

# 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

MAY

*Newsletter*

2022

***"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" Ecclesiastes 3:1***

Thirty years is a long time to serve in one position. 10,957 days, to be exact. As you've probably seen or heard, I will be retiring as the District Executive Minister of Virilina District on (or before) December 31st.

Ever since my hospitalization in 2016, I have been pondering the timing of retirement. Since my 65th birthday is this year, it seemed a good time to go. It is time for younger, more energetic leadership to emerge during a time of rapid change. My predecessor, Owen G. Stultz, used to talk about the time when a buffalo grew too old to lead and drop back into the herd. Then a "young buffalo" would come forward and the journey would continue uninterrupted. In 1993, I was the young buffalo. Now, it is my time to drop back into the herd.

Two individuals were an influence on my call to this role. One was Owen. It began on January 31, 1980 when he traveled to Crab Orchard, West Virginia in a raging blizzard to talk to me about my sensed calling called the set-apart ministry. He had to travel back on the old U.S. 19 because the turnpike was closed. That first encounter, as well as his steadfast support of me as a seminary student, fledgling pastor, parent of an autistic child, and in this role were, as he would say, "tremenjous."

The second individual was Carl Myers, formerly District Executive in the Illinois-Wisconsin District. When experiencing vocational uncertainty after a year of seminary, I needed to test my call. I telephoned him, introduced myself, and asked if he had a congregation "in the middle of nowhere" that I could serve. The "nowhere" part was so that if I failed miserably, no one but the congregation would know. Less than two weeks later I was serving in Lowpoint, Illinois. I've often thought my biography should be titled, "From Lowpoint to Hiwassee: The Ministry of David K. Shumate."

Individuals have occasionally mentioned to me that they "wouldn't have" my job. Although, like any position of leadership there are days or situations that are challenging or disheartening. However, for the most part I have found this role meaningful and enjoyable.

The enjoyment has arisen from a number of areas. One aspect is the amount of variety that is or has been a part of the position. District Executives are continually moving from one place to another. Some of those places are actual geographical locations, while other places are vocational functions. All of these places create a diverse panoply of relationships with a variety of individuals and groups. While there are weekly, monthly,

seasonal and annual patterns; no two days are the same.

Speaking of geography, as District Executive Minister, I was privileged to travel to Brazil, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands; as well as the width of the United States. Before telephones were smart enough to give directions, I had a mental chart of how to find various congregations using networks not only of main highways, but back roads, by-ways and short cuts. As time progressed I realized that we were a people of multiple cultures even though an outsider might not recognize it. And, it is my privilege to leave us with even more diversity.

It has been a pleasure to observe the spiritual growth and maturity in persons that I have come to know, love and appreciate. Church leaders, both laity and clergy, have risen up and served during my three decades. One of my personal priorities has been to give persons opportunity to develop by encouraging them to study, to practice and to serve. There are some now serving as pastors who began as a part of my "farm team" by being asked to fill pulpits all over our territory. That was not by accident. It has been a pleasure to see people mentored by others or come to leadership through Pilgrimage or Calling the Called.

The trust and respect of the district, the denomination and the wider church in calling me to positions of leadership has been a great encouragement to me. My self image has been one of a "jack of all trades, master of none!" It has been a daunting task to balance all of the roles that I have carried. Your forbearance toward me is greatly appreciated.

Nothing has been accomplished without the help of those I've worked with most closely as colleagues such as Jeannette Patterson, Doris Quarles, Mary Sink St. John, Emma Jean Woodard, Betty Wills, Sharon Jenkins, Tabitha Hartman Rudy and others. Then there are the many volunteers whose labor has and continues to make this a productive point in God's realm. I am grateful for all!

Please know that I am only retiring from position, not from ministry. Before I answer the final call of God, I await the further leadings of the Lord. My hand is off of the door knob awaiting the opening of new doors.

*David K. Shumate*  
*District Executive Minister*

## **VIRILINA DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER**

3402 Plantation Road, N.E.  
Telephone (540) 362-1816  
Fax (540) 362-1817

Roanoke, Virginia 24012  
Tollfree (800) 847-5462  
E-mail <virilina@aol.com>

David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER  
Mary Sink St. John, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, NURTURE AND WITNESS  
Cathy S. Huffman, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION  
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



**Burks Fork** - Diane Hamm and Iva Jane Hubbard by letter January 3, 2021. Josh Altizer and Brandy Altizer by baptism July 18, 2021. John Vest by baptism October 25, 2021. Richard Leonard, Susan Leonard and McKinley Leonard by reaffirmation April 10, 2022.

