



**Virgina District Resource Center**  
**Church of the Brethren**  
 3402 Plantation Road NE  
 Roanoke, VA 24012

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## Calendar of Events

### March 2024

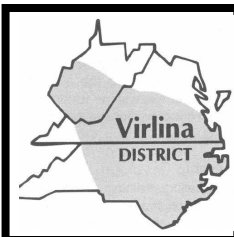
March 1	6:00 pm	Christian Growth Institute Spiritual Development Retreat (DLR)
March 4	8:30 am	Northern Area Ministers (DLR)
March 5	6:00 pm	District Board Executive Committee (DLR)
March 7	6:30 pm	Sow the Seed Banquet (HMJ)
March 8-9		Ministers and Spouses Retreat (DLR)
March 10	5:00 pm	Disaster Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (DLR & MSS)
March 11	6:00 pm	Southern Area Ministers (DLR)
March 14	4:00 pm	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)
March 15	6:30 pm	Calling the Called Committee (DLR)
March 16	9:00 am	Virgina District Board (DLR & MSS)
March 17-20	6:45 pm	Awakening Services (DLR)
March 19	6:00 pm	Commission on Witness (MSS)
March 21	6:00 pm	Race Education Team (MSS)
March 29		DRC Closed (Good Friday)
March 30	5:00 pm	Closing Love Feast Moneta, Lakeland Fellowship (DLR)

### April 2024

April 1		DRC Closed (Easter Monday)
April 1-6		Vacation (DLR)
April 6	7:30 am	Camp Bethel Workday (HMJ)
April 9	7:30 pm	Disaster Response Committee (MSS)
April 12-13		Sounds of the Mountains (HMJ)
April 12	6:00 pm	Commission on Ministry (DLR)
April 15	6:00 pm	Southern Area Ministers (DLR)
April 18	6:30 pm	Camp Bethel Bistro (HMJ)
April 19	6:30 pm	Calling the Called Committee (DLR)
April 20		World Hunger Auction Golf Tournament (DLR)
April 21	3:00 pm	World Hunger Walk (DLR)

### May 2024

May 4	8:30 am	Ministry and Mission Day (DLR & MSS)
May 6	1:00 pm	New Church Development Committee (DLR)
May 6	6:00 pm	Northern Area Ministers (DLR)
May 7	1:30 pm	Christian Growth Institute Administrative
May 13	9:00 am	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DLR)
May 17-18		Calling the Called VII (DLR & MSS)
May 20	6:00 pm	Southern Area Ministers (DLR)
May 21	6:00 pm	Commission on Stewardship (DLR)
May 27		DRC Closed (Memorial Day)
May 31	6:00 pm	Commission on Ministry (DLR)



# Headliner

Virlina District  
Church of the Brethren

MARCH - MAY  
2024

*"Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him."*

Acts 11:1-2

As believers in Christ Jesus and interpreters of the scriptures, we often make the mistake of acting as if change and conflict were somehow much easier for the early church than they are for us. With two thousand years of church history behind us, the conflict between Christians of Jewish origin and Christians of Gentile origin has long disappeared from our living memory. To most of us, circumcision has become a private medical decision, not a mark of our relationship with God, and if we know someone who keeps kosher dietary laws, they are the exception among Christians, not the norm. Because it was not our conflict, nor were they our longstanding cultural beliefs that were being challenged, most of us assume that this particular theological, biblical and cultural conflict recorded in the book of Acts and in several of the New Testament letters could not have been nearly as bad as the theological, biblical and cultural conflicts that we are both enduring and in many cases participating in. When we scratch just below the surface of the scriptures, these assumptions are deeply challenged. Brethren often speak of Peter's transformational experience recorded in Acts 10 as an example of the Holy Spirit overcoming resistance to change. We also frequently refer to Acts 15 as the foundational scripture for Annual Conference, District Conference and our congregational council meetings, where the members of the church come together to discern the direction that God is leading us, ideally through prayer, Bible Study and deep listening to one another. We forget that change was not particularly smooth for the early church, nor for Peter as an individual.

After his transformative vision and experience at Cornelius's house, Peter had to go back home to Jerusalem. And when he went home, he had to explain to his fellow believers, many of whom had been formed by centuries of Jewish teaching backed by the words of the Law and the prophets that called for ritual and social separation from Gentiles as a mark of holiness that this new thing was from God. To eat with Gentiles was to participate in their sins in the understanding of the Christians of Jewish origin in Jerusalem. So when Peter got back home to his own people, they criticized him and demanded an explanation. The book of Acts tells us that Peter took them step by step through his vision, through the coincidences that the Holy Spirit arranged, through his preaching and the response of Cornelius's

household. By the end of Acts 11, these persons praised God saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." But lest we think this was it for Peter, in Galatians 2, he records that Peter and James had second thoughts about their decision in Acts 15, and pulled back from full fellowship with the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-14).

