

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2020

1	OFF
2	Office
3	OPEN
4	Worship at Topeco (175th Anniversary)/Bible Study (Z)
5	Office
6	Office/Bible Study (Z)
7	Staff Meeting/Office
8	OFF
9	Office/Consultation/Commission on Ministry at Oak Grove-South
10	OPEN
11	Worship at Burks Fork/Parkway Meeting/Bible Study (Z)
12	Office
13	Office/Bible Study (Z)
14	Staff Meeting/Office/BFIA Grant Committee (Z)
15	OFF
16	Office
17	WR Leadership Team
18	Worship at Mill Creek, Columbus, NC/Bible Study (Z)
19	Office
20	Office/Bible Study (Z)
21	Staff Meeting/Office
22	OFF
23	Office
24	OPEN
25	Worship at Bethlehem/Bible Study(Z)
26	Office
27	Office/Bible Study (Z)
28	Staff Meeting/Office
29	OFF
30	Office
31	OPEN

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2020

1	Worship at Saint Paul/Bible Study (Z)
2	Office/Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee/New Church Development Committee at Roanoke, Ninth Street
3	Office/Bible Study (Z)
4	Staff Meeting/Office
5	OFF
6	Office
7	Mt Union Recording Session
8	Worship Undetermined
9	Office/Iglesia del Buen Pastor Steering Committee at Blacksburg
10	Office/Bible Study (Z)
11	Staff Meeting/Office
12	OFF
13	Office/District Conference (V)
14	District Conference (V)
15	Worship Undetermined/Bible Study (Z)
16	Office/Moneta-Lake Side Steering Committee
17	Christian Growth Institute Administrative Committee at Buena vista - Stone/Office
18	Staff Meeting/Office

DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NEEDED NOW

The initial deadline has passed to register for the 2020 District Conference, to be held virtually on November 13-14. Not everyone has completed the registration process, however. Since books for delegates including the ballots for leadership calling are about to go to print, we would like a fair estimate of how many we will need. So, if you and your congregational delegates have not registered, please do so by going to <<http://www.virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/3-forms/173-district-conference-pre-registration-form-20290.html>> and download the form. Then, please mail or bring the registrations with payment to the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.

If you need a paper copy of any of the registration forms, please let Mary St. John know by e-mail at virlina2@aol.com or by calling the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816 or toll free at (800) VIRLINA.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2020

19 OFF/NRHS Roanoke Chapter
 20 Office
 21 OPEN
 22 Worship Undetermined
 23 Office/Executive Committee
 24 Office
 25 Staff Meeting/Office
 26-27 **District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving**
 28 Vacation
 29 Vacation
 30 Vacation

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2020

1 Office/Conference Book to printer
 2 Office
 4 Peace Worship Service on www.virlina.com
 5 OFF
 6 Office
 7 Staff Meeting/Office/Commission on Nurture Chair
 8 Office
 9 Office/Mail registered Delegate Booklets and Ballots
 12 OFF
 13 Office/Spiritual Development Retreat Committee, zoom
 14 Staff Meeting/Office
 15 Office/ Children's Artwork for Conference due
 19 OFF
 20 Office/Women's Fellowship Executive Committee, zoom
 21 Staff Meeting/Office
 22 Office
 23 Office
 26 OFF
 27 Office
 28 Staff Meeting/Office
 29 Office
 30 Office

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2020

2 OFF
 3 Office
 4 Staff Meeting/Office
 5 Office/ Votes counted by Head Tellers
 6 Office
 7 District Conference videoing/Mount Union
 9 OFF
 10 Office
 11 Staff Meeting/Office
 12 Office
 13 District Conference Video online
 14 District conference Video online through end of year
 15-22 Vacation
 23 OFF
 24 Office
 25 Staff Meeting/Office
 25 OFF
 26-27 **District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving**
 30 OFF

ELEMENTS OF PREACHING ZOOM INTENSIVE CLASS - JANUARY 11-13, 2021

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Elements of Preaching, as a Zoom intensive, January 11-15, 2021. The instructor for this course will be Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm.

Sermon preparation and preaching are major components of the life of ministry – not only pastors, but for all who offer themselves in public service, speaking of God with and for others. Through readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments, students will learn the art and practice of preparing and presenting sermons for diverse settings and ministries. A brochure with more information regarding the schedule and expectations is available from us at <nuchurch@aol.com>.. Please give consideration to participating in this course. The deadline to register is December 7. Persons may also take an Academy course for continuing education credit (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE).

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR ORDINATION REVIEW?

The 2020 Ordination Review Forms were due on April 30, 2020. We have received individual and congregational forms from 88 persons. Over 30 individuals lack either their form or their congregational endorsement. Please make sure that this is done as soon as possible.

