

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

MARCH

Newsletter

2017

***"Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)***

Every preacher remembers their first sermon. Mine was on July 20, 1980 for the evening service at the Crab Orchard Church of the Brethren in Raleigh County, West Virginia. The sermon, in comparison with those that have followed, was uncharacteristically brief. Twelve minutes passed and we were singing the invitational hymn. The older women of the church, always good for an encouraging word, stated their thanksgiving that I was to the point and did not repeat myself.

These words of the Apostle Paul are among the golden texts of the Church of the Brethren. Brethren believe that salvation involves a change in the behavior of the saved. Paul's admonition to the Romans makes clear that this behavioral change involves non-conformity with the society around us. We are called to be set-apart, different and peculiar when viewed from a societal perspective. This does not involve withdrawal from society nor from the lives of those who encompass our social universe. As the experience of Jesus (Matthew 4) demonstrates, withdrawal from others never removes us from the source of temptation and evil. Our Christian experience is to be in the world and not of the world.

Our non-conformity in the midst of the commonplace experiences of humanity is precisely what makes us useful servants of God. The foundation of this is God's wondrous transformation of our lives by the renewing of our minds. The human mind is a precious gift from a loving Creator. Our minds give us the capability to evaluate and assess the reasonableness of our emotions and feelings. We are not prisoners of instinct as are other animals. Reason is the fountainhead of all morality and behavior. Feelings happen. They come and go like the weather. There is no condemnation for our feelings. We are accountable for our behavior and actions. The mind is the crucial mediator in a process that makes us responsible for what we do and are!

Transformation in Christ is marked by a radical change in the focus and orientation of our minds and wills. This change is instantaneous as to basic life direction and a continuing, lifelong process as to maturity and understanding. Some would call the lifelong process "sanctification", others would say that it is "growing in grace". Among Brethren this process would be styled as "following in the footsteps of Jesus", "the walk of discipleship" or "receiving the mind of Christ".

Whatever this experience is called, it is apparent that the Christian is changed and is changing for the best as we each are drawn closer to our Lord. Feelings happen, but the Christian man or woman assesses and acts upon these in a markedly different manner than those who have not experienced the grace of God through Christ. Our Lord said that those who follow and know him are the salt of the earth. If our lifestyles make these words true our presence in the world changes the flavor of all society for the better. Truly this begins when we experience his mind-changing and will-altering presence in our lives. The presence is strengthened and made complete by our association together as God's people in worship, study, service and fellowship. It implies that the Body of Christ shall offer to the world a better way, not mere theory but lifestyle and opportunity. That better way means offering a whole gospel, one that deals meaningfully with persons' emotions, provides intellectual challenge and broadens the awareness and horizons of its membership. The challenge for us and our congregations in the contemporary world will be to point to the Better Way, even as we continue his work.

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister

VIRLINA DISTRICT
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David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
Emma Jean Woodard, ASSOCIATE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
GARY L. BASHAM, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
James R. Kropff, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Bethel - William (Bill) Murphy and Terri Murphy by letter on December 18, 2016.

Boones Mill - Carey Johnson III by letter July 19, 2016.

Burks Fork - Edward Mabery by baptism November 6, 2016.

Concord, Living Faith - Mark Ludwick by letter January 8, 2017. Andrea Ludwick by affirmation January 8, 2017.

Ferrum - Ray Bayse and Vetta Bayse by letter November 2016.

Henry Fork - Tucker Hall, Ashley Bondurant, Morgan Bondurant, Andrea Stencil, Michael Yopp and Sara Milam by baptism October 2, 2016. Ruth Rucker, Rebecca Yopp, Paul Swecker, Jr. and Michelle Bondurant by letter October 2, 2016.

Oak Grove (South) - Lisa Quinn Webster by reaffirmation December 11, 2016.

Pleasant View - Patrick Estes, Vivian Layne and Jacob Scarbrough by baptism June 5, 2016. Robert Slaughter and Rose Slaughter by reaffirmation October 16, 2016. Logan Ballard by baptism January 29, 2017.

