

E-HEADLINER

ACHIEVEMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Virlina District Achievement Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, November 17, with a special offering in those of our congregations who choose to do so to benefit the mission and ministry of the Virlina District including Camp Bethel (divided 80/20). This event, sponsored by the Virlina District Commission on Stewardship, allows congregations and individual members to share, over and above the ordinary self-allocation giving, in the work of the Lord which we all do together.

If November 17 was an inconvenient date for your congregation, please consider holding the offering on another Sunday. We appreciate your congregation's participation in Achievement Sunday.



DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER THANKSGIVING HOURS—NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 2, 2019

The Virlina District Resource Center will close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 and reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 2. During this time the staff will enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends. E-mail messages will be monitored.

MINISTERS MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 2019

The Northern Area Ministers will meet at the Poages Mill Church of the Brethren on Monday, December 2, at 8:30 a.m. The program will be "Trauma and the Church" featuring Seth McCormick from Carilion Hospice. This meeting provides 0.1CEU. Breakfast will be provided with a suggested donation of \$7.00.

The Southern Area Ministers will meet at the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Monday, December 16, at 6 p.m. This is the yearly Love Feast and Communion meeting.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 5, 2019

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed year-end funding for Camp Bethel. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice as described in Acts 2:43-47. Please reserve a special place for your family or group by November 28 at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Christmas-Together.

WINTER CAMP - DECEMBER 30-31, 2019

Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual holiday program for 1st through 12th graders led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$70 includes four meals, lodging and program including Group Games, Glow-in-the-Dark Gym Party, a big bonfire, Bible study, crafts, hiking, nature fun, skits, sledding and other snow fun (if it snows), worship, wagon ride, summer photos slide show, 2020 camp preview and Camp Bethel stickers! You can register for winter camp at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE - ROANOKE CENTER

The next class to be held at the Roanoke Center will be INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY, taught by Daniel L. Rudy. Textbooks and resources for the class are: Another Way of Believing: A Brethren Theology, by Dale W. Brown, Elgin, IL, Brethren Press and What's Theology Got To Do With It? Convictions, Vitality, and the Church by Anthony B. Robinson, Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2006.

The Sunday afternoon classes will be held on January 5, January 19, February 2 and February 16 from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA. Tuition for the class will be \$100.00 and students are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks.

For more information or to obtain a registration form please contact Gary Basham, Director of Ministry Formation by telephone at (540) 890-3818 or by electronic mail at gb0247@cox.net. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with registration form by December 27, 2019 to: Gary Basham, 2526 Parkview Drive, Vinton, VA 24179-1612. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

SUMMER WORKCAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 16, 2020

The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Office is excited to release the 2020 workcamp dates and locations! A total of 19 different workcamps will be offered for junior high, senior high, 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 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (central time). Please encourage those of all ages from your congregations to attend a workcamp this summer. If you have any questions or would like a 2020 workcamp brochure mailed to you, contact the Workcamp Office at cobworkcamps@brethren.org.

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 25, 2020

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar.

Learn how to file clergy taxes correctly and legally.

Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions

In Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. The court case around the housing allowance will also be discussed. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.

In Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Seminar Schedule

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EST - Morning session

1:00-1:30 p.m. EST - Lunch on your own
1:30-3:30 p.m. EST - Afternoon session

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar; instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 15, 2020. The registration form may be found at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>.

Leadership

Deb Oskin has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband left seminary to pastor a small rural Church of the Brethren congregation. As a pastor's wife and later as a tax professional, she learned the tax problems and pitfalls associated with the IRS's identification of clergy as "hybrid employees." In 2011, after twelve years with H&R Block, Deb left to start her own tax practice, specializing in clergy taxes. Clergy clients now make up 75 percent of her client base.

2020 MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEBRUARY 28-29, 2020

The 2020 Virginia District Ministers and Spouses Retreat will be held on February 28-29, 2020 at the Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center on U.S. 501 between Big Island and Lynchburg, VA (1 Eagle Eyrie Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503). Nancy S. Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren will lead the event. Her theme is "The Power of Sacred Stories." The three sessions will focus on the following texts:

SESSION 1: Watching for Where the Spirit Blows – John 3:1-21

SESSION 2: From the Margins to the Center – John 4:1-42

SESSION 3: Having the Sense to See – John 9:1-41

This event provides .3 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$40 for commuters (meals included). The Commission on Ministry will provide scholarship up to 50% of the cost for those who need it. You may find the brochure and registration material at <http://www.virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/97-ministers-spouses-retreat-2020.html>.

ROUNDTABLE AT BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2020

Roundtable 2020, sponsored by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet, will be held at Bridgewater College beginning on February 28 at 6 p.m. and ending on March 1 at 12 p.m. The theme of Roundtable 2020 is 2020 VISION - SEEING AS JESUS DOES. The Roundtable 2020 speaker is Kyle Remnant! A native of Bridgewater, VA, Kyle is a musician, speaker and husband. Things to bring include: a Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, towel, and toiletries (air mattress optional). Stay up to date by following IYC on Facebook and their website: @InterdistrictYouthCabinet and <http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 20-22, 2020

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held March 20-22, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation. For more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or by e-mail at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to our website at www.experiencepilgrimage.com.

