

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

JANUARY

Newsletter

2020

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." Psalm 96:9 (KJV)

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1 (NRSV)

"...but all things should be done decently and in order." I Corinthians 14:40 (NRSV)

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV)

"Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission (Webster's Dictionary, 1828)." For the Christian, worship is directed toward Jesus Christ. It has both individual and corporate elements, as well as interaction between the two. While private worship, even in a public setting, is an indispensable part of Christian life, the discipline of public worship is equally important. Although we can worship in solitude, we are often best challenged, motivated and sustained by God through the presence of the Holy Spirit in other believers. Our shared life with others is the laboratory of life wherein our spirits are tried and refined.

Worship is an activity. Worship is recognizing the sacredness of God's presence. We can gather together at our leisure to see one another. When we gather to worship as Christians there is a visible witness to the reality of God's redeeming presence in society and to the priority of God in our lives. When we fail to gather together we demonstrate that we serve lesser gods to whom we give greater importance. Busyness should never displace the reflection that is at the heart of worship. Can we excel as Christians by ourselves? Absolutely not, for we need the depth and spiritual discipline which our fellow worshippers to enrich us spiritually from the inside out.

Worship is an attitude. God is the focal point of Christian worship, not self promotion nor self-gratification. The time of worship is set aside as a sacred hour for praise of and prayer to God, not merely for fellowship with one another. It is not a time to draw attention to ourselves nor a time to advance human agendas. We dare not make our worship time common or profane. The holiness of worship is found in its very set apart nature. Worshipers are not an audience attending a performance. Those who worship are molded into a congregation by their presence and participation in worship. Worship directs and empowers persons to share the journey of faith together. Worship lifts up the sincere and contrite spirit into the presence of God. The unfortunate reality of much of our worship is the use of God's time for a litany of complaints and announcements. Every act which does not point higher belongs elsewhere.

Worship is an art. It is done first for the glory of God and secondarily for the edification of the church. It is not a performance or display for others. Those who preach must preach to the best of their ability. Those who play musical instruments must play their very best. Those who sing must sing as if in the angel chorus. Those who lead must do so as if standing before the very throne of God. Those who greet and wait upon the congregation must do so as if every person were the Lord. Nevertheless, it is not the technical mastery of the pulpit, the musical instrument, the voice, the worship style or the personal relationship that renders worship an art. It is the dedication and consecration of every participant in drawing attention to God and pointing to the divine that is of the utmost importance. While there are cases where applause and comment are appropriate in a worship service, the recent development of applause for sermon content and delivery raises this very issue. Those sermons which please us most might well be those which merely reinforce our own prejudices and bias rather than those which strike at our spiritual smugness with a prophetic word. It is well to remember that Jesus, as well as the prophets of old, warned against acts of piety done for show and recognition.

As a non-liturgical denomination, worship within the Church of the Brethren displays an astonishing breadth of style and variety. There is no one form or style which characterizes our denomination. Nevertheless, whatever worship is adopted or adapted needs to be authentic and holistic. Authentic worship in the Christian tradition places God at the center. True worship is the adoration, praise, thanksgiving and service of God. It is not about meeting the spiritual needs of the worshiper or a celebration of our togetherness as a community. Relevant worship remembers the past, celebrates the present and the Presence, and anticipates the future. Let us experience God in such a way that we are inwardly lifted above that which is common and mundane.

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister



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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



Beaver Creek - April Dawn Bourne and Jordan Pritchett by baptism June 30, 2019. Kaylee Myers by baptism October 6, 2019. Juanita Salmons by letter November 3, 2019.

Crab Orchard - Jeannie and Megan Dunbar, Lou Wills and Joshua Wilson by reaffirmation October 13, 2019. Brandon and Brianna Campbell, Lana Coleman and Debbie Elliott by reaffirmation October 20, 2019. Peggy Campbell by reaffirmation October 27, 2019.

Fairview, Rocky Mount - Colton Elisha Haskins by baptism July 14, 2019. Tommy Dillon by baptism October 6, 2019.

Germantown Brick - Patricia Crawford by baptism November 10, 2019.

Lynchburg - Kathryn and Jonathan Baker by letter May 5, 2019. Jim and Marla Abe by letter September 15, 2019.