**Fairview, Floyd** - Kyndal Pratt, Morgan Reed, Matthew Reed, Jon Mashburn, Brooke Mashburn, Darryl Compton by baptism September 12, 2021. Kendall Huff, Steve Higgs, Dustan Higgs and Hunter Higgs by baptism September 19, 2021.

**Jeters Chapel** - Karson Powers by baptism January 9, 2022. Kayla Redford, Kyle Wollam by baptism February 20, 2022. Nova Clark by baptism February 27, 2022.

**Pleasant Valley** - Michael T. Gallimore by letter March 12, 2022.

### AMONGST OUR MINISTERS AND FAMILIES

Delays due to pandemic restrictions have contributed to a backlog of special services related to ministry. We have begun to address these recently.

**Harold E. "Hal" Sonafrank** was installed as pastor of the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren on Sunday, March 27.

**Harold E. Boyd** was ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren on Sunday, March 27.

**David A. Ansley** was installed as pastor of the Fraternity Church of the Brethren on Sunday, April 24.

**Amber T. Harris** was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, April 24. She is a member of the Durham, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren.

**William J. "Bill" Hinton, Sr.** was installed as pastor of the Copper Hill Church of the Brethren on Sunday, May 1.

**Naomi L. Powers** was ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Daleville Church of the Brethren on Sunday, May 1.

**Carlton R. Hodges** will be ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Red Hill Church of the Brethren on Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m.

**Amiel Tutolo** will be installed as pastor of the Oak Grove - South Church of the Brethren on Sunday, May 29, at 11 a.m.

### PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

**BASSETT** - Part or full time position, profile pending - R. Douglas Jones serving as pulpit supply.

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

**BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote date to be determined.*

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

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

**GREEN HILL** - Part time position, profile available - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.

**LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.

**MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Jeremiah Beasley serving.

**MASONS COVE** - Part time position, no profile available. Charles DeHart serving as pulpit supply.

**MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.

**MONTE VISTA** - Part time position, no profile available - *Gina Wright-Hawkins will begin as interim pastor effective June 1, 2022.*

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

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

**OAK GROVE - SOUTH** - *Amiel Tutolo began as pastor on a part time basis effective April 1, 2022.*

**OAKVALE** - Part time position, no profile available - Josh Lucas continues as Associate Pastor.

**PLEASANT VIEW** - Part time position, no profile available - *John P. Reed, Sr. began as interim pastor on May 1, 2022.*

**ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

**SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Currently not meeting.

**SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply by Alvis Jackson.

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

**SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE** - *Part time position, profile meeting scheduled for June 5 - Edward C. Woodard began as interim pastor effective May 1, 2022.*

**WE WELCOME JOSIE DIANE RUDY TO OUR MIDST**

**Josie Diane Rudy** was born at 2:25 a.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. She was welcomed by her mother, Tabitha Hartman Rudy; her father, Daniel L. Rudy; and her "big" sister, Evelyn Rudy!

**PART-TIME PASTOR, FULL-TIME CHURCH SPEAKER - MAY 17, 2022**

The Office of Ministry's "Part-time Pastor, Full-time Church" program is hosting Peter Chin online Tuesday, May 17, at 8 p.m. (ET). Chin wrote an article that appeared online in Christianity Today entitled, "I've Reached My Breaking Point as a Pastor." He is the senior pastor at Rainier Avenue Church in Seattle, Washington, and the author of "Blindsided by God," a memoir of his wife's fight against breast cancer while pregnant with their third child. Register by going to <[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bKB6kj5nRg00ZaWEUIWXuA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bKB6kj5nRg00ZaWEUIWXuA)>.

**HISTORICAL PRESENTATION TO BENEFIT WORLD HUNGER AUCTION - MAY 19, 2022**

"A Multimedia Historical Story of the Franklin County Brethren from 1773 to 1799" will be presented on Thursday, May 19, 2022 in order to benefit the World Hunger Auction. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Antioch Church of the Brethren from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

The cost is \$25.00 and includes the program, coffee and desserts. Attendees can pay at the door. Please contact Bea Naff Bailey at <[cbeatr@g.clemson.edu](mailto:cbeatr@g.clemson.edu)> in order to reserve a seat! The Antioch Church is located at 2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151.

