

HEADLINE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

NOVEMBER

Newsletter

2021

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3-4 (NRSV)

Becoming a Christian means a change in being. Whether our conversion is instantaneous or gradual, an old way of living ends and another way of living begins. We become different persons. In a way, it is like dyeing a white sweater red. It is still the same sweater, but it is not the same. In fact, the same word that the Greek language used for "dyeing" (in the sense of changing color) is the word which we translate in the New Testament as baptism. Baptism into Christ's body is the outward symbol of the inward change which God makes within us.

The Apostle Paul states in Romans 6:3 that "all of us have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death." That little sentence has much meaning. To be a Christian means to die to our own self-interest and submit our lives, the precious gift of God, to Christ's direction. It means to decide to obey God rather than the rulers of this world. It means that we will be a peculiar people by the standards of society. Sometimes our differentness might merely be considered quaint, but at other times it might appear to be a threat to society. No matter what, it means that we share with Jesus' earthly pilgrimage of submission to the will of God. Let us remember that his pilgrimage led him to the cross. Too often, when we examine ourselves, we find that we want the crown (or the blessings of Christianity) without sharing in his cross. James and John asked Jesus to sit on his right and left side when he came into his kingdom (Mark 10:35-40). He responded by asking them if they could "be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

When we descend into the symbolic death of baptism, we are publicly stating that we are ending a life of self-seeking. We profess the beginning a life submitted to the ongoing purpose of God in this world wherever that leads and whatever the consequences. In a sense baptism is as symbolic of marriage to God's purpose and Christ's Lordship as a wedding ceremony is to a marriage. It means that we are forsaking all others to follow Christ. And much as marriage means being immersed into a relationship with another person, baptism means being immersed in Christ's work in this world and the midst of his people.

Even as we are joined with Christ in his crucifixion and death through baptism, we are joined to him in the new life of his resurrection. Now we share in the grace of God through him. We are "strangers no more." We no longer are bound in selfish slavery to the works of the flesh. We are freed to obey God's inner law of love not because we

have to, but because we want to. in his resurrection to never ending life in the world to come. We are freed to live in the uncluttered way which God intended for us. We are freed to be truly human and from the pursuit of things that will pass away. This freedom brings with it a sense of cleansing. We are cleansed of separation from God, from our better selves and from one another. Forty-two years later, I treasure those precious moments when I arose from the baptismal waters and the clean feeling that came with it. It wasn't the water that cleansed me. It was the joining with Christ through public baptism into his body that allowed me to lay hold of the power of his life, death, and resurrection.

Not only does baptism represent in an outward way the inward cleansing power of God, it is also a symbol of setting apart the baptized individual as a minister in the body of Christ. Jesus' baptism by John marks his ordination to the priesthood. We all share, from the least to the greatest, in the mission and ministry of Christ's body. When we lay hands upon those who undergo baptism, we are signifying their empowerment by the Holy Spirit for the work of God in this world. Every Christian is called upon to use his or her gifts in the service of God's people. It is a service that cannot merely be delegated to a paid professional. When we share our unique gifts of God's grace, we are continuing Jesus' ongoing earthly ministry. We are immersed into the life and work of Christ's body!

There are those who doubt whether baptism has any value. It is undoubtedly true that baptism is symbolic in its nature. It is the outward sign of inward commitment and a profession of faith. It is the beginning of a life immersed in God's purpose and Christ's body. It is not the destination of the journey of faith, but a profession of its beginning. The depth of meaning in baptism is found in the way it points beyond itself to our sharing in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We share in that by letting go of an old life and laying hold of the new (II Corinthians 5:16-21). In this grounding baptism becomes more than just a symbol, it becomes truly descriptive of the reality of Christian life.

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister

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JOY A. MURRAY, COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
ED AND SUSAN MCKIMMY, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE



COLLINSVILLE - David Poore by baptism September 13, 2020. Addison Whalen by baptism March 21, 2021. Landon Koebel by baptism April 18, 2021. Angela Joyce McVey by baptism June 6, 2021. Ayona Stultz by baptism August 15, 2021. Holly Zimmerman by letter August 29, 2021.

MOUNT HERMON - Shane McPeek, Tonya McPeek, Aaron McPeek and Pam Wright by letter September 5, 2021. Hope Wright and Alexis Wright by baptism September 5, 2021.

PLEASANT VALLEY - Chase Wyatt Akers by baptism June 6, 2021.

