

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2019

- 1-5 New Church Development Consultation - Elgin, IL
- 6 OPEN
- 7 Worship Undetermined/Awakening Service - Roanoke, Ninth Street
- 8 Awakening Bible Study - Vinton/Office/Awakening Service - Roanoke, Ninth Street
- 9 Awakening Bible Study - Masons Cove/Office/Awakening Service - Roanoke, Ninth Street
- 10 Awakening Bible Study - Roanoke, First/Office/Staff Meeting/Awakening Service - Roanoke, Ninth Street
- 11 OFF
- 12 Office/Commission on Ministry
- 13 OPEN
- 14 Worship Undetermined/Mount Bethel (PM) Ordination Service
- 15 Office/Northern/Southern Area Ministers Meeting/Iglesia del Buen Pastor Fellowship - Blacksburg
- 16 Office
- 17 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel
- 18 OFF
- 19 Good Friday - District Resource Center Closed
- 20 OPEN
- 21 Worship at Daleville
- 22-23 Office
- 24 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel
- 25 OFF
- 26 Office/Commission on Stewardship
- 27 OPEN
- 28 Preach at Roanoke, First
- 29 Office/District Board Executive Committee
- 30 Office

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2019

- 1 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel
- 2 OFF
- 3 Office
- 4 Ministry and Mission Day - Roanoke, Summerdean
- 5 Worship Undetermined
- 6 Northern Area Ministers Meeting - Roanoke, First/New Church Development Committee/Lake Side Steering Committee - Moneta
- 7 Office
- 8 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel
- 9 OFF
- 10 Office
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Worship Undetermined
- 13 Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee/Office
- 14 Office/Christian Growth Institute Administrative Committee - Buena Vista (Stone)
- 15 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel

MARY SINK ST. JOHN BEGAN AS DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, NURTURE AND WITNESS ON MARCH 1, 2019
Mary Sink St. John began as Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness on March 1, 2019. She is a member of the Roanoke, Ninth Street Church of the Brethren and has previously served on the Virlina District Staff as Program Director at Camp Bethel and as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the District Resource Center.

Mary is a graduate of Roanoke College. She is married to Frank St. John and they are parents of a son, Sam, and two daughters, Maggie and Betsy.

The new position replaces the former Associate District Executive Minister position. She will be responsible for the District Conference, the Commission on Nurture and its subcommittees, the Commission on Witness and its subcommittees, and other activities as assigned.

Mary will be working on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during office hours except when she has night meetings. She will work on other days as circumstances arise.

If you need to contact her, she will be available at <virlina2@aol.com> by e-mail, (540) 362-1816 by telephone and during office hours by appointment.

We welcome Mary again to the district staff and look forward to her service with us. Please take a few moments to give her words of encouragement as she begins an awesome, multi-faceted task!

16 OFF
 17 Office
 18 District Board Meeting - Bethel
 19 Worship Undetermined
 20 Office/S. Area Ministers Meeting - Fairview, Floyd
 21 Office
 22 Staff Meeting/Office/Bible Study at Bethel
 23 OFF
 24 Office
 25-31 VACATION

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, N & W - SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2019

1 OFF
 2 Office
 3 Staff Meeting/Office
 4 Office
 5 Office/Commission on Witness - Roanoke, Summerdean
 7 Awakening Services - Roanoke, Ninth Street
 8 OFF/Awakening Services - Roanoke, Ninth Street
 9 Office/Awakening Services - Roanoke, Ninth Street
 10 Awakening Bible Study - Roanoke, First/Spiritual Development Meeting - Roanoke, First/Staff Meeting/Office
 11-12 Office
 13-14 OPEN
 15 Commission on Nurture
 16 Office
 17 Staff Meeting/Office
 18 Office
 19 Good Friday - District Resource Center Closed
 20-21 OPEN
 22 OFF
 23 Office
 24 Staff Meeting/Office
 25-26 Office
 27 Northern and Southern Area Women - Jones Chapel (Devotions)
 29 OFF
 30 Office

