

# 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

JANUARY

*Newsletter*

2022

***"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)***

Until recently I have not given much thought to clothing. However, after losing 130 pounds over the course of two years, I have had to replace my former wardrobe. This has been a daunting task requiring considerable time and effort.

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul uses "clothing" as a metaphor for the development of Christian character in the individual believer. Most commonly, Paul's letter to the churches move from theology to ethics, from thought to behavior. In his thinking, what we believe about God is inextricable from how we relate to others. In Colossians 3, he begins by admonishing the reader to "seek the things that are above" and not to focus on earthly matters (3:1-4). He then moves to pagan behaviors that the believer must put to death or "strip off." Their removal opens the door to cloth one's self with the new person and the renewal of knowledge concerning the creator's intent (3:5-11). A part of this renewal is giving priority to Christ as all and in all, while losing sight of human distinctions and prejudices.

In the text we are examining (3:12-17), he reminds us that we are God's new Israel, chosen to be witnesses to the divine presence in human society. We are holy not because of our own righteousness, but because of our redemption in Christ. And it is that redemption which demonstrates the width, depth, height and fulness of God's love.

He then invites the readers to "clothe yourselves" with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. This clothing, demonstrated in outward behavior, shows forth the characteristics that Jesus exemplified as our example. They parallel the "fruit of the Spirit" found in Galatians 5 that develop within as we are transformed from what we have been to what we will be.

Compassion is putting one's self in the shoes of another. This is particularly true as we come to understand that all persons have not experienced the privileges that some have enjoyed. It is standing alongside those who experience oppression or have been victimized in some way. We find this in Jesus when God was incarnate within him in order to redeem the human race.

Kindness indicates a generous and considerate behavior. It flows from the recognition that God created "the other person." There has been an increasing tendency in society to objectify, vilify and condemn individuals and groups without recognizing and respecting God's image within them. What would our society look like if we rediscovered the art of commending the best in those with whom

we disagree or find offensive. One of the criticisms faced by Jesus was that he ate and drank with sinners. It was just this engagement that made a difference in their lives.

Humility, often talked about and rarely practiced, is a low view of one's own importance. It is a recognition of what our limits are, what we are able to do and what we cannot do. Likewise, it is an acknowledgement that we need others. The practice of Christianity has both an individual and a community aspect. Humility is not only washing the feet of another, but allowing the other to wash our own feet (John 13).

Meekness is submission in faith to the guidance and direction of God. When we sing "where he sends I will go and what he says I will do, never fear, only trust and obey," we are celebrating the spirit of meekness. It is the subordination of our own desires and ambitions to the will of God. Moses, often described as "the meekest man in the Bible," was meek not because he was quiet, but rather because he sought to obey God regardless of the cost or the criticism of those he sought to serve.

When I was a pastor, our District Executive Owen Stultz would often remind us "that it takes longer than you think." As a young person I wanted to see results NOW! As an older person the difficult circumstances of life and work have taught me the truth of his words. Patience is tolerating the passage of time, the obstacles of life and the pain that must be endured without becoming unduly angry or upset. The current pandemic and the corrosive effects it has had upon society in general and church in particular require patience. God is most often at work when the process and outcome is not visible NOW! Yet, time will reveal what God is doing.

Wearing these "clothes" enables us to bear with one another and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Clothing ourselves in an all encompassing divine *agape* love brings the inner and outer peace that we look forward to. Let us heed Paul's invitation to be thankful, to let the word of Christ dwell richly within ourselves; to teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and with gratitude in our hearts sing spiritual songs to God, and in whatever is done, in word or deed, to do so in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*David K. Shumate*  
*District Executive Minister*

**VIRLINA DISTRICT**  
3402 Plantation Road, NE  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Ph. (540) 362-1816  
Fax (540) 362-1817  
1-800-VIRLINA Toll Free

DAVID K. SHUMATE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER  
MARY SINK ST. JOHN, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, NURTURE AND WITNESS  
CATHY S. HUFFMAN, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION  
JOY A. MURRAY, COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES  
ED AND SUSAN MCKIMMY, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE





**Antioch** - Wes Van Pelt by letter October 25, 2021.

**Ferrum** - Brenda Holt by reaffirmation December 19, 2021.

**Saunders Grove** - Blair Hanna by letter October 3, 2021.

**Stonewall** - Amy Ruth Walters by baptism October 3, 2021.

**OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF:**

**Pauline Dickerson Hungate**, aged 99, of Salem, VA, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 28, 2021. She was a member of Peters Creek Church of the Brethren.