**ETHICS FOR SET-APART MINISTRY: BASIC COURSE - JUNE 4, 2022**

The Brethren Academy has set a date for the next training session of Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course, created by James Benedict. This training using Zoom, an online conferencing platform, is for newly licensed ministers, students in Christian Growth Institute, and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. The training will be held June 4, 2022, via Zoom, from 10:00-4:00 EDT with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is May 23rd. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants. Registrations and payment must be received by the Brethren Academy office by this date. A brochure containing all the information and instructions for registering is available at <[nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)>.

**THE VISION OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

*"Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless."*

Adopted by the 2021 Annual Conference.

**OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF**

**Edward Ray Epperly** of Christiansburg, aged 95, left his earthly home on February 1, 2022. Ray was known as a man who served God and his church family, his country and his own family and community. During his membership of over 60+ years at the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren, he served as a youth leader, teacher, choir member and deacon.

He was well known for the witty, clever answers he could spontaneously reply to questions asked him. Usually a man of few words, it was also known that when Ray spoke, those words were worth hearing. Funeral services were held on Monday, February 7, 2022, with Pastor Hal Sonafrank of the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren officiating.

**Shea Williams Francisco**, aged 40, passed away Sunday, February 6, 2022. Shea is survived by his parents, Gary and Joan Francisco, of the Summerdean Church of the Brethren, three sons and two "bonus" daughters, as well as a brother and sister along with other family members. Services were held in Roanoke, VA Friday, February 18, 2022.

**Malicia Hollins Shaver**, aged 93, of Copper Hill passed away Saturday, March 5, 2022. She was married to Ennis C. Shaver, who preceded her in death, for 66 years. Among her survivors son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Margie Shaver; and daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Frank Wood.

**Terence Edwin Greiser (Teri)**, aged 63, was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, March 13, 2022. He was a former pastor of the Newport News, Ivy Farms Church of the Brethren. A service celebrating Teri's life was held on March 27th, 2022 at the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren in Quarryville, PA, with Cindy Garis officiating

**Janice D. Mullen**, aged 87 of Roanoke, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, March 22, 2022. She was a member of Hollins Road Church of the Brethren. Janice had served as their Sunday School Secretary since 1953, as well as serving as a deacon. Funeral services were held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at Hollins Road Church with Horace D. Light and Harold E. Boyd officiating.

**Dorothy Christine Rutter Naff**, aged 88, opened her eyes in the arms of Jesus on Sunday, April 3, 2022. Among those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 72 years, D. Arnold Naff, Sr., four sons, one daughter, 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Her celebration of life was held at the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren on Saturday, April 9, 2022, with Hal Sonafrank and family members officiating.

**HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MAY 25, 2022**

Deadlines for submission of material for the July 2022 HEADLINER is May 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <[EHeadliner@aol.com](mailto:EHeadliner@aol.com)>.



**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**

**MAY 2022**

|    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 2  | 9:00 AM  | Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)                                     |
|    | 1:00 PM  | New Church Development Committee at Moneta (DKS)                                    |
| 3  | 6:30 PM  | Long Range Financial Planning Committee at Oak Grove - South (DKS)                  |
| 6  | 11:00 AM | Council of District Executives - East at Buena Vista, Stone (DKS)                   |
|    | 5:30 PM  | "When the Storms of Life are Raging" Leadership Conference - Fairview, RM (MSS/DKS) |
| 7  | 8:30 AM  | Ministry and Mission Day in Virginia District - Fairview, Rocky Mount (MSS/DKS)     |
| 9  | 1:00 PM  | Historical Committee (DKS)  |
|    | 6:30 PM  | Disaster Response Committee - Zoom (MSS)  |
| 10 | 10:00 AM | Virginia Council of Churches Coord. Cabinet (DKS)                                   |
|    | 4:30 PM  | Race Education Team (MSS)   |
| 16 | 6:00 PM  | Southern Area Ministers and Spouses - Germantown Brick (DKS)                        |
| 17 | 10:30 AM | Awakening Committee (DKS)   |
|    | 1:30 PM  | Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista, Stone (DKS)                  |
|    | 6:00 PM  | Peace Affairs Committee - Roanoke, Oak Grove (MSS)                                  |
| 20 | 9:00 AM  | Christian Growth Institute Staff Meeting  |
| 21 | 10:00 AM | Program and Arrangements (MSS)  |
|    | 1:00 PM  | Nominating and Personnel (DKS/MSS)  |
| 24 | 6:00 PM  | Executive Committee (DKS)   |
| 30 |          | District Resource Center Closed - Memorial Day                                      |
| 31 | 7:00 PM  | Commission on Stewardship - Topeco (DKS)  |

