“JESUS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD” – A COMPELLING VISION RELEASED
A Compelling Vision for the Church of the Brethren, “Jesus in the Neighborhood,” was released on Thursday, February 20, 2020, in a special edition of the Church of the Brethren Newsletter. This has been a three-year process in which over 900 pages of data were collected across the denomination in district meetings, at agency meetings and at Annual Conference. The vision statement reads as follows: “Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.” For more about the vision statement, go to www.brethren.org. The March 2020 Messenger will also feature an article on the vision statement. This vision statement will be considered at the Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SOUTHERN AREA MINISTERS MEETING – MARCH 16, 2020
The Southern Area Ministers Meeting will be held at the Coulson Church of the Brethren in Woodlawn, VA on Monday, March 16, 2020 beginning at 6 p.m. The program will focus on “Record Keeping for Pastoral Care” presented by Harold E. Boyd. This program will earn 0.1 CEU’s for ordained ministers. The meal cost is $10 per person. You may reserve your meal by March 13, 2020 by telephone at (276) 779-9833 or by e-mail at hboyd49@yahoo.com.

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. Bulletin inserts are available on the www.virlina.org website. 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.

BRIDGwater COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR – MARCH 27-29, 2020
The Bridgewater College Chorale, Concert Choir and Handbell choir will present concerts at churches in the Roanoke and Rocky Mount (VA) area March 27-29, 2020. The concerts will feature choral works from the Renaissance to American contemporary periods including Johannes Brahms’s How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place from Requiem and Lacrymosa from W.A. Mozart’s Requiem. Contemporary works by composers John Rutter, Karl Jenkins, and Jean Berger along with a variety of gospel and multi-cultural works will also be included in the perfor-
mance.

The choirs are directed by Curtis Nolley (’76), and accompanied by Lacey Johnson (’07). The Bridgewater College Handbell Choir is a student led ensemble. Directed by Jenna Hallock (’20) and Noah Flint (’21), the handbell choir will present a variety of contemporary and traditional arrangements.

Concerts will be presented at the First United Methodist Church in Salem, VA, on March 27 at 7:00 p.m., at the Antioch Church of the Brethren near Rocky Mount, VA, on March 28 at 7:00 p.m., and at the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA on March 29 at 11:00 a.m. The concerts are free of charge and open to the public.

**AWAKENING 2020 - MARCH 29 THROUGH APRIL 1**
Awakening 2020 will be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren (located at 4708 read Mountain Rd, Cloverdale VA), beginning on Sunday, March 29 - April 1. Each night will begin with a hymn sing at 6:45 followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow the services on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

There will be a Bible Study preceded by a light breakfast from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren on Monday, the Green Hill Church of the Brethren on Tuesday and the Daleville Church of the Brethren on Wednesday, respectively.

Our speaker this year is Tara Hornbacker, ordained minister and retired professor from Bethany Theological Seminary. Her theme this year is Awake, Aware, Alive and Arise. Come and join us for an uplifting time of singing, worship, Bible Study and enjoying the company of other local Brethren as we praise God together during the season of Lent.

**2020 BRETHREN DISASTER - VIRLINA TRIPS**
Have you ever wanted to minister to someone in distress, but felt that you didn’t have the ability to do so? Perhaps you can’t preach or teach, but you have a willingness to serve! Then Brethren Disaster Ministries is the perfect avenue for you! You do not need to be skilled in the building trades to help with disaster response. The Virlina District is scheduled for a number of Brethren Disaster Ministries trips in 2020.