Pulaski, First - Edith Roope by reaffirmation February 28, 2016. Rebecca Thomas by reaffirmation April 3, 2016. Shelby Roope and Billy Burton by baptism April 17, 2016. Norma Ratcliff by reaffirmation August 21, 2016. Troy Nichols and Sue Nichols by reaffirmation October 16, 2016. Bill Radcliffe by reaffirmation October 30, 2016. Jaheim Calfee and Gillian Webb by baptism November 20, 2016. Travis Thompson by baptism December 18, 2016. Geraldine Whitaker by affirmation December 18, 2016. Gabe Webb by baptism December 25, 2016.

Roanoke, Oak Grove - Daniel Bise, Jenn Bise, Joanne Butcher, Josephine Keller, Horace Light, Doris Light, Rachel Mabe and Dawn Thomas by letter November 27, 2016.

Roanoke-Williamson Road - Stephen Vassar by baptism October 16, 2016. Terri Luzynski by letter December 18, 2016.

Topeco - Pattie Turner and Ted Turner, Jr. by letter November 15, 2016. Remington Bolt by letter November 27, 2016.

Vinton - Hannah Hall by baptism May 22, 2016. Cheryl Daniels and Peggy Sue Broyles by baptism July 26, 2016. Linda Durham and Marie Casseus by reaffirmation October 16, 2016. Daniel Rivera by reaffirmation October 23, 2016. Pamela Peace by reaffirmation November 20, 2016. Lee Allen by reaffirmation December 11, 2016.

SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN - JANUARY 31, 2017

Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation, the mission resourcing campaign of the Virlina District has attained 216 pledges which total \$390,749.10. As of the above date we have received \$195,957.66 toward the fulfillment of these pledges. The majority of these first pledges came from the lead gift visitation effort. The congregational phase will occupy much of our effort for 2017. For more information, contact us at <virlina@aol.com> or <www.virlinafuture.org>.



PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

ANTIOCH - *Andrew C. Duffey, currently pastor of the New Enterprise Church in Middle Pennsylvania District, will begin on a full time basis effective March 15.*

BASSETT - *Paul Maynard Baker, currently pastor of the Saunders Grove Church, will begin on a 2/3 time basis effective March 1.*

CHRISTIANSBURG - *Full time position, profile meeting on February 5, 2017 - Pulpit Supply.*

HOPEWELL - *Part time position, profile circulating - R. Wayne Pennington serving as interim pastor.*

JONES CHAPEL - *Full or part time position, profile circulating (10) - Pulpit supply.*

MAPLE GROVE - *Part time position, no profile available - Timothy Sink serving as interim pastor.*

MONETA - LAKE SIDE - *Jerry W. Naff, currently pastor of the Smith Mountain Lake Community Church has been called on a part time basis effective April 1, 2017.*

NEW BETHEL - *Samuel T. Light began on a part time basis effective January 1, 2017.*

OAKVALE - *Part time position, no profile available - Dewey V. Broyles resigned effective October 9, 2016.*

RED OAK GROVE - *Part time position, no profile available - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.*

ROANOKE - HOLLINS ROAD - *Full time position, profile circulating (1) - Glenn D. Stevens serving as interim pastor.*

SAINT PAUL - *Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt has been called as interim pastor on a part-time basis effective December 1, 2016.*

SAUNDERS GROVE - *Part time position, no profile available - Paul Maynard Baker has resigned to accept the call of the Bassett Church.*

SHELTON - *Part time position, no profile available.*

SMITH CHAPEL - *Part time position, no profile available. Pulpit supply.*

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMUNITY - *Full-time position, profile pending. Jerry W. Naff has resigned effective February 28, 2017 to accept the call of the Moneta-Lake Side Church.*

TRINITY - *Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.*

WEST RICHMOND - *Full time position, profile meeting on March 12, 2017 - David L. Brunk will retire effective March 8, 2017.*

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MARCH 25

Deadline for the May 2016 HEADLINER is March 25, 2017. Forward items to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012**. Please make sure to change our address if you have not done so!

FERRUM CHURCH SEEKS PIANIST

Ferrum Church of the Brethren is seeking a pianist to play on Sunday and special services. If interested contact Vetta Bayse at (540) 427-0505 or by e-mail at <ettba65@gmail.com>.

NEWS & EVENTS

LIKE OUR DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE!

