

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

MARCH

Newsletter

2020

"If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses, as the scripture says. And if he will not listen to them, then tell the whole thing to the church. Finally, if he will not listen to the church, treat him as though he were a pagan or a tax collector...For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

Matthew 18:15-17; 20

The very first Brethren had a strong pietistic background. Faith was a matter of the heart for them. They considered organized religion, in particular the state churches, to be corrupt and a stumbling block to spiritual growth. More importantly, however, they were committed to be obedient to the teachings of Jesus. Jesus said (John 14:15), "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." His word here formed their approach to the New Testament. Thus, as they read these words from Matthew 18, in their uncritical but wholehearted manner, they realized that Jesus intended His people to form a body. Why else would he say "tell the whole thing to the church?" The outgrowth of this conviction was the formation of the Church of the Brethren in 1708.

As Christians we accept Christ, as well as our brothers and sisters in His Body. Perhaps this is why this reading from Matthew was read to baptismal candidates for much of our history. The Lord reminds us that we are accountable one to the other. The Christian life is not merely a solitary walk with the Lord. It is also a walk with the Lord's people together. Unfortunately, we forget that far too often when we are confronted by our differences. We often give far better care and more priority to our buildings than to our people. When the tidiness of the church kitchen is more important than the spiritual wellbeing of our youth, we have failed. When looking good is more important than doing good, we are faithless. When we "roast" persons whose thoughts are different than ours on social media in private groups, we have fallen short. When winning as individuals or as a group is of more value than edifying or building up the whole body, we have missed the mark. Our failure to take our corporate nature seriously is one reason that far too many of our congregations and our denomination are marked by continuing, consuming conflict. A church can exist without a building, organization or financial resources; but not without God's people.

Jesus' words illustrate a process by which we may resolve our personal difficulties with one another. When we have a problem with our brother or our sister we are to go to them alone and to seek reconciliation. We must go in the spirit of humility. We are to expect to correct difficulties and we are to expect to receive correction. So often we become convinced with the righteousness of our words and deeds that we forget the worth of those who differ with us. Every individual is of sacred worth to God. For God created us in the beginning and God has recreated us in Jesus Christ. Thus,

when we must confront brothers and sisters, we do so by telling the truth in love. There is no replacement for the "right" spirit.

One biblical example is the reaction of Joseph when he found out that Mary, his betrothed, was expecting the birth of a child. "Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly (Matthew 1:19)." When we desire to humiliate and punish others, exposing them to ridicule and shame, we do not have the right spirit.

If reconciliation is not achieved at first the offended individual must consider whether the problem is sufficient to go to the next step. Often times we act out of emotion and forget that feelings wax and wane. But, if it's more than that, the next step is to take witnesses. We might also call them "process observers." This is in keeping with the Jewish law which allowed no one to be condemned without the testimony of two or more witnesses. Those who go are not merely advocates for our view point but also insure fairness and equity in our approach to the offender.

If after this the problem is still sufficient to destroy or impair the relationship, we are to take it to the church. He is not referring to mere trivialities between persons, but serious issues. He doesn't say take it to the pastor, but to the church. It is the church's obligation to work with the parties involved to effect reconciliation between all parties. It is not the church's role to judge but to discipline the membership. This discipline must be carried forth equitably for all. The church is not made of brick nor block, wood nor organizational chart - the church consists of those who are called out from society to serve the risen Lord. In this age of hyper-individualism and widespread divisiveness, let us witness to the corporate nature of His body. Let us learn to tell one another directly, candidly and with love those things which block or impair relationships rather than sharing with the uninvolved.