Please note the schedule and contact our Disaster Response Coordinators Ed or Susan McKimmy at virlinaddr@gmail.com or by telephone at (540) 354-5345 or (540) 330-8266 to participate.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tampa FL</td>
<td>March 29-April 4</td>
<td>Roanoke, Hollins Road</td>
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<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>May 9-23</td>
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<td>Project1</td>
<td>May 24-30</td>
<td>Full group - Open</td>
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<td>Project1</td>
<td>June 28-July 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project1</td>
<td>November 15-21</td>
<td>1/2 Group - Roanoke, Hollins Road</td>
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**DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED - APRIL 9-13, 2020**
In observance of the Easter Holiday, the Virlina District Resource Center will close at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 13. We will, as always, monitor e-mail at <virlina@aol.com>.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR'S FORUM – APRIL 18, 2020**
The Annual Conference Moderator's Forum will take place April 18, 2020 from 1 – 9 p.m. at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. The forum’s focus is “Historical Themes Impacting Today’s Church.” It will feature leading Brethren historians who will address a variety of historical themes impacting present-day congregations, districts, and national structures. Themes to be addressed include accountability, compelling vision, division, forbearance, and nationalism. The forum is open to both clergy and laity.
compelling vision, division, forbearance, and nationalism. The forum is open to both clergy and laity.

Registration cost, which includes dinner, is $30.00. For those attending the entire event, point six (0.6) CEU’s (Continuing Education Units) are also available for an additional cost of $10.00. The evening worship, beginning with hymn singing at 7 p.m., is open to the public without cost or registration. It will be held in the Gibble Auditorium on the Elizabethtown College campus. This event will also be available via live stream for a registration fee of $15.00. The registration deadline is April 9, 2020. Space for the main sessions (other than worship) is limited to 150 participants. For more information go to http://www.brethren.org/news/2020/moderators-forum-is-april-18.html.

In our own area, the Central Church of the Brethren is willing to host the live streaming event. Please be aware that this will not earn CEU’s. For more information, contact Pastor Kevin Kinsey at kinsey.reykev@gmail.com.

**NORTHERN AREA WOMEN’S SPRING RETREAT – APRIL 25, 2020**

The Northern Area Women’s Spring Retreat will be held at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church, located at 2138 McVitty Road, SW, on April 25 from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The worship message will be "Myths, Misunderstandings and Misinterpretations" by Tim Harvey. The program for the day will feature Shannon Abell, Director of Senior Services from the Local Office on Aging who will describe the latest ways scams take place today. The registration fee is $10, includes lunch and must be prepaid.

**MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA DISTRICT - MAY 2, 2020**

"Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina District” will be Saturday, May 2, at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on Route 40 between Rocky Mount and Ferrum (4638 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The hymn sing and worship starts at 9:00 a.m.

The featured speaker for worship is Annual Conference Moderator Paul Mundey. Seven helpful and timely workshops following worship are available for participants. Each workshop provides 0.1 CEU for ordained ministers.

**Workshops for 2020 are as follows:**

**Children’s Ministry:** Inside And Out will examine how to effectively reach children in Sunday School, in chapel/church services, and in the community. Participants will receive a combination of resources to create a vital Christian Education program in their congregation. The Children’s Cabinet of the Commission on Nurture will lead this workshop.

**The Matthew 18 Mandate** will review the wisdom and effectiveness of “Matthew 18:15-20.” Conflict is rampant in our relationships, families, churches, and culture. We often attempt to avoid conflict by going to “third parties”, engaging in gossip and idle talk. In Matthew 18 Jesus counsels us to go directly to persons with whom we have difficulty. In addition, Jesus provides other valuable peacebuilding skills. Paul Mundey, 2020 Annual Conference Moderator, will lead this workshop sponsored by the Commission on Ministry.

**Help! There’s Too Much Month at the End of my Money!** This informative session will help participants look at cash management and budgeting from a Christian perspective, with an eye toward stewardship and simple living. Know the difference between financial planning and budgeting, and find out how to do both.

**Your Ticket to Retirement** will explore methods for determining retirement income, projecting a desired retirement date, and planning for life expectancy issues. Participants will discuss the impact of taxes and inflation on retirement. The workshop will highlight the development of a model to project a savings strategy for a secure financial future. Ed Shannon, the Retirement Planning Consultant for Brethren Benefit Trust will lead this and the preceding workshop, both sponsored by the Commission on Stewardship.

