

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

MAY

Newsletter

2019

"Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'" Matthew 25:24-25 (NRSV)

The "Parable of the Talents" (Matthew 25:14-30) is one of a series of "accountability" parables. Jesus taught that all of us are accountable to God for what we are and what we have. From this particular parable the word "talent" became descriptive of human gifts and abilities. In Jesus' day, however, a "talent" was a certain weight of gold worth fifteen years of ordinary labor. Today, figured at minimum-wage and a forty-hour week, five talents would be worth approximately \$1,131,000. Even one talent would approximate \$226,000. His use of such exaggerated figures must have astounded his hearers. Such amounts indicate the great trust placed in these servants by their master.

In the absence of their master, two of his servants immediately went forth and by trading gained a sum equal to that which they had been given. Not only has their master entrusted them with great assets, they have trusted his ability to sustain possible failure. That mutual trust frees the "five talent" and "two talent" individuals to risk loss and failure. Their initiative and willingness to risk was richly rewarded. By responsible use of their freedom they gained even more responsibility.

Another servant received only one talent. This servant related to the master from a position of insecurity. Perhaps this one felt insignificant. Fear of failure dominates the action that follows. The talent is buried and hidden lest risk proves to be unsuccessful. The calamity of failure is that much greater because of a lack of trust in the grace and mercy of the master. By irresponsible use and ignorance of freedom, the "one talent" servant lost even the trust which had been given.

God has entrusted each of us with life. The value of life, as well as the gifts and graces we are given, is beyond calculation. We are accountable for our use of life, even if the accounting is long delayed. Our insecurities and fears can block us from using the gifts and graces we are given to engage fully with the challenges of life and discipleship.

Life is meant for living. We can risk living if we trust the grace and mercy of God. We are freed to live in the full assurance that our worst failures can be forgiven. No matter how insignificant any of us may feel, all of us are gifted by God. The world of literature values authors most highly. Without writers there would be no books. Nevertheless, their creativity and skill is magnified and spread abroad by the work of the lumberman whose pulpwood is made into paper, by the tool and die worker whose labor crafts the parts of the printing press, by the printer whose skill brings the author's words into salable form, by the dockman and truck driver whose efforts transport the work to the retail seller, by the clerk in the bookstore who aids the reader in her purchase and by many more. Even those of us whose gifts may be more modest are vital to the overall process of life and to the life of the church. What you are and what you contribute **is** important!

We are responsible for our use of both the tangible and intangible blessings of life. Let us use our talents in the full assurance and trust of God's ability to forgive and support us when we fail. Of course, God trusts us! But the question is, "Do we trust God?"

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost
For want of a shoe the horse was lost
For want of a horse the rider was lost
For want of a rider the message was lost
For want of a message the battle was lost
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."
Proverb dating to the 13th Century

"He who risks and fails can be forgiven. He who never risks and never fails is a failure in his whole being."
Paul Tillich

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister

VIRLINA DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

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David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER
Mary Sink St. John, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, NURTURE AND WITNESS
GARY L. BASHAM, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Antioch - Ewan Benjamin, Parker Chapman, Elisabeth Myers and Julia Mohler by baptism March 10, 2019. Steve Agee, Margaret Zakarian, Vickie Byers and Lyndsey Hubbard by affirmation March 17, 2019.

Green Hill - Sylvia Lemon by letter April 7, 2019.

Lynchburg - Jack Baker and Tammy Baker by letter March 3, 2019. Ben Baker by baptism March 3, 2019.

Red Oak Grove - Thomas Litchford by letter March 24, 2019.

Roanoke, Oak Grove - Gilbert Henshaw and Vada Henshaw by letter January 20, 2019.

Roanoke, Williamson Road - Trey Winegard and Dakota Bailey by baptism February 24, 2019. Duward Starkey by letter 2018.

COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES SOUGHT

The Virlina District Board - Commission on Nurture is seeking an energetic person to serve as the Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Coordinator shall plan district activities for Virlina's young people, as well as coordinate volunteers, district leaders, and a calendar of events. It is an excellent opportunity for a Church of the Brethren member to support and encourage others in the faith and gospel throughout the Virlina District. Office space will be provided at the District Resource Center. This is a part-time position requiring an average of 10 hours per week, with an annual compensation of \$6,000. If you would like a job description, please contact Mary StJohn at (540) 362-1816 or (800) VIRLINA or by e-mail at <virlina2@aol.com>. Interested persons should send a letter of interest and a resume.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE USHERS NEEDED - JULY 3 - 7, 2019

Approximately 40 ushers will be needed for each of the nightly worship services and during the closing worship on Sunday. Help at any or all of the worship services would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Garland and Rena' Brown at <gebrwb@gmail.com> or by text at (540) 525-8726 to let them know of the times you would be available. It would be wonderful to have all the Wednesday spaces filled before the first night of conference.

2019 VIRLINA DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The 2019 Virlina District Directory has been mailed to every congregation. We have a limited number of printed copies, but a PDF version of the directory is available by contacting Betty M. Wills at (540) 362-1816, (800) 847-5462.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MAY 25

Deadlines for submission of material for the July 2019 HEADLINER is May 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

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

BOONES MILL - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Pulpit supply.

EDEN, FIRST - Full time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

FRATERNITY - Full time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

JETERS CHAPEL - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

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

LIGHTHOUSE - *Part time position, no profile available. E. Anne Mitchell has resigned effective June 30, 2019.*

LYNCHBURG - Part time position, profile circulating - 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 J. Becker serving as interim pastor.

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

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

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

RED HILL - Part time position, no profile available - *Carlton R. Hodges has resigned as interim pastor effective March 31.*

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

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

TRINITY - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Pulpit supply.

HAVE YOU HEARD - SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN?

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the theme of the mission resourcing campaign for the Virlina District. 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 ministerial leadership, to minister to our college students and to fulfill Camp Bethel's future potential. As of April 10, 2019, there are 274 pledges totaling \$544,204 with receipts totaling \$412,320.

Would you like to help? It's easy. You can make a one-time gift or pledge an amount to be paid over three years. Contact Roger Keffer (540) 725-1595 for more information.

PRACTICE OF MINISTRY DAY - ETHICS IN MINISTRY RELATIONS - AUGUST 3, 2019

The 2019 Practice of Ministry Day will be Saturday, August 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. The focal point of this year's event will be the new ethics training curriculum written by Jim Benedict, former pastor of the Union Bridge Church in Maryland. Both the basic unit for ministerial students and licensed ministers, as well as the advanced unit for commissioned and ordained ministers will be available.

Ethics training is mandatory for all ministers and students in the Christian Growth Institute and other ministry training programs. This will be the only basic unit offered in our district other than online sessions. We will be scheduling the advanced training in various areas of Virlina and Shenandoah District. CEU credit is available for commissioned and ordained ministers. Additional information will be forthcoming.

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE (NOAC) - SEPTEMBER 2-6, 2019

National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) is "a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world." It is scheduled for September 2-6, 2019 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center located in the mountains of western N.C.

Registration will open online on May 1. The cost per person is \$195 if you register before July 15. After that date the cost will be \$225. First time attendees will get a \$20 discount. Your registration fee does not include housing or meals. After you register you will be able to go to the Lake J housing reservations website to make your lodging reservations. Go to < <http://www.brethren.org/noac/>> for more information.

POSSIBLE NOAC CHARTER BUS - SEPTEMBER 2-9, 2019

We have received inquiries about a district-sponsored charter bus to the National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) on September 2-9. Expressions of interest will determine whether this option is pursued. Please contact the District Resource Center to register your interest at (540) 362-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com>.

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 8-9, 2019

The Virlina District Conference will be held at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 8-9, 2019. Please save the date and watch for more information.

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS

Please call (540) 362-1816 or (800)847-5462 or e-mail <virlinasecretary@gmail.com>.

BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE - JULY 22 -26, 2019

The 46th Annual Brethren Bible Institute will have their summer term July 22-26 on the campus of Elizabethtown College. For a packet of information outlining the 2019 Summer Bible Institute (which includes application), write to: The Brethren Bible Institute, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA, 17517.

