WORLD HUNGER AUCTION: A SEASON TO REMEMBER

The 2020 Auction season has been one to remember, but now is the time to bring it to an end and start planning for next year. The last gathering in an Auction related event was March 8 for the Ken Medema and Ted Swartz presentation at Central Church of the Brethren. It was one of the most outstanding events in the history of the Auction and was well received by the hundreds who attended. Sad how things changed so quickly after that program.

Even with the adversities that were faced, people came forward with ideas to feed the hungry. Some cyclists have completed their challenges while others continue to pedal. The elderly walkers are close to completing their 50 mile per month goal in celebration of couples who have their golden anniversary this year. A second quilt was sold recently. Pickles, tea rings, jam and jellies, a hand-woven shawl, art work, wooden creations, dish towels, and a variety of handiworks have been donated and purchased. A very nice solid cherry cased German-made clock is still available for bid. It can be seen on the World Hunger Auction Facebook page.

Many very generous donations have been given by supporters who typically are involved in some way, but who could not participate this year because of cancellations. Others have made memorial gifts. Donations will continue to be accepted for a few more weeks as everything is brought to a close, so if you usually donate but have not had a chance to do so this year, you are encouraged to send you contributions to 130 Hickman Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151. Everyone has received stimulus checks from the government whether they needed them or not. The suggestion has come forward that sharing that money with programs helping the less fortunate would be a good option.

Finally, thanks to ALL who have been so very generous this year. We look forward to announcing the final results of your efforts in the coming weeks. Thank you for helping to make this year’s World Hunger Auction a bright spot on the 2020 calendar.

SCHOOL’S OUT, CAMPS’ IN

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.

“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 PEPPiest gang around!” Plans, sponsors, and registration at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K

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 Benedect. 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.

MODERATOR’S TOWN HALL – SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
We are excited to announce the next Moderator’s Town Hall on September 17th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The featured speaker will be veteran civil rights leader and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

The focus of the Town Hall will be: “Racism: Deeper Awareness, Bolder Action.”

Andrew J. Young has earned worldwide recognition as a pioneer in and champion of civil and human rights. Ambassador Young’s lifelong dedication to service is illustrated by his extensive leadership experience of over sixty-five years, serving as a member of Congress, African American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and ordained minister, among other positions.

During the 1960s, Young was a key strategist and negotiator during civil rights campaigns that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Appointed as an Ambassador to the United Nations in 1977, Young negotiated an end to white-minority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe and brought President Carter’s emphasis on human rights to international diplomacy efforts.

Ambassador Young also serves on several boards, including the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change. In 2003, he and his wife Carolyn McClain Young founded the Andrew J. Young Foundation to support and promote education, health, leadership, and human rights in the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean.

He currently lives in Atlanta and serves as the Chairman of the foundation. He is also a father of three daughters and a son, a grandfather of nine, and a great grandfather of one.

The author of three books, Andrew Young is sought after as an advisor to world leaders along with being active as a speaker on the lecture circuit. An ordained minister with the United Church of Christ for over six decades, he continues to preach and considers the work of his foundation an extension of his ministry and of the Civil Rights movement itself.

To register for the town hall, please visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9Iete86GS6-JMPHmEHQNmQ

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.
The Town Hall will once again feature a Question & Answer format. You are invited to submit your questions for Ambassador Young during the Town Hall, or you can send them in advance. To send your questions prior to the Town Hall, please email: cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com. Though we cannot commit to answering every question, we’ll do our best to use what is submitted.

Questions or issues related to registering for the Town Hall can be emailed to cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com as well.

**CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS REPLACE ON-SITE HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL**

Due to the continuing health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to hold an “in-person” Heritage Day Festival at Camp Bethel on Saturday, October 3. Camp has re-opened for families, guest rentals, and some modified events and programming, but Heritage Day would be too complex to mitigate health risks for so many person-to-person interactions and the high volume of attendees and participants.

I know many congregations have already been preparing items and foods for Heritage Day, so I encourage each congregation and/or family to explore what's possible: A drive-thru church “yard sale” or food stand? A special after-church parking lot event? An on-line sale or auction with doorstep delivery or pickup? A special offering? Any way you can help support Camp Bethel in 2020 in honor of Heritage Day is greatly needed AND appreciated.

Please let me know how we, the camp staff and the Outdoor Ministries Committee, can support or promote your creative efforts. Updated information is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day.

We already miss you all so very much, and now we will miss this, our favorite of days. We know that you, too, have been impacted by COVID-19, so thank you for your time and your support. We continue to adapt and respond in responsible and creative ways, and we continue to foster and build relationships with God, with each other, and with creation. Your continued support is a great blessing to everyone in our Camp Bethel community!

Contact me with any questions, input, concerns, or ideas, and let me know how we can support you. Contact me at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or (540) 992-2940.

**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 St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness at virlina2@aol.com, (540) 362-1816 or (800) 847-5462.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV RESCHEDULED – MARCH 26-28, 2021
Although the severity of COVID-19 is different in various locations, we still are not to the place where we could have a large gathering in one room, sit together for meals and in small groups, give hugs, etc. So, for the safety of all, the Pilgrimage Committee has decided to postpone Pilgrimage. The new date is March 26-28, 2021, which is typically when it is held each year. There will be more information closer to the time if you would like to register.

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.

ROANOKE VALLEY CROP HUNGER WALK – OCTOBER 11, 2020
The Roanoke Valley CROP Hunger Walk scheduled for Sunday, October 11, will be VIRTUAL. The planning committee is still finalizing details. We are planning a zoom meeting for team captains on Thursday, September 3, at 7pm. Check our facebook page for more info! You can also reach out to Tabby Patterson (Roanoke First COB) at tabbycat6380@gmail.com with any questions.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Radical Hope