

# 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

NOVEMBER

*Newsletter*

2019

*"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come."*

Mark 13:32-33 (NRSV)

Advent is a season of hope and expectation in the Christian year. This season begins four Sundays prior to Christmas. This year Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. During this season we remember the supreme act of the graciousness of God embodied in the birth of our Saviour and Lord. It is a time when we look forward to the return of Christ and the establishment of his reign of peace.

Jesus was born into a world of strife and struggle. His native land was burdened by the occupation of a foreign, pagan nation. His nativity was greeted by the apathy of an innkeeper and the antipathy of a king. Joseph and Mary were perplexed by the circumstances of his birth. First notice came to sojourners and outcasts instead of those who were in positions of religious authority. Many did not expect him. Others expected a much different kind of Messiah.

Remembering the advent of our Lord is to acknowledge the radical impact of his birth upon the course of human history and culture. Even in this secular age the approximate time of his birth guides the calendar of western civilization. Remembering causes us to realize what a change he has wrought in our own personal pilgrimages and our ultimate destinies. Our lives are changed for time and eternity because of him. We are changed for time, because as Christians, we are remade in his image and share with him the way of the cross. Likewise, we are changed for eternity because our destiny is one with his and is everlasting life.

It is not by accident that the proclamation of the gospel from Advent to Pentecost illustrates the gospel story. It is a narrative of birth, life, ministry, trust, betrayal, death, resurrection and spiritual awakening. It is not merely about the past, but the present and the future. It belongs to us as much as to the wise men, the shepherds, the innkeeper and

all of the other beloved characters of Christmas pageants.

It is not by chance that the time from Pentecost to Advent focuses upon our response to God's grace and mercy. We are called to open ourselves to the Spirit of God as a flower opens to the sun and rain. God's nature, manifest in us through the Spirit, must inevitably cause us to become gracious, merciful and compassionate.

As the words of Jesus from Mark's gospel make clear there shall be a second advent. We look forward to the culmination and fulfillment of the reign of God as we live in this "already, but not yet" age. We are not called to name the day nor the hour, for that is given to the Almighty alone. We are called to live in the joy that God's forgiveness and salvation bring. Our expectation is that God will handle every circumstance beyond our control. In the meantime, as we wait for his appearing, we are to strive to live out the teachings, example and faith of Jesus. It is more than an intellectual or emotional decision. It is a daily discipline lived in the sunshine of forgiveness and grace. Each of us and all of us together must set before every individual and all of society the reality of Christ's presence in our being, words and deeds. Most of Jesus' world did not recognize him during the first advent. While we may picture ourselves as more discerning, humility requires the realization that perhaps we are no better than they. Let us not be blind to his coming, but ever watchful and waiting. May your advent season be marked by the richest blessings of God!

*David K. Shumate*  
*District Executive Minister*

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GARY L. BASHAM, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION  
JOY A. MURRAY, COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES  
ED AND SUSAN MCKIMMY, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE



**Concord, Living Faith** - Joy Lane by letter September 22, 2019.

**Germantown Brick** - Opal Arduino by baptism August 18, 2019. Tami Healy King by letter October 6, 2019.

**Henry Fork** - Amber Marie Collier, Katrina Jeanene Ryes-Andrews, Oscar Wayne Hodges, Elizabeth Ann Hodges, Heather Renee Adkins, and Gregory Dean Hodges by baptism August 18, 2019.

**Roanoke, Hollins Road** - Michele Roshioru by reaffirmation September 15, 2019. Ryan Roshioru, Emma Roshioru and A'Derius Pitt by baptism September 15, 2019.

**Roanoke, Williamson Road** - Eunice May and Janice May by letter August 4, 2019.

**CLOVERDALE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - NOVEMBER 2**  
The annual Christmas Bazaar held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren will be hosted by the Women's Fellowship on Saturday, November 2, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will have vendors offering unique gifts for that special Christmas present. Our Thrift Shop will be open with all its treasures at below bargain prices. Come join us for a delicious breakfast or lunch (or both) and check out our home baked items table for special treats! All earnings from this bazaar go to our outreach programs so remember as you shop that you are a part of a gift that keeps on giving. We will look forward to seeing you soon.