REMEMBERING THE PASSING SAINTS OF GOD

Robert L. Myers, aged 80, of Fayetteville, WV, died Saturday, November 10, 2018. He was a member of the Pleasant View Church of the Brethren and a former member of the Virlina District Board.

Edward T. Harmon, aged 92, of Christiansburg, VA, died on Sunday, November 11, 2018. He was a faithful member of the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren.

Lois Bowman Slusher, aged 95, of Floyd, Va. went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. She was a member of the Laurel Branch Church of the Brethren.

Violet Thornhill Tyree, aged 94, of Roanoke, VA, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. She was a member of the Ninth Street Church of the Brethren and formerly served the congregation as Financial Secretary.

Isaac (I.W) William Collins, aged 80, of Check, VA, went to his eternal home on Wednesday, November 21, 2018. I.W was a member of Stonewall Church of The Brethren where he served as Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years. He was the father of Robin C. Naff, co-pastor of the Hiwassee Church of the Brethren.

Arnold Deck, aged 87, of Beckley, WV, went to see his Lord and Savior on Friday, November 23, 2018. He was a member of the Crab Orchard Church of the Brethren. Brother Deck served as a "sea going cowboy" in Brethren Volunteer Service and was widely known as the leader of the "Gospel Tones."

Bessie Martin Price, aged 80, of Botetourt, VA, died Monday, December 17, 2018. She was a member of the Daleville Church of the Brethren.

Patra Ellen Moss Janney, aged 86, of Crab Orchard, WV, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 21, 2019. She was a member of the Crab Orchard Church of the Brethren. Pat served as organist, pianist and choir member for over fifty years, as well as treasurer.

Lenoria B. Naff, aged 83, passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2019. She was a long-time member of the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren. She was the mother of Noel Naff, pastor of the Mount Hermon Church.



DISTRICT OFFICE
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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

MAY 2019

- 4 9:00 AM Ministry and Mission Day - Roanoke, Summerdean (DKS/MSS)
- 6 8:30 AM Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, First (DKS)
- 1:00 PM New Church Development Committee (DKS)
- 6:30 PM Lake Side Steering Committee - Moneta (DKS)
- 7 7:00 PM Pastoral Comp and Benefit Advisory Call (DKS)
- 10 6:00 PM Good News Team - Rocky Mount, First (MSS/DKS)
- 13 9:00 AM Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
- 14 1:30 PM Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (DKS)
- 18 9:00 AM District Board Meeting - Bethel (DKS)
- 20 6:00 PM Southern Area Ministers - Fairview, Floyd (DKS)
- 25 - 30 Vacation (DKS)
- 31 KINGDOM BUILDING - Evangelism Conference - Rocky Mount, First (MSS/DKS)

JUNE 2019

- 1 KINGDOM BUILDING - Evangelism Conference - Rocky Mount, First (DKS)
- 10:00 AM Program and Arrangements Committee (MSS)
- 3 5:30 PM Iglesia del Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Willis (DKS)
- 7 2:00 PM Historical Committee (DKS/MSS)
- 6:00 PM Commission on Ministry (DKS)
- 11 6:30 PM Disaster Response Committee (MSS)
- 8 - 15 Vacation (MSS)
- 30 Council of District Executives Meeting - Greensboro, NC (DKS)

Plan now to attend the 233rd Recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren meeting in Greensboro, NC on July 3-7, 2019.

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

KINGDOM BUILDING - AN EVANGELISM CONFERENCE - MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2019

Kingdom Building - An Evangelism Conference will be held on May 31 - June 1, 2019. Moderator Elect for the 2020 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, Paul Munday, will be the keynote speaker. Brother Munday was formerly the pastor of the Frederick Church in Mid-Atlantic District and was denominational staff for evangelism and church growth. He was instrumental in the design and implementation of the "Passing on the Promise" process in the late 1980's.

