

# tm Tennessee News

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Tennessee Ministries of the Church of God  
L. Dwayne Pierce, State Minister

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## One Church, Many Congregations

I read an article in *Christianity Today* about a group of pastors from the Chicago area who had formed the Christ Together network. Churches across denominational and ethnic lines are working together as One Body of Christ to restore the reputation of Jesus in their area. The Chicago group of pastors went to share with a group of Virginia pastors how Christ Together is helping churches unite in service and evangelism to carry the gospel into their neighborhoods. They described a "sustained Christ awakening" that is occurring in and among their churches as they are making an effort to spread the vision for collaborative ministry in their city. The director of Christ Together stated in the article, "We began to understand that we were supposed to live like Jesus: to go into our community, feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and lead the lost back to him. In other words, we were not called to be a church *in* our community so much as to be a church *for* our community." He stated further, "No one church, no matter how large and influential, can reach their community alone. To truly reach the entire city with the Good News, it would take more than one church. It would take *the Church*."

As I read this article these questions began to form in my mind: "What would it look like if the Church of God congregations across our state worked cooperatively to accomplish our mission?" "What would it look like if clusters of congregations that are in close geographical proximity banded together in their outreach and in-reach efforts to their city, county and area?" "What message would that send to the in-need community and what impact might that have upon the unity of the church?"

Recently, Jeanie Lee, president of the Middle Tennessee Christian Women Connection and others, spent a weekend in Memphis visiting the congregations, sharing about the women's ministry and challenging them to become involved. The result is the formation of a West Tennessee Christian Women's Connection, installation of officers and a fresh vision of how the Memphis churches are very much a part of who we are as the Church of God in Tennessee. At the Spring Convention at Bunker Hill, a large group from the Memphis congregations was in attendance. The pastor at Bunker Hill, David Ford, Eric Headley, pastor at Resurrection and Joseph Terry, pastor at Outreach Ministries made such a connection that they have set fifth Sunday nights as Unity Services to rotate between Memphis and Bunker Hill. God is at work connecting the members of His body. Praise His name!

What if instead of viewing ourselves as individual churches, we started thinking of ourselves as part of a mosaic that makes up the Church of God in Tennessee? What if we explored ideas of how we could connect together to do in a greater way what we may be attempting to do alone? What would it look like if we really were One Church, seventy One congregations?


Joining Christ in His prayer for the Church,



Pictured Mary Terry, Dorothy & James Sharp, Joseph Terry, Jeannie & Tony Lee with picture celebrating broader fields.



## MEN'S RETREAT



April 29 & 30 Camp Overton  
Theme: "STEP IT UP!"  
Speaker: Hollie Sharp  
Golf & Fishing 29 @ 8:30am  
More info contact Chris Smith  
931-303-7884



ETWCG:CC Spring Convention  
April 30  
Maryville



Global Communion SERVICE  
JUNE 28, 2011 • 7:00 PM EDT  
Imagine tens of thousands of people across the world celebrating the ordinance of Communion at exactly the same time.  
Unable to be with us in Anderson? Join us online at [www.chog.org](http://www.chog.org).  
2011 North American Convention of the Church of God • Anderson, Indiana • June 24-29

## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

1 VOICE • 1 PURPOSE • 1 GOD

July 19-23  
Anderson University  
[www.chog.org/](http://www.chog.org/)  
LeadershipSummit2011  
It has been specifically designed to equip and empower emerging leaders in high school and college to become transformational leaders educationally, experientially, relationally, and cross culturally. Contact the State Office for scholarship opportunities.

TN State Assembly  
Sept 8-9  
Grace Place, Hermitage

## CHILDREN'S CAMP



at  
Locust Springs  
3rd-6th grades  
July 18-22

West TN  
Camp Meeting  
@ Big Rock  
July 24-29  
Speaker Arlo Newell

## Camp Greene

Junior Camp  
June 6-10  
Ages 7-11 years old  
Registration Cost  
Speaker-Dale Gruver  
Worship Leader: Shannon Brewer

Teen Camp  
June 13-17  
Ages 12-18 years old  
Speaker: Anita Miller  
Worship Leader: Michaela Miller

Camp Meeting  
July 31-August 7  
Speaker: Kevin Collins  
Worship: Greg Alexander

## Englewood Indoor Camp Meeting

July 31-August 5  
Speaker: Rev Frank Ramey

## Camp Overton

Jr Camp  
June 20-23  
3rd-5th grades  
Theme: Just Say Yes to God!  
Speaker: Tim Sharp  
Worship: MACU Team  
Directors: Pam Gollither

