

H E A D L I N E R

C H U R C H O F T H E B R E T H R E N

JANUARY

Newsletter

2019

"So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'" (John 10:7, 10b, NRSV)

Time has a way of moving on! It is hard to believe, but over twenty years ago, a study commissioned by the former General Board resulted in the adoption of tag lines for the Church of the Brethren. A tag line is a device used to communicate the essence of a product or organization to the wider public. These short and pithy statements are common in the world of advertising. Think about "Snap! Crackle! Pop!", "I'm Lovin' It!" and "Eat Fresh." As most of you know, our tag lines are "Continuing the Work of Jesus, Peacefully, Simply, Together" and "Another Way of Living."

Even though these tag lines were new to us, we have previously had unofficial tag lines as a denomination. "No creed but the New Testament", "no force in religion" and "for the glory of God and my neighbor's good" continue to be heard amongst the Brethren. What do these words mean? Why do they capture the essence of our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Church of the Brethren has traditionally understood Jesus as both Savior and Lord. As Savior he has done for us what we could not do for ourselves (Romans 5:6-11). Many gladly receive Jesus as Savior, but few are overjoyed by his invitation to take up the cross (Matthew 10:38). As Lord he calls us to a new life and a changed lifestyle. This is symbolized in baptism (Romans 6:1-4). If we are baptized into Him we will share His life daily and follow His example.

Continuing the work of Jesus means a life of discipleship, of following Him regardless of where that path might lead. For the Brethren to follow him means a life of non-conformity both in thought and in deed, both inwardly and outwardly (Romans 12:1-2). It means being different from our culture and society, not because we desire attention, but because we have been changed by the power of God.


What are the practical consequences of this? In a world concerned with appearance, fashion and unquestioning compliance there is a price to pay in continuing the work of Jesus. Can those who preach and live a gospel of peace fit easily into a society that celebrates death and settles problems by violent means? Can those whose aim is to live more with less seem any less than odd to a world that is focused upon conspicuous consumption and misplaced materialism? Can those whose God invites and welcomes the least, the last and the lost to the table fit in a world fixated upon elevating ethnic, racial, gender and cultural differences above our common humanity? Can those who believe that the presence of

Jesus makes a difference in the lives of individuals, nations and the entire universe not seem strange to those for whom religion is a drug that lulls the spirits of men and women to sleep? The teachings and example of the one whose work we seek to continue remind us that we are sent "as sheep in the midst of wolves" (Matthew 10:16). How much more difference could one want?

Continuing the work of Jesus means striving to do what Jesus would do in our everyday relationships. We must manifest the presence of His spirit, its gifts and the fruits of Christian character in our lives. Jesus promised that where two or three are gathered in his name that he would be present (Matthew 18:20). He told his disciples that he would send a Counselor, the Spirit of truth to manifest His presence to all the world (John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15). We continue the work of Jesus as the Spirit transforms us from day to day into those who think like He thinks, walk like He walks, talk like He talks and live like He lives! If he is compassionate, we must be compassionate! If he receives the outcast, we must receive the outcast! For now the one who is the same yesterday, today and forever is found where those who are called out by His Spirit are found. We are all given talent, intellect and ability to use for His work under the guidance of the Spirit. The practice of Christianity is not a spectator sport, but an intense daily activity requiring presence with God and God's creation. Jesus calls us to a life of meditative service that is marked by an increasing spiritual maturity.

Continuing the work of Jesus: Peacefully, Simply, Together and Another Way of Living are wonderful tag lines. But it is so many words if we do not consecrate ourselves to living it out daily! Just as Jesus' deeds gave meaning and depth to his teachings, so our works give meaning and reality to our wonderful words. While we are seeking a "compelling vision" as a denomination, these are important factors to consider!

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister

 **VIRLINA DISTRICT**
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David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER
Gary L. Basham, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Blue Ridge - Marie Jones and Kelly Nylander by letter November 4, 2018. Harold Jones, Debbie Castillo, Erin Delp and Travis Delp by baptism November 4, 2018.