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE - Levi Fleming and Beverly Dudley by baptism July 11, 2021.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Darius "Dee" Plunkett, aged 103, of Boones Mill, VA, passed peacefully to his heavenly home on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. He was a member of Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 66 years, Mildred Naff Plunkett. They had a remarkable loving bond that was apparent to all who knew them and worked together as partners in their life's work of dairy farming.

Funeral services were conducted at Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, with Greg Broyles officiating. Interment followed in the Franklin Memorial Park.

Robert Earl Murray, aged 69, passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at his home in Botetourt County, Va., following an extended illness. He was a kindhearted man with an amazing sense of humor who loved to tell jokes and make people laugh. He had a smile that could light up the darkest room and could find just the right joke to entertain any group of people. He dedicated his life to his loved ones and to the family apple cider business inherited from his father and uncle. In his final years he proudly served as the President of Murray's Cider Company.

A lifelong member of Cloverdale Church of the Brethren, Robert was a faithful choir member and served on various committees. With his wife he served as youth advisor for seven years.

A graveside memorial service is planned for 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at the family cemetery for close friends and family. A church celebration of his life will be planned for spring or summer of 2022.



BASSETT - Full time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

BETHANY - Part time position, no profile available - Emma Jean Woodard serving as interim pastor.

BETHEL - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

BETHLEHEM - Full or part time position, profile circulating - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

CHRISTIANSBURG - Full or part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

COPPER HILL - Full time position, profile pending - William J. Hinton, Sr. serving as interim pastor.

COULSON - Full time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT) - *Part time position, no profile available- Jeffery A. Wray has resigned as pastor effective December 31, 2021.*

GREEN HILL - Part or full-time position, profile circulating - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.

LIGHTHOUSE - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

MAPLE GROVE - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

MONETA, LAKE SIDE - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply by Christian Becker.

MONTE VISTA - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

NEW BETHEL - Part time position, no profile available - Gregory W. Hedrick serving as interim pastor through December 31, 2021.

NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

OAKVALE - Part time position, no profile available - Josh Lucas continues as speaker.

OAK GROVE, SOUTH - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

ROANOKE, HOLLINS ROAD - *Full time position, profile pending - Harold E. Boyd serving as interim pastor effective October 1, 2021.*

ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available -

SELMA - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

SHELTON - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

TRINITY - *Judy D. Mills began as pastor on a part time basis effective November 1, 2021.*

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND NOTES FROM

Antioch

The World Hunger Auction Committee has announced the distribution of funds from the 2021 World Hunger activities. Out of a total of \$54,000 raised, we have designated the following:

- \$26,625 for Heifer International
- \$13,312.50 for Roanoke Area Ministries
- \$5,325 for the Global Food Initiative
- \$2,662.50 for Heavenly Manna
- \$2,662.50 for Stepping Stone Mission
- \$2,662.50 for Lake Christian Ministries
- \$750 for His Cupboard.

Thanks to all who have contributed money, items, labor and resources this year.

Bethlehem

"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. This year we will not have refreshments. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour. Please join us anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th and enjoy this Christmas story. This program will not be held if there is rain, snow or cold temperatures. 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>.

Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida

The Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida, a new church development of the Church of the Brethren in Floyd County, Virginia, has relocated to a new temple. Formerly in the Greasy Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Willis, Virginia, they are now in the former Parkway Church of the Brethren near Meadows of Dan. They celebrated this new location with a dedication service on Sunday, October 24, 2021. The dedicatory sermon, by the District Executive Minister, was entitled "My house will be a house of prayer for all nations!" A meal followed in the church yard.

Roanoke, Central Church of the Brethren

Central's Witness Team and the Reading with Santa Team were alerted to the pandemic's dramatic effect on already-struggling reading skills of children in low-income homes and schools. Many of these children have no books of their own at home. In March 2021, Central donated three books to each of the 303 students at Lincoln Terrace Elementary School. The books purchased contained diverse characters and topics, and were reading level appropriate. This was Central's second donation of books to the students of Lincoln Terrace - in December 2020, Central partnered

with Loudon Avenue Christian Church to send each of Lincoln Terrace's students home for winter break with a gift bag containing three books and some small toys. Central, through its Witness Team and other volunteers, intends for this to be an ongoing project to promote reading and increase reading achievement by giving books to all the students, as well as adding to the school's library and classroom collections.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

Lewis W. Turner, aged 85, of Floyd, VA, went Home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. He was a long-time member of Fairview (Floyd County) Church of the Brethren, and retired from both Corning and Radford University.