**BITTERSWEET BAND AT CENTRAL - NOVEMBER 17**  
The Central Church of the Brethren, located at 416 Church Avenue, S.W. in Roanoke, VA is hosting the Bittersweet Gospel Band on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

**COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE - DECEMBER 7, 2019**  
"Come to Bethlehem and See..." Travel through an outdoor live nativity program at Bethlehem Church of the Brethren at 4250 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065. Come experience the story of Christmas as you walk by scenes of Mary and Joseph, shepherds with their sheep, angels, and wisemen. Then come into the Bethlehem Church for cookies, hot chocolate, and warm fellowship. Golf cart rides are available to assist your tour. Please join us anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th and enjoy this Christmas story. This program will be held whether rain or shine. If you would like to be a character in our live nativity (costumes provided) our church would love for you to join us. Please let Sharon Grindstaff know if you would like to participate and she can work out further details. For information or questions, contact Sharon G. Grindstaff at (540) 493-7252 or <grindstaffsharon@gmail.com>.



**BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - *Jessica A. Slusher has resigned effective December 31, 2019 to pursue further training.*

**BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply (negotiations pending).

**BOONES MILL** - *Jerry W. Naff called as pastor on a part time basis effective September 1, 2019.*

**EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.

**FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - *Harold E. "Hal" Sonaf Frank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.*

**JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - James R. Worline serving as interim pastor.

**JONES CHAPEL** - Part or full-time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Emma Jean Franklin Woodard serving as interim pastor.

**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) - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor (interview pending).

**MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Brian Sink serving a pulpit supply.

**MASONS COVE** - Part time position, no profile available - *Jack W. Lowe, Jr. resigned as interim pastor effective August 31.*

**MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - *Christian Becker (FGBC) finished as interim pastor on September 8. He continues as pulpit supply*

**NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - *Samuel T. Light has resigned effective September 30, 2019.*

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

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

**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 circulating (P) - Pulpit supply.

**HEADLINER DEADLINE ON NOVEMBER 25**

Deadline for the January 2020 HEADLINER is November 25, 2019. 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

## **MURRAY BEGINS AS COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

Joy A. Murray began as Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Virlina District of the Church of the Brethren on August 1. She has been a member of Central Church of the Brethren for 14 years. During that time she has served as Youth Director/Minister. Joy brings 39 years of experience working with youth to the position. This position is funded through Seed, Scattered and Sown.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, she grew up in Nebraska and graduated from South Vigo High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. She has taken college classes from Shenandoah Bible College and Virginia Western Community College. For more than twenty years she has been employed as an Instructional Assistant in Special Education at Mountain View Elementary School in Roanoke County. She has been married to Mike for 39 years. They have two married sons and four wonderful grandchildren.

Joy was fortunate to be raised in a Christian home. She spent many hours on the front pew of churches as a child. Her mother is a gifted and talented organist/pianist/musician. She became a Christian as a young child. Joy feels very strongly about helping people become all that God means for them to be, to have a growing faith, and to be comfortable sharing the Gospel with others, be it by word or deed.

She may be reached at <mommurray59@aol.com> or at <virlinayouthministries@gmail.com>.

## **SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN - OCTOBER 18, 2019**

Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation, the mission resourcing campaign of the Virlina District, has attained 280 pledges which total \$554,023. As of the above date we have received \$442,135 toward the fulfillment of these pledges.

## **OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF**

**David (Sallie) R. Manning**, aged 76, of Boones Mill, VA, died peacefully at home Sunday, September 15, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Betty Spradling Manning; daughter, Angela Manning and friend Jim; brother, Alvin Manning; and sister-in-law, Betty Simmons. Dave served as Usher, Trustee, and Sunday School Secretary of the Boones Mill Church of the Brethren. A memorial service was held at the Boones Mill Church on Saturday, September 21. Jerry W. Naff and Robert A. Miller officiated.

**Lois Caldwell Hylton**, aged 89, of Roanoke, VA, died on Saturday, September 14, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Elmer "Smokie" Hylton. She was a long-time member of First Church of the Brethren in Roanoke. Lois is survived by her daughter, Brenda (Roger) Keffer (former Virlina District Financial Secretary) and son, Charles Douglas (Freda) Hylton, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. A memorial service was held on Thursday, September 19 with Pastor Dava Hensley officiating.

## **EVELYN SUSAN BORN TO TABITHA AND DAN RUDY**

Tabitha Hartman Rudy, pastor of the Smith Mountain Lake Community Church of the Brethren, and Dan Rudy, pastor of the Roanoke-Ninth Street Church have a new baby. Evelyn Susan Rudy was born on Sunday afternoon, September 28, at 4:13 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz.