The Virlina District Resource Center now has a Facebook page. This allows for us to announce district events quickly to everyone who "likes" the page. To find the page, type "Virlina District Resource Center on Plantation Road" into the FB search function. Then "like" us.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES NEEDED - REMINDER

If your congregation has a printed or electronic church directory, the District Resource Center and Camp Bethel would appreciate receiving a copy. Please mail to Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012 and to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090. Or, send by e-mail to <virlinasecretary@gmail.com> or <campbetheloffice@gmail.com>.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren is seeking a Director of Ministries of Children, Youth, and Young Adults. The position is part time 20 hours per week with a salary of \$15000.00 annually with one week of vacation. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the church board in the planning and implementing of a program of Christian education and activities with the children, youth and young adults. Resumes may sent to the attention of the Executive Board Chairperson at 5333 Cove Road NW Roanoke Virginia 24019 or via e-mail to <pastorstuart@pccob.org>.

PETERS CREEK CHURCH SEEKS ORGANIST

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren is a traditional church looking for an organist to provide accompaniment for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship service. Applicant must be familiar with traditional church music and able to accompany the choir with offertory and closing responses. Additional requirements include selecting and playing the prelude, offertory and postlude for worship service. Occasionally, the organist would be contacted with opportunities to play at funeral or weddings. To apply, please send your resume to Peters Creek Church of the Brethren, 5333 Cove Road, Roanoke VA 24019-3499. Mark it to the attention of Ray Clark, Church Board Chairperson or e-mail to <rclark134@aol.com>.

2017 EVANGELISTIC, REVIVAL AND RENEWAL SERVICES

Please send additions, deletions and corrections to EHeadliner@aol.com.

| Date | Location | Speaker |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| March 19-21 | Vinton, VA | Glenn D. Stevens |
| April 2-4 | White Rock, VA | David Trail |
| May 17-21 | New Bethel, VA | Various Speakers |
| May 21-24 | Jeters Chapel, VA | David K. Shumate |
| July 23-27 | Pleasant Valley, VA | David K. Shumate |
| September 17-20 | Oak Grove South, VA | Dava C. Hensley |
| September 24-26 | White Rock, VA | D. Dewayne Troutt |
| September 24-27 | Red Oak Grove, VA | Ronald Coleman |
| September 24-27 | Smith River, VA | Roy U. Turpin |
| October 1-4 | New Hope, VA | D. Dewayne Troutt |
| October 1-6 | Spruce Run, WV | Richard W. Thomas, Sr. |

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS (as of February 7, 2017).

It is important that the listed forms below be completed and returned as they comprise the mailing list for the HEADLINER and for other important information of congregations. Pastors and Church Secretaries, if your congregation is listed in the delinquent list, please get the information mailed as soon as possible. An asterisk* indicates partial report received.

Form B - Mailing Address Information (was mailed from General Offices in Elgin and due December 31, 2016)

Blacksburg-Iglesia del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Blue Ridge, Burks Fork, Copper Hill, Crab Orchard, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Fairview (Floyd County), Fairview (Rocky Mount), Ferrum, Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Green Hill, Jeters Chapel, Jones Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lighthouse, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Mount Bethel, New Covenant, Oakvale, Parkway, Peters Creek, PleasantDale, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Red Oak Grove, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Saint Paul, Shelton, Smith Chapel, Spruce Run, Wakefield Chapel, West Richmond

Form E - Congregational Outreach Report (was mailed from General Offices in Elgin and due December 5, 2016): If your congregation is listed below, please get the information mailed as soon as possible.

Bethlehem, Blacksburg-Iglesia del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Burks Fork, Coulson, Crab Orchard, Duncan Chapel, Fairview (Floyd County), Ferrum, Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Good Shepherd (Blacksburg), Henry Fork, Jeters Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, New Hope, Oakvale, Olean, Parkway, PleasantDale, Red Hill, Roanoke-Central, Roanoke-Hollins Road, Roanoke-Ninth Street, Roanoke-Oak Grove, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Saint Paul, Schoolfield, Shelton, Spruce Run, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel, West Richmond

Statistical Form (was mailed from the General Offices in Elgin to all congregations in early January and will be due back by March 15, 2017):

Additional Officers Form (was mailed from the District Resource Center in December/January Memo for Ministers and is due January 15, 2017)