The schedule for this event is as follows:

Friday, May 31

- 3 - 6 p.m. Pre-Session for Leaders
"The Person I Must Become"
7 - 9 p.m. Session One
"Announcing the Reign of God"

Saturday, June 1

- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Session Two
"One Size Doesn't Fit All"
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Session Three
"If Jesus Be Lifted Up"

Sponsored by the Good News Team of the Virlina District Board - Commission on Witness, this event will be held at the Rocky Mount, First Church of the Brethren located at 405 Tanyard Road in Rocky Mount, Virginia. Early registration, received by May 10, will be \$15 (groups registering five persons will get the sixth person free). From May 11 until the event, registration will be \$20. For ordained ministers seeking Continuing Education credit, add \$10. This event provides 1.0 CEU from the Christian Growth Institute. Registration forms and a poster have been sent to every pastor and congregational contact person. They may also be found at <www.virlina.org>.

BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION GRANT FUNDS

Formed by funds generated from the sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, the **Brethren Faith in Action Fund** provides grants to fund outreach ministry projects that serve their communities, strengthen the congregation, and expand the reign of God. Such ministries will honor and continue the legacy of service that the Center has epitomized while also addressing the dynamics of the present age. Grants of up to \$5,000 per congregation or ministry project per year are awarded, with a maximum of \$15,000 allocated to any one ministry project over multiple years.

Any United States Church of the Brethren congregation, fellowship or project may apply for a grant. Grants will be awarded as determined by the Grant Oversight Committee each month. A grant application will require basic information such as amount requested, description of the project, budget, affirmation that congregation will provide match as recorded in the minutes of the congregation's decision-making body, and a statement of support from district executive. You may ownload the forms at <<http://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>>to review the questions

and prepare your congregation's application. There are three ways to apply for a BFIA grant: 1) Complete an online application and upload supporting materials. 2) E-mail answers to all of the questions, along with supporting materials, to: <BFIAFund@brethren.org>. 3) Mail answers to all of the questions, along with supporting materials, to: Brethren Faith In Action Fund c/o General Secretary's Office, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

"TUNE MY HEART TO SING THY GRACE" - CHOIR FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2019

"Tune My Heart To Sing Thy Grace" is the first-ever Virlina District Choir Festival. It will be held on September 13-14, 2019, at the Central Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia. The guest director will be S. Reed Carter, IV. Carter serves as Minister of Music at the Salem Presbyterian Church and as director of the Salem Choral Society. Robert "Bob" Iseminger, instrumentalist of the Central Church, will serve as our accompanist.

We will learn and rehearse four or five anthems on Friday evening and Saturday. The festival will conclude with a service of worship filled with music and the Word at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. It will be open to the public. We hope to have 100% participation from the Church of the Brethren Choirs (and all others who love to sing) in the area! You'll be able to take your anthems home to share with your congregation!

If you live out of the Roanoke area, and would like the blessing of staying in a Church of the Brethren family host home overnight Friday, let us know!! A schedule and fee information (to cover music and food) will be shared soon! If you have questions or need more information, please contact Carol Elmore by e-mail at <carol@oakgrovecob.org> or by telephone at (540) 774-3217! This event is planned and sponsored by the Spiritual Development Retreat Committee of the Virlina District.

REVIVAL, RENEWAL AND EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

If your congregation is planning a revival, renewal or evangelistic meeting during 2019, please advise us of the dates and speakers. We would like to know and advertise those. Send information to EHeadliner@aol.com.

Date	Location	Speaker
May 5-7	Poages Mill, VA	W. Gregory Broyles
May 6-10	Spruce Run, WV	Roy U. Turpin
May 15-19	New Bethel, VA	Dava C. Hensley
May 19-22	Henry Fork, VA	Various Speakers
June 2-5	Troutville, VA	Ed/Emma Woodard
June 9-12	Burks Fork, VA	The Gregory's
August 25-27	Cedar Bluff, VA	David K. Shumate
Sept 15-18	Oak Grove South, VA	Timothy H. Emmons
October 6-9	Topeco, VA	David K. Shumate
October 7-10	Pulaski, First, VA	Marvin D. Wade
October 20-23	Beaver Creek, VA	Cecil Brown

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JULY 3 - 7, 2019

Annual Conference 2019 will be a very different event this year, according to Conference director Chris Douglas. Instead of a usual business schedule, the delegate body will spend much of its time in compelling vision conversations. Non-delegates may reserve seats at tables during the business sessions in order to fully participate in those conversations. And the Conference will hold a love feast for the first time in decades. Annual Conference 2019 takes place July 3-7 in Greensboro, N.C., at the Sheraton/Koury Convention Center, led by moderator Donita Keister. "Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion" is the theme, inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Online registration and hotel reservations are now open at <www.brethren.org/ac>.

