ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GREENSBORO - 2021
The Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren has set the registration fees for the 2021 Annual Conference in Greensboro, N.C. The fees for registration will remain $125 for non-delegates and $305 for delegates. The hotel costs will be $119/night (+tax) for the Sheraton Hotel at Joseph S. Koury Convention Center and includes free parking.

THE VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE FOR 2020
There will be no “in person” Virlina District Conference on November 13-14, 2020. The Program and Arrangements Committee made this decision due to the tension between available space and the need for social distancing. Even a “delegates only” conference would strain the space that is available to us. After consultation with legal counsel, this decision was brought to the District Board on August 8.

Some of the details are as follows:

The booklet and the packet will be sent to all registered delegates from Virlina District. This will be covered by the registration fee. Others with interest may receive this material for $5.00 or view it on the district website when available. A pre-registration packet was sent by postal mail on August 14. All pre-registrations should be returned by September 21.

A mail-in ballot will be sent to all registered delegates with the results announced during a video "business session." The Executive Committee of the District Board will determine the method of board reorganization.

Since the ballot is being mailed (with head tellers counting), a second business item will be the affirmation of the 2020 budget as the 2021 budget. This is upon recommendation of the August 8 meeting of the District Board.

A taped worship service will be posted on the district website. In addition, there will be a second taped service that will be Moderator Paul Mundey's reflections, the business session announcing the ballot results and the budget affirmation results, the installation of Greg Fleshman as 2021 moderator and his 2021 conference theme.

Children and youth activities are planned to be accessible online.

For more information, please contact Mary Sink StJohn, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness at virlina2@aol.com, (540) 362-1816 or (800) 847-5462.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV – OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020
Pilgrimage XXIV will be held October 30 – November 1, 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.

For more information, please contact Karen Haynes by telephone at (336) 765-5263 or by electronic mail at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to our website at www.experiencepilgrimage.com

INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES – BEGINNING OCTOBER 14, 2020
The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, October 14 - December 8, 2020. Participants will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion. This course would be received by Christian Growth Institute as the equivalent of the Old Testament Survey course upon application to the Director of Ministry Formation. The instructor for this online course will be Matt Boersma.

A brochure with more information is available by e-mailing us a muchurch@aol.com. Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is September 9.

Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or (765) 983-1820. Please contact her if you have any questions.

ETHICS FOR SET-APART MINISTRY: BASIC COURSE – SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
The Brethren Academy is offering a training session with the new ethics material, Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course, created by James Benedict. This webcast training is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. The Zoom webcast will be held September 12, 2020 from 10:00-4:00 (ET) with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is August 31. This is the date for our office to receive the registration form and payment. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants.

"CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K" SEPTEMBER 5, 2020
In-person safety adaptations include "wave-starts," room to physically distance, pre-wrapped food, and more at our annual 5K fundraiser for "the PEPIEST gang around!" Plans, sponsors, and registration at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K

SCHOOLS OUT, CAMPS IN – BEGINNING AUGUST 24, 2020
Camp Bethel is sponsoring "School's Out, Camp's In" as a service to the people of Botetourt County, southern Rockbridge County and northern Roanoke County. "School's Out, Camp's In" Fall Semester Day Camps at Camp Bethel for students in grades 3-8, August 24 - December 18.

This effort will follow a "Small Group Unit" model, also referred to as "pods" or "cohorts". Campers will be led by two adult Counselors for each unit of 6-10 students (a minimum of six must enroll). Each unit will have their own "home base" facility for storing gear, refrigerating lunches and drinks, and working on remote learning homework. For example, Unit 5 is a Middle School X-Day unit, with Forest Lodge as their home base. Their two counselors will serve as the ONLY X-Day Counselors and ONLY for Unit 5 Middle School X-Day. No other units use Forest Lodge, and units do not interact with other units. Our occasional shared spaces or equipment will be thoroughly sanitized between uses.

For more information, call Camp Bethel at (540) 992-2940, e-mail barry@campbethelvirginia.org, or go to https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/schools-out-camps-in.html.

ETHICS FOR SET-APART MINISTRY: ADVANCED COURSE – AUGUST 20, 2020
The Mid-Atlantic District will an Advanced Ethics training session Thursday, August 20, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Completion of this training is a requirement of the 2020 Ordination Review. There is a limit of 20 persons so please register with the Mid-Atlantic District Office at AAMAD@brethren.org. Those from Virlina District who choose this option should copy us on the e-mail. Let us know if you're unfamiliar with Zoom and need to do a test. Please include your phone number and address. A copy of the book will be mailed to you or you may pick it up at the Virlina District Resource Center.

**NUPTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT -2020**
An excellent compendium of resources for individual and congregational use has been distributed by the Commission on Nurture of the Virlina District Board to all pastors and contact persons within the district. The Disabilities Ministries Committee, Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Spiritual Development Retreat Committee, Children’s Cabinet, and Family Life Ministries have collaborated to share activities and devotions that each congregation can use for educational ministries, newsletters and bulletins. A central feature is a three-month calendar (August – October 2020) to help those who are staying at home to stay fit mentally, physically and spiritually.