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, N & W - SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2019

1 Staff Meeting/Office
 2 Office
 3 Office
 4 Ministry and Mission Day - Roanoke, Summerdean
 5 OPEN
 6 OFF
 7 Office
 8 Staff Meeting/Office
 9-10 Office
 11-12 OPEN
 13 OFF
 14 Office
 15 Staff Meeting/Office
 16-17 Office
 18-19 OPEN
 20 OFF
 21 Office
 22 Staff Meeting/Office
 23-24 Office
 25-26 OPEN
 27 Memorial Day - District Resource Center Closed
 28 Office
 29 Staff Meeting/Office
 30-31 Office

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - APRIL 6, 2019

The Spring Volunteer Workday at Camp Bethel is Saturday, April 6. 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 April 1 by telephone to (540) 992-2940 or by electronic mail <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. For more information please go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED - APRIL 19-21, 2019

In observance of the Easter Holiday, the Virlina District Resource Center will close at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 22. We will, as always, monitor e-mail at <virlina@aol.com>.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 12-13, 2019

Camp Bethel's 18th Annual SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL, a Storytelling and Music Festival, will be held on April 12-13, 2019. This event features excellent and nationally known performers, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Bil Lepp, and Gayle Ross, plus food, exhibits, and a Friday campfire. Help spread the word and recruit festival sponsors. Tickets, schedule, and sponsor information at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

VIRLINA CHOIR FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2019

"Tune My Heart To Sing Thy Grace". is the theme of our first ever "Virlina Choir Festival." It will be held September 13-14, 2019, at Central Church of the Brethren; S. Reed Carter (Minister of Music at Salem Presbyterian and director of Salem Choral Society) will be our guest director, and Bob Iseminger (Central CoB), our accompanist.

We will rehearse and learn 4-5 anthems Friday evening and Saturday, concluding with a service of worship filled with music and the Word at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, open to everyone.

THE VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8-9, 2019

The Virlina District Conference is scheduled for November 8-9, 2019 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

- **BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **BOONES MILL** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply - Reviewing profiles.
- **EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating - *Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.*
- **FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **JONES CHAPEL** - Part or full time position, profile circulating - *Emma Jean Franklin Woodard serving as interim pastor* - Reviewing profiles.
- **LYNCHBURG** - Part time position, profile pending - *Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.*
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Timothy Sink serving as interim pastor.
- **MASONS COVE** - Part time position, no profile available - *John W. "Jack" Lowe, Jr. serving as interim pastor.*
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - *Chrisian J. Becker serving as interim pastor.*
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **OAK GROVE SOUTH** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **PETERS CREEK** - Full time position, profile circulating - *Johnny L. Thompson serving as interim pastor.*
- **RED HILL** - Part time position, profile pending - *Carlton R. Hodges has resigned as interim pastor effective March 31, 2019.*
- **SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - *Mark A. Bolt serving as interim pastor.*
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - *Joseph D. Smith serving as interim pastor.*
- **TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit Supply - Reviewing profiles.

URGENT NEED FOR DISASTER RESPONSE IN CAROLINAS - MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2019

• As we go through this season of Lent in preparation for all that occurred during Holy Week and culminating in the celebration of the glorious victory of Easter morning, we ask that you would prayerfully consider sharing the love of Christ with folks that have been affected by not one, but two hurricanes in 2 years. We are in need of more volunteers to help us rebuild and repair homes in Lumberton, NC and Marion Co, SC the week of March 31 - April 6.

• If you are able to help us during this week, please respond to this email address or call me at the number below. Thank you for considering and for the prayers offered on behalf of our clients, all the citizens still awaiting help and the many volunteers that show up every week.