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
Gary L. Basham, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Bethany - Issac Carroll by baptism in October 2019.
Burks Fork - Carrie Graham by baptism
Concord, Living Faith - Alia Schubbe by letter December 15, 2019.
Coulson - Helen Lawson, Jason Lawson and Brian Carter by baptism January 19, 2020.
Peters Creek - Karly Arrington July 2019. Joe Kropff, Betty Kropff, Adrienne Louthen by letter July 2019. John Poff by letter December 20, 2019.
Red Oak Grove - John Farmer by letter January 26, 2020.
Roanoke, Oak Grove - Gilbert and Vada Henshaw by letter January 20, 2019.

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SAINTS

Henry N. Platter, aged 74, of Roanoke County, VA, passed away on Sunday, October 27, 2019. He was a member of the Green Hill Church. Henry was the son of the late Fenton Platter, former pastor of the Green Hill Church.

Bernice Parcell Whitlow, aged 90, passed away on Thursday, October 24, 2019. She was a member of the Bassett Church of the Brethren.

Mary Ellen Jones Spencer, aged 85, of Martinsville, died on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. She was the mother of Ellen Randall, wife of New Hope Pastor Rick Randall. She was active in Brethren Disaster Ministries.

Robert Drew (Bob) Bierly, aged 71, of Roanoke, VA, died on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. He was a member of the Roanoke - Oak Grove Church of the Brethren.

Michael Alan Carroll, aged 55, of Roanoke, VA, passed from this world on Saturday, December 14, 2019. He was formerly the pastor of the Trinity Church of the Brethren and had served on the staff of the Oak Grove and Peters Creek congregations.

Daniel Alan Graham, aged 28, of Salem, VA, went to be with the Lord on January 5, 2020. He was a member of the Green Hill Church of the Brethren.

Andrew Nester, aged 87, of Floyd, VA, passed to his eternal reward on February 1, 2020. He was a member of the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren. Andy designed and built the sound room for his congregation.

Paul E. Bower, aged 90, of Rocky Mount, VA, died on Thursday, February 6, 2020. He faithfully served as custodian at Antioch Church of the Brethren, where he was a member, for more than 50 years.

Rebecca Spigle Jamison, aged 94, of Roanoke, VA, died on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. She was a longtime mem-

ber of the Central Church of the Brethren.

Ralph Brown Jarrett, aged 92, of Collinsville, passed away peacefully at his home to be with his Lord Jesus Christ on Monday, February 10, 2020. Brother Ralph was a printer by trade and a charter member of the Collinsville Church of the Brethren.



PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

BETHANY - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit Supply.
EDEN, FIRST - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I-4) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.
FRATERNITY - Full time position, profile pending - Harold E. Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.
JETERS CHAPEL - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - *James R. Worline will conclude as interim pastor on February 28, 2020.*
LIGHTHOUSE - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.
LYNCHBURG - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.
MAPLE GROVE - Part time position, no profile available - Brian Sink serving as pulpit supply.
MASONS COVE - *W. Leonard Foley began as pastor on a part time basis effective January 1, 2020.*
MONETA, LAKE SIDE - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Christian J. 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 by Nathaniel Milton and others.
PLEASANTDALE - *James John Stade will serve as associate pastor effective February 16, 2020. W. Leonard Foley continues as pastor.*
RED HILL - *Carlton L. Hodges began as pastor on a part time basis effective February 1, 2020.*
ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.
SHELTON - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith is serving as interim pastor.
TRINITY - Part time position, profile available by request (P) - *Anne Mitchell has been called as interim pastor effective February 1, 2020.*

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MARCH 25, 2020

Deadline for the May 2020 HEADLINER is March 25, 2020. Forward items to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012**. Please make sure to change our address if you have not done so!

NEWS & EVENTS

KEN MEDEMA AND TED SWARTZ - MARCH 8, 2020

Ken Medema and Ted Swartz are well-known by many Brethren who have seen them at National Youth Conference, Annual Conference, and the National Older Adult Conference. On Sunday, March 8, at 4 p.m., they will bring their program, sponsored by the World Hunger Auction, to the Central Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA. The title, *Can We Talk? Conversation for Change through Story and Song*, suggests that the audience can anticipate a thought provoking and insightful experience. It is a blessing to have a program of this caliber in our community, and all are invited to participate.