432 PIECE JIGSAW PUZZLE OF THE EDER RIVER

For the first eight Brethren the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, signified a beginning. On that morning in 1708, they went into the waters of baptism and came up new creatures in Christ with a new vision in a new community. This puzzle celebrates that beginning and reminds us of our rich biblical heritage.

The picture used for this 432 piece, 18" x 24" jigsaw puzzle was taken by Glenn Riegel. The puzzle comes in a custom printed, easy storage cannister with a reusable plastic pop-top lid. Made in the USA

The price is \$38.99 and the puzzle may be ordered from Brethren Press, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL by calling (800) 441-3712 or through the website at www.brethrenpress.com.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

- **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 time position, profile pending - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor effective October 1, 2020.*
- **EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - Harold E. "Hal" Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.
- **GREEN HILL** - *Part time position, profile pending - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor effective September 1, 2020.*
- **JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.
- **LYNCHBURG** - *Karen B. Cassell began as pastor on a part-time basis effective September 1, 2020.*
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - *Chad Beamer serving as pulpit supply.*
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian Becker (FGBC) continues as pulpit supply
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** - *Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt has resigned as interim pastor.*
- **SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Alvis Jackson serving as pulpit supply.
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith is serving as interim pastor.
- **TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating - E. Anne Mitchell serving as interim pastor.

PART TIME PASTOR; FULL TIME CHURCH

- The new Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church program is a grant-funded initiative through the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry designed to offer support and encouragement specifically for multi-vocational pastors. Pastors who participate are paired with a regionally based "Circuit Rider," a minister with gifts of deep listening and encouragement. Circuit Riders come alongside pastors to listen to their joys and challenges and then help to connect them with resources that will be helpful in their particular situation.

• You can learn more about our program, see photos and bios of our Circuit Riders, and apply to participate here at <<http://www.brethren.org/part-time-pastor>> Angela Carr, pastor of the Laurel Branch Church in Floyd County, VA, is the Circuit Rider in our district.

PEACE AFFAIRS ON-LINE EVENT - OCTOBER 4, 2020

- Our annual September worship tradition of gathering and praying for Peace has been cancelled in person in an attempt to reduce risk and eliminate the spread of the Coronavirus. We are very excited, however, to offer an online Peace Worship Service that will feature music from the young people of Antioch Church of the Brethren, the Brethren Beats, and guest speakers from Virlina's newly formed Race Education Team. We may also feature, if possible, a representative from the Roanoke City Police Department.

• The online event, will be posted on <www.virlina.org> beginning Sunday, October 4. This recorded service will stay on the website through October 31. We invite you and your family to watch it at your convenience. The Peace Affairs Committee hopes to provide a safe alternative to gathering, while we continue to pray for peace and healing in our congregations, communities and the world.

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS NOVEMBER 7, 2020

- We need your help on Fall Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 7. The day begins in the Ark at 7:30 a.m. with free breakfast and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed to prepare camp for the winter season. There are workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP meals by October 31 by calling (540) 992-2940 or e-mail <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. Details may be found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

SOME DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER MISCELLANY

- On most Wednesday's at 10 a.m. we have staff meeting at the District Resource Center. In order to have uninterrupted time for devotions, prayer concerns, calendar review and general work conversation, we do not answer the telephone nor take callers during this time. Usually we are done by 11:30 a.m., sometimes sooner and sometimes later. E-mail continues to be the most reliable mode of communication for us, followed by phone calls or personal visits by appointment during office hours. We normally do not use texts or social media messenger services for professional and business communication.

CONFERENCE ARTWORK PROJECT FOR CHILDREN OF VIRLINA

Show us how creative the children in your congregation can be! Since we will not be holding in-person conference, with our traditional fun activities for children, the Commission on Nurture's Children's Cabinet invite all children and youth to study this year's District Conference theme, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom", from Matthew 6: 9 -10, and then create art depicting their interpretation of the theme. What does God's kingdom look like? Children are invited to use play dough, drawings, painting, sidewalk chalk...anything that shows a creative interpretation. Download or take a photo of the art project, include the child's name, age, and congregation, and send it to Mary St. John at virlina@aol.com or mail the art to Mary St. John, 4302 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA, 24012. The art will be featured on the online presentation of District Conference beginning November 13 on www.virlina.org. Deadline to submit the art is October 15, 2020.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

Joy Murray, Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adults, is planning an online Bible study with special guest speakers from the InterYouth Cabinet (IYC) of Bridgewater College. This will be a recorded message beginning November 13, so it can be viewed at your convenience on www.virlina.org.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE OFFERING

The 2020 District Conference Offering will be used to offset conference expenses and to help support the work of the Virlina District. Please indicate your contribution as being applied to District Conference expenses and mail or deliver to 4302 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Service offerings in kind will benefit the Disaster Response Ministries. Clean-up buckets, school supplies, hygiene kits, and Individual Kits of Comfort will be collected at the District Resource Center and delivered to New Windsor for disaster site distribution. Thank you for your support.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE BALLOTS, DELEGATE BOOKLETS, AND PACKETS

All information concerning the 2020 District Conference will be mailed during the early part of October to the congregations who have paid their registration fees and presented the names of the delegates. The ballots will be included in the mailing, and must be filled out and returned by November 2. The Head Tellers will come to the District Resource Center and will count the ballots. The results will be announced on the recorded version of the District Conference, which will go online on November 13, and be available through the end of the year.