I write these reflections regarding the scriptures because Annual Conference will take up a query this summer regarding the church's response to those in same-sex relationships. This is a subject that has led to a great deal of conflict and division in the church, one that I suspect that each of us has a position on, whether or not we are able to put our perspective into words. I have also heard folks whose personal perspectives on this subject run the gambit of positions express weariness, frustration and a sense that this continued argument is keeping the church from fulfilling its mission. With this in mind, I leave you with my counsel as your District Executive Minister regarding Annual Conference this summer. First, regardless of your perspective on this or any other question the church might consider, it is important to be represented. Those who choose to participate will be the ones who make discernments for the whole body of Christ. The scripture tells us that Peter showed up, even though he did not really want to go to Cornelius's house (Acts 10:9-23). Second, for those who participate in Annual Conference, whether as a delegate or non-delegate, whether online or in-person, prayerfully prepare yourself to both listen and speak. The scripture records that both Peter and the believers of Jewish origin listened, even when what they were hearing contradicted beliefs that they held very dear. And finally, whatever the outcomes of the Annual Conference, prayerfully prepare yourselves to speak honestly about what happened, both to those who will like what happened and to those who will not. Peter did not hide what happened at Cornelius's house from those who would not like it, nor did Paul let Peter and James off the hook. I pray that we too would trust God enough to show up for God and for one another, to listen and to speak, and to honestly and patiently continue in relationship with one another.

Daniel L Rudy  
District Executive Minister

Virlina District  
3402 Plantation Road. NE  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Ph. 540-362-1816  
Fax 540-362-1817  
www.virlina.org

Daniel L. Rudy, District Executive Minister  
Mary S. St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness  
Cathy S. Huffman, Director of Ministry Formation  
Shelly K. Haas, Coordinator of Financial Services  
Betty M. Wills, Administrative Assistant

# LOCAL INTEREST

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## Pastoral Placement

**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 died on January 10, 2024.* Tabitha Rudy serving as interim pastor. Jessica Slusher and Josh Lucas serving as pulpit supply.

**CEDAR BLUFF** - *In negotiation, trial sermon and call vote scheduled for March 10, 2024.*

**DANVILLE, EMMANUEL** - Part-time position, no profile available - Blaine Compton (NB) serving as interim pastor.

**DURHAM, PEACE COVENANT** - Part time position, profile pending - Amber Harris (c), Gary Bauer, Aaron Klink and Zach Houser will serve as an interim pastoral team effective January 1, 2024.

**FERRUM** - Part-time position, no profile available - pulpit supply.

**GREEN HILL** - Part time position, profile circulating (2) - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.

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

**JONES CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (2) - Amber T. Harris is serving as interim pastor.

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

**MONETA, LAKELAND FELLOWSHIP** - The fellowship is discontinuing its ministry effective March 31, 2024.

**MOUNT BETHEL** - *Dreama F. Osborne has been called as pastor on a part time basis effective February 15, 2024.*

**NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - James Hicks (NB) serving as pulpit supply.

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

**NUEVA VIDA** - *Enedino and Cristal Herrera have been called as pastors on a part time basis effective January 1, 2024.*

**OLEAN** - Plural ministry position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

**PETERS CREEK** - Full or part time position, profile circulating - *Edward C. Woodard is serving as interim pastor effective March 15, 2024.*

**PLEASANTDALE** - Part time position, no profile available - David Tozar (NB) serving as pulpit supply.

**POAGES MILL** - Full or part time position, profile circulating - Zach Tabor serving as pulpit supply.

**RED OAK GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Enedino Herrera and Annette Hubbard serving

as interim pastors.

**ROANOKE, FIRST** - Full time position, profile pending - Harvey S. Leddy is serving as interim pastor.

**ROANOKE, NINTH STREET** - *Timothy H. Emmons has been called as pastor on a part-time basis effective February 5, 2024.*

**SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Jim Abe serving as pulpit supply.

**SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Ron Flora serving as interim pastor.

**SPRUCE RUN** - Plural ministry position, no profile available - Dewey Broyles continues as pastor. Annette Hubbard and Kerry Johnson are serving as interim pastors in the shared ministry program.