Mount Hermon - Larry Merriman reinstated March 3, 2019. Michael and Debra Merriman by baptism October 20, 2019.

Roanoke, Oak Grove - Riley and Belinda Bowman, Jake Keating, John and Betty Phillips and Stephen Wills by letter October 27, 2019.

Saunders Grove - Glenn and Pat Stevens by letter February 2019.

UPCOMING OCCASIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Jennifer "Jen" Houser and Zechariah "Zech" Houser are scheduled to be licensed to the Gospel Ministry at the Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren on Sunday, February 9, 2020 during the morning worship service. The Peace Covenant Church is located at 601 Highway 54 East in Durham, N.C.

World Hunger Auction Events for 2020

- Ken Medema and Ted Swartz at Central Church of the Brethren - March 8, 4:00 p.m.
- Hunger Walk at Antioch - April 26, 3:00 p.m.
- Bike Ride at Antioch - June 6, 8:00 a.m.
- 37th World Hunger Auction at Antioch - August 8, 9:30 a.m.

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!

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Virginia District Resource Center will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2019 at 6 p.m until Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 9 a.m. Phone messages and e-mail will be checked periodically. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

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

BETHEL - *Marla B. Abe has been called on a part-time basis effective January 1, 2020.*

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

FRATERNITY - *Full time position, profile meeting scheduled for January 5, 2020 - Harold E. Sonafrank 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 - *Thomas E. Aufer called on a part-time basis effective January 1, 2020.*

LIGHTHOUSE - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, lapsed speaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.

LYNCHBURG - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - 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 - *W. Leonard Foley has been called 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.

RED HILL - Part time position, no profile available - Carlton L. Hodges and others serving as pulpit supply.

ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER - Part time position, no profile available - 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 serving as pulpit supply.

MINISTERS MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2020

The **Northern Area Ministers Meeting** will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Roanoke - Central Church at 6:30 p.m.

The **Southern Area Ministers Meeting** will be held on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the Christiansburg Church at 6 p.m.

The program for both meetings will be presented by David K. Shumate, District Executive Minister.

N E W S & E V E N T S

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS (as of December 12, 2019)

It is important that the below listed forms be completed and returned as they comprise the mailing list for the HEAD-LINER and for other important information of congregations. If your congregation is listed on this list, please get the information mailed as soon as possible.

Form E - Congregational Outreach Report - Self-allocation for 2020 (was mailed from the General Offices in Elgin and is due back December 31, 2019):

Bassett, Beaver Creek, Bethel, Bethlehem, Blacksburg- Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Boones Chapel, Burks Fork, Cloverdale, Collinsville, Concord- Living Faith, Copper Hill, Coulson, Daleville, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Durham-Peace Covenant, Eden-First, Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida, Fraternity, Good Shepherd, Green Hill, Henry Fork, Hiwassee, Jeters Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lighthouse, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, Moneta-Lake Side Fellowship, Monte Vista, Mount Bethel, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Covenant, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Olean, Parkway, Peters Creek, Pleasant Dale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Poages Mill, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Roanoke-Central, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Roanoke-Ninth Street, Roanoke-Oak Grove, Roanoke-Williamson Road, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith Chapel, Smith River, Spruce Run, Topeco, Trinity, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel, West Richmond, White Rock.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

Joyce H. Duncan, aged 66, of Floyd, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, November 7, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents, Reginald and Sylvia Rorrer Hancock; and brother, Marvin Hancock.

Sister Joyce was a member of the Fairview Church of the Brethren in Floyd County, Virginia. She is survived by her husband, Steven Duncan; daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Stephen Higgs; five grandchildren; and her brother and sister-in-law, Samuel and Brenda Hancock. Funeral services were held on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at the Topeco Church of the Brethren with Jason Pratt officiating. Interment followed in the Topeco Cemetery.

Walt Harp, aged 49, of Mercer Island, Washington, died on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, after a fierce eleven-year battle with leukemia. In addition to his wife, Angela Lean, and children Luke and Sofia, Walt is survived by his mother and stepfather, Sharon and Leland Flora; father and stepmother, Doug and Mary Harp; grandfather, Thomas Harp (a.k.a. Grandpa Buddy); brother, Porter Harp and sister, Heather Browning.