UPCOMING CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS

Registration for 2020 Denominational Workcamps opens on January 16 at 8 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Go to the website at www.brethren.org/workcamps for more information.

Other upcoming youth and young adult events include:

Senior High

February 2, 2020 is the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. For more information go to www.souperbowl.org.

Christian Citizenship Seminar 2020 will be held April 25-30, 2020. Registration for this event begins on December 2, 2019. Information may be found on the website at <http://www.brethren.org/yya/ccs/>.

May 3, 2020 is our National Youth Sunday. The theme and worship materials will be posted online in early 2020.

Young Adult

Ministry Summer Service (MSS) is a leadership development program for college students in the Church of the Brethren who spend 10 weeks of summer working in the church (local congregation, district office, camp, or national program). Applications are due on Jan. 10, 2020. Go to <http://www.brethren.org/yya/mss/> for more information.

The National Young Adult Conference will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). Registration opens on January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at <http://www.brethren.org/yac/>.

For details regarding events, contact Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at bullom-naugle@brethren.org or (847) 429-4385.

AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORCHESTRA

Calling orchestra musicians! Annual Conference July 1-5, 2020 in Grand Rapids plans to have an orchestra! Below is a link to a survey any interested musician is asked to fill out to indicate their interest and skill level. If you have questions, you may contact the Orchestra Director, Nonie Detrick at: VBD50@comcast.net

To fill out the survey, please click here: www.brethren.org/orchestrasurvey

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT 2020 LEARNING TOURS

New Community Project 2020 Learning Tours will take folks of all ages to Nepal (January), the Ecuadorian Amazon (early June), the Dineh reservation (NM) (late June), Denali National Park, AK (early August) and Arctic Village, AK (mid-August). Low cost, big experience of God's earth and God's people - both their challenges and their beauty and resilience. More detail may be found at <http://www.newcommunityproject.info>.

EVENTS OF NOTE FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

On October 26, 2019, Bro. **Carl Harman** participated in his 66th consecutive love feast and communion at Spruce Run Church of the Brethren in Lindside, West Virginia. His first communion at fourteen years old was in the old church building in 1953. Bro. Carl has served the Spruce Run congregation faithfully in the Church of the Brethren Youth Fellowship (CBYF), in the men's fellowship leadership, in the choir, on the ministerial board, and as a deacon.

Chris C. Foster will be ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Oak Grove - South Church of the Brethren on Sunday, November 24, at 4 p.m. He has served as pastor at Oak Grove - South since July 1, 2019.

Gina Wright-Hawkins will be licensed to the Gospel Ministry at the Roanoke - Oak Grove Church of the Brethren on Sunday, December 1, at 4 p.m. She is a student in the Christian Growth Institute - Roanoke Center and a member of the New Church Development Committee of the Virginia District.

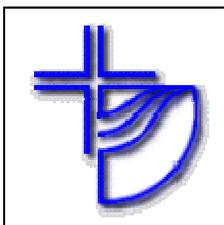
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*Continuing the work of
Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



Jerry W. Naff will be installed as pastor of the Boones Mill Church of the Brethren on Sunday, December 8, at 11 a.m.

Tee Shirts are available from the Summerdean Church in Roanoke, VA to benefit Camp Bethel's Heritage Day. These are short sleeve gray tee shirts. The Church of the Brethren emblem is on the front with a small design on left side. The back of the shirt has the legend: "The Church has left the building." All of the lettering is in yellow. The shirts were donated to Heritage Day in memory of Robert R. Jones and Owen and Flemmie Stultz. They are priced at fifteen dollars a piece. The sizes available are adult small, medium, large, or extra large. Please contact Bruce Stultz at csweeties76@gmail.com or phone or text at (540) 204-3390.

"Come to Bethlehem and See..." Travel through an **outdoor live nativity program at Bethlehem Church of the Brethren** at 4250 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065. Come experience the story of Christmas as you walk by scenes of Mary and Joseph, shepherds with their sheep, angels, and wisemen. Then come into the Bethlehem Church for cookies, hot chocolate, and warm fellowship. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour. Please join us anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th and enjoy this Christmas story. This program will be held whether rain or shine. If you would like to be a character in our live nativity (costumes provided) our church would love for you to join us. Please let Sharon Grindstaff know if you would like to participate and she can work out further details. For information or questions, contact Sharon G. Grindstaff at (540) 493-7252 or grindstaffsharon@gmail.com.

GUN VIOLENCE PRAYER VIGIL ON DECEMBER 10

Faith At Work Against Gun Violence is sponsoring a prayer vigil on December 10th, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Daleville, VA. This vigil honors and remembers the many victims of gun violence in the U.S. Guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Tommy McDearis, Pastor, Blacksburg Baptist Church. Dr. McDearis serves as Chaplain for the Blacksburg Police Department and was serving in this capacity when the mass shooting occurred at Virginia Tech. Clergy representing several congregations, including the Church of the Brethren, in the Roanoke Valley will be participating in this worship service. Please address any questions to: FaithAtWorkUMC@gmail.com.



**Seed, Scattered
& Sown**
*Reaching Beyond
This Generation*