**Iglesia Del Buen Pastor: A New Addition to the Blacksburg Community** will feature Raul and Lidia Gonzalez, pastors of this new and growing fellowship, presenting the needs and opportunities for Hispanic Ministry in the New River Valley of Virginia. This is sponsored by the New Church Development Committee.
Growing Young addresses the absence of youth and young adults in our congregations. Reaching young people happens when all of us, across the generations, grow young. The key to this progression is understanding the six facets of growing young, along with honoring, understanding and eventually bridging generational distinctives. Paul Mundey, 2020 Annual Conference Moderator, will lead this important presentation sponsored by the Commission on Witness.

Learning for Life--Continuing Education for Ordained Ministers will review the requirements for Continuing Education for ordained ministers in the Virilina District and how those experiences are reported. The leader for this presentation will be Bruce E. Huffman, Director of Continuing Education for the Commission on Ministry.

Following the workshops, lunch will be provided on-site. After lunch, Moderator Paul Mundey and our Standing Committee delegates will hold the Annual Conference Briefing at 1:30 p.m. for pastors and delegates to learn more about what to expect at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The briefing will conclude at 3:00 p.m. Plan now to attend this day of worship, learning and fellowship.

**NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 3, 2020**

“New and Renew: Revitalize – Plant – Grow!” is our denominational church planting and church revitalization conference. It is held on alternate, even numbered years. The theme for 2020 is “The Reward of Risk” based on Matthew 25:28 in The Message: “Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most.” This event will be held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, IL on May 13-15, 2020. Contact David A. Bess, Chairperson of the Virilina District New Church Development Committee, if you have interest in going. We often provide some scholarship and assist with transportation. For more details, go to [www.brethren.org/news/2019/new-and-renew-church-planting-event.html](http://www.brethren.org/news/2019/new-and-renew-church-planting-event.html).

**YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 22-25, 2020**
The National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). The 2020 theme, based on Romans 12:9-18, is "Love in Action!" This conference offers persons ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! Registration opened January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at [http://www.brethren.org/yac/](http://www.brethren.org/yac/). If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at nmcbride@brethren.org or (847) 429-4385.

**WIDENING THE WELCOME OF YOUR CHURCH - JUNE 6, 2020**
"Widening the Welcome of Your Church" will be held on June 6 at the Summerdean Church in Roanoke, Virginia (6604 Plantation Road, NE in Roanoke). Fred Bernhard, co-author of "Widening the Welcome of Your Church" and a well-known leader in the Church of the Brethren, will be speaking on the importance of hospitality and how to achieve a vital and thriving congregation. This event is sponsored by the Good News Team of the Virilina District - Commission on Witness. More details about the schedule and program will be available soon. Save the date!

**TRAIL THOUGHTS – A QUARTERLY RESOURCE FROM PAUL MUNDEY**
*Trail Thoughts* is a quarterly resource provided by Church of the Brethren Moderator Paul Mundey. Written as a pastoral letter, *Trail Thoughts* addresses topics related to the church in a concise, relevant, yet biblical manner. The pastoral letter is designed to be used for personal devotions and/or a resource for Sunday School classes, small groups, or congregational committees/teams and publications. Follow the link to read the winter edition: [https://mailchi.mp/brethren/trail-thoughts-winter-2020?e=2b46ad860f](https://mailchi.mp/brethren/trail-thoughts-winter-2020?e=2b46ad860f).
**FERNANDO ORTEGA, SINGER/SONGWRITER FEATURED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JULY 1-5, 2020**

Fernando Ortega, multi-Dove award winner and beloved singer-songwriter, will be featured as part of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference to be held July 1-5, 2020, at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ortega will perform a full concert on Wednesday evening, July 1, immediately after the opening worship service of the conference.