## **DALEVILLE CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTENARIAN**

The Daleville Church of the Brethren will celebrate the 100th Birthday of long-term member, **Freida Hiner**, on Sunday, November 3, 2019 following worship service.

## **OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF**

**Shirley Anne Wampler**, aged 83, was born and raised in Henry County, Virginia. She joined her family in heaven September 15, 2019. Shirley was moderator of the 1996 Virlina District Conference.

She had a generous spirit of hospitality and she spent her lifetime giving her time, talents and energy to serve others. She and her husband, Galen, did service work for the Blackfeet Nation in Montana, at a hospital in Castaner, Puerto Rico and in Appalachia before settling in the Richmond area. Later, Shirley obtained her master's degree in nursing at the Medical College of Virginia, now Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center (while raising her children). She spent many years providing compassionate health care to those in need and later taught community health nursing as an adjunct clinical professor at VCU.

She was a dedicated member of West Richmond Church of the Brethren, where she served various roles on the church board, as caregiving coordinator and choir director. She loved music and loved to sing with her family! She volunteered in many ways, Hanover Habitat for Humanity, Ashcake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Brethren Disaster Ministries and Freedom House. She was an early supporter of the Richmond Peace Education Center. She hosted numerous refugees and students from various nations including Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Ethiopia, India, Iran and Cuba.

She was predeceased in death by her parents, Minnie and Calvert Fulcher; and two of her brothers, Troy and Taylor Fulcher. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Galen Wampler. She is survived by her daughters, Gayle Adams, Jennifer Wampler, Margaret Lum; her son, Christopher Wampler; her two sisters, Frances Forrer and Cynthia Joyce; her two brothers, Lester Fulcher and Calvert Fulcher Jr.; and seven grandchildren. Services were held on Saturday, September 28, 2019 at West Richmond Church of the Brethren, 7612 Wanyama Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229.

**Christopher Ronald Mills**, aged 46, of Pensacola, FL, died on September 24, 2019. He was the son of Judy D. Mills, a member of the Troutville/New Bethel Church of the Brethren, licensed minister and Roanoke Center Coordinator of the Christian Growth Institute. Chris was a professional photographer.



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2019

4	9:00 AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
	1:00 PM	New Church Development Committee (DKS)
8-9		District Conference - Grandin Court Baptist (MSS/DKS)
11	6:30 PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
12	10:00 AM	Awakening Committee (DKS/MSS)
	1:30 PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Committee - Buena Vista, Stone (DKS)
18	6:30 PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)
28-29		District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER 2019

2	8:30 AM	Northern Area Ministers Meeting - Poages Mill (DKS)
	5:30 PM	Iglesia Del Buen Pastor - Blacksburg (DKS)
6	2:00 PM	Historical Committee (MSS/DKS)
	6:00 PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
8	5:30 PM	Staff Christmas Dinner - Coach and Four Restaurant
10	6:30 PM	Disaster Response Committee (MSS)
13	7:00 PM	Commission on Stewardship (DKS)
16	6:00 PM	Southern Area Ministers Meeting - Germantown Brick (DKS)
24-31		District Resource Center Closed for Christmas

*Plan now to participate in the Virginia District Conference  
 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church on November 8-9, 2019*

# WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

## **WORLD HUNGER AUCTION DISTRIBUTION - 2019**

The 2019 World Hunger Auction and associated activities were a great success. The year was filled with music programs, walking, biking, golfing, making snow cones in the rain for the Old Order German Baptist Annual Meeting as well as selling quilts and many other fine items on auction day. The committee is in awe of the amount of time, effort, and resources that so many people bring to this effort. A heartfelt and sincere thank you goes out to all who were involved in any way.

A total of \$67,600 has been distributed by the steering committee to the following organizations:

- Heifer International Dairy Network in the Andes of Ecuador Project...\$33,750
- Roanoke Area Ministries...\$16,875
- Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative...\$6,750

The balance was divided between programs in Franklin and Bedford Counties as follows:

- Heavenly Manna (Rocky Mount)...\$3,000
- Stepping Stone Mission (Rocky Mount)...\$3,000
- Lake Christian Ministries (Moneta)...\$3,000
- His Cupboard (Boones Mill)...\$1,225

## **DISASTER RESPONSE OFFERING FOR DORIAN**

As of October 7, 2019 we have received \$5,290 from ten congregations and six individuals. We will continue to receive offerings from our congregations to underwrite various efforts in response to this storm that has devastated various parts of the United States and the Bahamas. Please send your congregation's check to us (Virilina District Resource Center - 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012) with the following inscription on the memo line: "Hurricane Dorian Offering - Account #33509."