Bassett, Beaver Creek, Bethany, Bethel, Bethlehem, Blacksburg-Iglesia del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Blue Ridge, Boones Mill, Cedar Bluff, Christiansburg, Copper Hill, Coulson, Crab Orchard, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Durham-Peace Covenant, Fairview (Floyd County), Fairview (Rocky Mount), Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Fraternity, Germantown Brick, Good Shepherd (Blacksburg), Henry Fork, Hiwassee, Hopewell, Jeters Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Moneta-Lake Side Fellowship, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Bethel, New Covenant, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Olean, Parkway, Peters Creek, PleasantDale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Poages Mill, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Red Oak Grove, Roanoke-Central, Roanoke-Ninth Street, Roanoke-Oak Grove, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer Fellowship, Roanoke-Summerdean, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith Mountain Lake, Smith River, Spruce Run, Vinton, Virginia Beach Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel, West Richmond



DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2016

| | | | |
|---------|------|----|--|
| 3 - 4 | | | Christian Growth Institute Spiritual Formation Retreat - Camp Bethel (DKS) |
| | 2:30 | PM | FaithQuest Training - Roanoke, Oak Grove (EJW) |
| 6 | 8:30 | AM | Northern Area Ministers - Camp Bethel (DKS/EJW) |
| | 5:30 | PM | Floyd, Renacer Steering Committee (DKS) |
| 16 - 17 | | | CODEX Meetings - Greenville, OH (DKS) |
| 18 | 1:00 | PM | Nominating and Personnel Committee (EJW/DKS) |
| 20 | 6:00 | PM | Southern Area Ministers - Stonewall (DKS/EJW) |
| 21 | 6:00 | PM | Mission Resourcing Committee (DKS) |

APRIL 2016

| | | | |
|---------|------|----|---|
| 1 | 1:00 | PM | Nominating and Personnel Committee (EJW/DKS) |
| 2 - 5 | | PM | Awakening Services - Roanoke, Williamson Road (DKS/EJW) |
| 3 - 5 | 9:00 | AM | Awakening Bible Studies - Location TBA (DKS/EJW) |
| 7 | 6:00 | PM | Commission on Ministry (DKS) |
| 11 | 6:30 | PM | Roanoke, Renacer Steering Committee (DKS) |
| 14 | | | District Resource Center Closed |
| 17 | 6:00 | PM | Southern Area Ministers - Red Hill (DKS/EJW) |
| 18 | 6:00 | PM | Mission Resourcing Committee (DKS) |
| 21 | 7:00 | PM | Commission on Stewardship (DKS) |
| 23 - 29 | | | VACATION (DKS) |

**90 YEARS OF OUTDOOR MINISTRY
 TOGETHER!
 CAMP BETHEL 1927-2017**

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

AWAKENING SERVICES IN ROANOKE - APRIL 2-5, 2017

Awakening 2017 will take place at the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren on April 2-5, 2017. Services begin each evening with a hymn sing at 6:45 p.m. and worship beginning at 7:00 p.m. The theme is "A New Hope for Every Generation" presented by Shawn Flory Replogle. Brother Replogle was Moderator of Annual Conference in 2010 and was formerly pastor of the McPherson Church of the Brethren in Kansas. He is a native of Bridgewater, Virginia.

In addition to the evening services, Bible Studies will be held by Brother Replogle each morning, Monday through Wednesday, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. The study on Monday will be held at the Hollins Road Church, on Tuesday at the Masons Cove Church and on Wednesday at the Peters Creek Church. Each of these will feature a light breakfast prior to the study.

MINISTRY AND MISSION IN VIRLINA EVENT - MAY 6, 2017

The annual Ministry and Mission in Virlina event will be held at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren (2138 McVitty Road, Roanoke, Virginia) on Saturday, May 6. It will be a day of worship, workshops, food, fellowship, and the Annual Conference Briefing. The theme will be "Listen to the Spirit!" with the scripture focus from Revelation 3:13-22. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the event will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

We will begin with worship at 9:00 a.m. and Timothy H. Emmons, Virlina District Conference Moderator, will preach. Following worship there will be a variety of workshops sponsored by the commissions (Ministry, Nurture, Stewardship and Witness) and committees (New Church Development and Outdoor Ministries) of the District Board. After lunch, the Standing Committee Delegates will facilitate the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing.