Helen Burnett Hylton, aged 96, of Willis, Virginia, a great mother and one tough little lady departed this life on Thursday, December 5, 2019. She attended the Parkway Church of the Brethren for the past 60 years where she was a song leader.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianne (Daniel) Hamm; her first cousin, Vivian B. Alderman; and special friend, Iva Jane

Hubbard. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 9, 2019 in Floyd, Virginia with Mike Battle officiating. Interment followed at the Burnett Family Cemetery.

Harold Roether Landis, aged 89, of Salem, Va., passed away on Sunday, December 1, 2019. He taught in Roanoke City Schools for 35 years. He was the choir director for three of our congregations and participated in many community service activities. At the time of his death he was a member of the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren.

Harold is survived by his wife, Helen Hoy Johnson Landis; daughters, Vicky Landis Cunningham (Bruce) and Beth Landis Eichelberger (Drew); stepchildren, Karen Johnson Wimmer, Judy Johnson Wilson, and Mark Johnson (Bonnie); 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Friday, December 6, 2019, in Roanoke, Virginia.

Arthur Rice Mellen II, aged 82, of Salem, Virginia, was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. He was born in West Point, Mississippi. However, he lived most of his life in Salem with Mary Ann Mellen, his wife of 62 years. After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Geology, he became a beloved science teacher in Roanoke County and Salem City Schools during his 27 year teaching career. He also was the owner of Arthur Mellen Well Drilling, a water well company serving Roanoke and surrounding areas for over 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters, nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a brother, two sisters and many dear friends. Funeral services were held in Salem, Virginia on Saturday, November 30, 2019. Burial followed in Sherwood Memorial Park.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE 2020 BALLOT!!

The Nominating and Personnel Committee needs your help. As a member of a congregation, your insight is vital to having good leaders in the district ministry. Nominating and Personnel will begin their work on January 18, 2020. Your nominations would be very helpful. For this part of the process, you do not have to ask the person if they are willing to let their name go on ballot. We need the names of persons that you believe have the gifts and abilities to serve in the district ministry and mission, as well as a commitment to the health and wholeness of the Church of the Brethren. These persons do not have to be from your congregation or area. These persons can be from anywhere in the district.

The following positions are open in 2020: Moderator-Elect (laity), Standing Committee Delegate, Program and Arrangements Committee, Nominating and Personnel Committee (Areas: Martinsville, Floyd County, and Botetourt County), District Board (Areas: Franklin County, Martinsville, Floyd County, Roanoke County, Eastern Virginia, Botetourt County, and At-Large), and Outdoor Ministries Committee.

A copy of the Nomination Form may be obtained by e-mailing <virlina2@aol.com> or online at <www.virlina.org>.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

JANUARY 2020

1			District Resource Center Closed - New Year's Day Observed
4	9:00	AM	District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel (DKS)
6	6:30	PM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Central (DKS)
7	10:00	AM	Awakening Committee (DKS)
13	6:00	PM	Peace Affairs Committee (MSSJ)
	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
14	10:00	AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSSJ)
18	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSSJ)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (DKS/MSSJ)
20	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Christiansburg (DKS)
21	10:00	AM	Calling the Called Committee (DKS)
24-29			Council of District Executives Meetings - Melbourne, FL (DKS)

FEBRUARY 2020

3	8:30	PM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Hollins Road (DKS)
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee (DKS)
7	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
10	5:30	PM	Iglesia del Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Willis, VA (DKS)
13	4:00	PM	Disability Ministries Committee - Roanoke, Oak Grove (MSSJ)
17	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Red Oak Grove (DKS)
18	10:00	AM	Northern Area Women Executive Committee (MSSJ)
	1:30	PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (DKS)
22	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSSJ)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (DKS/MSSJ)
24	6:30	PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)
28-29			Ministers and Spouse Retreat at Eagle Eyrie (DKS)

Best wishes for a blessed and productive New Year 2020

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT - JANUARY 10-11, 2020

The Senior High Youth Retreat for Virgina District will be held at the Antioch Church of the Brethren on January 10-11, 2020. The theme this year is "Roots of Love (Peacefully, Simply, Together). The Interdistrict Youth Cabinet from Bridgewater College will provide the leadership. The cost for this overnight event is only \$10 per person. For a registration form and for more information contact Joy A. Murray at <virlinayouthministries@gmail.com> or go to <<http://www.virgina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/109-iy-c-2020-registration-form.html>>.