Germantown Brick - Greg Broyles and Teresa Broyles by letter November 11, 2018. Ellen King by letter December 2, 2018.

PleasantDale - Henry Plunkett by re-affirmation October 14, 2018.

UPCOMING OCCASIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

The ordination service for **Zachary R. Hatcher**, pastor of the Mount Bethel Church in Botetourt County, VA was postponed due to the winter storm last weekend. Please watch our Facebook page, "Virlina District Resource Center on Plantation Road" for the rescheduled date!

Tabitha Hartman Rudy is scheduled to be installed as pastor of the Smith Mountain Lake Community Church on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10 a.m.

Frank Roderick "Rod" Quinn is scheduled to be ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Blue Ridge Church of the Brethren on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 4 p.m. The Blue Ridge Church is located on U.S. 460 at the Botetourt/Bedford County line.

WIVES OF PASTORS RETREAT - JANUARY 25-26, 2019

The Wives of Virlina Pastors will be having their annual retreat on January 25-26, 2019 at the HRC at Camp Bethel. This is an overnight retreat and will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday through 3 p.m. on Saturday. Meals are provided. Please bring a snack to share. Reserve your space to Carol Hinton by January 20th at carolahinton@gmail.com or call (540) 334-5424. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Retired wives are invited also!!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the theme of the mission resourcing campaign for the Virlina District which runs through 2020. The goal is to develop resources to fulfill the District's commitment to ministry with our children, youth and young adults; continue new church development and multi-cultural ministry; to provide assistance to our smaller, struggling congregations; to encourage development of set apart ministerial leadership, to minister to our college students at Radford University and Virginia Tech; and to provide necessary enhancements to fulfill Camp Bethel's future potential.

As of November 28, 2018, \$533,141 has been pledged to the campaign. This is 71% of our Victory Goal of \$750,000. \$388,891 has been received toward 270 pledges.

BETHEL - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

BOONES MILL - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

EDEN, FIRST - Full time position, profile pending - *Edward C. Woodard will begin as interim pastor on January 1, 2019.*

FRATERNITY - Full time position, profile pending - *Paul F. Stutzman has resigned effective February 28, 2019.*

JETERS CHAPEL - Part time position, profile meeting on January 6 - Paul J. Stover, Jr. has resigned effective December 31 to accept the call of the Christiansburg Church.

JONES CHAPEL - Part or full-time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Emma Jean Franklin Woodard serving as interim pastor.

LYNCHBURG - Part time position, profile pending - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.

MAPLE GROVE - Part time position, no profile available - Timothy Sink serving as interim pastor.

MASONS COVE - Part time position, no profile available - Jack W. Lowe, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

MONETA, LAKE SIDE - Part time position, profile circulating - *Christian Becker (FGBC) has been called as interim pastor effective December 1, 2018.*

NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply by Nathaniel Milton.

OAK GROVE, SOUTH - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

PARKWAY - *Michael G Battle began on a part time, yoked parish basis effective December 1, 2018.*

PETERS CREEK - Full time position, profile circulating (P) - Johnny Thompson (AG) serving as interim pastor.

RED HILL - Part time position, profile pending - Carlton R. Hodges serving as interim pastor.

SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.

SAUNDERS GROVE - *Glenn D. Stevens has been called on a part time basis effective January 1, 2019.*

SHELTON - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith serving as interim pastor.

TRINITY - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - J. Neil Varner has resigned as interim pastor effective October 31 due to ill health.

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Virlina District Resource Center will close at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21 and reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. During this time the staff will enjoy the Christmas and New Year Holidays with family and friends. E-mail messages will be monitored.

HEADLINER MAILING LIST

If you are receiving duplicate copies of the HEADLINER, please advise us at <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

N E W S & E V E N T S

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS (as of December 19, 2018)

It is important that the below listed forms be completed and returned as they comprise the mailing list for the HEADLINER and for other important information of congregations. If your congregation is listed on this list, please get the information mailed as soon as possible.