Funeral services were held in Floyd on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Interment followed in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

Guy Woodrow Towler, Sr., aged 71, of Gretna, VA, died on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Brother Towler was a member of New Bethel Church of the Brethren where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and choir member. He was a former correctional officer with the Virginia Department of Corrections, and he retired from the Pittsylvania County Sheriffs Department.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at the New Bethel Church of the Brethren officiated by Greg Hedrick, Curtis English, and Jason Andrews. Burial will followed in the church cemetery.

Lydia Keith Burgess, aged 99, of Willis, VA, passed away on Thursday, September 16, 2021. She was a dedicated member of the Fairview (Floyd County) Church of the Brethren, where she served as deacon.

Funeral services were held in Floyd, VA, on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, with Jason Pratt and Roy Turpin officiating. Interment followed in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Joanne "Jojo" Shaver Cassell, aged 89, of Roanoke passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. She was a longtime member at First Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA and Church Women United. She served the congregation as secretary for a number of years, sang in the choir, played handbells and was a volunteer for Good Samaritan Hospice.

She is survived by a daughter, Susan Stultz and husband Bruce, son, Rob Cassell Jr., and wife Karen, grandchildren Adam Stultz and wife Lynsey, Dana Cassell, Ashley Jones and husband Adam, and Leah Gibson and husband Michael, great grandchildren Tyler Gibson, Eva Stultz, Elysee Stultz, Eli Stultz, Etta Stultz, and Adalynn Jones.

A memorial service was held at Camp Bethel on Saturday, October 16, 2021 with Dava C. Hensley, Adam C. Stultz and Dana Beth Cassell officiating along with remembrances by friends. Memorial gifts may be made to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2021

1	9:00 AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
	1:00 PM	New Church Development Committee - Roanoke, Ninth Street (DKS)
3	2:00 PM	Ministry Advisory Council (DKS)
4	9:00 AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)
	10:00 AM	Virginia Council of Churches - Annual Assembly (DKS)
8	5:30 PM	Iglesia El Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Parkway (DKS)
12 - 13		District Conference - Grandin Court Baptist Church (MSS/DKS)
14 - 20		VACATION (MSS)
15	1:00 PM	Historical Committee - District Resource Center (DKS)
	6:30 PM	Moneta - Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
16	1:30 PM	Christian Growth Institute Administrative Committee (DKS)
21 - 27		VACATION (DKS)
25 - 26		District Resource Center - Closed for Thanksgiving
30	10:30 AM	Awakening Committee (DKS)

DECEMBER 2021

1	1:00 PM	Council of District Executives East - Weyers Cave (DKS)
3	6:00 PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
6	9:00 AM	Northern Area Ministers - Ninth Street (DKS)
7	7:00 PM	Commission on Stewardship - (DKS)
9 - 10		Virginia Council of Churches Executive Retreat (DKS)
13	5:30 PM	Iglesia EL Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Outing (DKS)
20	6:00 PM	Southern Area Ministers - Love Feast - TBA (DKS)
21	6:00 PM	Race Education Team - Zoom (MSS)
24		District Resource Center - Closed for Christmas Eve
30	9:00 AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT IS "SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER?"

Welcome to **Springs of Living Water**, a Christ-centered church renewal process. In Springs of Water, rather than find out what is wrong and fix it, we attempt to find out what is right and build upon it. It is built upon the classic spiritual disciplines, such as those described by Richard Foster in **Celebration of Discipline**. These provide the foundation for growth in you, your congregation and beyond.

Springs of Living Water is a volume written by David Young whose work initiated this process. This book, nearly 400 pages in length, is available from Herald Press "by print on demand." The cost is just under \$20. The introduction of the book provides an excellent summary and was written by Richard Foster.

In the Springs of Living Water process, the pastor and entire congregation enter spiritual disciplines together leading to the discernment of a vision and plan. The planning process is very practical and understandable.

All of this is servant led. Just as we have our feet washed and are cleansed, we wash the feet of someone else. So also this planning process is implemented in step by step fashion. It is spiritually discerned. This means that our heads, hearts and faith journeys are in sync together.

Examples are found in the book and on the website at <www.churchrenewalservant.org>. The opening video highlights the explanation of Springs of Living Water along with the discipline of dialogue. There is a sermon on the woman at the well and how to find living water in our lives.