**TOPECO** - Full time position, profile pending - pulpit supply.

## Congregational News

### New Members

**Mount Hermon:** Grace Naff by baptism April 23, 2023. Spencer Everhart by letter October 18, 2023.

**Copper Hill :** Marc Camilleri and Rachel Camilleri by transfer of letter. Matthew Ross and Amelia Ross, Ashley Hoven and Abigail Hoven by re-affirmation of faith on January 21, 2024.

**Roanoke, Hollins Road:** Betty Whittaker by letter February 4, 2024.

### JUNE HEADLINER DEADLINE

Any announcements or information for publication in the Headliner covering June, July and August is due to the District Resource Center by Monday April 29, 2024. Please email any information to [Virlina.dem@gmail.com](mailto:Virlina.dem@gmail.com). Information for the E-Headliner is updated on a revolving basis.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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## **HENRY COUNTY LENTEN SERVICES**

Lenten Services will be held among the Henry County churches at the following Sundays beginning at 6:15 pm:

February 25	Basset COB	Noel Naff
March 3	Jones Chapel COB	Doug Diamond
March 10	New Hope COB	Doug Jones
March 17	Eden, First COB	Amber Harris
March 24	Mount Hermon COB	Rick Randall

Heavy snacks will follow each service.

## **AWAKENING SERVICES TO BE HELD MARCH 17-20**

Awakening services will be held at Summerdean Church of the Brethren from Sunday March 17 through Wednesday March 20 beginning with hymn singing at 6:45 pm. Beth Jarrett, pastor of the Staunton Church of the Brethren, will bring the evening messages each evening. Morning Bible Studies will be held from 9:00 am through 11:00 am on Monday at Hollins Road COB, Tuesday at Blue Ridge COB and Wednesday at Boones Mill COB.

## **WILLIAMSON ROAD SEEKS ACCOMPANIST**

Williamson Road Church of the Brethren is seeking a musical accompanist to play music and lead in some minor congregational singing. For more information or to apply, contact Tammy Dooley at [dooley5@msn.com](mailto:dooley5@msn.com).

## **NINTH STREET COB SEEKS PARSONAGE TENANT**

The Ninth Street COB is seeking a tenant for its parsonage. The home is located at 745 Montrose Ave SE in Roanoke. It is a four-bedroom, four square style home. For more information or to recommend a tenant, please contact Debbie Humphrey at 540-977-1973 or [cavmom2002@yahoo.com](mailto:cavmom2002@yahoo.com).

## **HANDBELL DIRECTOR NEEDED AT ROANOKE, OAK GROVE**

Oak Grove Church of the Brethren (2138 McVitty Road, Roanoke) is seeking an experienced Handbell Director. Our handbell choir has been blessing our congregation for more than 20 years. The director would be responsible for choosing music for our 9-member choir (with various levels of skill) and smaller ensemble pieces, leading weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, and directing the choir when they play during worship service (once every 4 - 6 weeks with the exception of June - August). Some overlap with our current director is desired. Please

contact Carol Elmore

at [elmores24153@gmail.com](mailto:elmores24153@gmail.com) or at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren with interest, for a full job description and compensation.

## **ROANOKE, OAK GROVE HOASTING CRAFTING GROUP**

Oak Grove COB is hosting craft making and quilting activities on Mondays from 9:00 to 12:00 pm for anyone interested. It would be a great opportunity to get to know others in the District who do not have a craft group at their church. If interested, call the church at 540-774-3217 or email [churchoffice@oakgrovecob.org](mailto:churchoffice@oakgrovecob.org).

## **VINTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN HAS USED CHOIR ROBES**

The Vinton Church of the Brethren has between ten and twenty used choir robes that are available free of charge to a church who will use them. Please call Martha Ferrell at 540-330-3144 for more information.

## **PEACE COVENANT CHURCH HAS APPLE BUTTER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**

The Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren has used apple butter making equipment available to a church that will use them. For more information, contact Duane Deardorff at [duane.deardorff@gmail.com](mailto:duane.deardorff@gmail.com).

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2024**

Both delegate and non-delegate registration for Annual Conference 2024, which will take place from Wednesday July 3 through Sunday July 7 in Grand Rapids, Michigan will open on March 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm EST. To register, go to <https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/registration/>.



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

**WELCOME+**  
**WORTHY**

2024 CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

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## OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF:

**Darrell Wayne Brubaker** passed away on December 7, 2023 at the age of 70. He was a member of Antioch Church. A memorial service will be held on a later date.