## **VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

The 2019 Annual Assembly of the Virginia Council of Churches will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at the St. Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the events of the day begin with worship at 10:00 a.m. The cost, including meal, is \$75.00.

The keynote speaker will be Bishop W. Darin Moore. Bishop Moore is currently serving as Vice-Chairman of the National Council of Churches and the Presiding Bishop of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He was elevated to the episcopacy from Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church in Mt. Vernon, NY as the 99th bishop in succession. During his tenure as a pastor of Greater Centennial the congregation grew from a few hundred to more than 6,500 members. Bishop Moore uses as his theme: "It's our OUT-REACH that validates our UP REACH!"

The Virginia Council of Churches is a community of Christian communions, which, in response to the Gospel, as revealed in the Scriptures, confess Jesus Christ, the incar-

nate Word of God, as Savior and Lord. Members of the council covenant with one another to manifest ever more fully the unity of the Church. Relying upon the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we gather in common mission, serving in all creation to the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

David K. Shumate and David A. Whitten represent the Virilina District of the Church of the Brethren on the Steering Committee and Coordinating Cabinet of this organization. Students of the Christian Growth Institute (CGI) are encouraged to use this event to meet their ecumenical meeting requirement from graduation. A van-pool will be available from the District Resource Center.

## **EVANGELISM IDEAS NEEDED FOR SHARING**

The Good News Team of the Virilina District Commission on Witness, formerly called the Evangelism Committee, will have an informational display at the District Conference on November 8-9. Each congregation is requested to submit information about your efforts in this area to be shared with others. Please consider the following questions:

What evangelism efforts (sharing Jesus) has your congregation done or is doing now? Include ideas that "took root" and those ideas that "didn't sprout"

Recognizing that each of us are called to proclaim and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, what have you done personally that has been effective?

These ideas will be shared at the Good News Team display. They will be available on the [www.virilina.org](http://www.virilina.org) website after conference. Please note your congregation, location, pastor and, if possible, a contact person that might share details if others would like to more information.

Please send via electronic mail at <[virilina2@aol.com](mailto:virilina2@aol.com)> or by U.S. Mail to the District Resource Center at 3402 Plantation Road, N.E., Roanoke, VA 24012. For e-mail please use: GOOD NEWS TEAM - DISTRICT CONFERENCE. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Blackwell at <[kathyboydblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:kathyboydblackwell@gmail.com)>.

## **NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT 2020 LEARNING TOURS**

New Community Project 2020 Learning Tours will take folks of all ages to Nepal (January), the Ecuadorian Amazon (early June), the Dineh reservation (NM) (late June), Denali National Park, AK (early August) and Arctic Village, AK (mid-August). Low cost, big experience of God's earth and God's people - both their challenges and their beauty and resilience. More detail at <<http://www.newcommunityproject.info>>.

## **DRC CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING - NOV. 27 - DEC. 2**

The District Resource Center (DRC) will be closed from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 through 9 a.m. on Monday, December 2 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The phones and e-mail will be checked periodically.

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 8-9, 2019**

Virlina District congregations gather annually to worship, fellowship, learn, and handle business items. The 2019 Virlina District Conference will be held on November 8-9 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church (2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia). The theme will be "Don't Hide the Cross" with the scripture focus "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

Dana Beth Cassell, pastor of the Peace Covenant Church in Durham, NC, and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, Inc. will be our preachers. Nancy will preach at the Saturday morning worship service. Dana Beth will preach at the Friday evening worship service. Some original pieces of music by Randy Gallimore of the Pleasant Valley Church will enliven our services.

Everyone is welcome to attend District Conference, whether one is a delegate or not. For all information, forms, and instructions, please visit <[www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org)> and check the "buttons" on the opening page of the website. For more information or questions, please call Mary Sink St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness, at (540) 362-1816 or by e-mail at <[Virlina2@aol.com](mailto:Virlina2@aol.com)>.

## **DISTRICT CONFERENCE BUSINESS ITEMS**

Three items of business, in addition to the elections, are to be handled at the 2019 District Conference. These items are: 1) Proposed Amendments to the Virlina District Constitution and By-Laws, 2) Proposed Resolution in Support of Calling the Called 2020, 3) Proposed 2020 Virlina District Board Budget. They may be found on the <[www.virlina.org](http://www.virlina.org)> website under the corresponding "button" on the home page. These were previously distributed by e-mail and, to those who need it, U.S. Mail.