SUMMER SERVICE APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 10

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>.

WORKCAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 16, 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 will open on January 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. (central time). 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>.

ROUNDTABLE - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2020

Roundtable 2020, for Senior High School Age Youth, is sponsored by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet and will be held at Bridgewater College beginning on February 28 at 6 p.m. and ending on March 1 at 12 p.m. The theme of Roundtable 2020 is 2020 VISION - SEEING AS JESUS DOES. The Roundtable 2020 speaker is Kyle Remnant! A native of Bridgewater, VA, Kyle is a musician, speaker and husband. Things to bring include: a Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, towel, and toiletries (air mattress optional). Stay up to date by following IYC on Facebook and their website: @InterdistrictYouthCabinet and <<http://iyccroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>>.

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>.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 25 - 30, 2020

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 will be held from April 25-30, 2020. It will focus on pursuing economic justice.

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 opened December 2. The \$450 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, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at <nmcbride@brethren.org> or (847) 429-4385.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 3, 2020

National Youth Sunday for the Church of the Brethren is May 3, 2020. The 2020 theme information will be available in mid-February 2020. For more information, watch <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday.html>>.

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 22-25, 2020

The National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). The 2020 theme, based on Romans 12:9-18, is "Love in Action!" This conference offers persons ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! Registration opens on January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yac/>>. If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at <nmcbride@brethren.org> or (847) 429-4385.

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.newcommunityprojectinfo>>.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

CGI- ROANOKE CENTER CLASS - WINTER 2020

The next class to be held at the Roanoke Center will be INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY, taught by Daniel L. Rudy. Textbooks and resources for the class are: *Another Way of Believing: A Brethren Theology*, by Dale W. Brown, Elgin, IL, Brethren Press and *What's Theology Got To Do With It? Convictions, Vitality, and the Church* by Anthony B. Robinson, Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2006.

The Sunday afternoon classes will be held on January 5, January 19, February 2 and February 16 from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA. Tuition for the class will be \$100.00 and students are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks.

For more information or to obtain a registration form please contact Gary Basham, Director of Ministry Formation by telephone at (540) 890-3818 or by electronic mail at <gb0247@cox.net>. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with registration form by December 27, 2019 to: Gary Basham, 2526 Parkview Drive, Vinton, VA 24179-1612. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

CGI SHENANDOAH CENTER - WINTER 2020

Two classes being offered through the Shenandoah Center of the Christian Growth Institute (CGI) in early 2020. For commissioned or ordained ministers seeking continuing education, each of these provide 1.6 CEUs.

The first class for 2020 is CHURCH HISTORY (From the beginnings to the present time). Class sessions will be held on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.: January 11, February 8 and February 29. David Racy Miller, pastor of the Montezuma Church of the Brethren, will serve as instructor.

The second class offered is BELIEF AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN. Class sessions will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the following Saturdays: January 18, February 1 and February 15. Jim Miller, former Shenandoah District Executive Minister, will serve as instructor.

Please contact Sarah Long, Shenandoah Center Coordinator, for more information or registration for either of these classes by telephone at (540) 234-8555 or by e-mail at <sarahlong@shencob.org>.

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 25, 2020

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar where you can: 1) Learn how to file clergy taxes correctly and legally. 2) Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions. 3) Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions. In Session One, 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 One only.

In Session Two, 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/EFSM/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. The registration form may be found at <<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>>.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEBRUARY 28-29, 2020

The Virginia District Ministers and Spouses Retreat will be held on February 28-29, 2020 at the Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center on U.S. 501 between Big Island and Lynchburg, VA. Nancy S. Heshman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren will lead the event. Her theme is "The Power of Sacred Stories." The three sessions will focus on the following texts:

SESSION 1: Watching Where the Spirit Blows - John 3:1-21
SESSION 2: From the Margins to the Center - John 4:1-42
SESSION 3: Having the Sense to See - John 9:1-41

This event provides .3 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$40 for commuters (meals included). The Commission on Ministry will provide scholarship up to 50% of the cost for those who need it. You may find the brochure and registration material at <<http://www.virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/97-ministers-spouses-retreat-2020.html>>.