Form E - Congregational Outreach Report - Self-allocation for 2019 (was mailed from the General Offices in Elgin and was due back December 3, 2018):

Blacksburg-Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Boones Chapel, Boones Mill, Cedar Bluff, Christiansburg, Copper Hill, Coulson, Crab Orchard, Daleville, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Durham-Peace Covenant, Eden-First, Floyd-Nueva Vida, Good Shepherd, Henry Fork, Hiwassee, Jeters Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, Moneta-Lake Side Fellowship Mount Bethel, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Peters Creek, Pleasant Dale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Poages Mill, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Roanoke-Summerdean, /aint Paul, Saunders Grove, Shelton, Smith Chapel, Smith River, Spruce Run, Trinity, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel, West Richmond

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF MYRON MILLER

One of the giants of the ecumenical world, an advocate for the migrant, the refugee and the downtrodden, has passed from this world. Myron Shipman Miller, aged 95, an ordained minister and member of the West Richmond Church, died on November 3, 2018, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Born on December 1, 1922 in Rockingham County, Myron was the son of Minor Cline and Mary Shipman Miller. He was predeceased by his wife of 63-years, Dorothy Steward Miller, and his parents. He and Dorothy were the parents of three daughters, Ann, Jean and Karen. Brother Miller was a graduate of Bridgewater College (BA - 1947), Bethany Biblical Seminary (B.D. - 1953) and from the University of Virginia (M.Ed. - 1956). He was ordained by the Bridgewater Church in October 1953.

Most of his ministry was spent with the Virginia Council of Churches. Myron was instrumental in bringing together persons and institutions across racial and other lines. He was active in the resettlement of refugees in Virginia and in pioneering Migrant Head Start on the Eastern Shore. His long and distinguished service with the Virginia Council included tenure as Associate Executive (1956-57), Executive (1958-83) and Director of Program Ministries (1985-88). During his retirement years he served the council by overseeing the Migrant Head Start program (1988-93).

Myron was remembered in a memorial service held on November 25, 2018 at the West Richmond Church officiated by David Whitten and Terrie Glass with remembrances by family and friends.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE 2019 BALLOT!!

The Nominating and Personnel Committee needs your help. As a member of a congregation, your insight is vital to having good leaders in the district ministry. Nominating and Personnel will begin their work in January. Your nominations would be very helpful. For this part of the process, you do not have to ask the person if they are willing to let their name go on ballot. What is needed are the names of persons that you believe have the gifts and abilities to serve in the district ministry and mission. These persons do not have to be from your congregation or area. These persons can be from anywhere in the district.

The following positions are open in 2019: Moderator-Elect (clergy), Clerk, Standing Committee Delegate, Program and Arrangements Committee, Nominating and Personnel Committee (Areas: Franklin County, New River Valley, Eastern Virginia), District Board (Areas: Franklin County, Floyd County, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, New River Valley, Botetourt County, and At-Large), and Outdoor Ministries Committee.

A copy of the Nomination Form may be obtained by emailing <nuchurch@aol.com> or online at <www.virlina.org>.

REMEMBERING HARRY W. SHELTON (1940 - 2018)

Harry W. "Peanut" Shelton, aged 78, passed from this world on Thursday, November 28, 2018. He was born on November 10, 1940 to Herman L. and Flora J. Shelton. Harry and his wife, Jane Thomasson Shelton, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on November 25, 2018. In addition to his wife, he is survived by one daughter, Lisa Shelton Aquilo (Dennis) of Roanoke, VA; one son, Joseph Shelton (Brenda) of MacArthur, WV; two granddaughters, a brother, four nieces, two nephews and several great and great-great nieces and nephews and many cousins.

Brother Shelton formerly ran a convenience store and had been a rural mail carrier. He accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized at the Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren in February 1984. He later felt the call to the Gospel Ministry and graduated from the Three-Year Reading Course, now Christian Growth Institute, in 1991. He was licensed to the ministry in November 1991 at the Mount Hermon Church and was ordained on August 15, 1999 at the Rocky Mount, First Church of the Brethren.