**Robert "Jack" Thomas** passed away on December 10, 2023 at the age of 86. A service was held at Oak Grove Church on December 12, 2023.

**Evelyn Harman Janney** passed away on December 17, 2023. Funeral service was held on December 21 in the Stonewall Church United Methodist Brethren. She was a former member of Iglesia Nueva Vida Steering Committee.

**Jacob Wendell Harris** passed away December 27, 2023 at the age of 88. He was a member of Burks Fork Church. A private graveside service was held in the Topeco Church Cemetery.

**Lloyd Wendall Akers, Sr.** passed away on December 29, 2023 at the age of 86. He was a member of White Rock Church. Funeral service was held January 5, 2024.

**Nell Frances Doss DeHart** passed away January 1 at the age of 74. She was the wife of Charles DeHart, long-term supply preacher at Mason's Cove Church of the Brethren.

**Emma Jean Franklin Woodard** passed away January 10 at the age of 73. She was the pastor of Bethany Church of the Brethren. Funeral service was held January 21 at Oak Church of the Brethren.

**Savilla F. "Tippy" Robinson** passed away January 11 at the age of 91. Services were private. She was the wife of retired pastor Jimmy Robinson.

**Nancy Jean Jones Jordan** passed away January 19 at the age of 85. She was a member of First Church of the Brethren in Pulaski. The family will plan a celebration of life at a later date.

**Rachel Flora Barnhart** passed away January 27 at the age of 103. A funeral service was held on February 3 at Antioch Church.

**Brenda W. Hedge** passed away January 30 at the age of 78. She was a member of Hollins Road Church. A Graveside Service was held on February 10.

**Edith P. Winegard** passed away February 4 at the age of 93. She was a member of Williamson Road Church. Funeral services were held on Feb-

ruary 8.

**David R. Stohler**, age 80, passed away on February 6. He was a member of the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren.

**Carl W. Johnson**, age 78, passed away on February 1. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Carl was the brother of retired pastor Leo Johnson.

**Belita Mitchell**, 2007 Annual Conference moderator, passed away at her home on February 10. Funeral arrangements are still pending.

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Are you interested in growing in the depth and breadth of your faith? Are you sensing God calling you to greater leadership within the Church? Christian Growth Institute (CGI), a leadership development program of the Shenandoah and Virlina Districts will hold its new student orientation on Saturday June 1 at Stone Church of the Brethren in Buena Vista, VA. For more information about CGI or to sign up for new student orientation, visit <https://www.virlina.org/christian-growth-institute.html> or email Cathy Huffman at [cashuffman@gmail.com](mailto:cashuffman@gmail.com).

## CLERGY ETHICS TRAINING

The Church of the Brethren *requires* all licensed, commissioned and ordained ministers to participate in ethics training at least once every five years. Typically, ethics training events are offered in the fall of the year before five year ordination/commission review. The kickoff ethics training event will be offered concurrent with Practice of Ministry Day sponsored by Christian Growth Institute. This event, led by Cathy Huffman and Nathan Hollenberg, will take place from 9:00 am through 4:00 pm at the Montezuma Church of the Brethren on Saturday August 3. More information will follow in the Memo for Ministers and on the District Website regarding registration. Further ethics training events will be offered in the fall of 2024.

# CAMP BETHEL NEWS & UPDATES

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## **CAMP BETHEL SEEKS NEW FOOD SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR**

Camp Bethel is accepting online applications for a full-time, year-round Food Services Coordinator. Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia seeks a dependable, caring leader to be our full-time salaried Food Services Coordinator. Food Service ability or experience is required, and staff management experience is preferred. This position is available immediately. Starting benefits package includes salary of \$36,000 without optional family/personal medical insurance plan (or \$32,000 with optional family/personal medical insurance plan), an employer-paid pension plan, paid vacation leave, professional growth funds, and optional on-site housing and utilities. Camp Bethel is a facility free from tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and drugs. Read the on-line application instructions, position description and more at [CampBethelVirginia.org/fsc](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/fsc), or e-mail questions to Camp Director, Hannah Jarrett at [Hannah@CampBethelVirginia.org](mailto:Hannah@CampBethelVirginia.org).

## **CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST**

Amazon wish-list (with lots of new updates!) at: <https://a.co/5qG5JYq>

Sam's gift cards to help offset food cost for upcoming events, Skid Steer, tracked or wheeled; Road-worthy pickup truck (2010 or newer); 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); Outdoor Storage Shed (used or new); Clothes washer and dryer; Refrigerator (full or mini); LED light bulbs; new first-aid supplies; 3'x8' plyboards for bunks (any thickness or quality); or monetary donations at [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](https://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)

Gifts are tax-deductible!