C A M P B E T H E L

SUMMER CAMPS 2020: "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 information (including descriptions, fees, forms, and schedules) are at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>.

CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Our Camp Supporter Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends. 12:00-2:30, all Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged to attend our Camp Supporter Luncheon. RSVP by January 24 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940 or <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep>.

SOW THE SEED BANQUET- MARCH 5, 2020

The "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" and our summer camp ministries. RSVP by February 29 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Payments are 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.

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - MARCH 28, 2020

Spring Volunteer Workday begins with free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and includes free lunch at 1 p.m. Your help is needed! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. Please reserve meals no later than March 22 to (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. You will find more information at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 3-4, 2020

Our 19th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Festival of Music and Storytelling will be held on April 3-4, 2020. It will feature nationally known tellers such as excellent and nationally known performers, Regi Carpenter, Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Tim Lowry. This is one of Camp Bethel's most important fundraisers, so help spread the word and recruit festival sponsors. For more information go to the website at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

SUMMER CAMP STAFF 2020

Counselors and kitchen staff are needed for our summer camps in 2020. We fill paid and volunteer positions on a first-hired, first-filled basis. Counselors serve May 25-July 17, and Kitchen Staff serve May 26-August 15. See <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff> for applications and salary information. BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!

NEW MONTH FOR TWO ANNUAL CAMP EVENTS

Goodbye, August. Hello, September! The "Camp Bethel

PEP! 5K" is Saturday, September 5, 2020, and our 26th annual Benefit Golf Tournament is Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS OPEN AT CAMP

Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville CoB) have built new mountain biking trails winding through our "Adventure Forest." Eagle Scout Isaac Williamson (Hollins Road Church of the Brethren) constructed a new bike/foot bridge. Call or email ahead <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Bring your bike and helmet for fun in our beautiful property. Our NEWEST trails map is at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups>.

GIVE A CHILD A CAMPSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP

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>.

CAMP BETHEL 2020 WISH LIST

Road-worthy mini-van or 15-passenger van (2007 or newer); clothes dryer; kitchen refrigerator; chest coolers w/ handles; old smart phones (to use as cameras and video cameras); digital cameras; GoPro video camera; portable LCD projector; gas grill; LED light bulbs; new (in-the-box) first-aid kits; new (in-the-box) bike helmets and horse helmets; brooms & dustpans; "Tree Cookies;" picnic tables. Tax-deductible! <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>

DONATE YOUR OLD SMART PHONE TO CAMP BETHEL

We need your disconnected smart phones for use as a camp cameras and video cameras. Contact us at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>

TREE COOKIES NEEDED

Please help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our year-round programs. Ideal "cookie" is hard wood, cross cut showing tree rings, 2.5"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. Contact us at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. THANK YOU!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS:

Sign up for our fun and colorful eNewsletter at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe>.

LIKE OUR DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE!

The Virginia District Resource Center has a Facebook page. This allows for us to announce district events quickly to everyone who "likes" the page. To find the page, type "Virginia District Resource Center on Plantation Road" into the FB search function. Then "like" us.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON JANUARY 25, 2020

Deadline for the March 2020 HEADLINER is January 25, 2020. Forward items for inclusion 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!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The Forty-Ninth Virginia District Conference of the Church of the Brethren gathered at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 8-9, 2019. "Don't Hide the Cross" was the theme of the 2019 District Conference. The theme was based upon I Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." Aggregate attendance for the conference including youth and children was 440 persons. This included 226 delegates (including 58 pastors) and 162 non-delegates from 74 congregations. These participated in the worship, fellowship and spiritual discernment for the district under the leadership of Moderator Roy U. Turpin, pastor of the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Floyd County, Virginia.

Among those assisting in leadership during conference were Moderator-Elect Cathy S. Huffman of the Germantown Brick Church in Franklin County, Virginia, Pam Clark of the Peters Creek Church who served as Clerk, Leah Harness of the Lynchburg Church who served as Timekeeper, and Timothy P. Harvey of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church who served as Parliamentarian. Dana Beth Cassell, pastor of the Durham - Peace Covenant Church, spoke on Friday night. The Director of Ministry of the Church of the Brethren, Nancy S. Heishman, spoke both Friday night at the Ministers and Spouses dinner and during the Saturday morning worship.