A beloved and effective minister, Harry served as an interim pastor at Mount Hermon (1991), Bassett (1992-93), Coulson (1993-94, 2012-14) and Green Hill (2005-07). He was pastor at Rocky Mount - First (1998-2004), Pleasant View (2007-10) and Boones Mill (2015-18).

Funeral Services were held on Sunday, December 2, 2018 in Bassett, VA with Marvin D. Wade, Ronald D. Coleman and Danny Gilley officiating. Burial followed at the Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren Cemetery.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

3402 Plantation Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24012

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2019

1			District Resource Center Closed - New Year's Day Observed
5	9:00	AM	District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel (DKS)
7	2:00	PM	Council of District Executives Conference Call (DKS)
	6:30	PM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Oak Grove (DKS)
15	10:00	AM	Awakening Committee (DKS)
18			Travel to Florida (DKS)
19-24			Council of District Executives Meetings - Melbourne, FL (DKS)
21	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - New Bethel (Pittsylvania County)
24			Travel to Roanoke (DKS)
26	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (EJW)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (DKS/EJW)
27	10:00	AM	Smith Mountain Lake Community Church - Installation for Tabitha H. Rudy (DKS)
	4:00	PM	Blue Ridge Church - Ordination for Rod Quinn (DKS)
28	6:30	PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)

FEBRUARY 2019

1	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
4	8:30	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Summerdean (DKS)
	9:00	AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee (DKS)
	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
16	9:00	AM	District Board Meeting - Roanoke, Oak Grove (DKS)
18	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Cedar Bluff (DKS)
19	1:30	PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (DKS)
24 - 28			VACATION (DKS)

Best wishes for a happy, productive New Year 2019

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

JR HIGH YOUTH/IYC RETREAT - FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019

Junior High Youth are invited to attend this annual retreat which will be held at the Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren located in Bassett, VA. This year, the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet from Bridgewater College will provide the leadership. Members of the Cabinet include: Kasey Carns, Amelia Gunn, Chad Whitzel, Erika Clary, Eli Quay, and Helena Ullom-Minnich. This retreat will be structured like previous senior high retreats, of which the Cabinet lead, except it will begin on a Friday and end the next day.

When: Friday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.) through Saturday, February 9, 2:00 p.m. What to Bring: Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, personal items, suitable clothes & a snack to share

Find a registration form and more information at <<http://virlina.org/events.html>>.

ROUNDTABLE SR HIGH RETREAT - MARCH 1-3, 2019

Save the date for the annual Roundtable Youth Retreat at Bridgewater College! Join other senior high youth from neighboring districts for this fun and Spirit-filled retreat lead by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet and a yet-to-be-announced speaker. As soon as we have information, we will pass it on. Stay up to date by following IYC on Facebook and their website: @InterdistrictYouthCabinet and <http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>.

FAITHQUEST SR HIGH RETREAT - MARCH 15-17, 2019

Senior High Youth are invited to attend FaithQuest - a retreat held every two years at Camp Bethel.

You might be wondering...What is FaithQuest? FaithQuest offers senior high youth an opportunity to explore their relationship with God while considering different spiritual practices, which symbols are sacred to us, and how to live in community with each other as Christians. Our FaithQuest leaders this year include: Hannah Oakes (Summerdean), Mike Elmore (Roanoke, Oak Grove), Sam St. John (Roanoke, Ninth Street), Amber Harris (Fraternity), Tabby Patterson (Roanoke, First), John Reed, Sr. (Cloverdale), Patrick Sims (Topeco), Harmony Johnson (Copper Hill), Amy Beery (Bethany Theological Seminary), Christa Craighead (Monte Vista) and Carol Elmore (Roanoke, Oak Grove).

When & Where: March 15-17, 2019. Check-in begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. The retreat ends at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. It will be at Camp Bethel in Heritage Lodge.

Find a registration form and more information at <<http://virlina.org/events.html>>.