Hailing from the San Francisco area, Ken describes himself as a singer, songwriter, pianist, composer, and imaginator. Ted is known for blending Bible stories with comedy and poignancy, and pushing the envelope on issues of faith and social justice. Swartz's engaging humor blends with his own stories of triumph and tragedy, and helps listeners understand their own sense of place and how they're shaped by those around them.

During the program, donations will be accepted for the World Hunger Auction which was started in 1984 as a way to provide support to agencies addressing hunger issues both locally and around the world. In the intervening years, activities such as this one have been added to offer new opportunities to help those in need. In recent years, donations have been made to Heifer International, Roanoke Area Ministries, Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative, Heavenly Manna, Stepping Stone Mission, and Lake Christian Ministries. Through 2019, over \$1,515,000 has been raised and distributed.

MONTE VISTA SPAGHETTI DINNER - MARCH 14, 2020

Monte Vista Church is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Camp Bethel on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. All donations will go to Camp Bethel. Come join us for fun and fellowship for this worthy fundraiser!

ROANOKE - FIRST CHILI COOKOFF - MARCH 28, 2020

On Saturday, March 28, at 5:00 p.m., the Roanoke - First Church of the Brethren (2001 Carroll Avenue, NW) will be hosting their annual CHILI COOK OFF AND BAKE OFF. Funds derived from this event are used to provide Good as Gold Scholarships to Camp Bethel. Those wishing to enter a pot of chili or cake, etc. are to have their entry at the church by 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to enter the contest or just enjoy the evening. Advance notice is appreciated to be sure of enough food for judging and dining. Salads and drinks will be provided. No charge -- DONATIONS will be gladly accepted. Ribbons will be given to the winners. If you have questions, contact Cliff Hartsel (540) 362-2065.

2020 LENTEN SERVICES IN THE BASSETT AREA

Lenten Services for 2020 will be held on three Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. They are as follows:

March 22, 2020 - Bassett Church - Rick Randall

March 29, 2020 - Mount Hermon - Maynard Baker

April 5, 2020 - New Hope Church - Noel Naff

WORLD HUNGER WALK AT ANTIOCH - APRIL 26, 2020

The World Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, April 26 starting at 3 p.m. This six-mile walk starting and ending at Antioch Church raises awareness of and generates funds for world hunger. Walkers walk for money that has been pledged to them or may make a contribution. The walk starts and finishes at Antioch Church of the Brethren and includes rest stops along the way with refreshments provided. You can download your registration and sponsorship form <<http://www.worldhungerauction.org/events>>.

WEST RICHMOND SEEKS CHILDREN/YOUTH DIRECTOR

The West Richmond Church seeks a part-time director of children and youth ministries. A full position description, compensation information and the application process may be accessed at www.wrcob.org.

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS DUE (as of February 20, 2020)

It is important that the forms listed below be completed and returned as they provide important information for budget planning. If your congregation is listed below, please get the information mailed as soon as possible.

Congregational Outreach Report - Self-allocation for 2020

(was sent from the General Offices in Elgin and was due on December 31, 2019): Bethlehem, Collinsville, Copper Hill, Danville-Emmanuel, Fraternity, Good Shepherd, Henry Fork, Jeters Chapel, Lighthouse, Maple Grove, Monte Vista, Mount Bethel, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Olean, PleasantDale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Roanoke-Oak Grove, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith Chapel, Smith River, Spruce Run, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel.