## **CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!**

Calling ALL young adults! Please plan on attending the Friday evening Worship Service at District Conference on November 8, 2019, 6:45 p.m., at Grandin Court Baptist Church, 2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24015, and then plan on staying for an ice cream fellowship and a time of discussion with Joy Murray, the new Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries for Virlina, about what your congregation does to invite and excite young adults in your church. Bring some ideas of what you'd like to see young adults doing in our district.

## **UPCOMING CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS**

Registration for 2020 Denominational Workcamps opens on January 16 at 8 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Go to the website at <[www.brethren.org/workcamps](http://www.brethren.org/workcamps)> for more information.

**Other upcoming youth and young adult events include:**

### **Junior High**

November 3, 2019 is the **National Junior High Sunday**. The theme for 2019 is "Strong and Courageous" based on Joshua 1:8. Worship resources are available on the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/jr-high-resources.html>>.

### **Senior High**

February 2, 2020 is the **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**. For more information go to <[www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)>.

**Christian Citizenship Seminar 2020** will be held April 25-30, 2020. Registration for this event begins on December 2, 2019. Information may be found on the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/ccs/>>.

May 3, 2020 is our **National Youth Sunday**. The theme and worship materials will be posted online in early 2020.

### **Young Adult**

Ministry Summer Service (MSS) is a leadership development program for college students in the Church of the Brethren who spend 10 weeks of summer working in the church (local congregation, district office, camp, or national program). Applications are due on Jan. 10, 2020. Go to <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/mss/>> for more information.

The National Young Adult Conference will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). Registration opens on January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yac/>>.

For details regarding events, contact Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at <[bullomnaugle@brethren.org](mailto:bullomnaugle@brethren.org)> or (847) 429-4385.

## **TO INCLUDE EVERYONE WHO IS "OTHER ABLED"**

The goal of the Virlina disAbilities Ministries Committee is "To include everyone who is "other abled" in the life, worship and activities in every congregation in the Virlina District". We want all congregations to know that we want to help with any concerns which you may have. We seek to support all persons, their families and caregivers. If there is a specific area of concern which you would like us to address, you can contact, Heddie Sumner, Committee Chair, at <[sumnerfam@aol.com](mailto:sumnerfam@aol.com)> or home at (540) 884-2256. Our members want to hear from congregations about what you are doing as a welcoming congregation.



# C A M P B E T H E L

## **FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2019**

Our fall volunteer workday begins on Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 a.m. free breakfast and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Please reserve your meals at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> by October 27. Your help is needed to prepare camp for the winter conference season. Workday projects (rain or shine - indoor and outdoor) for every skill levels and all ages. Details can be found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

## **"CRISIS MANAGEMENT " WORKSHOP - NOVEMBER 4**

Is YOUR organization ready? There will be a "Crisis Management" workshop at Camp Bethel on Monday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn about policies and training tools to manage potential real-life crises. Registration is \$35 including lunch. For more information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workshop>

## **CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 5**

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed year-end funding for Camp Bethel. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice as described in Acts 2:43-47. Please R.S.V.P. your family or group by November 28 at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Christmas-Together>.

## **WINTER CAMP - DECEMBER 30-31, 2019**

Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual holiday program for 1st through 12th graders led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$70 includes four meals, lodging and program including Group Games, Glow-in-the-Dark Gym Party, a big bonfire, Bible study, crafts, hiking, nature fun, skits, sledding and other snow fun (if it snows), worship, wagon ride, summer photos slide show, 2020 camp preview... and Camp Bethel stickers! You can register for winter camp at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp>.

## **CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

Send your congregation's camp representative to the Camp Supporter Luncheon on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Lunch is from 12:00-3:00 p.m. including the program following the meal. All Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged this special event. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends. After a free lunch in the Ark, we'll share and distribute all the tools and information you need to communicate the 2020 Camp Bethel program to your congregation. For more information, go to: <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep>.

## **SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 5, 2020**

Our annual "Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet" will be held on Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. You can 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." Please reserve your spot by February 27 by e-mail to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Payments accepted in advance or at the table, and your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2020 is \$360. Give the gift of CAMP! It's an experience that can change a life forever!