NEW FEATURES ON DISTRICT WEBSITE

We are always looking for new ways to improve our website at <www.virlina.org>. There are two "new" sections: a Blog and a Resources page. The Blog features articles found in the Headliner, but also includes some extras every other month. The Resources page is being added

to continuously, and features resources pertaining to Music and Worship, Continuing Education for Ministers, and Christian Education. Our Calendar stays up to date with District sponsored events; we even have a Google map showing each of our congregations. Save <www.virlina.org> to your favorites so you can access it regularly. It's even mobile friendly!

PILGRIMAGE XXIII - MARCH 22-24, 2019

Pilgrimage XXIII will be held March 22-24, 2019, at Camp Bethel. People from 60 congregations in our district have attended this event which is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. Pilgrimage is for everyone! No matter where a person is on his or her faith journey, it is always good to take another step and draw closer to God. The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. Yet God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry, and we give Him all praise and honor! The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it. Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or <haynesmk1986@yahoo.com> or go to <www.experiencepilgrimage.com>.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 27 - MAY 2

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue. Christian Citizenship Seminar in 2019, held from April 27 - May 2, will focus on innovative approaches to resolving conflict and preventing civilian harm.

All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Congregations are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend. Congregations are required to send one advisor for every four youth. Registration is limited to the first 60 participants. Registration opens December 3, 2018 at 1 p.m. (Eastern Time). The \$425 registration fee includes:

Event programming, lodging for five nights, two dinner meals, one in New York City and one in Washington D.C. and transportation from New York to Washington D.C. Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at ewitkovskyeldred@brethren.org or (847) 429-4385.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON JANUARY 25, 2019

Deadline for the March 2019 HEADLINER is January 25, 2019. Forward items to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012**. Please make sure to change our address if you have not done so!

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

CGI- ROANOKE CENTER CLASS - WINTER 2019

The next class to be held at the Roanoke Center will be NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY, taught by Bruce Huffman. Textbooks and resources for the class are: New Testament Story Fourth Edition (Paperback) by David L. Barr, and Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Paper, "The New Testament As Our Rule of Faith and Practice."

The Sunday afternoon classes will be held on January 13, January 27, February 10 and February 24, 2019 from 2 - 6 p.m. at the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA. Tuition for the class will be \$75.00 and students are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks.

For more information or to obtain an application please contact Gary Basham, Director of Ministry Formation. Phone: (540) 890-3818, E-mail: gb0247@cox.net. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with registration form by January 3, 2019 to: Gary Basham, 2526 Parkview Drive, Vinton, VA 24179-1612. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

CGI SOUTHERN CENTER CLASS - WINTER 2019

The next class to be held at the Southern Center will be OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY, taught by Edward C. Woodard. The textbook for the class is: Reading the Old Testament, by Barry L. Bandstra (you may use 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th edition).

These classes will be held on the following Saturdays: January 12, January 26, February 9 and February 23, 2019 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Coulson Church of the Brethren, 4127 Coulson Church Road, Hillsville, VA 24343-3682. Tuition for the class will be \$75.00 (after January 1, \$100.00) and students are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks.

For more information or to obtain an application please contact Sue Morris, Southern Center Co-ordinator by telephone at (540) 651-8331 and by e-mail at <enncomhla@swva.net>. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with registration form by January 1, 2019 to: Sue Morris, P.O. Box 8, Copper Hill, VA 24079-0008. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class. The audit fee is \$25, the CEU fee is \$25 and the CEU certificate fee is \$10.

CLERGY TAX LAW SEMINAR - JANUARY 19, 2019

The Brethren Academy occasionally hosts webinars and classes on Clergy Taxes. Taxes can be overwhelming and it's even more complicated for clergy and congregations. The next class will be on Saturday, January 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This particular one will focus on the recent changes to the 2018 Tax Return as well as an overview of Clergy Tax Law. Pastors can earn up to .4 CEUs. The cost is \$30 per person.