Kim Gingerich
Long-term Project Leader
Brethren Disaster Ministries
Marion Co, SC
(717) 586-1874
<bdmsouthcarolina@gmail.com>

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AREA WOMEN SPRING MEETING - APRIL 27, 2019

• The Joint Spring Rally of the Northern and Southern Areas - Virlina District Women's Fellowship will be held at the Jones Chapel Church of the Brethren (2390 Figsboro Road, Martinsville, VA 23112) on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10 a.m. It will conclude with a luncheon meal provided by the Southern Area Women.

• Devotional leader will be Mary Sink StJohn, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness for the Virlina District. The program, entitled "Women in Ministry," will be presented by Tabitha H. Rudy, pastor of the Smith Mountain Lake Community Church of the Brethren.

• The event is free. The offering will go to Virlina District to support training for women in ministry. If you write a check, make it payable to the Virlina District - Church of the Brethren and put "Women in Ministry" on the memo line. We are looking forward to seeing YOU on April 27th.

• For additional information, contact Harriet Rader at (540) 992-3906 or Mary St John at the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816, (800) VIRLINA or <virlina2@aol.com>.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 27 - MAY 2, 2019

• Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue. Christian Citizenship Seminar in 2019, held from April 27 - May 2, will focus on innovative approaches to resolving conflict and preventing civilian harm.

All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Congregations are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend. Congregations are required to send one advisor for every four youth.

Registration is limited to the first 60 participants. Registration opens December 3, 2018 at 1 p.m. (Eastern Time). The \$425 registration fee includes:

Event programming, lodging for five nights, two dinner meals, one in New York City and one in Washington D.C. and transportation from New York to Washington D.C. Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at ewitkovsky-eldred@brethren.org or (847) 429-4385.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA - MAY 4, 2019

Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina will be held at the Summerdean Church of the Brethren located at 6604 Plantation Road, N.E. in Roanoke, Virginia on Saturday, May 4, 2019. It will be a day of worship, workshops, food, fellowship, and the Annual Conference Briefing. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. Hymn sing and worship begin at 9:00 a.m. with the message by Roy U. Turpin, the 2019 Virlina District Conference Moderator. The worship theme will be "Don't Hide the Cross!" with scripture focus from 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Following worship, attendees will have the opportunity to pick from several workshops:

"Ministry Approaches for New Populations" - This will provide tools for congregations in reaching those who live close but may be relationally distant. This will be presented by the Josh Brockway of the Discipleship Ministries staff of the Church of the Brethren.

"Dementia and Spirituality" - This is a presentation on forms of dementia and the differing characteristics of each type. There will be sharing on how congregations can be welcoming and affirming to families and individuals with dementia who are dealing with this progressive challenge. Ways to provide support and care for the person with dementia and caregivers in the family will be explored. It will be presented by Heddie Sumner, RN, BSN, Educator on Dementia, Caregiving and Disabilities.

"Wearing the Striped Shirt: Serving as a Congregational Moderator" - There is little or no training for persons who serve as congregational moderators. This workshop provides some basics for leading a meeting and understanding simple parliamentary procedure. It will be presented by David K. Shumate, District Executive Minister, and others.

Each workshop will be offered twice and provides 0.1 CEU for ordained ministers. Lunch will be provided with information about the menu and cost posted as soon as it is available. Following lunch, the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing will take place. It will be led by the Standing Committee Delegates of the Virlina District and 2019 Annual Conference Moderator, Donita Keister. The Delegate Briefing will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and come to Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina on May 4, 2019.

KINGDOM BUILDING - AN EVANGELISM CONFERENCE - MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2019

Kingdom Building - An Evangelism Conference will be held on May 31 - June 1, 2019. Moderator Elect for the 2020 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, Paul Munday, will be the keynote speaker. Brother Munday was formerly the pastor of the Frederick Church in Mid-Atlantic District and was denominational staff for evangelism and church growth. He was instrumental in the design and implementation of the "Passing on the Promise" process in the late 1980's.