Middle School Camp  
June 6-10  
6th-8th grades  
Theme: Stuck in the Middle with You  
Worship: MACU Team  
Director: Kathy Tack

Sr High Camp  
June 13-18  
9th-12th grades  
Speakers: Josh Beddingfield, Jim & Dorothy Sharp  
Worship: MACU Team  
Directors: Jeff Daugherty

Camp Meeting  
July 7-10  
Speaker: Rev Wayne Anderson  
Worship Leader: Rev Mike Williams

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

## Celebrating Retirement...



**Rev. Linda & James Smith**

When Brother Dwayne asked me to write an article for the State newsletter about retirement, the first thing I thought of was a question that Dr. Leroy Oesche asked me the first time I was licensed in 1988. He asked "Lynda, how long do you think you will be preaching?" I thought for a minute and answered, "All my life." He told me that was the right answer. I can see now that it was the right thing to say. As many of you know, I retired from the White Pine church in September after 22 years. Now I am helping Rev. Larry Welch and his wife, Patty, at the Newport church. James and I have visited Goshen Valley, Flag Branch, Morristown and Del Rio as well. I have preached at Newport, and Morristown. I

have been newly elected Chairman of the East Tennessee Campground Association, and I am currently Secretary of the East Tennessee Women of the Church of God Christian Connecting. And, I am helping out with the East Tennessee Minister & Spouse Fellowship. I don't see any place to sit down yet. I thank God for every opportunity to serve Him and the Church of the living God! It is surely a blessing to be at this crossroad of my ministry. God has the direction in mind for me that He would have me to go. As of right now I am staying busy and trusting God. Who says retirement is boring? Keep an open mind and an open heart, with listening ears, and God will bless you with something to do for the Kingdom. God's richest blessings be upon you, and maybe you will see James and I soon! And, I am open to come preach where needed. Linda

The **Harmony Hill Church of God** celebrated 40 years of ministry with **Rev. Ennis and Jan Hyman** on Sunday, February 19th and 20th. On Saturday evening the church hosted the Hymans in a "roast" banquet. Sunday morning service was a celebration with the Hymans, followed by an evening celebration concert with Lawrence Chewning, friend of the Hymans. Thank you, Ennis and Jan for your faithful service to the Church of God.

State Minister Dwayne Pierce pictured with Rev. Ennis and Jan Hyman.



**Rev Reuben Dingess** 80, of Athens, went home to be with the Lord March 14, 2011. Reuben served as pastor in Kenova and Parkersburg, WV He started Ripley First Church of God in Ripley, WV, and before retiring, he was manager of the West Virginia Church of God Campground.

Survivors include his wife of 54 Years, Shirley, three sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Jan Dingess of Englewood, Mark and Kay Dingess of Etowah, and Doug and Michelle Dingess of Clinton, and 8 grandchildren.

**State Youth Convention 2011**, Gatlinburg gathered over 600 youth and leaders for a week-end of energized worship, spiritual renewal, spiritual formation and great fun. A huge "thank you" to Warren and Kim Shelton for their solid leadership as they complete in 2012, nine years as State Youth Directors. The Congregational Ministries Team presented Chris and Carrie Ricketts as the State Youth Directors elect. They worked alongside Warren and Kim and the team this year and will continue in training through Youth Convention 2012 as they take full leadership.



Kim & Warren Shelton  
State Youth Directors

Chris & Carrie Ricketts  
State Youth Directors Elect

Worship with Julian Drive

Speaker Tony Cruz

## Searching for a New Pastor



**Greeneville Camp Ground/Worship**  
**Newport**  
**Scott Memorial**  
**Tacoma**  
**Union City**  
**Watauga Flats**

Please keep these churches in your prayers.



34 Youth from Boma traveled to KY to work at the Hope Hill Children's Home.



**Tennessee Ministries**  
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## Dwayne's Travel Schedule

### April

29 State Men's Retreat/Camp Overton

### May

2-3 Pastor's Fellowship/Lexington, KY

5 SHAPE/Cookeville

8 Boma

15 Maryville HomeComing

17 PMT/Murfreesboro

22 LifeSong/Shelbyville

31 SHAPE/Orlando

### June

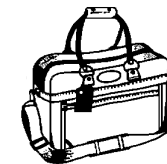
1-2 SHAPE/Orlando

5 Middle TN/Murfreesboro

11 Ministries Council/Knoxville

13-17 Vacation

23-30 NAC/Anderson, IN



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**www.tnchog.org**