While everyone is encouraged to register on their own and attend the class from the comforts of your home/office, we also want to offer the District Resource Center as

a sort of satellite classroom. If you would like to take the class but are not able to or sure about how to do it online, we are offering our conference room as an alternate location. You will get to sit in on the class, get credit for it, but you won't have to deal with the technology end of things. Each person, no matter where/how you attend, has to register and pay the fee. Visit <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/> for more information on the class and how to register. The Academy office can also be reached by phone at (800) 287-8822.

If you are interested in attending the class from the District Resource Center, please do the following:

1) Contact Betty Wills at (540) 362-1816 or <virlinasecretary@gmail.com> to advise your presence.

2) Follow the link above and get registered for the class. Payment to the Academy can be made by card or check.

If you want to take the class from your home or office, there is no need to let her know that, but you will need to register by the deadline, which is in early January. If you have questions, please let Tabitha know. Please note, however, that she will not be checking the aforementioned e-mail accounts after December 31.

WORKCAMP DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2019

The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Office has released the 2019 workcamp dates and locations. A total of 18 different workcamps will be offered for junior high, senior high, young adult, and "we are able" participants. To view the full schedule, which includes the dates, location, cost, and description of each workcamp, visit <www.brethren.org/workcamps/schedule>. Registration will open on January 17, 2019, at 8 p.m. (eastern time). Please encourage the youth and young adults of your congregation to attend a workcamp this summer. If you have any questions or would like a 2019 workcamp brochure mailed to you, contact the Workcamp Office at <cobworkcamps@brethren.org>.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - MARCH 1-2, 2019

The annual retreat for ministers and their spouses will be held March 1-2, 2019 at the W.E. Skelton 4-H and Conference Center. The retreat will focus on pastoral leadership in congregational life. Leadership for 2019 will be provided by James F. Mauney, the Bishop Emeritus of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Born in Lynchburg, VA, and raised in Norfolk, VA, Jim Mauney was ordained in 1978 and served as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in San Diego CA, and Christ Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA. Jim and his wife, Lynda, are the parents of an adult daughter.

The cost is \$150 per couple, \$100 for a single and \$40 for a "commuter." Please e-mail us at nuchurch@aol.com for a registration form.

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Our theme this summer is "LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE." Together: with God, with each other, and with creation. When we live together in intentional Christian community, even for just one week, we gain person-to-person relationship skills to benefit our families, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. Registration opens January 7, so register early to guarantee your program choice. All information (brochure, forms, and schedule) is at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>.

CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Send your congregation's camp representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel to attend our Camp Supporter Luncheon on Saturday, February 2. The meal will be from 12 noon until 3 p.m. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your church is in attendance. You do not have to be an official Camp Rep to attend. After a free lunch in the Ark, we'll share and distribute all the tools and information you need to communicate Camp Bethel to your home congregations. Please advise us of your attendance by January 27, 2019.

FIRST AID CERTIFICATION TRAINING - FEB 23-24, 2019

Camp Bethel is once again collaborating with SOLO to provide the best Wilderness First Aid Certification Training available. Optional CPR w/ AED Training on Feb 22, and all-inclusive packages (meals, lodging, etc.) are available. Check info and pricing or to register at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WFA>.

SOW THE SEED BANQUET- MARCH 7, 2019

The "Sow the Seed" Scholarship Banquet will be held on Thursday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. YOU can plant seeds of FAITH in the lives of children, youth and young adults! At \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted), all costs and donations from the evening directly fund "camperships" and our summer camp ministries. RSVP by March 1 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Payments are accepted in advance or at the table, and your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2019 is \$350. Give the gift of CAMP; it's an experience that can change a life forever.

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - APRIL 6, 2019

Spring Volunteer Workday begins with free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and includes free lunch at 1 p.m. Your help is needed! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. Please reserve meals no later than April 1 to (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. You will find more information at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 12-13, 2019

Our 18th annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling will be held on April 12-13, 2019. It will feature nationally known tellers such as excellent and nationally known performers, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Bil Lepp, and Gayle Ross. This is one of Camp Bethel's most important fundraisers, so help spread the word. Help spread the word and recruit festival sponsors. For more information go to the website at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

SUMMER CAMP STAFF 2019

Counselors and kitchen staff are needed for our summer camps in 2019. We fill paid and volunteer positions on a first-hired, first-filled basis. Counselors serve May 26-July 18, and Kitchen Staff serve May 26-August 16. See <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff> for applications and salary information. BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

SARA FOSTER - RESIDENT VOLUNTEER INTERN!