The Commission on Witness will sponsor and plan event; so, mark your calendars and plan to be at Ministry and Mission in Virlina on May 6.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Charles Eugene Lenker, aged 93, of Staunton, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on January 29, 2017. He was born February 24, 1923, at Rossburg, Ohio, to the late Gerald and Ruth (DeWeese) Lenker. He was the grandfather of Summerdean Pastor Allen Lenker.

He is survived by his wife Hannah (Withers) Lenker and six children, 14 grandchildren; 17 great - grandchildren, two brothers and three sisters.

Charles Eugene Lenker was called to serve the Lord in the early 1940s. After college, marriage, and seminary, he invested his life serving the Lord Jesus Christ and raising his family. He pastored over ten congregations throughout Indiana, Ohio, and Virginia where he made many friends. Among those congregations were four in the former Southern District of Virginia: Boones Chapel-SnowCreek (1949-57), Henry Fork (1952-56), Germantown

Brick (1958-64) and the Rocky Mount-First Church (1960). He was advanced to the eldership of the denomination in 1954 while serving at Boones Chapel. Appreciating God's creation, he enjoyed gardening and traveling. He also enjoyed hunting with family and friends.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, February 1, at the Barren Ridge Church of the Brethren in Augusta County, VA. with Galen Combs, George Bowers and Allen Lenker officiating.

Edith Jo Smith, aged 99, of Charlotte, N.C., formerly of Beckley, W.V., passed away on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Born on May 1, 1917 at Beeson, West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late John Wesley and Mahala Elizabeth Wyatt Lovell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by seven brothers and by five sisters.

Jo had worked at Beckley Hospital for 36 years, and was a foster grandparent at Hollywood Elementary School for ten years. She was a member of Crab Orchard Church of the Brethren for 69 years.

She is survived by one son, four grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted on Monday, January 9, 2017 with Connie Runion and Jim Campbell officiating. Burial followed at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens at Prosperity, WV.

John Snyder Baker, aged 79, of Buchanan, went home to be with his Creator and Lord on Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Preceded in death by his parents, G. L. and Honor S. Baker and by an infant son, he is survived by his wife, Dianne Howell Baker; two sons, a daughter and nine grandchildren.

John was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He earned a B.A. from Bridgewater College in 1962. While at Bridgewater he was Captain of the Football Team. John completed his formal education with a Masters of Education from Radford University. John taught and coached multiple sports at Brunswick County, James River, Drewry Mason and Bath County High Schools. He served as an Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at James River High School. In retirement, he was an Assistant Football Coach at Bridgewater from 1994 to 2001. John's professional career ended with a five year stint at Alleghany High School as an Assistant Football Coach working with his son, Jack.

John was formerly a licensed Minister and had served the Mount Bethel and Selma congregations as a part-time Pastor. He also served on many committees, commissions, groups of the Virlina District of the Church of the Brethren and as a deacon of the Cloverdale Church. He was a talented and creative man with a wide variety of interests.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren with Pastor Patrick Starkey officiating. Interment followed in Fairview Cemetery, Buchanan.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

VIRLINA JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT - MARCH 3-4, 2017

The annual Junior High Retreat, for youth in grades 6-8, will be held March 3-4 at the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren (2404 Hollins Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia). Jenna Stacy, Program Coordinator at Camp Bethel, and two Summer Staff will lead the youth in Bible Study; Worship; Group Games; 9-Square/GaGa/ 4-Square; Silly Songs; crafts; skits; a Scavenger Hunt; Yummy Food and Lots of Snacks to Share! The Scripture text is from Romans 8:38-39. Come enjoy the retreat and bring a friend.

Registration will start at 6:30 p.m. and the retreat will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night and conclude at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Please bring a snack to share, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, Bible, pen, musical instrument, and clothes to be outside if weather permits. The cost is \$10.00. Registration forms are available from the District Resource Center: 540-362-1816 or virlina2@aol.com.

FAITHQUEST RETREAT - MARCH 10-12, 2017

The FaithQuest retreat is for high school youth in grades 9-12 who want to explore their relationship with God. FaithQuest is an opportunity for youth to share and learn with others and journey together on the road to a deeper spirituality and commitment. Three basic themes will be explored during the weekend: Discovering Self, Discovering God, and Discovering Our Relationship With Others.