**Welby Alton Cockram**, aged 93 of Floyd, VA, went to be with his Lord and Savior in his heavenly home on Thursday, December 9, 2021. Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 12, 2021, with Roy Turpin and Stan Hawkins officiating. Interment followed in the Lee Cemetery.

**Richard Franklin Wright**, aged 88, husband of Virginia E. Wright, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 28, 2021. He was a member of Peters Creek Church of the Brethren, where he served on many committees and as a Sunday School teacher for many years. A funeral service was held on Monday, January 3, 2022 Pastor John Thompson officiating. Interment followed at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park.

**Martha Mae Lucore Flora**, aged 89, of Franklin County, VA, went home to the Lord on Monday, January 3, 2022. She was born on March 11, 1932 to the late Frank and Lola Lucore of Arriba, CO. Martha is survived by her husband of 69 years, Sylvus D. Flora; her children, Sharon Reece (Everett), Jan Steil, Wayne Flora (Alisa), Carolyn Reynolds (Bill), and Kurtis Flora (Anne); eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters and one brother.

Martha studied nursing to become an RN, OCN and helped with many persons with cancer, working in several hospitals from here to Maryland. She loved cooking, participating in various church functions and women's fellowship, and enjoyed her service by quilting for many people at home, with the ladies at church, and for the annual World Hunger Auction. Martha was known for her quick wit and keeping us all on our toes. A celebration of her life was held at the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Thursday, January 6, 2022, with Bruce Huffman officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

**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.

**BETHLEHEM** - Part time position, profile circulating - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

**CHRISTIANSBURG** - *Hal Sonafrank began as pastor effective January 1, 2022.*

**COPPER HILL** - In negotiation, trial sermon and vote date pending.

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

**FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT)** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

**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 - Pulpit supply.

**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** - *Harold E. Boyd began as pastor effective December 1, 2021.*

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

**SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

**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 January 1, 2022.*

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF:**

**Roy Alvin Foley**, aged 89, of Rocky Mount, VA, passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021. He was a long time member of Henry Fork Church of the Brethren, where he served as a deacon and in many other capacities. Funeral services were held at the Henry Fork Church on Monday, November 29, 2021 with Ronald Coleman officiating.

# N E W S & E V E N T S

## DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE PACKETS

The District Office has extra information packets available to anyone who would like to receive one. These packets, put together each year for conference delegates and non-delegates, contain information from our district commissions, committees, and Church of the Brethren agencies. Since the presence of non-delegates was limited at the 2021 conference, there were many packets that were left over. If you were a delegate and did not receive a packet, or if you are interested in reports and information that were made available this year, please call or email Mary StJohn, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness at (540)362-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com> to receive a packet.

## OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

**Kenneth Blackwell**, aged 78, of Floyd, VA, was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 2, 2021. He is survived by wife, Kathy Blackwell; two sons, Charles (Janice) Blackwell, and Matthew (Kelly) Blackwell; stepchildren, Lori (Dan) Schantz, and Logan (Ciera) Boyd; eleven grandchildren; four sisters; along with other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Sunday December 5, 2021, at the Red Oak Grove Church, with Richard W. Thomas, Sr. officiating. Interment followed at Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Donald Eugene Hylton**, aged 85, of Floyd, VA, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 12, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Brenda Slusher Hylton, two daughters, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Respected by those who knew him, he was a faithful member, head usher, and deacon of Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren.

**Richard F. Shreckhise**, aged 77, of Midlothian, VA, passed away on December 14, 2021. He was a member of the West Richmond Church. Dick was a graduate of McPherson College and Bethany Theological Seminary. He was ordained at the Pleasant Valley Church in Shenandoah District in 1975. He served as pastor or associate pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania and Vermont before his retirement in 2011, as well as interim pastorates afterward.

**William L. "Buddy" Crumpacker**, aged 78, of Blue Ridge, VA passed away on December 22, 2021. He was born on December 12, 1943 to the late Ned W. and Frances Jonas Crumpacker. Buddy was a lifelong member of the Church of the Brethren. He was a passionate servant and cheerleader for Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA, and for Brethren Disaster Ministries.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Shields Crumpacker; daughters Melinda Dearing (Jeff) and Cynthia Falls (Dennis), son William Crumpacker, Jr. (Michelle), seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He is also survived by his twin sister Rebecca Poe and sister Sharon Mitchell (Phillip) and numerous other family members.