Additional Officers Form For 2020

(was sent from the District Resource Center in the December/January Memo for Ministers and was due back January 15, 2020): Antioch, Beaver Creek, Bethel, Bethlehem, Blacksburg-Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Blue Ridge, Boones Mill, Cedar Bluff, Copper Hill, Coulson, Crab Orchard, Daleville, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Durham-Peace Covenant, Eden-First, Fairview (Floyd), Fairview (Rocky Mount), Ferrum, Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida, Fraternity, Good Shepherd, Henry Fork, Hiwassee, Hopewell, Jeters Chapel, Jones Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lighthouse, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Moneta-LakeSide Fellowship, Mount Bethel, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Bethel, New Covenant, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Olean, Parkway, PleasantDale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Poages Mill, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Red Oak Grove, Roanoke-First, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith River, Spruce Run, Trinity, Troutville, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

2	6:30	PM	Northern Area Ministers - Camp Bethel (DKS)
3	10:00	AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)
5	6:30	PM	Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet - Camp Bethel (BSL)
9	6:00	PM	Peace Affairs Committee - Christiansburg (MSS)
	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee - Moneta (DKS)
13	2:00	PM	Historical Committee (DKS)
14	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSS)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (MSS/DKS)
16	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Coulson (DKS)
20-22			Pilgrimage - Camp Bethel
21	9:00	AM	District Board Meeting - Roanoke, Summerdean (DKS/MSS)
27	7:00	PM	Long Range Financial Planning - Jones Chapel (DKS)
28	7:30	AM	Spring Volunteer Work Day - Camp Bethel (BSL)
29-31		PM	Awakening Services - Cloverdale (DKS/MSS)
30	9:00	AM	Awakening Bible Study - Roanoke, Williamson Road (DKS)
31	9:00	AM	Awakening Bible Study - Green Hill (DKS)

APRIL 2020

1	9:00	AM	Awakening Bible Study - Daleville (DKS)
		PM	Awakening Service - Cloverdale (DKS/MSS)
3	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
3-4			Sounds of the Mountains - Camp Bethel (BSL)
4	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSS)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (MSS/DKS)
6	8:30	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Jeters Chapel (DKS)
7	6:00	PM	Commission on Witness (MSS)
10			Good Friday - District Resource Center Closed
17-18			Calling the Called Meeting - Camp Brethren Woods (DKS)
20	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Concord, Living Faith (DKS)
23		AM	Virginia Council of Churches Steering Committee (DKS)
25	9:30	AM	Northern Area Women's Rally - Roanoke-Oak Grove (MSS)

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

2020 BRETHREN DISASTER - VIRLINA TRIPS

Have you ever wanted to minister to someone in distress, but felt that you didn't have the ability to do so? Perhaps you can't preach or teach, but you have a willingness to serve! Then Brethren Disaster Ministries is the perfect avenue for you! You do not need to be skilled in the building trades to help with disaster response. The Virlina District is scheduled for a number of Brethren Disaster Ministries trips in 2020.

Please note the schedule and contact our Disaster Response Coordinators Ed or Susan McKimmy at virlinaddr@gmail.com or by telephone at (540) 354-5345 or (540) 330-8266 to participate.

Tampa FL	March 29-April 4	Hollins Road
Puerto Rico	May 9-23	Open
Project1	May 24-30	Full group - Open
Project1	June 28-July 4	Antioch
Project2	September 20-26	West Richmond
Project1	November 15-21	Hollins Road

SUMMER WORKCAMPS FOR 2020

The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Office is excited to release the 2020 workcamp dates and locations! A total of 19 different workcamps will be offered for junior high, senior high, adult, and we are able participants. To view the full schedule, which includes the dates, location, cost, and description of each workcamp, visit www.brethren.org/workcamps/schedule. Registration began on January 16, 2020. Please encourage those of all ages from your congregations to attend a workcamp this summer. If you have any questions or would like a 2020 workcamp brochure mailed to you, contact the Workcamp Office at cobworkcamps@brethren.org.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA - MAY 2, 2020

"Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina District" will be Saturday, May 2, at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on Route 40 between Rocky Mount and Ferrum (4638 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The hymn sing and worship starts at 9:00 a.m.