**JUNE 2022**

|    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 3  | 6:00 PM  | Commission on Ministry (DKS)  |
| 4  | 9:00 AM  | Christian Growth Institute New Student Orientation - Buena Vista, Stone (DKS) |
| 10 | 5:30 PM  | Camp Bethel Summer Staff Commissioning  |
| 14 | 10:00 AM | Virginia Council of Churches Judicatory Check-In - Zoom (DKS)                 |
|    | 7:00 PM  | Race Education Team (MSS)   |
| 17 |          | Council of District Executives East - Hagerstown, MD (DKS)                    |
| 18 | 10:00 AM | District Board Meeting - Crab Orchard, WV (DKS/MSS)                           |

# WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

## **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) KITS NEEDED**

Because of congregations like yours, CWS Kits continues to make a lasting impression on people around the world. Through your compassionate action, our neighbors see and feel the love of Christ during difficult times.

We are so blessed to have received many emails and phone calls asking questions about kits and blankets going to Ukraine. In March, CWS deployed a small team of experts to Moldova and Romania to assess the situation on the ground and the growing needs of Ukrainians fleeing the violence. The results of this assessment have informed how we will expand assistance, such as providing in-kind resources like hygiene kits, blankets and other humanitarian supplies.

Although specifics cannot be shared at this time about the assistance and in-kind resources that will be shared in Eastern Europe, there will be times soon when we will share CWS Kits with those who will need these items.

Because of your generosity, we will be prepared to respond to these situations. With your help, we can keep covering our neighbors with love and kindness! Check out our website at <https://cwskits.org/>.

## **DISASTER RESPONSE WORKER HOUSING NEEDED**

There is a need to find some lodging opportunities for volunteers from our neighboring districts as they travel to and from Waverly, TN. This Brethren Disaster Ministries location has just opened to help this area with repairs or rebuilding homes devastated by flooding last summer.

Many groups that travel to these sites may have to travel 10 to 12 hours or more and need a place to rest. To save the expense of staying in a motel, we are looking for churches that would be willing to do either of these options - or a combination of both.

1 - Provide your church as a lodging spot and have your members bring cots or air mattresses for them to sleep on. (They will be travelling with their own linens and pillows.)

2 - Maybe some of your members have a guest room or a room they can put an air mattress or two in to provide a place for one or more adults to sleep.

They would arrive at your church on a Saturday and if they are staying off site, maybe someone can take them to their prospective home and bring them back to the church to gather for departure. Another bonus would be to have a simple dinner at church and possibly breakfast or a morning snack. This is not required; they can eat before arriving and plan on getting breakfast once they leave Sunday morning.

The BDM office informed us of a couple groups that have asked for assistance, and they will be travelling the end of May. Can you please share this and encourage church

members to help supply this need. We want to be the hands of Christ and provide this "cup of cold water" to our fellow Brethren who are taking their valuable time to provide a "cup of cold water" to those in need in Tennessee.

Please contact Ed and/or Susan McKimmy, our Virgina District Disaster Response Coordinators, with questions or for additional information, or to let us know that you can help with this lodging assistance. If possible, please respond by Tuesday, May 10 or Wednesday, May 11. Ed may be reached at (540) 354-5345 and Susan is at (540) 330-8266. Both may be reached by e-mail at [virlinadrc@gmail.com](mailto:virlinadrc@gmail.com).

It is recognized that this is short notice, but we would like to be able to help these groups in their planning and assure them that they will not have to pay for overnight lodging. Our area between Roanoke and Pulaski is within the halfway mark of those travel from Pennsylvania to Tennessee.

## **KENTUCKY TORNADO OFFERING COMPLETED**

District congregations and individual members contributed \$12,404.50 to the Kentucky Tornado Offering. The Disaster Response Committee of the district matched this amount. As a result, we have sent \$24,809.00 to Brethren Disaster Ministries. We appreciate the generosity of our people and congregations in giving to this effort!