A Celebration of Life will be held when circumstances allow. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Camp Bethel, 328 Camp Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE 2022 BALLOT!!

The Nominating and Personnel Committee needs your help. As a member of a congregation, your insight is vital to having good leaders in the district ministry. Nominating and Personnel will begin their work on January 22, 2022. Your nominations would be very helpful. For this part of the process, you do not have to ask the person if they are willing to let their name go on ballot. We need the names of persons that you believe have the gifts and abilities to serve in the district ministry and mission, as well as a commitment to the health and wholeness of the Church of the Brethren. These persons do not have to be from your congregation or area. These persons can be from anywhere in the district.

The following positions are open in 2022: Moderator-Elect (laity), Clerk, Standing Committee Delegate, Program and Arrangements Committee, Nominating and Personnel Committee (Areas: Franklin County, New River Valley and Eastern Virginia), District Board (Areas: Franklin County, Floyd County, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, New River Valley, Botetourt County, and At-Large), and Outdoor Ministries Committee.

A copy of the Nomination Form may be obtained by e-mailing <virlina2@aol.com> or online at <www.virlina.org>.

## QUILT SQUARES NEEDED FOR 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren (AACB) is requesting quilt squares from Church of the Brethren congregations in order to construct quilts and wall hangings at the 2022 Annual Conference. Each year, these items are auctioned to raise money for hunger projects.

Each congregation is encouraged to create an 8 1/2 inch square quilt block and send it in by May 15, along with a \$1 or more donation to offset the costs of quilting materials. Quilt tops will be assembled before the Conference. Blocks must be made from pre-shrunk cotton or cotton blend, and if used, only water-soluble, very soft, or easily removed backing. Double knit fabrics, counted cross-stitch on canvas, liquid embroidery, padded blocks, or heat-applied designs or photos and glue should not be used. Use your own creativity to make your pattern design. Blocks should be cut to size after being pieced, embroidered, or appliquéd, and include the congregation's name, state, and district. This information makes the quilts more valuable.

Mail these to AACB, c/o Margaret Weybright, 1801 Greencroft Blvd. Apt #125, Goshen, IN 46526.

## SUMMERDEAN SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Summerdean Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia is seeking a part-time Children & Youth Director who shall facilitate and provide hands-on leadership for the ministries and activities of the children and youth programs of Summerdean Church. This position will average 20 hours per week. For a full job description or to submit a resume, please email Adam Stultz at <pastoradam@summerdean.org>



**DISTRICT OFFICE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

3402 Plantation Road NE  
Roanoke, VA 24012

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Roanoke, Virginia  
Permit #78

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**C A L E N D A R   O F   E V E N T S**

**JANUARY 2022**

1			District Resource Center Closed - New Year's Day Observed
3	9:00	AM	Northern Area Ministers (DKS)
10	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee - Moneta (DKS)
11	7:00	PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
15	9:00	AM	District Board - Video Conference (DKS/MSS)
17	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Antioch (DKS)
18	10:30	AM	Awakening Committee (DKS)
22	10:30	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSSJ)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (DKS/MSSJ)
24-27			Council of District Executives Meetings (DKS)
31	5:00	PM	Iglesia El Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Meadows of Dan (DKS)

**FEBRUARY 2022**

1	9:00	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Video Conference (DKS)
2	1:00	PM	Academy Certified Training Systems - Video Conference (DKS)
4	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
7	9:00	AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee - Mount Hermon (DKS)
8	7:00	PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
14	1:00	PM	Historical Committee (DKS)
19	9:00	AM	District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel (DKS/MSS)
20	7:00	PM	Race Education Team - Video Conference (MSS)
21	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Pulaski, First (DKS)
25-26			Ministers and Spouse Retreat at SML 4-H Center (DKS)

*Best wishes for a blessed and productive New Year 2022*

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **FAITHX WORKCAMP REGISTRATION - JANUARY 13, 2022**

Registration for FaithX (formerly workcamps) events in the summer of 2022 opened online on Thursday, January 13, at 8 p.m. (Eastern time) at <[www.brethren.org/faithx](http://www.brethren.org/faithx)>.

"Boundless Faith" is the theme for the 2022 FaithX events. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7) is the theme scripture. According to the theme statement: "We are told that we walk by faith, but what does that mean? What does our faith look like and how do we make sense of it? Let us find out together. Let us imagine a bigger and bolder faith to go with a big and bold God that we serve. Push past the usual answers and seek deeper truths. Go forth and serve outside the safety of normality. Move beyond the mundane and walk with us, together, in boundless faith."