FaithQuest will be held March 10-12 in Heritage Lodge at Camp Bethel. The retreat will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening and conclude at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. What is needed at FaithQuest? Bring bedroll or sleeping bag, personal items, towel and washcloth, Bible, pen, and a willingness to learn and share with others. The cost is \$125.00 and scholarship money is available. For scholarship or additional information contact Emma Jean Woodard at virlina2@aol.com or (540) 362-1816.

NORTHERN AREA MINISTERS - MARCH 6, 2017

The Northern Area Ministers of the Virlina District will meet on Monday, March 6, 2017 at Camp Bethel at 8:30 a.m. The meal for this meeting will be \$7.00. The program will concern the various ways people learn presented by Barry S. LeNoir, Camp Bethel Director. Ministers attending will receive .1 CEU.

SOUTHERN AREA MINISTERS - MARCH 20, 2017

The Southern Area Ministers of the Virlina District will meet on Monday, March 20, 2017 at the Stonewall Church of the Brethren at 6 p.m. The program will concern the various ways people learn presented by Barry S. LeNoir, Camp Bethel Director. Ministers attending will receive .1 CEU.

Please notify Jerry Hylton, pastor of the Stonewall Church of your planned attendance by calling him at (540) 629-4862. The church will be grateful for a forecast of the approximate attendance.

PILGRIMAGE XXI - MARCH 24-26, 2017

Pilgrimage XXI will be held March 24-26, 2017, at Camp Bethel. People from 58 congregations in our district have attended.

this event which is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. Pilgrimage is for everyone because no matter where a person is on his or her faith journey, it is always good to take another step and draw closer to God. The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. Yet God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry, and we give Him all praise and honor!

The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it. Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or by e-mail at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to www.experiencepilgrimage.com.

ROUNDTABLE - MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 2017

Roundtable will be held March 31-April 2, 2017 at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, VA. "Wildfire in Our Very Soul" will be the theme. The speakers will be Tyler and Chelsea Goss from the West Richmond Church in Virlina District. The Friday night entertainment will be Mutual Kumquat. This event is planned by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet (Abby Brubaker - Antioch and Emily Harvey - Oak Grove/Central serve on IYC). Virlina folks, Hannah Oakes, Tim Harvey, and Jonathan Wilson, will be leading workshops at Roundtable. For more information email or visit the website at iycroundtable@gmail.com. For more information please e-mail iycroundtable@gmail.com or visit website at <http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc/roundtable>.

WOMEN OF MANY HATS - APRIL 29, 2017

"Women of Many Hats" is--an inspirational, fun filled time of fellowship for women of all ages planned just for YOU! This event will be held on SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017, at the Peters Creek Church, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., registration and fellowship time begins at 9, program begins at 10. Lunch will be provided by Peters Creek, cost \$10, reservations due by April 15, to Gwen Kropff, (540) 761-8672. Mark your calendar and plan now to attend. Additional information will be sent to churches soon. Sponsored by the Northern and Southern Area Women's Fellowship of the Virlina District.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 22-27, 2017

The 2017 Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) will take place on April 22-27. The theme will be "Native American Rights and Food Security," related to the scripture from Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

CCS is for high school-aged students and will take place in New York and Washington, D.C. The cost of registration is \$400 per person which includes event programming, lodging for five nights, two dinner meals and basic transportation. Each participant will need to bring additional money for other meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares. To register go to www.brethren.org/ccs.

CAMP BETHEL

SUMMER CAMPS FOR 2017

The theme of our SUMMER CAMPS in 2017 is "BRANCHING OUT: CONNECTING THROUGH CHRIST." On-line registration is open now. All Summer Camp information (brochure, forms, schedules) available at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>. Brochure packets were mailed on February 14 to all campers, churches, camp reps and pastors. Register early to guarantee your chosen program. NEW activities and adventures for your BEST SUMMER EVER! Request a brochure packet from Jenna at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 2, 2017

The SOW THE SEED SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET will be held at Camp Bethel on Thursday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. Plant seeds of FAITH in the lives of children, youth and young adults! At \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted), all costs and donations from the evening directly fund "camperships" and our summer camp ministries. RSVP by February 24 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or 540-992-2940. Payments accepted in advance or at the table, and your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2017 is \$310. Give the gift of CAMP; it's an experience that can change a life forever.