In addition, there is a Springs of Living Water brochure available with the seven steps of renewal. The first is to enter the spiritual disciplines. The second is to call and train a renewal team. The third is to discern a Biblical passage. The fourth is to do self study in congregational gatherings. The fifth is to teach servant leadership. The sixth is to discern core values, identity, Biblical values and a three-year plan of renewal. But like any plan, for it to bear fruit means pursuing the plan.

You can learn more by visiting the website or you may contact us by phone at (717)203-9288.

BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION (BFIA) GRANTS AVAILABLE

This denominational financial resource can aid congregations as they plan outreach ministries, either to expand current ministries or create new opportunities. A church can request grant funds of up to \$5,000 per 12-month period and up to \$15,000 over several years. Congregations have received money for projects such as food and clothing pantries, walk-in freezers, immigrant resettlement, evangelism outreach, radio station programming, school backpacks, weekend food kits for students, racism training, and audio/visual equipment for churches to streamworship. For more information and application go to <<https://www.brethren.org/>

faith-in-action/> You may also contact Stan Dueck of Discipleship Ministries at <sdueck@brethren.org> for more information. He is available to make a brief presentation to congregations or church leadership about BFIA.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT 2022 LEARNING TOURS

NCP Learning Tours build community with our neighbors, explore important justice and environmental concerns, and offer opportunities to reflect on the connections between our world and their world. Expect basic but safe accommodations, an encounter with other cultures and ecosystems, good traveling companions, and plenty to think about. Trips are open to people of all ages, with every effort made to create experiences for folks from across the age and ability spectrum. Cost excludes airfare and visas, but includes all on-the-ground expenses. - All trips subject to change depending on COVID restrictions -

Nepal - January 7 - 18, 2022

Cost: \$995, plus airfare to and from Kathmandu (Student - \$850)

Hosted by the anti-sex-trafficking group and NCP partner Shakti Samuha. Visit cultural and religious sites; meet women and girls NCP grants support for economic development and education; visit Chitwan National Park, home to preservation efforts for rhinos, elephants and Bengal tigers; take an overnight trek to an awe-inspiring view of the Annapurna Range (moderately strenuous, alternative transportation available). Accommodations in safe and clean hotels; possible overnight in village.

Africa - Dates To Be Determined

Cost: \$1450, plus airfare and visas (Student - \$1,050)

Experience African culture, vitality and natural wonders on this trip to one or more of the following countries (to be determined): Rwanda, Nigeria, South Sudan, Malawi. Visit women's groups and reforestation programs receiving NCP assistance, girls supported by scholarships and bicycles, and be wowed by wildlife in a National Park.

Ecuadorian Amazon - Deep Jungle - June 3 - 9

Cost: \$900, plus airfare to and from Quito (Student - \$825)

Head deep into the Amazon Rainforest to the "non-touristy" areas to experience one of the most biodiverse - and threatened - spots on earth. Explore the rainforest, guided by Siona shaman Delio; see monkeys, birds, pink dolphins, the ceiba tree ("Spirit Tree")-maybe even a jaguar; observe the impacts of oil drilling and ranching; visit indigenous Cofan, Siona, Kichwah, and Secopai native communities and NCP forest preservation efforts; accommodations in comfortable native-owned lodges while in the forest.

Diné (Navajo) Reservation - New Mexico - June 23 - 28

Cost: \$175 (student: \$125)

Experience the beauty of and challenges facing the land and people on the Diné reservation. Help with work projects in this community northwest of Albuquerque; learn about the history of the Diné; explore current social issues, spiritual practices and the impacts of fracking; see local artists at work; visit nearby Chaco Culture NHP.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021

The 2021 Virlina District Conference is currently scheduled to be held Friday, November 12- Saturday, November 13 at Grandin Court Baptist Church on 2660 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke, Virginia. Friday night's featured speaker will be the 2022 Annual Conference moderator, Dave Sollenberger.

We hope to hold worship and business sessions in person, although plans for the conference may change at any time. The Program and Arrangements Committee, chaired by Moderator Greg Fleshman of Mount Union Church of the Brethren, has been monitoring the CDC guidelines as well as watching the current climate of potential COVID cases and its variants in our region. The Program and Arrangements committee is committed to providing a safe and meaningful conference experience for all attendees.

