FOR ALL MINISTERS



DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT

THE IFF

(The Initiative for Faith and Family)

Appalachian Conference

October 18, 2025

9:30 – 2:30 pm

Registration: \$15 per person, includes lunch (maximum \$100 per church)

IMPORTANT UPDATE: PASTORS COME FOR FREE: JUST REGISTER!



Michelle Anthony

*Director,
The Initiative for Faith & Family*

Tim Shepherd

Program
Director



Inspire

Parents and other caregivers, church pastors, staff and lay leaders with the vision of successfully passing down their faith to the next generation.

Equip

Parents, caregivers and their churches with strategic, programmatic and relational resources designed to help them pass down their faith to the next generation.

Support

Parents, caregivers and their churches with intentional care and culturally relevant resources to help them pass down their faith to the next generation.



REGISTER

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE **STUDENT LEADERSHIP HUDDLE**

.....
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

**11AM-2PM: NATURAL BRIDGE
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

21 Gilmores Mill Rd,
Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579

**5PM: DESTINY OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

106 Ireson Rd,
North Tazewell, VA 24630

.....
AT THIS EVENT:

- Food Provided
- Resources for Children & Youth Ministry
- Breakout Groups
- Discussions

*For more information, contact
Pastor Zack Cook
276-724-0643*





Men's Rally

Speakers: W. A. Mills, IPHC Men's Ministries Director
&
Sheriff Richard A. Vaughan



Appalachian Conference
Training Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 | 10:00AM – 2:00PM



'Becoming A Man of Grace'



For more information, contact:
Steve Winesett,
Appalachian Conference
Men's Ministries' Director
stevew3414@gmail.com



'Taking a Stand'



Register Now: \$15 per person, lunch provided

MARK the DATE and MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!!

ACCELERANT

JAN. 29-FEB. 1, 2026

GATLINBURG, TN

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Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



REGISTER NOW



Unshakable Women's Conference

*"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With
Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."*
Psalm 16:8

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025 | 7:00 PM | \$35

BLACK FOX LODGE

3171 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3309

Special Guests from Regeneration Nashville



Pastor Candy Hemphill Christmas Worship Pastor Jasmine Brady

For more information, contact Tammy Porter, Women's Ministry
Director at pastortammy511@yahoo.com

For lodging suggestions, please visit the registration website.

Sponsored by the Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries



SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE



Book your room today! The conference is right around the corner!

Hotels close to the Black Fox:

Ramada by Wyndham
2193 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3309
[\(800\)854-9517](tel:(800)854-9517)

Willow Brook Lodge
3035 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3311
[\(865\)453-5334](tel:(865)453-5334)
[\(800\)765-1380](tel:(800)765-1380)

Vacation Lodge
3450 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3808
[\(865\)453-2640](tel:(865)453-2640)
[\(800\)468-1998](tel:(800)468-1998)

Quality Inn
3756 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
[\(865\)366-5691](tel:(865)366-5691)

***Please note: The Black Fox Lodge is not offering special rates for the conference.**



HARVEST TRAIN

Harvest Train at Falcon Children's Home is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2025.

This is a very special event that happens every year and is a life-changing experience. The parade begins at 8:30 a.m., and anyone is

welcome to participate. Decorate your car, bring lots of candy and spread the Christmas cheer to some very special children.

If you would like to donate offerings to Falcon Children's Home, please have them at the conference office no later than Thursday, November 20.



THE SPIRIT OF FIRE

The Holy Spirit is known to manifest in several different ways. For example, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the form of a dove. (Matthew 3:16) Blowing as a wind is another revelation of the Holy Spirit. Recall when Jesus told Nicodemus about the Spirit blowing like the wind. (John 3: 8) Perhaps the most well-known passage about the wind of the Spirit is found in the upper room. The disciples and other devoted people were praying when a mighty wind filled the house. (Acts 2:1,2)

The Spirit of Fire is also seen in several passages. Fire represents the powerful nature of God. It is also a symbol of God's presence. Fire also speaks of God's holiness. *"For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).*

Protection

"He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people" (Exodus 13:22).

God's fire protected His people during the darkest of nights. It also stood as a wall of protection between them and the Egyptian army, and they could not be touched by evil.

"And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them, and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came BETWEEN the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all night" (Exodus 14:19-20).

King David faced many adversaries. He testified that God consumed his enemies.

"But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away" (Psalm 37:20).

Direction

The fire of God also gave direction to His people. The burning bush that appeared before Moses is a great example. Moses was content to be a shepherd caring for the flock. But God called him to return to Egypt to set the people free.

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed" (Exodus 3:2).

The fire of God also turned the nation of Israel from idol worship. Recall when Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. The challenge was to build an altar to your god, and the god that answered by fire would be worshipped as the True God. (I Kings 18:24)

The prophets of Baal prayed and cried at the altar of Baal the entire day. They jumped and screamed but there was no fire. However, when Elijah prayed, God sent fire from heaven to burn the offering! When the people saw the fire, they forsook Baal and turned to God. (I Kings 18:39)

Reflection

God reflected His majestic power and glory through fire. On Mt. Sinai He chose to reveal Himself to the people by fire and lightning. Moses was invited on the mountain. The people remained at the base of the mountain. When the people saw the fire and lightning and heard the quaking, they feared God.

"And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly" (Exodus 19:18).

Apostle John saw fire before the throne of God when he viewed scenes of the book of Revelation.

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were 7 lamps burning before the throne, which are the 7 Spirits of God" (Revelation 4:5).

Keep the Fire Burning

We must keep the zeal of fire for God burning in our hearts. The church at Ephesus had become so busy that they lost their love for God. Jesus warned them to return back to their first love.

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4).

This church was encouraged to turn back to Jesus, the first love. If so, they would overcome, and be granted the privilege of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Revelation 2:7)



*Is the fire of God
burning
in your heart?*



November Calendar

- 8 Men's Ministries Rally**
- 11 Veteran's Day**
- 14-15 Women's Ministries Retreat – Pigeon Forge**
- 18 Kids' Ministries Virtual Event**
- 19-21 Encore Ministries – Christmas in PA**
- 24-25 Harvest Train – Falcon, NC**
- 27 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)**
- 28 Office Closed**