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - APRIL 1, 2017

Our SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY will be Saturday, April 1. The day begins at 7:30 a.m. with a free breakfast and includes a free lunch at 1 p.m. Your help is needed! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP meals by March 26 to 540-992-2940; <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. Info at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 28-29, 2017

Our 16th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling will be held on April 28-29, 2017. This year we feature nationally known tellers such as Donald Davis, Ed Stivender, Dolores Hydock and Kim Weitkamp. There will also be music by After Jack, food, a Friday campfire and the Back Porch Studio Cloggers. This is one of Camp Bethel's most important fundraisers, so help spread the word. Schedule and tickets available at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

COUNSELORS ARE NEEDED FOR SUMMER 2017!

Paid and volunteer positions are filled on a first-hired, first-filled basis. See <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff> for serving as a Senior Counselor, Junior Counselor or Volunteer Counselor/CIT.

SUMMER KITCHEN STAFF AT CAMP BETHEL

Camp Bethel is looking for ministry-minded individuals to help prepare and serve meals for over 1200 campers this summer. We prefer staff who are able serve for all ten weeks of summer camp, June 11-August 19, plus additional training days during the weeks of May 29-June 10. For position descriptions, pay, and shift schedules, e-mail Brigitte Burton at <CampBethelArk@gmail.com> or call (540) 992-2940. Apply at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff>.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT - AUGUST 23, 2017

Our annual BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held on AUGUST 23, 2017. Golfers and sponsors are needed on Wednesday, August 23, at the Botetourt Golf Club for our 2017 Golf Tournament and Banquet. Tee off is at 12:45pm, and \$70 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner at camp (\$15 for dinner only). Become a Tournament Sponsor and provide much-needed support for our summer camp programs! For more information go to the internet at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf>.

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST, MARCH-APRIL 2017

New chest coolers w/ handles; Digital cameras or a "GoPro" video camera; LCD projector; Working mini-van & pick-up truck; LED light bulbs (75-100 watt equiv); New (in-the-box) bike helmets and horse helmets; Kayaks & paddles & new lifejackets; Brooms/dustpans. Gifts to Camp are tax-deductible!

PLEASE REPLENISH OUR "CAMBERSHIP" FUND

In summer 2016, 72 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$19,410. Please consider donating \$310, which is the 2017 cost for a child to attend one basic week of resident camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or donate at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

PEACEBUILDING IN THE REAL WORLD - MARCH 17-18

Peacebuilding in the Real World is a retreat for youth in grades 6-12. It will be held on March 17-18, 2017 at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren in Bridgewater, Virginia. It will begin on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and will end on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The featured leaders are Andy Murray, 2016 Annual Conference Moderator, Musa Mambula, EYN (CoB Nigeria), and On Earth Peace Facilitators. The cost is \$20.00 which covers leadership and Saturday breakfast and lunch. To register call (540) 209-5592 by March 12.

EMMA JEAN WOODARD RESIGNS AS ASSOCIATE

Emma Jean Woodard, Associate District Executive Minister, has resigned from the position effective May 22, 2017. She has been a member of the district staff for over seventeen years. Emma Jean served first as interim associate district executive from January 2000 until October 2001 when she became the associate. Previously she served as interim pastor at Roanoke - First, Troutville/New Bethel and Cloverdale and as secretary of the Westminster Church in Mid-Atlantic District.

She has been a faithful servant of Christ and the church. Her work has been productive and steady. While we are saddened by her decision, we recognize that she will continue to serve in the ministry in other ways.

The Executive Committee of the Virginia District Board will be meeting following the February board meeting to assess and address the staffing needs of the district for the coming years. Please be in prayer for our district leadership as we undergo this time of transition. Give thanks for Emma Jean's diligent work and for her further opportunities.

NEWS & EVENTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE QUILTING BEE

Your congregation is invited to create a block for the 2017 Conference quilts. Your quilt block need to be a 8 ½ x 8 ½ inch finished block. All quilt blocks should be postmarked by May 15, 2017. Mail your quilt blocks and a dollar (or more) donation (checks payable to AACB) to offset the cost of quilting materials to Margaret Weybright, 17132 US 6, Syracuse, IN 46567. Questions? Contact Margaret at (574) 831-2488. Instructions for making your block may be obtained from the District Resource Center: (540) 362-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com>.