Eric Reamer, senior pastor of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren in the Southern District of Pennsylvania, is coordinating the Love Feast service at Annual Conference. He asks that our congregations provide materials and volunteers to help with the Love Feast, which will be held on Saturday at Annual Conference. A letter outlining the need has been sent to pastors and contact persons.

PRE-CONFERENCE MINISTERS PROGRAM

Saying No To Say Yes: Everyday Boundaries and Pastoral Excellence is the pre-conference program for ministers prior to Annual Conference on July 2 - 3, 2019 in Greensboro, NC. This event is sponsored by the Ministers Association of the Church of the Brethren.

"the denomination has very clear policies that advocate and define fair and appropriate considerations of pastors..." (Statement of Ethics for Congregations in the Church of the Brethren, 1996)

"I will strive to maintain reasonable expectations for myself and not allow others' unreasonable expectations to endanger my well-being." (Ethics in Ministry Relations, 2008)

One's thoughts may tend to turn to misconduct when hearing the term, "setting boundaries." There are, however, everyday boundaries which, when continually crossed, can ultimately lead to an unhealthy ministry for both pastor and congregation.

Dr. Olsen and his co-author, Nancy G. Devor, bring to light some of those everyday boundary problems. They offer suggestions for pastors and congregations on how to be aware of possible pitfalls and how to work together to set healthy boundaries.

Dr. Olsen is an Adjunct Professor with The Sage Colleges and Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling Center. His writings include several articles in the Journal of Clinical Psychology on clergy burnout, as well as the following books: *The Spiritual Work of Marriage*, *The couple's Survival Workbook*, *Prevention of Burnout*, *When Helping Starts to Hurt*, *Integrative Family Therapy*. All attendees will receive a free copy of the book, *Saying No to Say Yes: Everyday Boundaries and Pastoral Excellence* of which Dr. Olsen is a co-author.

You may register online at <www.brethren.org/sustaining> or by mailing the form found at <<http://www.brethren.org/ac/2019/documents/event-fliers/meeting-brethren-ministers-association.pdf>>.

CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM BUS TOUR IN GREENSBORO

The Annual Conference is arranging a bus trip tour to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in downtown Greensboro on Thursday, July 4, 2019. This trip is **for non-delegates only** since it takes place during a business session. The bus leaves at 8:45 a.m. and returns at 11:30 a.m.

The International Civil Rights Center and Museum is an archival center, collecting museum, and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and human rights. The Museum celebrates the nonviolent protests of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins that served as a catalyst in the civil rights movement.

The museum is housed in the original F.W. Woolworth building where the "Greensboro Four" sit-in movement began. The guided tour showcases numerous films, enactments, interactive displays, live narration, and civil rights artifacts that include the original lunch counter where the sit-in occurred.

Tickets are \$17 per adult, which includes museum admission and bus. Tickets may be purchased online when you register online for Annual Conference. Seating is very limited and tickets may not be available onsite in Greensboro. To purchase tickets if you have already registered for Annual Conference go to: <www.brethren.org/ac/store>. To register for Annual Conference and also purchase a ticket to go on the tour go to <www.brethren.org/ac/nondelegates>.

For more information about the museum go to: <www.sitinmovement.org>.

DIKAIOS PILGRIMAGE TO CHEROKEE, NC - JULY 2-3

Josh Brockway, Director of Spiritual Formation, on behalf of Discipleship Ministries is inviting people across the denomination to be join a ***Dikaiois Pilgrimage*** to Cherokee, North Carolina on July 2-3. Together, we will explore the perspectives and experiences of the Cherokee in the context of American history, land, and Indigenous cultures.

During "***Dikaiois: Righteousness and Justice, A History of Faith***" we will travel to Cherokee, North Carolina to engage with those who harbor the history, culture and stories of the Cherokee as explained in their heritage sites. Registration includes meals, hotel on Tuesday night, and all entrance fees. Additionally, you will get a ticket for the Discipleship Ministries dinner on Thursday evening, with featured speaker, José Humphreys, multi-ethnic church planter and author.