Pastors and congregations were recently sent a mailing that included details of the conference, registration forms for delegates and meal and age group information. The Virlina District website, <www.virlina.org> has a District Conference tab that details conference plans and/or changes as soon as they are updated. Please contact Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness, <virlina2@aol.com> or (540) 362-1816 with questions or concerns.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEB. 25-26, 2022

The Virlina District Ministers and Spouses Retreat has been rescheduled and is hoped to be held on February 25-26, 2022 at the W.E. Skelton 4-H and Conference Center located at 775 Hermitage Rd, Wirtz, VA 24184. Steven J. Schweitzer, Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, will lead the event. The focus is "Science Fiction and Theology."

This event provides .6 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$50 for commuters (meals included). A mistake in the registration form/brochure indicates an October registration deadline. **The correct deadline is February 18, 2022.**

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 18-20, 2022

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held March 18-20, 2022, 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>.

AWAKENING SERVICES - APRIL 3-6, 2022

The Awakening Services, sponsored by congregations in the Roanoke-area, including Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin Counties, will be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren on April 3-6, 2022. These nightly services will feature the powerful preaching of Paul Munday, the immediate past Annual Conference Moderator. Bible studies will be held during the mornings of April 4-6 at selected area congregations. More information will be forthcoming.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE - JULY 23-28, 2022

National Youth Conference 2022 (NYC 2022) will focus on Colossians 2: 5-7 (NRSV) and the theme "Foundational." The event will be held July 23-28, 2022; the registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. This does not include transportation. However, Virlina District is working to help provide this. Tara Myers Riddle, a member of the Antioch Church of the Brethren, has been called by the district as coordinator. Youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent) and their advisors will gather at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Online registration will open on December 1, 2021.

The theme scripture from Colossians 2:5-7 reads "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

"Throughout the Bible, God is revealed as a foundation for our lives in many ways. Some examples of this are the cornerstone, the way God can be seen as an anchor for our lives, and how we remain rooted in God in all circumstances," wrote Erika Clary, 2022 NYC Coordinator.

Members of the National Youth Cabinet include Ben Tatum (Virlina), Bella Torres (Atlantic Northeast), Elise Gage (MidAtlantic), Geo Romero (Illinois/Wisconsin), Hayley Daubert (Shenandoah), and Luke Schweitzer (Southern Ohio/ Kentucky). Advisors include Kayla Alphonse (Atlantic Southeast) and Jason Haldeman (Atlantic Northeast). The Cabinet is led by Erika Clary and accompanied by Becky Ullom Naugle, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Watch for NYC 2022 updates at www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/ and on social media (Facebook: National Youth Conference; Instagram: @cobnyc2022).



C A M P B E T H E L

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 6, 2021
Our fall volunteer workday will be Saturday, November 6, 2021 beginning with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will also receive a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need your help preparing camp for the winter conference season. There will be workday projects for all skill levels and all ages. This event will be held rain or shine, inside or out. Please reserve your meals by October 31 at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 9
Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 9, 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 R.S.V.P. your family or group by December 2 at <campbetheloffice@gmail.com> or by calling us at (540) 992-2940.

WINTER CAMP FOR YOUTH AND KIDS - JANUARY 8-9, 2022
Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual holiday program for children and youth from grades 1 through 12 led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$75 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, 2022 camp preview... and Camp Bethel stickers! You can register for winter camp at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp>.

CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 12, 2022
Send your congregation's camp representative to the Camp Supporter Luncheon on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Lunch is from 12:00-2:30 p.m. including the program following the meal. All Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged to participate in this special event. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends. After a free lunch in the Ark, we'll share and distribute all the tools and information you need to communicate the 2022 Camp Bethel ministry activities to your congregation. For more information, go to: <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep>.

SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 10, 2022
Our annual "Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet" will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. You can plant seeds of FAITH in the lives of children, youth and young adults! The donation is \$50 per person (larger gifts are accepted) and provides for scholarship for summer campers who need assistance.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 8-9, 2022
Our 21st Annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling features excellent and nationally known tellers such as Bil Lepp, Len Cabral, Lyn Ford, Josh Goforth, and Beth Horner. All of this plus food and a Fri

day campfire. Help spread the word and recruit sponsors for the festival. The 2020-2021 videos are still available at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

NAFF BEGINS AS FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR
Daniel Naff, our new Food Services Coordinator, is a 2020 graduate of Bridgewater College, a member of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren, and served on our Summer Staff from 2016-2020. In September of this year, he completed a year of service with AmeriCorps at Breaks Interstate Park. As an Eagle Scout and amateur birder/naturalist, Daniel brings a wealth of experience and a love for cooking to his new role at Camp Bethel. He states that "Camp Bethel is, without exaggeration, my favorite place on earth."