## **UKRAINE DISASTER RESPONSE OFFERINGS RECEIVED**

We have been receiving offerings from congregations for disaster relief in Ukraine. If your congregation wishes to receive an offering for this purpose, please mark the check memo as "Ukraine - 33502" and forward to the District Resource Center. We will forward this through denominational or ecumenical channels.

## **A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO SUICIDE PREVENTION**

A new resource titled "A Christian Approach to Suicide Prevention" has been released by the National Council of Churches (NCC). Said an announcement: "According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, on average there are 130 suicides per day in the United States. Churches can offer support and care for community members impacted by suicide.

The NCC's new resource sheet provides several trainings and resources that have been specifically created for people of faith. These resources can help clergy and lay leaders provide care, assistance, and hope for those who may be considering suicide. Trainings can help ministers recognize signs of suicide risk, comfort those who experience suicide loss, and integrate strategies for suicide prevention into the life and ministry of local congregations and faith communities." Get the fact sheet as a download from <http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Suicide-Prevention-fact-sheet-2022.pdf>. (Adapted from Church of the Brethren Newline issue of April 30, 2022).

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

**MICHAEL STERN PRESENTS ORIGINAL MUSIC AT A/C**  
Michael Stern will be sharing original music during one of the evening concerts planned for the 2022 Annual Conference, taking place in Omaha, Neb., on July 10-14. His presentations at Conference-in addition to the evening concert on July 13-include leading the children's choir and with his wife, Carol, keynoting the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) luncheon.

A Church of the Brethren member, composer, folksinger, peace activist, and nurse practitioner in Pacific Northwest District, Stern recently published a new songbook of 22 songs of faith and action under the title "Blessed Be." It is available both as a songbook and on CD (find links and sample songs at: <[www.beatinpathpublications.com/MS/home.html](http://www.beatinpathpublications.com/MS/home.html)>).

Stern invites parents and children who will be participating in activities at the Conference to become familiar with the two songs that he will share with the children's choir.

"I composed 'God Made Them All' specifically for the children's choir this summer. So it's brand new," he said. "'One World' is the other song we'll be teaching the kids. Both songs lend themselves to sign language interpretations that kids can learn to express in their own way while we sing. If parents, Sunday school/Christian Ed teachers, or music leaders at local churches want to introduce either or both songs to their congregations, at least some of the kids might have heard the tunes prior to the limited time we'll have with them at Annual Conference."

To request music or audio/video links for the two children's songs, contact Stern via his website at <[www.mikesongs.net/contact-michael-stern](http://www.mikesongs.net/contact-michael-stern)>.

Another one of the songs on "Blessed Be" of particular interest to Brethren is "Lest We Forget," with a touching vignette written by Deanna Brown about the life and ministry of her father Dale Brown.

Stern has traveled extensively while singing and working for peace and justice. His website notes his trips to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, which offer inspiration for the cover art of "Blessed Be." He studied theology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, received his bachelor and master of science degrees in nursing at the University of Washington in Seattle, and is a Certified Laughter Leader. He recently retired as a Family Nurse Practitioner and research clinician who has focused much of his career on vaccine preventable diseases.

On his many albums, he is joined by various musicians including Eric Smith, William Limbach, Grammy nominated pianist David Lanz, and Jacob Jolliff—who has performed with the former Mutual Kumquat and who was the National Mandolin Champion of 2012.

For more about Michael Stern's music go to <[www.beatinpathpublications.com/MS/home.html](http://www.beatinpathpublications.com/MS/home.html)>.

Find out about Stern's concert at the 2022 Annual Conference at <[www.brethren.org/ac2022/activities/concerts](http://www.brethren.org/ac2022/activities/concerts)>. (Adapted from the April 30, 2022 edition of the Church of the Brethren Newslines).

## **NON-DELEGATE ONLINE OPTION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JULY 10-14, 2022**

The Annual Conference office has announced a virtual, online option for nondelegates who are not planning to travel to Omaha, Neb., for this summer's Conference but would like to participate in more than just worship (which will continue to be livestreamed for all, free of charge).