## **SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 3-4, 2020**

Our 19th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling features excellent and nationally known tellers, Donald Davis, David Holt, Josh Goforth, Bill Lepp, and Gayle Ross, plus food and a Friday campfire. Help spread the word and recruit sponsors for the festival. <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

## **2020 COUNSELORS AND KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED**

Paid and volunteer positions are filled on a first-hired, first-filled basis. Counselors serve May 25 through July 17-or-25, and Kitchen Staff serve May 26 through August 15. See <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff> for applications and salary information. BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

## **NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS OPEN AT CAMP**

Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville CoB) have built mountain biking trails and bridges winding through our "Adventure Forest." Call or email ahead, and bring your bike and helmet for fun in our beautiful property. Contact Barry at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940.

## **APPROVED "RV VILLAGE" SITE DESIGN AVAILABLE**

Site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned "RV Village" camping area are available for view at <www.VirlinaFuture.org>. Plans include 15 new campsites, each with water, electric, sanitary sewer, a picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. Site sizes range from 60'x23' to 65'x28'.

## **URGENT NEED FOR "CAMBERSHIP" DONATIONS**

In summer 2019, 72 campers received "Campership" funding totaling \$20,320, 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>.

## **CAMP DIRECTOR'S 2019 SUMMER CAMP SUMMARY**

Our 93rd consecutive summer camp season ended July 26 after seven weeks learning how to "Let the Peace of Christ Rule." 1,062 campers participated in Resident Camps, Adventure Camps, Trips, Skills Camps, and Day Camps including 152 participants in our 3 Traveling Day Camps and 32 participants in our Family Fun nights. We are blessed with excellent staff, helpful partner organizations, and dedicated volunteers who served as Chaplains, counselors and helpers. 165 children and youth received Good-As-Gold funding from Virlina congregations totaling \$42,918. Watch our weekly summer camp videos at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/videos>.



# NEWS & EVENTS

## ACHIEVEMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Virlina District Achievement Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, November 17, with a special offering in our congregations to benefit the mission and ministry of the Virlina District including Camp Bethel (divided 80/20). This event, sponsored by the Virlina District Commission on Stewardship, allows congregations and individual members to share, over and above the ordinary self-allocation giving, in the work of the Lord which we all do together.

If November 17 is an inconvenient date for your congregation, please consider holding the offering on another Sunday. We appreciate your congregation's dedicated participation in Achievement Sunday.

## CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 25, 2020

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar.

Learn how to file clergy taxes correctly and legally.

Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions

In Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. The court case around the housing allowance will also be discussed. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.

In Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

### Seminar Schedule

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	EST - Morning session
1:00-1:30 p.m.	EST - Lunch on your own
1:30-3:30 p.m.	EST - Afternoon session

### Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFMS/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students

may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar; instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 15, 2020.

### Leadership

Deb Oskin has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband left seminary to pastor a small rural Church of the Brethren congregation. As a pastor's wife and later as a tax professional, she learned the tax problems and pitfalls associated with the IRS's identification of clergy as "hybrid employees." In 2011, after twelve years with H&R Block, Deb left to start her own tax practice, specializing in clergy taxes. Clergy clients now make up 75 percent of her client base.

## PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 20-22, 2020

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held March 20-22, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation. For more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or by e-mail at <haynesmk1986@yahoo.com> or go to our website at <www.experiencepilgrimage.com>.

## PIANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED - POAGES MILL

Poages Mill is currently seeking to fill our Pianist and Choir Director positions. We welcome inquiries from individuals interested in filling both positions as well as anyone interested in only Pianist or Choir Director. Contact the church (540) 774-2379 or e-mail us at <poagesmillsec@gmail.com>.

## OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF

**Geneva Conner Bell White**, aged 90, of Roanoke, VA, passed away on August 21, 2019. She was born near Copper Hill on October 7, 1928. Geneva was the daughter of the late Guy Banks Conner and Allie Holland Conner. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Gerald Bell, and her second husband, Paul Robert White Sr.

Geneva was a faithful member of the Church of the Brethren since she was baptized in a creek in Floyd County at age 12. She and Roy raised their children at Poages Mill. Later, she and Paul were members at Roanoke-Oak Grove. She was very active in Church Women United (CWU) in Roanoke and served two terms as president. The funeral service was conducted on Saturday, August 24, 2019, at Oak Grove Church of the Brethren with Tim Harvey officiating. Burial followed in the Copper Hill Cemetery.