Sample registrations are posted on the FaithX webpage to help those interested in participating to prepare and gather information. Find the sample registrations at <[www.brethren.org/faithx](http://www.brethren.org/faithx)>.

## **NECESSARY CONVERSATIONS - FEBRUARY 20, 2022**

The Virgina District Race Education Team (VRET) cordially invites you to our next "Necessary Conversations" on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The conversation will be one between the VRET, Don Mitchell, Eric Anspaugh and You as VRET interviews Don and Eric about their Sankofa Journey on October 14-17, 2021.

Sankofa is a "Journey Toward Racial Righteousness." Sankofa is a word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. It means San (to return), ko (to go) fa (to fetch, seek, and take). Sankofa atests that we must look backward (into our history), before we can faithfully move forward together, in the present and future. The Sankofa experience does just this, by exploring historic sites of the Civil Rights Movement, connecting the freedom struggle of the past, to our present realities.

Sankofa invites the Church to understand racial righteousness as a critical component of our Christian discipleship. This immersive discipleship pilgrimage equips believers to participate in the kingdom mosaic and pursue biblical justice. Sankofa empowers participants to become ambassadors of reconciliation inside and outside the church.

Be looking for your invitation from the VRET to this "Necessary Conversation." We look forward to this "Journey" together!

## **MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEBRUARY 25-26, 2022**

The Virgina 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 Road, 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). Individuals or couples needing scholarship are advised to contact us at <[nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)>

A mistake in the registration form/brochure indicates an October registration deadline. The correct deadline is February 18, 2022.

## **YOUTH ROUNDTABLE - FEBRUARY 25-27, 2022**

The annual Roundtable at Bridgewater College for youth, grades 9-12, is scheduled for February 25-27, 2022. Chris Michael, a former Interdistrict Youth Cabinet (IYC) member, high school art teacher, Tik-Tok comedian and artist, is the featured speaker. An IYC newsletter, with registration information, will be mailed to youth leaders in January.

## **PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 18-20, 2022**

Pilgrimage XXIV is now scheduled for 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.

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, go to <[www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com)> or contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or <[haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com)>.

## **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 is scheduled for July 23-28, 2022. 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 is now open. The registration fee, which includes food, lodging, and programming, will be \$550. This does not include transportation.

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.

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

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

**BAML OFFERS HEAVEN, HELL AND THE AFTERLIFE!**  
The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering *Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife*, April 27 – June 21, 2022. Participants will receive one credit in Bible/Theology. The instructor for this online course will be Craig Gandy. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course. The deadline to register for this course is March 23, 2022.

Participants in this course will explore biblical and theological understandings of Heaven, Hell, and God's judgment. We will examine topics including: Sheol and Gehenna, the destiny of the unevangelized, the parousia and day of the Lord, the restoration of creation, the resurrection of the body, and the New Heaven and New Earth. Special attention will be given to the Brethren debate over Universal Restoration.

Online courses "meet" for eight weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom. The Brethren Academy provides each new student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. A Moodle tutorial will be provided upon request. Previous Academy students may use their Academy log-in information. Anyone needing their password reset may contact the Brethren Academy office.

Once the course begins, new lessons are posted each week. Students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course. Successful completion is defined by the following:

- Meeting the attendance requirement
- Completing the assigned reading
- Engaging in the course through participation
- Completing reduced assignments that may be required by the instructor and outlined in the syllabus.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register and pay online at <<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>> There is a 3% service charge when registering online. Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or (765) 983-1820.

## VIRLINA DISTRICT NYC BUS TRIP - JULY 19-30, 2022

The Virlina District Youth Bus Trip to National Youth Conference will cost \$450. The district has received a monetary gift with a portion being used for the 2022 NYC bus trip to offset difficulties of fundraising during the pandemic.

A \$200 nonrefundable deposit with the completed medical form is due March 1. Our two buses will fill on a first come-first serve basis. Final payments for the bus trip will be due on June 15, 2022. This Travel Package will include but is not limited to:

-Motor Coach Transportation provided by Varsity Travel

-Six nights lodging in hotels with continental or full breakfasts

- Sightseeing - Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Bear Country, Badlands, Wall Drug, Fort Hays Chuckwagon show and dinner, St. Louis Arch (detailed itinerary sent after April 1)

-Snacks and drinks provided at rest stops

Additional expenses: (amount varies with meal and souvenir choices)

-Eight lunches and five dinners (not all will be fast food)

-(optional) offering money, souvenirs, extra snacks, NYC wrap-up video or T-shirt

-NYC registration needs to be done separately and is not included (\$550) - see below

-\$40 cash deposit for room key (refunded on last day with key return)

National Youth Conference is scheduled for July 23 -28, 2022 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The online registration is open NOW at <<https://www.brethren.org/nyc/>>

Youth who have completed 9th grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or age equivalent) and advisors are invited to attend. Please send at least one advisor for every five youth. If sending female youth, please send a female advisor and if sending male youth, please send a male advisor. All adult advisors must be a minimum of 22 years of age.