For more information, please go to <<http://www.brethren.org/congregationallife/dikaiois/>>. A brochure in .pdf format can be obtained by e-mailing us at <nuchurch@aol.com>.

CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2019

The Camp Bethel theme "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 opened January 7, so register early to guarantee your program choice. All information (brochure, forms, and schedule) is at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps> and watch weekly summer videos at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos>.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID - MAY 21, 2019

On Tuesday, May 21, Camp Bethel will present a free Youth Mental Health First Aid Training from 8:00a.m. until 5:00 p.m. You may bring your own lunch OR enjoy a Camp Bethel lunch for only \$12.00. Please RSVP to Jenna by May 1 at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or by calling at (540) 992-2940. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an interactive eight-hour course teaching recognition and response to warning signs of mental health issues and crises in adolescents. For more information check out <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/may-21-youth-mental-health-first-aid>.

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND- MAY 24-27, 2019

Our Memorial Day Family Weekend will be held on May 24-27. Check our website at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay> for the schedule of activities and our concert schedule. Please reserve meals before May 18 by contacting us at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUNDAY - MAY 25

Our Family Fun Day and Summer Camp Open House will be on Saturday, May 25: Camp Bethel invites you to come walk the grounds, meet other families and the camp staff, check out a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 25 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Meet at the Ark at 1:00 p.m. Stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend free swimming and the concert at 7:30 p.m.

SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING DINNER - JUNE 7, 2019

We will be having a summer staff commissioning dinner on Friday, June 7. Come end your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff at 5:30 p.m. for a free dinner in the Ark Dining Hall. After dinner, with your help, we will commission the newly trained summer staff for their summer of ministry and mission to over 1,250 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education. Please reserve meals by June 5 at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

COME TO CAMP FOR FAMILY FUN IN JUNE AND JULY

Join us for Family Fun Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June and July. Experience a Camp Bethel evening TOGETHER! The fun begins with dinner and singing at 5:30 p.m. in the Ark Dining Hall followed by nature fun and games, stand up paddleboarding or a river canoe trip. The evening activities

are topped off with a campfire and S'mores. The \$10-\$28 per person fee includes dinner, activity, supplies and s'mores. For information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs>.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 21, 2019

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, August 21 for our 2019 Golf Tournament and Banquet. Play will be held at Ashley Plantation in Daleville. Tee off is at 12:30 p.m. and \$70 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner at camp. For more information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf>.

CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K RUN/WALK - AUGUST 24, 2019

Our newest fundraiser for "the PEPPIEST gang around!" The Camp Bethel Pep 5K Run/Walk begins with registration from 7 - 7:45 a.m. and an 8 a.m. start time. The \$32.50 entry fee includes a race t-shirt, pre-and-post-race snacks, fully stocked water/aid stations, prizes and fun. Sponsor packages are available. Go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K> for more information.

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 5, 2019

Our annual Heritage Day Festival will be held on Saturday, October 5. Please encourage everyone in your church to participate and help in this vitally important fund raiser for Camp Bethel. Tell your friends and help us advertise. Heritage Day forms, fliers and information are available at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day>, or from your Pastor or Camp Representative.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT CAMP BETHEL?

We are now recruiting summer camp staff for our 2019 season. We need both counselors and kitchen helpers. Paid and volunteer positions are filled on a first-hired, first-filled basis. Counselors serve May 27-July 18 and kitchen staff serve May 26-August 16. Detailed position descriptions, videos, and applications are available at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff>. IT IS THE BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

URGENT NEED FOR 2019 CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

In the summer of 2018, 75 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$20,430. Our December 6 Christmas Together Banquet raised \$5,940 for 2018 Camperships. Now we need to rebuild our 2019 funds. \$350 is the 2019 cost for one week of camp. Mark the memo of checks as "Camperships" or donate at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>.