Quilt tops are assembled before conference, therefore, no blocks can be accepted at conference for this year's quilts. All blocks delivered at conference will be considered for next year's quilts and wall hangings. Auction proceeds of Conference quilts benefit projects to alleviate hunger.

ARE YOU A DR, NURSE PRACTITIONER, RN, LPN, OR EMT?

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids is looking for DR.'s, RN's, LPN's and EMT's who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Dr. Rosalie McBride of Northern Indiana District is coordinating the First Aid Office this summer in Grand Rapids and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: <rosalie.lmcbride@gmail.com>.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 7, 2017

Mark your calendar for May 7. That will be National Youth Sunday in the Church of the Brethren. More information will be available at <www.brethren.org>.

2017 YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 26-28, 2017

The 2017 Young Adult Conference (YAC) will be held May 26-28 at Camp Harmony, near Hooversville, Pennsylvania. The theme is "Loving Neighbor" from Matthew 22:36-39. YAC offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more. The registration is 150 which includes food, lodging and programming.

The speaker for YAC will be Emmet Eldred, Wendy McFadden, Monica Rice, and Dennis Lohr. Leah Hileman will provide music leadership and Jess Hoffer and Jenn Chillas Balmer will provide worship leadership. To register, go to <www.brethren.org/yac>.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - JUNE 9-11, 2017

The National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed grades 6-8. Youth and their advisors will consider Jonah's story through the theme "Called for a Greater Cause: Jonah's Journey." The conference will be held June 9-11 on the campus of Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Come, sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God

Worship speakers will include Katie Heishman, Rudy Amaya, and Jeff Carter. Kyle Remnant will be coordinating music and worship will be coordinated by Rebekah Houff and Trent Smith. In addition to four celebrations of worship, there will

be time for learning during workshops, and time for play during recreation and evening activities. The cost is \$175 per person. After March 31, the cost increases to \$200 per person. For more information or to register, visit <www.brethren.org/njhc> or call (847) 429-4385.

2017 WORKCAMP REGISTRATION IN PROGRESS

"Say Hello" in the theme of the 2017 Church of the Brethren Workcamps. The scripture text is from 3 John 13-14, "I have a lot more things to tell you, but I'd rather not use pen and ink. I hope to be there soon in person and have a heart-to-heart talk. Peace to you. The friends here say hello. Greet our friends there by name." (The Message). Go to <www.brethren.org/workcamps> for more information and registration.

"CHURCHES IN THE SKY BUS TOUR" - OCTOBER 14, 2017

Our fall foliage bus tour is planned for Saturday, October 14, 2017. This year's outing is entitled "Churches in the Sky" and will include visits to a number of North Carolina and Virginia congregations in Southeastern and Virlina Districts. Among those visited will be New Haven, Mount Carmel, Peak Creek, Little Pine, Shelton and Saint Paul.

Cost will be reasonable, although not yet determined. The tour will depart from the District Resource Center in Roanoke and may make an intermediate stop in the Christiansburg-area if demand warrants. The luncheon meal will be available at the Peak Creek Church as they are having their annual Fall Festival that day!

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE WEBINAR- APRIL 6, 2017

70 percent of people 65 and older will need long-term care. That's a big number. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 70 percent of people age 65 or more will sometime in their life need care for 90 days or longer. That means whether you are young or old, the odds are high that there will be a time sooner or later when you will need long-term care. With the Baby Boomers coming into retirement age, the need for long-term care facilities is rising, pushing up the cost of such care. Are you prepared for this?

The Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust can help. Register for the LTC Planning Webinar "The Ins and Outs of Long-Term Care." This webinar will be introducing and explaining long-term care insurance. What is it? Who needs it? What are the options? What are the basic costs? This helpful webinar is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2017, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Each session will be 30 minutes with live Q&A to follow. It will be led by Randy Yoder, Independent Agent for Brethren Benefit Trust and Long-Term Care Specialist. If April 6 is not convenient, you may contact Randy Yoder by phone (847) 849-0205 or e-mail at <ryoder@cobbtorg> for a consultation by phone, a personal visit, or a group presentation for your church.

To register for the 10 a.m. morning session and 7 p.m. evening session, please go to the Brethren Benefit Trust website at <http://www.cobbtorg>. Don't miss this chance to learn more and begin to prepare for your future needs.

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MARCH 2017

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