For more information about the event, please contact NYC Coordinator, Erika Clary, at <[eclary@brethren.org](mailto:eclary@brethren.org)> or (847) 429-4376. Contact Tara Riddle with questions about the bus trip at (540) 352-2217 or <[timtarariddle@gmail.com](mailto:timtarariddle@gmail.com)>.

**SUMMER CAMPS 2022: "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"**

Together: with God, with each other, and with creation. When we live together in intentional Christian community, even for just one week, we gain person-to-person relationship skills to benefit our families, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. Registration is OPEN for safe and fun summer camps. Camperships available! <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps)>.

**SUMMER 2022 COUNSELORS AND 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](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff)>.

**CAMP BETHEL STAFF MEMBERS RECEPTION - FEBRUARY 4, 2022**

You are invited to a reception celebrating Wes Shrader's and Jenna Mehalso's service and to welcome Daniel Naff on Friday, February 4, 6:00-7:00pm in the Ark. Food will be provided. Cards and gifts are encouraged. Please advise your attendance at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/reception](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/reception).

**WINTER CAMP YOUTH AND KIDS' RETREAT - FEBRUARY 5-6, 2022**

Winter Camp is a fun Retreat for kids in grades 1-5 and youth grades 6-12 led by our reunited Summer Staff. The \$75 registration fee includes 4 meals, lodging, and program. Register at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WinterCamp](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WinterCamp).

**CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 12, 2022**

All Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged to attend our Camp Supporter Luncheon on Saturday, February 12, from 12:30 -2:30 p.m. 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 Camp Bethel to your home congregations. For more information go to <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep)>

**SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 10, 2022**

Our annual "Sow the Seed" Scholarship Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, beginning 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." RSVP by March 3 to <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto: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 2022 is \$390. A week at camp can change a life forever. Give the gift of CAMP!

**SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS APRIL 2, 2022**

Our Spring Volunteer Workday is Saturday, April 2. Enjoy free breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. and a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need YOUR help! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. Please reserve your meals by March 26 at (540) 992-2940 or <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

**SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS- APRIL 8-9, 2022**

The 21st Annual Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival is scheduled for April 8-9, 2022. The event features Bill Lepp, Len Cabral, Lyn Ford, Josh Goforth, and Beth Horner. Be here for another dynamic and fun storytelling event. 2020-2021 videos are still available online at <[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)>.

**GIVE A CHILD A CAMPSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP**

We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$390, which is the 2020 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or donate at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)>

**BRIDGES AND BENCHES ARE EXCELLENT 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](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)> or (540) 992-2940.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS OPEN AT CAMP**

Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville CoB) have built excellent new trails and bridges winding through our "Adventure Forest." Call or email in advance, and bring your bike and helmet for fun in our beautiful property. Contact Barry at <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)> or (540) 992-2940. Trail Maps are on the Camp Office porch and our website.

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS:**

Sign up for our fun and colorful eNewsletter at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe)>.

**LIKE OUR DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE!**

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

**HEADLINER DEADLINE ON JANUARY 25, 2022**

Deadline for the March 2022 HEADLINER is January 25, 2022. Forward items for inclusion to <[EHeadliner@aol.com](mailto: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!

# DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The Virginia District Conference of the Church of the Brethren gathered at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 12-13, 2021. "Wait On The Lord" was the theme of the 2021 District Conference. The theme was based upon Isaiah 40:31, "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Attendees participated in the worship, fellowship and spiritual discernment for the district under the leadership of Moderator Gregory E. Fleshman, pastor of the Mount Union Church of the Brethren in Roanoke County, Virginia.

Assisting in leadership during conference was Moderator-Elect Lynn N. Myers of the Antioch Church in Franklin County, Virginia, Pamela K. Clark of the Peters Creek Church who served as Clerk, Harvey S. Leddy of the Roanoke, Williamson Road Church who served as Timekeeper, and Timothy P. Harvey of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church who served as Parliamentarian. David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, spoke for worship and the Ministers and Spouses meal on Friday night.