The preliminary schedule of this event is as follows:

Friday, May 31		
3 - 6 p.m.	Pre-Session for Leaders	"The Person I Must Become"
7 - 9 p.m.	Session One	"Announcing the Reign of God"
Saturday, June 1		
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Session Two	"One Size Doesn't Fit All"
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Session Three	"If Jesus Be Lifted Up"

Sponsored by the Good News Team of the Virlina District Board - Commission on Witness, this event will be held at the Rocky Mount, First Church of the Brethren located at 405 Tanyard Road in Rocky Mount, Virginia. Early registration, received by May 10, will be \$15 (groups registering five persons will get the sixth person free). From May 11 until the event, registration will be \$20. For ordained ministers seeking Continuing Education credit, add \$10. This event provides 1.0 CEU from the Christian Growth Institute. Save the date and watch for

more information in district publications and on our website.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - JUNE 14-16, 2019

The National Junior High Conference of the Church of the Brethren will be held June 14-16, 2019 at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference will be "Strong and Courageous" based on Joshua 1:9. National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed 6-8 grades and their advisors. Sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God!

Registrations received by March 31 can take advantage of the early-bird registration fee: \$180 per person. Starting April 1, registration increases to \$210 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required within two weeks of submitting your online registration to hold your spot. For more information go to <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc/>>.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GREENSBORO, NC - JULY 3-7, 2019

Annual Conference 2019 will be in Greensboro, NC, from July 3-7. Basic information is now available on the AC Website and registration and lodging reservations will open on March 4. All rooms are in the same hotel which is where the conference is being held. Each congregation is encouraged to have delegates in attendance as the conversation on the Compelling Vision will be the business of the week.

PRACTICE OF MINISTRY DAY - ETHICS IN MINISTERIAL RELATIONS - AUGUST 3, 2019

The 2019 Practice of Ministry Day will be Saturday, August 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. The focal point of this year's event will be the new ethics training curriculum written by Jim Benedict, former pastor of the Union Bridge Church in Maryland. Both the basic unit for ministerial students and licensed ministers, as well as the advanced unit for commissioned and ordained ministers will be available. **Ethics training is mandatory for all ministers and students in the Christian Growth Institute and other ministry training programs.** This will be the only basic unit offered in our district other than online sessions. We will be scheduling the advanced training in various areas of Virlina and Shenandoah District. CEU credit is available for commissioned and ordained ministers. Additional information will be forthcoming.

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE (NOAC) - SEPTEMBER 2-6, 2019

National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) is "a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world" It is scheduled for September 2-6, 2019 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center located in the scenic mountains of western North Carolina

Registration will open online on May 1. The cost per person is \$195 if you register before July 15. After that date the cost will be \$225. First time attendees will get a \$20 discount. Your registration fee does not include housing or meals. After you register you will be able to go to the Lake J housing reservations website to make your lodging reservations. Please note the attached information sheet and post it on your congregational bulletin board. Go to <<http://www.brethren.org/noac/>> for more information.

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS ARE DUE

Yearbook forms collecting directory updates and statistical data have been mailed to all Church of the Brethren congregations. The last of them were sent on February 22, so they should have arrived at your congregations by now. The deadline listed on the forms is April 15, 2019. We hope to simplify the process in upcoming years and offer the option of submitting forms online—something many congregations have asked for. There will still be a paper option for those who prefer that.

An announcement about an online survey has been included in the packet of forms. We'd like to get as much feedback as possible from congregations, as we prepare to make changes to the form submission process in 2020. We're inviting congregations to take a few minutes to complete the online survey at <www.brethren.org/yearbooksurvey>. The deadline for completing the survey is April 30. The outstanding Annual Report Forms are listed on an attached document. Please review and determine if your congregation has outstanding forms. If so, please complete and send the forms. If you cannot find the requisite forms, please contact Betty Wills at the District Resource Center by e-mail at <virlinasecretary@gmail.com> or by telephone at (540) 362-1816 for assistance in acquiring what is needed.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/SELF ALLOCATION REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The Virlina District Financial Secretary Report for February 28, 2019 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving in consultation with your treasurer and draw errors to our attention.