"TREE COOKIES" NEEDED

Can you help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our 2018 programs (nametags, KinderCrittters, crafts, etc.)? Any hard wood and any 2.5" or larger cross-cut showing tree rings is ideal. Cut 'em, drill 'em, deliver 'em, or contact us (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS

at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe>.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA - MAY 4, 2019

Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina will be held at the Summerdean Church of the Brethren located at 6604 Plantation Road, N.E. in Roanoke, Virginia on Saturday, May 4, 2019. It will be a day of worship, workshops, food, fellowship, and the Annual Conference Briefing. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. Hymn sing and worship begin at 9:00 a.m. with the message by Roy U. Turpin, the 2019 Virlina District Conference Moderator. The worship theme will be "Don't Hide the Cross!" with scripture focus from 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Following worship, attendees will have the opportunity to pick from several workshops:

"Ministry Approaches for New Populations" - This will provide tools for congregations in reaching those who live close but may be relationally distant. This will be presented by the Josh Brockway of the Discipleship Ministries staff of the Church of the Brethren.

"Dementia and Spirituality" - This is a presentation on forms of dementia and the differing characteristics of each type. There will be sharing on how congregations can be welcoming and affirming to families and individuals with dementia who are dealing with this progressive challenge. Ways to provide support and care for the person with dementia and caregivers in the family will be explored. It will be presented by Heddie Sumner, RN, BSN, Educator on Dementia, Caregiving and Disabilities.

"Wearing the Striped Shirt: Serving as a Congregational Moderator" - There is little or no training for persons who serve as congregational moderators. This workshop provides some basics for leading a meeting and understanding simple parliamentary procedure. It will be presented by David K. Shumate, District Executive Minister, and others.

"Congregational Ethics: What In Heaven's Name Is That?" - The Church of the Brethren is one of the few denominations that has a congregational ethics statement. This session presents the outline of the statement and explores why it is important to congregational life. It will be presented by David K. Shumate, District Executive Minister, with help from those who choose to attend.

Each workshop, except those by David Shumate, will be offered twice. Each one provides 0.1 CEU for ordained or commissioned ministers. Lunch will be provided with information about the menu and cost posted as soon as it is available. Following lunch, the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing will take place. It will be led by the Standing Committee Delegates of the Virlina District and 2019 Annual Conference Moderator, Donita Keister. The Delegate Briefing will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and come to Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina on May 4, 2019.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - JUNE 14-16, 2019

The National Junior High Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be held June 14-16, 2019 at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference will be "Strong and Courageous" based on Joshua 1:9. National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed 6-8 grades and their advisors. Sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God!

Registration is \$210 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required within two weeks of submitting your online registration to hold your spot. For more information go to <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc/>>.

GILLIGAN'S ISLAND DINNER CRUISE - JUNE 15, 2019

For all you sea-dreaming sailors out there (father's/sons/grandfathers/brothers/brothers-in-all). The S.S. Minnow will be setting sail for a "GILLIGAN'S ISLAND DINNER CRUISE" on Saturday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Copper Hill Church of the Brethren. Be ready to get on board for this delightful dinner theatre experience and meet the Skipper, Gilligan and the rest of the gang! This "Men's Retreat/Fathers' Day Event" is the Third Annual All Men's Event sponsored by the Spiritual Development Retreat Committee of the Virlina District - Commission on Nurture. Further details will be forthcoming but MARK THE DATE NOW on your calendar so you don't miss the boat!!! We expect sunny skies and smooth sailing!!!

COMPELLING VISION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

During several business sessions at Annual Conference, the delegate body, and nondelegates who reserve seats at tables, will engage in conversations intended to help us as the Church of the Brethren seek a compelling vision for our future.

Delegates will be assigned to tables. Nondelegates who wish to sit at tables to participate in the compelling vision conversations should reserve a seat when they register for the Conference and will be assigned to tables. Seat reservations are free and require no extra fee payment. Theater-style seating also will be available for nondelegates.

Non-delegates who sign up to sit at a table are asked to commit to participate in all business sessions. "If you sign up, you're expected to be there," Chris Douglas said, emphasizing the importance of committing to the full process.

Table reservations are a part of the online registration process for nondelegates. Those who complete their registrations without making a table reservation may contact the Conference Office to request a seat at a table if space is still available. Please call the Annual Conference Office at (847) 429-4365.