Saturday's business included the following:

Ballot Positions Filled:

- \* Moderator-Elect - Noel S. Naff (Mount Hermon)
- \* District Board - Gayle M. Harms (Jones Chapel), Gary W. Bauer (Durham, Peace Covenant), Pam D. Harris (Topeco), Samuel F. StJohn (Roanoke, Ninth Street), Karen B. Cassell (Lynchburg), Timothy H. Emmons (Nineveh), Bruce E. Huffman (Antioch), Robin W. Lavinder (Germantown Brick), Todd A. Reed (Cedar Bluff), and Rudolph H. Taylor, III (Cloverdale).
- \* Outdoor Ministries Committee - Kimberly H. Brown (Cloverdale) and Stephanie D. Robinson (Roanoke, Oak Grove).
- \* Standing Committee - Edward C. Woodard (Roanoke, Oak Grove).
- \* Program and Arrangements - Teresa M. Broyles (Germantown Brick) and Suzanne I. Rhoades (Trinity).
- \* Nominating and Personnel - Amber T. Harris (Durham, Peace Covenant), Michael D. Elmore (Roanoke, Oak Grove) and Kevin L. Kinsey (Roanoke, Central).

The 2022 District Board Budget of \$734,271.97 (including designated items of \$450,000, but not including Camp Bethel) was approved. This included a 4% salary increase for the District Resource Center staff. (95% approval)

Approval of a resolution revising the quorum required by the constitution and by-laws for the district board (89% approval).

Approved the disorganization of the Boones Chapel (Snow Creek) Church (96% approval) and the Parkway Church (99% approval).

Other newsworthy items included:

A Friday evening offering of \$1,981.00 was received for the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and a Saturday offering of \$2,388.53 to help offset conference expenses.

The District Board reorganized during the lunch hour. Serving as chairpersons are: Hannah M. Jarrett (Roanoke, Summerdean) - District Board, J.W. Rhoades (Trinity), Vice Chair - District Board, Timothy H. Emmons (Nineveh) - Commission on Ministry, Robin W. Lavinder (Germantown Brick) - Commission on Nurture, Stacy W. Goff (Copper Hill) - Commission on Stewardship, and Roger G. Stultz (Roanoke, Summerdean) - Commission on Witness. Stephanie L. Naff (Mount Hermon) will serve as Chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee and Daniel L. Rudy (Roanoke, Ninth Street) will continue as Chair of the New Church Development Committee.

Delegates heard the reports of the District Board, New Church Development Committee, Outdoor Ministries Committee and other institutions of the district and denomination, as well as reports from the district staff. Among those representing the wider church were: David Steele (Church of the Brethren, Inc.) and David Sollenberger (2022 Annual Conference Moderator).

Delegates also heard that twenty-four congregations and fellowships were involved in PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROCESS on September 30.

We celebrated the graduation of Naomi L. Powers and Robby Tatum from Christian Growth Institute.

We recognized William M. Pugh in absentia for fifty-years of service in the set-apart ministry. Due to the nature of the conference in a pandemic circumstance, he will be recognized at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church when the situation permits.

We held a memorial service for those ministers, former district staff persons, spouses and family members, who have died since the 2019 conference: Michael Alan Carroll, Kenneth J. Peterson, Jack D. Karpenske, Joyce Elaine Myers Fike, L. Clyde Carter Jr., Paris Elbert "Pete" Bain, Jettie Adkins English, Gordon Ernest Deyerle II, Charles Curtis Rhudy, Barry Dean Sink, Edgar Kyle Baker, Patsey Martin, James C. McKinnell, James John "Jim" Stade, Nancy Helen Blankenship Hillsman, R. Kermon Thomasson, Debra Lynn Phillips Bassetti, Lois Arlin Kurtz, and Hannah Mae (Withers) Lenker.

Moderator Gregory E. Fleshman installed Lynn N. Myers as the 2022 Moderator. Brother Myers shared that the focus of the 2022 District Conference will be based on I John 4:21, "And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." The overall theme will be "Bound Together By Love."

The Virginia District is one of twenty-four districts of the denomination and encompasses 91 congregations, fellowships and meeting points with 8,909 members located in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. The Church of the Brethren is a denomination of 98,680 members in 978 congregations, fellowships and projects throughout the United States. Brethren are noted for an emphasis on peacemaking, reconciliation and service seeking to live out the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.