Saturday's business included the following:

Persons called to leadership roles included:

*Moderator-Elect - Gregory E. Fleshman (Mount Union)

*Clerk - Pamela K. Clark

*District Board - Ann B. Minnix (Boones Mill), Michael L. Pugh (White Rock), Roger G. Stultz (Roanoke, Summerdean), Caleb Quinn (Roanoke, Ninth Street), J. Claire Flowers (Good Shepherd), Joshua N. Lucas (Oakvale), J.W. Rhoades (Trinity), Stacy W. Goff (Copper Hill), Brian Harmon (Peters Creek) and Gerald L. Hylton (Stonewall).

*Outdoor Ministries Committee - Charles E. Huffman (Germantown Brick) and Randall Eakin (Roanoke, Oak Grove).

*Standing Committee - Susan C. Starkey (Cloverdale).

*Program and Arrangements - Aaron Lavinder (Germantown Brick) and Kristin Sink (Roanoke, Ninth Street).

*Nominating and Personnel - Denise Hicks (Cedar Bluff), Vickey Reed (Spruce Run) and Steve Reynolds (Newport News, Ivy Farms).

Other business items included:

The 2020 District Board Budget of \$724,824.53 (including designated items of \$450,000, but not including Camp Bethel) was approved.

Approval of a resolution encouraging congregation support of the Calling the Called 2020 process.

Quite a number of revisions to the constitution and by-laws of

the district

Other newsworthy items:

A Friday evening offering of \$1,981.00 was received for the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and a Saturday offering of \$2,388.53 to help offset conference expenses.

The District Board reorganized during the lunch hour. Serving as chairpersons are: Tony R. Robertson - District Board, Zachary R. Hatcher, Vice Chair - District Board, Michael G. Battle - Commission on Ministry, Hannah M. Oakes - Commission on Nurture, Stacy W. Goff - Commission on Stewardship, and Roger G. Stultz - Commission on Witness. Samuel C. Foster will serve as Chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee and David A. Bess will continue as Chair of the New Church Development Committee.

Delegates heard the reports of the District Board, New Church Development Committee, Outdoor Ministries Committee and other institutions of the district and denomination, as well as reports from the district staff. Among those representing the wider church were: David Steele and Nancy S. Heishman (Mission and Ministry Board), Dewey M. Williard (Bridgewater College), Nancy McCrickard (Church of the Brethren, Inc.) and Mary Ann Glover (Virginia Council of Churches).

Delegates also heard that twenty-three congregations and fellowships have been involved in PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROCESS in the year ending September 30: Bethany, Bethel, Boones Mill, Eden-First, Fraternity, Jeters Chapel, Jones Chapel, Lighthouse, Lynchburg, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Moneta-Lake Side, New Bethel, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Oak Grove South, Peters Creek, Red Hill, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Shelton, Smith Mountain Lake Community and Trinity.

F. Allen Alderman graduated from the Christian Growth Institute.

Four ministers were recognized for fifty-years service in the set-apart ministry: Leroy James "Jim" Abe, Thomas E. Aufer, Michael L. Pugh and Robert L. Williard.

A memorial service was held for those ministers, former district staff persons, spouses and family members, who have died since the last conference: Walter Wayne Daggett, Ruth May Harms Hess, Harold Swanson Moyer, Robert L. Myers, Lenoria Burger Naff, Lester Galen Reed, John Earle Sayre, Harry W. "Peanut" Shelton, John Neil Varner, Shirley Anne Wampler and Geneva Conner Bell White.

Moderator Roy U. Turpin installed Cathy S. Huffman as the 2020 Moderator and Gregory E. Fleshman as the newly called Moderator-Elect. Sister Cathy shared that the focus of the 2020 District Conference will be based on Matthew 6:9-10. The theme is "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom."

The Virginia District is one of twenty-four districts of the denomination and encompasses 93 congregations, fellowships and meeting points with 10,081 members located in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. The Church of the Brethren is a denomination of 109,259 members in 999 congregations, fellowships and projects throughout the United States.