The featured speaker for worship is Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday. A variety of helpful and timely workshops following worship are available for participants. Each workshop provides 0.1 CEU for ordained ministers. A full list of the workshop offerings will be forthcoming.

Participation costs nothing but your time. Lunch is provided on-site for a small fee. The Annual Conference Delegate Briefing, led by Moderator Paul Munday and our Standing Committee delegates begins at 1:30 p.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and participate in Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina on May 4, 2019.

NEW AND RENEW CONFERENCE - MAY 13-15, 2020

"New and Renew: Revitalize - Plant - Grow!" is our denom-

national church planting and revitalization conference. It is held on alternate, even numbered years. The theme for 2020 is "The Reward of Risk" based on Matthew 25:28 in The Message: "Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most." This event will be held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, IL on May 13-15, 2020. Contact David A. Bess, Chairperson of the Virlina District New Church Development Committee, if you have interest in going. For more details, go to www.brethren.org/news/2019/new-and-renew-church-planting-event.html.

WIDENING THE WELCOME OF YOUR CHURCH - JUNE 6

"Widening the Welcome of Your Church" will be held on June 6 at the Summerdean Church in Roanoke, Virginia (6604 Plantation Road, NE in Roanoke). Fred Bernhard, co-author of "Widening the Welcome of Your Church" and a well-known leader in the Church of the Brethren, will be speaking on the importance of hospitality and how to achieve a vital and thriving congregation. This event is sponsored by the Good News Team of the Virlina District - Commission on Witness. More details about attendance fees, time, and the program will be available soon. Save the date!

AWAKENING 2020 - MARCH 29 THROUGH APRIL 1

Awakening 2020 will be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren (located at 4708 read Mountain Rd, Cloverdale VA), beginning on Sunday, March 29 - April 1. Each night will begin with a hymn sing at 6:45 followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow the services on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

There will be a Bible Study preceded by a light breakfast from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren on Monday, the Green Hill Church of the Brethren on Tuesday and the Daleville Church of the Brethren on Wednesday, respectively.

Our speaker this year is Tara Hornbacker, ordained minister and retired professor from Bethany Theological Seminary. Her theme this year is Awake, Aware, Alive and Arise. Come and join us for an uplifting time of singing, worship, Bible Study and enjoying the company of other local Brethren as we praise God together during the season of Lent

2020 EVANGELISTIC, REVIVAL AND RENEWAL SERVICES

Please send additions, deletions and corrections to EHeadliner@aol.com.

Date	Location	Speaker
March 9-11	Mount Bethel, VA	Various
March 15-17	Vinton, VA	Rodger Hogan
March 22-25	Copper Hill, VA	David K. Shumate
April 20-24	Spruce Run, WV	Brian Turpin
April 24-26	Concord, NC	David K. Shumate
May 3-5	Poages Mill, VA	Various
May 13-17	New Bethel, VA	Various
une 7-10	Burks Fork, VA	The Gregorys
Sept 27-30	Red Oak Grove, VA	Gerald L. Hylton
October 4-7	Topeco, VA	Marvin D. Wade
October 5-8	Pulaski, First, VA	David K. Shumate

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

NORTHERN AREA WOMEN'S EVENT - APRIL 25, 2020

The Northern Area Women's Spring Event will be held at Roanoke, Oak Grove on April 25. The message is "Scam Alert" Our worship will be about how individuals may scam God. Our educational speaker will be from the Local Office on Aging who will talk about the latest ways scams take place today. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. A menu and registration price will be announced soon.