Sara graduated from Emory & Henry College in May, and while seeking full-time employment, she will serve 20 hours per week at Camp Bethel in all aspects of this busy, busy place. Sara lives in Whippoorwill Cottage, and she is the granddaughter of Sam and Rita Foster of the Cloverdale Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CONFERENCE AT CAMP

Help us show "holy hospitality" to 100+ students and leaders on February 22. Volunteers are needed for the Adventure Education Conference at Camp Bethel. The VAEC brings together Virginia's outdoor educators, guides, collegiate programs, and leaders to network and discuss industry trends, while also allowing students from Virginia's College adventure programs to offer professional presentations. For more information, go to <www.vaaec.org>.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS:

Sign up for our fun and colorful eNewsletter at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe>.

CGI SHENANDOAH CENTER CLASS - WINTER 2019

The Worship class will be offered by the Shenandoah Center of the Christian Growth Institute during the Winter Session. Beth Jarret, pastor of Harrisonburg, First Church of the Brethren in Harrisonburg, Virginia, will be the instructor. The class dates are January 12,, February 23, and March 9, 2019. The texts are: "An Hour on Sunday: Creating Moments of Transformation and Wonder" by Nancy Beach; "Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship" by Thomas G. Long.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, please contact Sarah Long, Center Coordinator at (540) 908-0423 or <ahntsarah@hotmail.com> or <sarahlong@shencob.org>. Tuition for the class is \$75.00. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail to: Sarah Long, Shenandoah Center Coordinator, 205 South Willow Street, Apartment C, Harrisonburg, VA 22801-1937. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers who audit class sessions.

LIKE OUR DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE!

The Virlina District Resource Center has a Facebook page. This allows for us to announce district events quickly to everyone who "likes" the page. To find the page, type "Virlina District Resource Center on Plantation Road" into the FB search function. Then "like" us.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The Forty-Eighth Virginia District Conference of the Church of the Brethren convened at the Bonsack Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 9-10, 2018. "The Fruit of the Spirit" from Galatians 5:22 was the theme of the 2018 District Conference. Aggregate attendance on Saturday including youth and children was 389 persons. This included 226 delegates (including 65 pastors) and 163 non-delegates from 75 congregations. These participated in the worship, fellowship and spiritual discernment for the district under the leadership of Moderator Debbie Humphrey of the Roanoke, Ninth Street congregation.

Assisting in leadership during conference was Moderator-Elect Roy U. Turpin of the Pleasant Valley congregation in Floyd County, Virginia, Pam Clark of the Peters Creek congregation who served as Clerk, Hannah Oakes of the Summerdean congregation who served as Timekeeper, and Daniel L. Rudy of the Roanoke, Ninth Street congregation who served as Parliamentarian. Donita Keister, 2019 Moderator of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, preached Friday night on the conference theme. The president of Bethany Theological Seminary, the graduate school of theology of the Church of the Brethren, Jeff Carter, spoke both Friday night at the Ministers and Spouses dinner and during the Saturday morning worship. Members of the praise team on Friday evening were Paul and Karen Stutzman (Fraternity), Andy and Courtney Duffey (Antioch) and Aaron and Traci Lavinder (Germantown Brick). Attendees were blessed by many gifted musicians: Karen Stutzman, chorister on Friday (Fraternity), Dewey Williard, pianist on Friday (Fraternity), Grant Frederick, organist on Friday (Bonsack Baptist), Fonda Wilson, chorister on Saturday (Cloverdale) and Jan Messner (Lynchburg), pianist

Saturday's business included the following:

Ballot Positions Filled:

*Moderator-Elect - Cathy S. Huffman (Germantown Brick)

*District Board - Christina "Chris" Monk (Copper Hill), Jeffery A. Wray (Fairview, Rocky Mount), Kaylee Nolen (Mount Hermon), Robin Lavinder (Germantown Brick), Stanley H. Hawkins (Duncan Chapel), Gayle M. Harms (Jones Chapel), Frances S. Beam (Concord, Living Faith), Michael G. Battle (Burks Fork), Sam St. John (Roanoke, Ninth Street), and Rudolph H. Taylor, III (Cloverdale).