JENNA STACY MEHALSO BIDS FAREWELL
We are thankful for eight years of devoted leadership from Program Coordinator, Jenna Stacy Mehalso, who will depart her role on December 31. Jenna writes, "As my husband and I think about the next steps for our lives, I need to move into a more 'normal' work schedule. I'm sad to move out of camp ministry, but I will continue to be involved with Camp Bethel as a dedicated volunteer." The Camp Director and Outdoor Ministries Committee are working to fill the Program Coordinator position.

STAFF TRANSITION RECEPTION - JANUARY 7, 2022
You are invited to a reception celebrating Wes Shrader's and Jenna Mehalso's service and to welcome Daniel Naff on Friday, January 7, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Ark (or possibly the Gym, COVID conditions pending). Cards and gifts are encouraged.

WANT TO DO AN EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT BETHEL?
Bridges and buildings make great Eagle Scout projects. Camp has benefitted in recent years from several Eagle Scout projects. With several new trails opening, we need several new foot-and-bike bridges. Portable benches are another excellent addition to campus. Contact Barry LeNoir for information and locations: <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940.

SUMMER 2022 COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF
We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our 2022 Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve May 30 through July 23, pay is \$320/week, plus a \$325+ end-of-summer bonus, plus recruitment bonuses. Kitchen Staff serve May 30 through August 13, pay is \$350-or-\$420/week. Position descriptions, videos, and applications are at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff>.

SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN - OCTOBER 6, 2021
Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation, the mission resourcing campaign of the Virginia District, has attained 286 pledges which total \$595,588. As of the above date we have received \$525,577 toward the fulfillment of these pledges. It is never too late to pledge and contribute to this effort.



NEWS & EVENTS

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 29, 2022

Clergy, students and anyone who deals with clergy finances such as congregational treasurers are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally. Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Clergy can earn 0.3 CEUs - for the morning session only.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

Morning Session, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 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. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only. According to the new webinar policy, CEUs may also be earned by viewing the recording and filling out the report form. (Registration is required to receive the recording.)

Afternoon Session, from 2:30 to 4:30 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 clergy and anyone who deals with clergy finances who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs. It is sponsored by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary

Seminar Schedule

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. EST: Morning session
2:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to 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. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons. Prompt registration is advised at the registration deadline is January 19, 2022. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the 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.

HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

The District Resource Center will be closed in preparation for the Virlina District Conference on Friday, November 12.

We will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday beginning on Wednesday, November 24, at 6 p.m. until Monday, November 29, at 9 a.m.

We will also be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning on Thursday, December 23, at 6 p.m. until Tuesday, December 27, at 9 a.m. and for the New Year Holiday beginning on Thursday, December 30, at 6 p.m. until Monday, January 3, 2022 at 9 a.m.

We do monitor telephone messages and e-mail periodically when the center is closed. The District Executive Minister will be on vacation November 21-27, 2021 and December 26, 2021 - January 3, 2022.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Kathleen W. Jamison, aged 100, of Floyd, Va., passed away on Monday September 6, 2021. She was a long time, beloved member of the Topeco Church of the Brethren.

Vivian Bowman Prillaman, aged 99, of Roanoke, Virginia, passed into eternity on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Vivian was a member of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren. She previously served in many capacities at the Red Hill Church of the Brethren. She served as a librarian in several elementary schools in Franklin County for 15 years. Graveside services were held on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at the Antioch Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

Lois Arlin Kurtz, aged 96, the wife of C. C. Kurtz, died on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Brother and Sister Kurtz were married for 77 years. Among the congregations served by Brother Kurtz were Pleasant Hill and Burks Fork in Floyd County, VA, from 1952-56. Condolences may be sent to Brother Kurtz and family at 1233 Evergreen Church Road, Stanardsville, Va., 22973.

Hannah Mae (Withers) Lenker, aged 96, widow of C. Eugene Lenker, died on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Funeral services were conducted at the Barren Ridge Church in Augusta County, VA, on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 with Galen Combs officiating. She was the grandmother of former Summerdean Pastor Allen C. Lenker. The Lenkers served many congregations including Boones Chapel, Henry Fork, Germantown Brick and Rocky Mount-First.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON NOVEMBER 25

Deadline for the January 2022 HEADLINER is November 25, 2021. 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!