## **SOW THE SEED BANQUET, MARCH 7, 2024**

Give the gift of camp: an experience that can change a life forever! Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet will be on March 7, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Ark Dining Hall. For \$50 per person, we will share an excellent dinner plus a fun program, all for Summer Camperships. YOU can help a child attend camp who would not otherwise have the ability to come. \$410 is the 2024 base fee for one week of camp. \$50 payment can be made ahead of time or at the table on March 7. Please register by March 1. In case of weather cancellation, we will notify registered participants with a snow date.

## **SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL, APRIL 12-13, 2024**

Join us for fun stories, music, food, and springtime beauty, all to raise funds for Camp Bethel, at our Sounds of the Mountain Festival, April 12-13, 2024. Our excellent sponsors make this event possible, and your donations keep it alive. 2024 performers include Mokoto, Antonio Rocha, Bil Lepp and Kevin Kling. Lots of food options will be available throughout the weekend as well. Tickets and more information are at [www.soundsofthemountains.org](http://www.soundsofthemountains.org).

## **2024 SUMMER STAFF**

While hiring for the 2024 Summer Camping Season is well underway, there is still time to apply. If you know someone, or are someone, who has a passion for Camp Bethel, apply online all summer staff positions, including counselors, kitchen and grounds staff. For more information or to apply visit <https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/summer-staff.html>.

## **2024 STAFF ADOPTION**

The staff adoption program is back for a third summer. This highly successful initiative builds relationships between local congregations and summer staff members. The congregation (or group within the church) commits to pray for their staff member, send notes of encouragement, and donate at least \$100.00 for the bonus fund. Each staff member who successfully completes their contract is then paid a bonus at the end of the summer. For more information, visit <https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/staff-adoption.html>

## **2024 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION**

Registration for 2024 summer camps at Camp Bethel is now open. Please visit <https://www.campbethelvirginia.org/camps.html> for more information about summer camp offerings or to register your child.



# DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

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## **NOMINATING AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The N&P committee met on January 27 to begin the process of filling the 2024 District Conference ballot. We need your help. Please forward the names of any members of your congregation who have gifts and abilities that would enable our district board and committees to be strong in our mission for Virgina. You do not have to have permission to nominate someone. The committee will discern and call as persons are suggested. The following positions are sought for the 2024 ballot: Moderator-elect (non-clergy); Program and Arrangements; Nominating and Personnel-North Carolina, Roanoke County, Roanoke City; District Board – Martinsville, North Carolina, Floyd County, Roanoke City, At-large; and Outdoor Ministries Committee. A copy of the nominating form can be sent to you electronically or by mail. Please contact Mary St.John at [virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com](mailto:virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com) or call the district office to request a form at 540-362-1816.

## **COMMISSION ON NURTURE SEEKS COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

The Commission on Nurture is actively seeking a leader who will plan events for children, youth and young adults in the Virgina District. This job averages ten hours per week. Compensation is \$7,800.00 per year. This is a great opportunity to enrich the lives of the young people of Virgina. Retreats, picnics, spiritual events, and denominational functions are the focus of this position. Space to work is provided at the Virgina District Resource Center on Plantation Road in Roanoke, but this job could also be “plan from home”. If you know of someone who is eligible for this position, please contact Nurture Chair, Robin Lavinder, at [robin.lavinder@hotmail.com](mailto:robin.lavinder@hotmail.com) or Mary St.John at [virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com](mailto:virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com).

## **ROUNDTABLE YOUTH CONFERENCE AT BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE**

“Who is my Neighbor?” is the theme for the February 23-25, 2024 Roundtable weekend held at Bridgewater College. The guest speakers are Chelsea Goss Skillen, director of Brethren Volunteer Service, and Tyler Goss, Director of Student

Engagement and Leadership Development at Eastern Mennonite University. Chelse and Tyler are brother and sister who grow up in the West Richmond Church of the Brethren, served on staff at Camp Bethel, graduated from Bridgewater, and have spoken at National Youth Conference. All ninth through twelfth graders are encouraged to attend. Cost for the full weekend is \$70.00, including meals. Registration is required. <http://iycroundtable.wix.com/iycbc>.