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED CHURCH LEADERS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JULY 1-5, 2020

Dr. Tod Bolsinger and Dr. Michael J. Gorman, two nationally acclaimed church leaders, will be featured resource persons at the 2020 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference to be held July 1-5, 2020, at DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Bolsinger will be the featured speaker at an all-conference equipping session on Friday, July 3, where he will address "Doing Church in Uncharted Territory." On Thursday, July 2, he will speak at the Moderator's Dinner on the topic of "Adventure or Die" and lead an insight session themed "Standing the Heat, Surviving the Sabotage." He will also speak at a breakfast event Friday morning, July 3, on "The Fire and the Anvil"

Dr. Gorman will resource the Church of the Brethren Minister's Association pre-conference on June 30 and July 1. His focus will be "1 Corinthians: Challenges for Today's Church." He will also serve as Bible study leader each morning for the entire Annual Conference on selected passages from the book of Revelation. In addition, Dr. Gorman will lead an insight session on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings on the topic "Reading the Bible Missionally." On Saturday, he will speak at a luncheon on the theme "Non-Violence in the Writings of Paul."

Dr. Tod Bolsinger serves as Vice President and Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Previously, he served the seminary as Vice President of Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. Holding both a PhD in Theology and Master of Divinity from Fuller, Dr. Bolsinger also serves as an executive coach for corporate, nonprofit, educational, and church organizations in transformational leadership. He has authored three books, including his most recent, "*Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*." For seventeen years, he was the senior pastor of San Clemente Presbyterian Church in San Clemente, California, after serving for ten years at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Dr. Bolsinger and his wife Beth have two children.

Dr. Michael J. Gorman holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland. He has taught at St. Mary's since 1991, as well as serving as the Dean of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute from 1995 to 2012. Dr. Gorman is the author of nearly twenty books and scores of articles, including several books on Paul; books on Revelation, the Gospel of John, and the atonement; volumes on biblical interpretation; and short books on topics in Christian ethics. Dr. Gorman

received his B.A. in French from Gordon College and his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he taught Greek. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and an elected member of the Society for New Testament Studies. A United Methodist layperson, Dr. Gorman is a frequent lecturer at churches, institutions of higher education, and clergy gatherings of many traditions in the U.S. and abroad. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Nancy, and they have three adult children.

For more information on the 2020 Annual Conference, entitled "God's Adventurous Future," visit the Annual Conference website at <www.brethren.org/ac/>.

AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORCHESTRA

Calling orchestra musicians! Annual Conference July 1-5, 2020 in Grand Rapids plans to have an orchestra! Below is a link to a survey any interested musician is asked to fill out to indicate their interest and skill level. To fill out the survey, go to <www.brethren.org/orchestrasurvey>. If you have questions, you may contact the Orchestra Director, Nonie Detrick at <VBD50@comcast.net>.

2ND ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 11-12

The Second Annual Virginia District Choir Festival will be held at the Central Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA on September 11-12, 2020. Full choirs, one time choir members, or people who just love to sing in a group are encouraged to attend.

Our first event in 2019 was well received and we anticipate even greater participation this year. S. Reed Carter, IV, Minister of Music at the Salem Presbyterian Church and director of the Salem Choral Society, will join us again as the guest director.

Participants will learn four or five anthems. A closing worship open to the public will take place on Saturday, September 12, featuring these anthems. The festival registration fee, to be determined, will cover lunch on Saturday and the anthems to take home.

These anthems will be featured at the opening worship for District Conference on Friday, November 13 at the Bonsack Baptist Church. More information will be shared soon.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY OF:

Jack D. Karpenske, aged 76, died on January 12, 2020. He served from 1993 until 2018 as the lead pastor of the Lynchburg Church of the Brethren. Jack served many years beginning in 1971, after his graduation from Bethany Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, IL, as chaplain for the Central Virginia Training Center in Madison Heights, VA. A native of Wisconsin, he was ordained in both the United Church of Christ and the Church of the Brethren.

Brother Karpenske is survived by his wife, Peggy, four children, four grandchildren and other family.

CAMP BETHEL

CAMP BETHEL SUMMER CAMPS 2020

The theme of our summer camps for 2020 is "ONWARD WE GO 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. Register early to guarantee your program choice. All descriptions, fees, forms, and schedules are at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>.

SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 5, 2020

The "Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet" will be held on Thursday, March 5 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 February 29 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Payments accepted in advance or at the table. Your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2020 is \$360. A week at camp can change a life forever. Give the gift of CAMP!

CAMPERSHIPS NEEDED FOR THE 2020 SEASON

We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$360, 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>

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - MARCH 28, 2020

The Spring Volunteer Workday at Camp Bethel is Saturday, March 28. It begins with a free breakfast at 7:30am and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP for meals by March 22 by telephone to (540) 992-2940 or by electronic mail <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. For more information please go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 3-4, 2020

Our 19th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival will be held on April 12-13. The 2020 festival features excellent and nationally known tellers such as Regi Carpenter, Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Tim Lowry. As always, there will be food and a Friday campfire. Help spread the word and recruit sponsors for this important fundraiser. For information go to <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT CAMP BETHEL?

We are now recruiting summer camp staff for our 2020 season. We need both counselors and kitchen helpers. We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our Summer Staff. Counselors serve May 25 through July 17. Kitchen Staff serve May 26 through August 15. Detailed position descriptions, videos, and applications are available at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff>. Help support these ministry-minded young adults at <CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt>. IT IS THE BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND- MAY 22-25, 2020

Our Memorial Day Family Weekend will be held on May 22-25. Check our website at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay> for the schedule of activities and our concert schedule. Please reserve meals before May 15 by contacting us at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUNDAY - MAY 23

Our Family Fun Day and Summer Camp Open House will be on Saturday, May 23. Camp Bethel invites you to come walk the grounds, meet other families and the camp staff, check out a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 25 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Meet at the Ark at 1:00 p.m. Stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend free swimming and the concert at 7:30 p.m.

SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING DINNER - JUNE 5, 2020

We will be having a summer staff commissioning dinner on Friday, June 5. Come end your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff at 5:30 p.m. for a free dinner in 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 1,250 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education. Please reserve meals by June 1 at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

COME TO CAMP FOR FAMILY FUN IN JUNE AND JULY

Join us for Family Fun Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June and July. Experience a Camp Bethel evening TOGETHER! The fun begins with dinner and singing at 5:30 p.m. in the Ark Dining Hall followed by nature fun and games, stand up paddleboarding or a river canoe trip. The evening activities are topped off with a campfire and S'mores. The \$10-\$28 per person fee includes dinner, activity, supplies and s'mores. For information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs>.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 23, for our 2020 Golf Tournament and Banquet. Play will be held at Ashley Plantation in Daleville. Tee off is at 12:30 p.m. and \$70 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner at camp. For more information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf>.

CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K RUN/WALK - SEPTEMBER 5

Our newest fundraiser for "the PEPPPIEST gang around!" The Camp Bethel Pep 5K Run/Walk begins with registration from 7 - 7:45 a.m. and an 8 a.m. start time. The \$32.50 entry fee includes a race t-shirt, pre-and-post-race snacks, fully stocked water/aid stations, prizes and fun. Sponsor packages are available. Go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K> for more information.

"TREE COOKIES" NEEDED

Can you help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our 2020 programs (nametags, KinderCritters, crafts, etc.)? Any hard wood and any 2.5" or larger cross-cut showing tree rings is ideal. Cut 'em, drill 'em, deliver 'em, or contact us (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

NEWS & EVENTS

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR - MARCH 27-29

The Bridgewater College Chorale, Concert Choir and Handbell choir will present concerts at churches in Roanoke and Rocky Mount (VA) area March 27-29, 2020. The concerts will feature choral works from the Renaissance to American contemporary periods including Johannes Brahms' "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from Requiem and "Lacrymosa" from W.A. Mozart's Requiem. Contemporary works by composers John Rutter, Karl Jenkins, and Jean Berger along with a variety of gospel and multi-cultural works will also be included in the performance.