Fernando Ortega is one of Christian music’s most respected artists. His works encompass modern hymns, liturgical songs, inspirational and praise and worship favorites. With three Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and a Billboard Latin Music Award to his credit, Fernando’s Christian radio hits include “This Good Day,” “Jesus, King of Angels,” and “Sleepless Night.” Renowned for his stirring arrangements of beloved hymns—“Give Me Jesus” and “Be Thou My Vision,” among others—his solo discography features 18 projects in a heralded career spanning more than 25 years. His latest offering, the much-anticipated The Crucifixion of Jesus, follows the same devotional trajectory of 2011’s Come Down O Love Divine, this time centering on the events of Holy Week.

Reflecting on his newest release, The Crucifixion, Ortega observes: “It was about finding my way through the mystery of Holy Week, working my way through the events leading up to Christ’s death, the betrayal, the communion...every aspect of our lives should be measured out by the narrative of Christ’s life. Year after year, through the journey of this Holy season, Christ’s ministry starts again and again.”

Fernando Ortega has received wide acclaim across the church. Commenting on Ortega’s multi-faceted career, broadcaster Melinda Schmidt observed: “Fernando Ortega has been and remains a trusted mainstay of Christian music ministry for decades. His thoughtful music and beautiful treatments of familiar hymns draw his audiences into worship and reflection. His quiet and friendly demeanor connects with those fortunate enough to gather to hear his music.”

Admission to the concert is included with each attendee’s conference registration.

The 2020 Church of the Brethren gathers in Grand Rapids, Michigan, around the theme “God’s Adventurous Future.” For more information on the conference or to register, visit the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference website: www.brethren.org/ac/.

**WEST RICHMOND SEeks CHILDREN/YOUTH DIRECTOR**

The West Richmond Church seeks a part-time director of children and youth ministries. A full position description, compensation information and the application process may be accessed at www.wrcob.org.

**OAK GROVE SEeks ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The Oak Grove Church of the Brethren (2138 McVitty Road, S.W., Roanoke, VA) is hiring a part-time (25 hour/week) Administrative Assistant to provide administrative and clerical support for the pastors, prepare and distribute church materials to members, coordinate the church calendar, schedule building usage, and other related responsibilities. The position will begin on or about May 18, 2020.

The complete position description, with information on how to apply, is available at https://www.oakgrovecob.org/2020/03/10/job-opening-for-administrative-assistant/.

**ROANOKE – FIRST CHURCH CHILI COOK OFF – MARCH 28, 2020**

On Saturday, March 28, at 5:00 p.m., the Roanoke - First Church of the Brethren (2001 Carroll Avenue, NW) will be hosting their annual CHILI COOK OFF AND BAKE OFF. Funds derived from this event are used to provide Good as Gold Scholarships to Camp Bethel. Those wishing to enter a pot of chili or cake, etc. are to have their entry at the church by 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to enter the contest or just enjoy the evening. Advance notice is appreciated to be sure of enough food for judging and dining. Salads and drinks will be provided. No charge -- DONATIONS will be gladly accepted. Ribbons will be given to the winners. If you have questions, please contact Cliff Hartsel at (540) 362-2065.
**LENTEN SERVICES IN BASSETT AREA**
Lenten Services for 2020 will be held on three Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. They are as follows:

- March 22, 2020 - Bassett Church - Rick Randall
- March 29, 2020 - Mount Hermon - Maynard Baker
- April 5, 2020 – New Hope Church - Noel Naff

**WORLD HUNGER WALK AT ANTI OCH - APRIL 26, 2020**
The World Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, April 26 starting at 3 p.m. This six-mile walk starting and ending at Antioch Church raises awareness of and generates funds for world hunger. Walkers walk for money that has been pledged to them or may make a contribution. The walk starts and finishes at Antioch Church of the Brethren and includes rest stops along the way with refreshments provided. You can download your registration and sponsorship form [here](http://www.worldhungerauction.org/events).

**2020 EVANGELISTIC, REVIVAL AND RENEWAL SERVICES**
Please send additions, deletions and corrections to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

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<td>Vinton, VA</td>
<td>Rodger Hogan</td>
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<td>March 22-25</td>
<td>Copper Hill, VA</td>
<td>David K. Shumate</td>
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<td>April 20-24</td>
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<td>May 13-17</td>
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