This is not an opportunity to participate fully and interactively in all activities. Registering as a virtual nondelegate participant will give access to live-stream:

- o business meetings
- o the Ted & Co performance of We Own This Now
- o the Bittersweet Gospel Band concert
- o the Mike Stern & Friends concert
- o selected equipping sessions

Some equipping sessions and talk-back sessions with the Annual Conference agencies will offer an opportunity for more interactive engagement

Online registration began on Tuesday, March 1, for the Annual Conference taking place in Omaha, Neb., on July 10-14. Go to <[www.brethren.org/ac2022](http://www.brethren.org/ac2022)>.

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITNESS TO THE HOST CITY - JULY 10-14, 2022**

Each year, Annual Conference chooses to bless the host city through a special donation. When Annual Conference takes place in Omaha, Nebraska, July 10-14, there will be an effort to provide support for Girls, Inc. of Omaha. The Annual Conference website states, this organization has been serving girls ages 5-18 for over 45 years and are "Committed to nurturing girls to be strong, smart, and bold, they offer homework help and enrichment classes in music, art, and science; encourage exercise and good nutrition; provide clothing and hygiene supplies; and equip girls with basic life skills related to budgeting and banking, public speaking, voting and citizenship, and how to apply for a job." Go to the website at <<https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/activities/witness-to-the-host-city/>> to see what supplies are needed.

## **TEMPERED RESILIENCE - JULY 9-10, 2022**

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change. This in-person class, in conjunction with the Annual Conference, features Tod Bolsinger, author of "Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change." The class will take place on July 9-10. Register online by June 6. Download an informational flyer at <<https://files.constantcontact.com/071f413a201/1624f306-61fe-44f1-baf2-b9472e5589b9.pdf>>.

**CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2022**

The theme for our 2022 Summer Camps is "What's In A Name?" Together with God, with each other, and with creation. Our safe and fun Resident Camps, Day Camps, and Adventure Camps for ages 5-18 feature multiple health and safety adaptations, PLUS the return of Parent-Child Overnight and Day Camp! Registration is OPEN and Camperships are available. For more information go to <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps)>.

**COUNSELORS AND KITCHEN STAFF ARE NEEDED**

We seek hard-working young adults to serve as Counselors May 30 through July 23 (\$320/week, plus a \$300+ end-of-summer bonus, plus recruitment bonuses) or Kitchen Staff May 30 through August 13 (\$350-or-\$420/week). Position descriptions, videos, and applications are found at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff)>.

**GIVE A CHILD A CAMPERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP**

We did not hold an in-person Sow the Seed Banquet in 2022. Nevertheless, we solicit your generous gifts to underwrite our Camperships. During the past decade, we've granted Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$390, which is the 2022 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)>

**SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION AND SUPPORT IN 2022**

We seek groups, congregations, and individuals to adopt one of 42 Summer Staff with a commitment of prayer, letters, and a \$100+ "end-of-summer" bonus. This program helps us recruit and retain the highest quality Counselors for our Campers, and it helps these excellent young adults accept God's call to summer ministry in what will be another challenging (adapted-for-COVID-19) program. Last summer's adoption program was a big success, because families and congregations gave enough to provide a \$325 end-of-summer bonus to our excellent Summer Staff. Info at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt)>.

**MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND - MAY 27-30, 2022**

See the schedule and reserve your meals before May 21 at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay)>

**FAMILY FUN DAY AND SUMMER OPEN HOUSE - MAY 28**

We will have our annual Family Fun Day and Summer Camp Open House on Saturday, May 28. Camp Bethel invites you to walk the grounds, meet the camp staff, check out a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 28 from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend including free swimming and a 7:30pm concert.

**SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING DINNER, JUNE 10**

Lend your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff on Friday, June 10 at 5:30 for a free dinner at the Ark Dining Hall. After dinner, with your help, we will commission the newly trained summer staff for their summer of ministry and mission to over 750 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Forma-

tion and Outdoor Christian Education. Reserve you meals by June by telephone at (540) 992-2940 or by e-mail at <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

**CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022**

Our new 5K Course covers some of the many trails, fields, and forests on the 470 acres of Camp Bethel. \$35.00 Entry Fee includes fully stocked water/aid stations, a race t-shirt, pre-and-post-race snacks, 10:15am BRUNCH, fun, fellowship, and Barry's bad jokes. Sponsor the run to make it more fun! 5K fundraiser for "the PEPPIEST gang around!" Plans, sponsors, and registration at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K)>.

**BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

Golfers and sponsors are needed on Wednesday, September 21 for our 2022 Golf Tournament at Ashley Golf Course. Tee off is at 12:30pm. \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and a delicious boxed lunch. Updated plans, plus registration and sponsor information is at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf)>.

**HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 1, 2022**

Our annual Heritage Day Festival returns "in person" on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Please encourage everyone in your congregation to participate and help in this vitally important fund raiser for Camp Bethel. Heritage Day forms, fliers and information are available at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/HeritageDay](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/HeritageDay)>.

**SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS 2022 VIDEOS ONLINE**

We filmed the stories over the April 8-9 festival for you to enjoy for free (donations encouraged). Performers include Len Cabral, Lyn Ford, Josh Goforth, Bil Lepp, and Barbara McBride-Smith. Watch and help raise funds for Camp Bethel at <[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)>.

**WE WELCOME NEW STAFF - KATHLEEN PINARD**

Kathleen Pinard, our new Program Director, is a familiar face at Camp Bethel after serving on summer staff in 2014 (Counselor), 2015 (High Ropes Coordinator), and 2016 & 2020 (Spiritual Life Coordinator and Assistant Program Coordinator). A 2016 graduate of Averett University (Danville), she returns to Camp Bethel after serving at Total Action for Progress (Roanoke) and St. Mark's United Methodist Church (Daleville). "My summers on staff at Camp Bethel have shaped who I am today." Please send her a welcome noted to 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

**DONATE EXTRA COVID TEST KITS TO CAMP BETHEL**

Do you have extra, unused kits at home? OR, have you ordered your free 4-pack from COVIDtests.gov? Test kits are our best and easiest tool for keeping our 2022 campers and staff safe during summer camps. Please donate your extras OR purchase some from our Wish List at <<https://a.co/5qG5JYq>>. Thank you!

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

<[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe)>. Stay up to date on the latest events and offerings from your Camp Bethel.

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 27-30**

The theme of the 2022 National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) is "I Am because We Are" based on Romans 12:5. NYAC is scheduled for May 27-30, 2022 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. This event offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information go to <<https://www.brethren.org/yya/yac/>>.

## **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 currently underway. 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.

Updates about NYC are found at [www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/](http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/) and on social media (Facebook: National Youth Conference; Instagram: @cobnyc2022).

## **ARK TREASURE HUNT!**

We are excited to present an event for congregations, families, groups, and adventure enthusiasts in some areas of our district to go and explore together! The Treasure Hunt or THE ARK, began on April 1st in Henry County, VA; and will begin on June 1st in Franklin County, VA, and on July 1st in Roanoke County. Your quest is to find five ARKS OF THE COVENANT hidden outdoors in plastic containers. In each ARK are different color rubies or stones. Collect five different color rubies and receive a prize from the Virlina District Resource Center suitable for a family or small group. The Bible is necessary for some of the clues.

Your first clue will be posted on-line the first day of the month at noon. Solve it, and you are on your way

exploring and being an ARK seeker. A paper copy of the clues will be available from the District Resource Center. This fun project originated from our Moderator-Elect, Noel Naff, to provide opportunities for togetherness, fun, and Bible Study. Visit the [www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org) website or contact Mary StJohn, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness at (540) 362-1816 or <[virlina2@aol.com](mailto:virlina2@aol.com)>.

## **BRETHREN ACADEMY OFFERS ONLINE COURSE**

The Brethren Academy will offer this online course, The Minister as Theologian, from September 7-November 1, 2022. Joelle Hathaway, assistant professor of theological studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, will be the instructor and TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion and the BTS experience. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course.

As an introduction to theological thinking, this course will cover some of the "big topics" that Christians talk about, including: God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, humanity as the image of God, and Christian hope. We will read multiple genres, including sermons and poetry, to help us explore the deep, imaginative interconnections between various aspects of the Christian faith.

The deadline to register for this course is **August 3, 2022**. Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors. Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

1) Mail a registration form with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374. This form may be obtained from the District Resource Center at <[nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)>.

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](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu)> or 765-983-1820.

## **OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF**

**Georgia Frances Hurt Marshall**, aged 96, of Roanoke, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. Frances was born August 4, 1925 in Floyd, Virginia. She retired from the Roanoke County School System where she enjoyed working with children with special needs at the Roanoke County Occupational School. She was a long-time member of Peters Creek Church of the Brethren where she enjoyed fellowship and quilting with the Busy Bees.