## **MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT**

The annual Virgina District Ministers and Spouses Retreat will be on Friday and Saturday March 8-9, 2024 at Camp Bethel. The theme will be “Equipping the Saints: Pastoring Against the Clock.” The retreat will be led by Angela Carr, pastor of the Laurel Branch COB and circuit rider for the Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church program of the Church of the Brethren and Nate Polzin, Executive Director of Discipleship and Leadership Formation for the Church of the Brethren. For more information or to register, contact the district office at 540-362-1816 or [Virgina.dem@gmail.com](mailto:Virgina.dem@gmail.com).

## **DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND RECRUITMENT**

The Virgina Disaster Response Committee, a committee serving under the District Commission on Witness, invites all individuals who have been on work projects in the years of 2020 through early winter of 2024, to an appreciation banquet at Camp Bethel on Sunday, March 10, 2024 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. If you know of someone who has recently expressed interest in learning more about going out on disaster projects, we ask that you invite them to come to this banquet to learn more about what is involved when you sign up to be a volunteer at a work site. Come have a good meal, hear an informative speaker, and get to know others in the district who have a passion for disaster response missions. For more information about menu and program, and to call and RSVP, please call Mary St.John at 540-362-1816 or email at [virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com](mailto:virgina.directordcnw@gmail.com).

Pilgrimage XXV will be held March 15-17, 2024, at Camp Bethel. Hundreds of people from 60 churches in our district have attended this event

# DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

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which is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. Pilgrimage is for everyone because no matter where a person is on his or her faith journey, it is always good to take another step and draw closer to God. The basic structure of the weekend is the same each year with talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. Yet God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry, and we give Him all praise and honor! **The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it.** Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Haynes at 336-765-5263 or [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com) or go to [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com).

## **MONETA, LAKELAND FELLOWSHIP TO HOST CLOSING LOVE FEAST ON SATURDAY MARCH 30**

With deep sadness we announce that the Moneta, Lakeland Fellowship will conclude its ministry on Easter Sunday March 31, 2024. To celebrate the fellowship's ministry, persons from around the district are invited to celebrate Love Feast with Lakeland on Saturday March 30 at 5:00 pm. The Moneta, Lakeland Church is located at 8130 Moneta Road in Bedford, VA.

## **WORLD HUNGER AUCTION EVENTS**

The World Hunger Auction Gold Tournament, a four person scramble event, will take place on Saturday April 20 at Great Oaks Country Club in Floyd, VA. The World Hunger Walk will be on Sunday April 21 at 3:00 pm at Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren. For more information about these and other World Hunger Action Events, please visit their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WorldHungerAuction>.

## **MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY SET FOR MAY 4 AT CLOVERDALE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

The Commission on Witness' annual Ministry and Mission Day and Annual Conference delegate briefing will be held on Saturday, May 4, at Cloverdale Church of the Brethren from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The day begins with worship, then participants choose various informative workshops

that will appeal to any and all church leadership, as well as provide CEU for pastors. Opening worship will feature our district conference Moderator Stacy Goff, who will remind us of the upcoming District Conference theme, "Who Knows?" from 1 Corinthians 2. The first half of the day, through lunch, requires registration and a \$20.00 fee.

Annual Conference Moderator, Madalyn Metzger will join us for the day and after lunch, she and our Standing Committee members will walk us through what to expect at Annual Conference July 3-7, 2024. Congregational delegates who are unable to attend the whole day should plan to come to Cloverdale at 1:30 PM for the briefing. There is no fee to attend the Annual Conference briefing.

There will be a catered lunch so this event requires an RSVP. Attendees will choose workshops upon registration. All delegates, church leaders, and pastors are encouraged to attend. A descriptive flier will be sent to each congregation. For more information, contact Mary St. John at 540-362-1816 or email at [virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com](mailto:virlina.directordcnw@gmail.com).

## **CALLING THE CALLED VII: HEARING THE HOLY SPIRIT: DISCERNING, CONFIRMING - A TIME TO HEAR YOUR CALL**

Is there someone in your congregation, or that you know around the district that you have noticed gifts for ministry in? Tap that person on the shoulder and encourage them to come to Calling the Called, which will be held on May 17-18 at Camp Bethel. Calling the Called provides participants with an intentional time to study scripture together, hear stories and reflections of how God called others and reflect upon the ways that God might be calling them. For more information, or to nominate someone, contact either Paul Stover, chairperson at [stover80@msn.com](mailto:stover80@msn.com), or Daniel Rudy, District Executive Minister at [Virlina.dem@gmail.com](mailto:Virlina.dem@gmail.com).