Our District Conference leadership and the Program and Arrangements committee have put together a unique and diverse worship service, with multiple speakers and musicians who will help us learn more about "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom." The worship and business portions of conference will be available on www.virlina.org. If your congregation has need of a DVD recording of conference, please contact Mary Sink St. John.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV RESCHEDULED - MARCH 26-28, 2021

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

CALLING THE CALLED - APRIL 16-17, 2021 (PLEASE ANNOUNCE THIS EVENT IN BULLETIN)

Calling the Called is a weekend event sponsored by the Shenandoah and Virlina Districts of the Church of the Brethren. It is an intentional time away from the routine of life to discern what it means to be called by God to the set-apart ministry. It begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 16 and ends at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 17.

Whether you are someone actively exploring the possibility of ministry or someone unsure of God's calling, this will be a helpful time of discernment and discovery. Come and hear personal call stories, come and wrestle with biblical call stories, come and learn about the process of entering the set-apart ministry in the Church of the Brethren. Come for worship and fellowship; come and discover what it means to be a people called by God.

All sessions will be held at the Brethren Woods Camp & Retreat Center located at 4896 Armentrout Path in Keezletown, VA 22832. The cost of registration is \$50 per person which includes lodging at

Brethren Woods, meals, classes and materials. CEU's will be available for ordained ministers for \$10.

A follow up session will be held in each respective district to help continue the discernment process and to check in with one another. Details of the time and date for the Virlina District's follow up session will be shared at the event.

LEADING IN A TIME OF CRISIS - MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - OCTOBER 15, 2020

We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on October 15th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EDT. The featured speaker will be Phillip C. Stone, President emeritus of Bridgewater College.

The focus of the Town Hall will be: "Leading in a Time of Crisis." Whether pastor, lay leader, Sunday School teacher or parent, we are all called to give guidance during challenging times, especially during our current season of polarization and pandemic. To that end, leadership principles will be shared that are applicable to both clergy and laity alike.

A native of Virginia and a graduate of Bridgewater College, Phil Stone attended the University of Chicago Graduate School of Economics and received a law degree from the University of Virginia. After 24 years in private law practice in Virginia, he became President of Bridgewater College in 1994. Mr. Stone retired from that position on June 30, 2010, and was named President emeritus.

In 2015, Phil Stone was asked to save Sweet Briar College, whose permanent closing was in progress. To that end, he was elected president of Sweet Briar and served in that role until 2017. The effort was successful, and the college is still operating. Phil Stone's mantra while serving as president of Sweet Briar—"the impossible is just another problem to be solved"—became a rallying cry as he led the college successfully through a season of crisis.

Phil Stone is also a distinguished churchman, having served as Moderator of the Church of the Brethren and the chair of the General Board (now Mission and Ministry Board) of the denomination along with many other positions within the life of the church.

During his law practice, Brother Stone was president of several bar groups, and in 1997 he served as President of the Virginia Bar Association. During his tenure as president of Bridgewater College, he was elected Chair of the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and Chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (the accrediting agency for 11 southern states). He also received the association's James Rodgers Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Phil Stone is the recipient of various awards and recognitions including four honorary doctorates. In 1997, he was named Distinguished Virginian by the Exchange Club, and in 1987 he was named Churchman of the Year by the Religious Heritage Foundation. Upon his retirement from Bridgewater College, the General Assembly of Virginia passed resolutions honoring him for his lifelong contributions to education and the community. Another resolution was passed by the General Assembly when he retired from Sweet Briar College. He and his wife Cherrill live in Harrisonburg, Virginia. They are the parents of four children and grandparents of four grandchildren.

To register for the town hall, please visit: <tinyurl.com/modtownhalloct2020>

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

The Town Hall will once again feature a Question & Answer format. You are invited to submit your questions for Phil Stone during the Town Hall, or you can send them in advance. To send your questions prior to the Town Hall, please email: cobmoderatorestownhall@gmail.com. Though we cannot commit to answering every question, we'll do our best to use what is submitted. Questions or issues related to registering for the Town Hall can be emailed to <cobmoderatorestownhall@gmail.com> as well.

SELF-ALLOCATION/FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The penultimate Virlina District Financial Secretary Report for September 30, 2020 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving for 2020 in consultation with your treasurer and draw any discrepancies to our attention. Please remember that your offering plate is the offering plate of the district and denomination.