*Outdoor Ministries Committee - Trish M. Haskins (Fairview, Rocky Mount) and Ronald D. Rucker (Roanoke, Summerdean).

*Standing Committee - Edward C. Woodard (Roanoke, Oak Grove).

*Program and Arrangements - Andy Duffey (Antioch) and Heather Minter (Mount Hermon).

*Nominating and Personnel - Amy Adams (Fraternity), Anne Mitchell (Lighthouse) and Karen Barnhart (Roanoke, Central).

The 2018 District Board Budget of \$771,892.53 (including designated items of \$500,000, but not including Camp Bethel) was approved.

Floyd, Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida (New Life Christian Church) was received as a congregation of the Church of the Brethren.

Other newsworthy items:

A Friday evening offering of \$1,642.26 was received for the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and a Saturday offering of \$2,148.00 to help offset conference expenses.

The District Board reorganized during the lunch hour. Serving as chairpersons are: Tony R. Robertson - District Board, Zachary R. Hatcher, Vice Chair - District Board, Michael G. Battle - Commission on Ministry, Hannah M. Oakes - Commission on Nurture, Stacy W. Goff - Commission on Stewardship, and Roger G. Stultz - Commission on Witness. Samuel C. Foster will serve as Chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee and David A. Bess will continue as Chair of the New Church Development Committee.

Delegates heard the reports of the District Board, New Church Development Committee, Outdoor Ministries Committee and other institutions of the district and denomination, as well as reports from the district staff. Among those representing the wider church were: Donita Keister (Annual Conference), Jeff Carter (Bethany Theological Seminary), Jean Bednar (Brethren Benefit Trust), Dewey M. Williard (Bridgewater College), Nancy McCrickard (Church of the Brethren, Inc.), Mark Hoover (Mutual Aid Association), George Barnhart (On Earth Peace) and Mary Ann Glover (Virginia Council of Churches).

Delegates also heard that twenty-eight congregations have been involved in PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROCESS in the year ending September 30. The following were in the pastoral placement process as of October 1: Bethel, Boones Mill, Eden-First, Jeters Chapel, Jones Chapel, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Moneta-Lake Side, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Oak Grove South, Peters Creek, Red Hill, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Shelton, Smith Mountain Lake Community and Trinity.

We celebrated the graduation of two graduates from Christian Growth Institute this year: Donna G. Hornsby and Frank Roderick "Rod" Quinn.

We held a memorial service for those ministers, former district staff persons, spouses and family members, who have died since the last conference: Ernst Meier, Joyce Gayle Horton Spanger, Norman Luther Harsh, Christine (Chris) Eakin Bain, Owen G. Stultz, Bobby L. Phillips, Barbara Ann Peters, Diana Lynn Lovett, Flemma Eileen Getz Stultz, Edna Foley Phillips, Elbert Lee Naff, Sr., Hazel Mae Fleeman Moyer, Robert "Bob" C. Pittman, Paul Robert White, Sr., Wayne Cody Garst and Myron Shipman Miller.

Moderator Debbie Humphrey installed Roy Turpin as the 2019 Moderator and Cathy S. Huffman as the newly called Moderator-Elect. The focus of the 2019 District Conference will be based on I Corinthians 1:18, "Don't Hide the Cross."

The Virginia District is one of twenty-four districts of the denomination and encompasses 93 congregations, fellowships and meeting points with 10,346 members located in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. The Church of the Brethren is a denomination of 112,656 members in 1,026 congregations, fellowships and projects throughout the United States.

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