We believe that you as an individual and your congregations will find this collection to be helpful during this time of pandemic. Both documents are identical except that one is designed for color reproduction and the other for black-and-white or gray scale reproduction. They may be found on the district website at [http://www.virlina.org/](http://www.virlina.org/). Please take the time to view and use these excellent resources. Let us pray for one another as we seek ways to nurture the hearts, spirits, minds and bodies of our people.

**NEW DIGITAL PRODUCTS FOR FALL**
Shine has produced two new digital resources to help your church keep connections strong with children, youth, and families no matter what setting is necessary for faith formation this fall.

Shine at Home is a new, simple option for families to do at home if you are not resuming regular Sunday school this fall. Shine at Home includes weekly mini-sessions, complete with a prayer practice, ideas for sharing the Bible story, questions and conversation prompts, media suggestions, and four activities that help kids and families explore the Bible story. Shine at Home is now available for preorder and will be released August 1 as a downloadable PDF to email to all the families. A sample session can be viewed at [www.shinecurriculum.com](http://www.shinecurriculum.com)

Shine Connect is a new free resource for those faith formation teachers leading children through online Sunday school sessions. Shine Connect materials are included with the purchase of any Shine teacher’s guide starting with the Fall 2020 materials. The materials are accessible through the QR code or URL found in each teacher’s guide.

Shine Connect for Early Childhood includes an outline and tips for creating fun, online sessions for preschoolers using activities in the teacher’s guide and storytelling pictures in the Resource Pack.

Shine Connect for Elementary is a more robust guide with weekly online session plans for Elementary children and accompanies the Primary, Older Elementary, and Multiage teacher’s guides.

Shine Connect for Junior Youth provides a simple two-page framework and tips for facilitating discussion around the Bible story and connecting via the at-home devotional, Quest.

Whether livestreaming or via video conferencing, churches can continue to teach children and youth using Shine teacher’s guides, student materials, music, and storytelling resources.

**PART TIME PASTOR; FULL TIME CHURCH**
The new *Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church* program is a grant-funded initiative through the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry designed to offer support and encouragement specifically for multi-vocational pastors. Pastors who participate are paired with a regionally based "Circuit Rider," a minister with gifts of deep listening and encouragement. Circuit Riders come alongside pastors to listen to their joys and challenges and then help to connect them with resources that will be helpful in their particular situation.
You can learn more about our program, see photos and bios of our Circuit Riders, and apply to participate here: http://www.brethren.org/part-time-pastor

Angela Carr, pastor of the Laurel Branch Church in Floyd County, VA, is the Circuit Rider in our district.

A SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM CHILDREN’S DISASTER SERVICES

We would like to introduce you to a new initiative called an Individual Kit of Comfort (IKOC) by Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) as we prepare for the remainder of the 2020 disaster season while keeping the COVID-19 pandemic in mind.

Because CDS volunteers will not be able to deploy for the rest of 2020 and possibly into the new year. In response, CDS has developed an Individual Kit of Comfort to share with children who are experiencing the fears and stress of a disaster along with the extra stress and confusion of dealing with COVID-19. The IKOC will promote a sense of normalcy and provide an opportunity for the healing power of play, which is vital to a child’s development and processing of their experiences, especially experiences that are confusing, difficult, or frightening. The kits will be handed out to children where they shelter after the disaster by Red Cross staff from the local area.

CDS has a goal of providing 2,500 IKOCs by the end of September 2020. To do this, we would like to engage individuals and congregations in the Church of the Brethren in helping us build them. A general information sheet about the Individual Kit of Comfort as well as a pictorial list of the items that need to go into each kit, including the plastic pouch into which it will all be packed is found on the Virlina District Website home page at www.virlina.org.

The Virlina District Resource Center can facilitate the delivery of the kits to the Brethren Service Center warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. Shipping information will be provided by CDS upon completion of the kits. We greatly appreciate any and all assistance that you can provide to help us reach our goal of 2,500 Individual Kits of Comfort by September 30. Please feel free to contact CDS associate director Lisa Crouch at lcrouch@brethren.org or (800) 451-4407, ext. 5.

PASTOR PREVAL MERITIL PASSES

Pastor Preval Meritil, aged 79, died earlier this month at the home of his daughter in Miami, Florida. He was was one of the original founders of the Haiti Mission Service and pastored a large congregation in Pernal, Haiti. Quite a few from our district, particularly from Patrick County and Henry County, have visited and volunteered labor.

Pastor Preval and his wife lived a simple life in a small house, each having a plate, a fork and a spoon. That was all they needed. They used their resources for those in need around them.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEDDLINER IS PROJECTED FOR AUGUST 29, 2020