The choirs are directed by Curtis Nolley ('76), and accompanied by Lacey Johnson ('07). The Bridgewater College Handbell Choir is a student led ensemble. Directed by Jenna Hallock ('20) and Noah Flint ('21), the handbell choir will present a variety of contemporary and traditional arrangements.

Concerts will be presented at First United Methodist Church in Salem, VA, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., Antioch Church of the Brethren in Rocky Mount, March 28 at 7:00 p.m., and at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, and March 29 at 11:00 a.m. The concerts are free of charge and open to the public.

HAVE YOU HEARD - SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN?

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the theme of our mission resourcing campaign. The goal is to develop resources to fulfill the District's commitment to ministry with our children, youth and young adults; continue new church development and multi-cultural ministry; to provide assistance to our smaller, struggling congregations; to encourage development of set apart ministerial leadership, to minister to our college students at Radford University and Virginia Tech; and to provide necessary enhancements to fulfill Camp Bethel's future potential. As of February 2, 2020, there are 284 pledges totaling \$569,502 with receipts totaling \$472,858.

Would you like to help? It's easy. You can make a one-time gift or pledge an amount to be paid over three years. Contact Roger Keffer (540) 725-1595 for more information.

CASA LATINA SERVES SPANISH-SPEAKING FAMILIES

Casa Latina is a non-profit social service agency located in Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, which sits in a neighborhood greatly populated with Spanish-speaking families. Although we aren't officially affiliated with the denomination, all our principles and goals mirror those of the church. We seek to provide services that are not readily available in Spanish in our area, and we have developed partnerships with a number of other non-profit agencies who wish to expand their services to target Spanish-speaking people. We hold office hours on Tuesdays, but we are available by appointment at other times.

On Fridays, we offer a Spanish Club for elementary children to learn traditional songs, dances, games, and stories. We have become aware that the children who attend might not have adequate food, so we are soliciting donations for snacks for the children.

On Tuesdays, we have ESL classes that serve people at various levels of language proficiency. Through a partnership with TAP, we have support group meetings on Thursdays. We are in the process of adding AA, Al-Anon, and NA groups in Spanish, as well as a bilingual Boy Scout troop. We will soon be offering classes that allow people to complete their interrupted education up through grade 9.

In December, for Family Night, we held a traditional Posada, which is a time for families to begin their preparations for Christmas with children's processions, songs, and food. The attendance was 80 people, with 32 of them children. On February 14, we will hold our third Family Night to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Three times a year, we host the mobile Mexican Consulate, and the next visit will be March 24-27. Records show that between 500 and 950 people come to Casa each time the Consulate visits. For the first time we will sponsor the Guatemalan Consulate at Fishwick Middle School, August 15-16.

All these activities occur through the amazing volunteer support we have built up. We are currently seeking funding to hire a part-time Executive Director to manage the growth that is occurring on a daily basis.

A-FRAME AT CAMP BETHEL FOR RESPITE HOUSE USE

CadinsCure.org is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on giving hope to children diagnosed with cancer. The dedicated families behind CadinsCure.org have teamed with Camp Bethel to update the Pineview A-Frame Cottage for use as an occasional respite retreat house for families with children diagnosed with cancer. CMC Supply, Lowe's, Whitt Carpet One, and Roanoke College gave materials, time, and funding. Learn more at <CadinsCure.org>.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY OF:

Kenneth J. Peterson, aged 77, of Newport News, Virginia, who died on December 16, 2019. He was the former pastor of the Ivy Farms Church of the Brethren in Newport News, Virginia from 2010 until 2018. Ken was ordained in the Virginia Conference of the Mennonite Church. He is survived by his wife, Carol, two children, two grandchildren and other family members.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES NEEDED - REMINDER

If your congregation has a printed or electronic church directory, the District Resource Center and Camp Bethel would appreciate receiving a copy. Please mail to Virilina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012 and to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090. Or, send by e-mail to <virilina@virlinasecretary@gmail.com> or <campbetheloffice@gmail.com>.