

HEADLINE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JULY

Newsletter

2020

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." (Read I John 3:11-18)

Any method by which we determine the validity of some thing or experience can be termed a "test". Teachers use tests to evaluate how well students are learning and to determine the effectiveness of their teaching technique. Doctors use testing methods to determine what precise ailments their patients have and to validate their diagnosis. Even difficult circumstances in life can be tests. Tests, therefore, allow us the ability to evaluate reality. That is, what is and what isn't

As Christians we possess methods of evaluating the reality of our Christian experience. One test is examining events that shaped our decisions to follow Christ. This is the test of "original experience". How was it that we came to be Christians? What events influenced you to follow Christ and give your life to him?

Another test is that of "continuing experience." Our continuing experience and growth as Christians validates or "proves out" the initial experience. Many times, as Jesus' parable of the sower reminds us, the seed of the gospel falls on rocky ground or among thorns. We must ask ourselves if our initial experience was a change in the direction of life's pilgrimage or merely a curve on that other way. Does my commitment to Christ, to Christ's church, and to his service in the world now mirror my original experience?

Another is the test of "love." Paul, in I Corinthians 13, affirms that "love" (agape) is the greatest and universal gift of the Holy Spirit. We know we have "love" if we have a commitment toward God and our neighbors like that of God toward us. This is especially true in our relationship with our sisters and brothers in the body of Christ. Our scripture lesson from I John 3 states that we know we have passed from death unto life because we love our brothers and sisters. That is, are we confirmed in our Christian faith and experience when we are committed to one another as followers of our Lord? But our love is not to be limited by the boundaries of the church! Jesus taught that we must love our neighbor and even our enemy!

Love, among other things, is commitment. Most people in our society think that love is a good feeling about another. But Christian love is committed to the brother or sister whether we "feel good" about them or not. Love in the Christian sense is like that of God which seeks the outcast, the lost, the last and the least. Are we "agape" to others?

The "school" where the love is nurtured is within the body of Christ, the church. The love of Christ is shared through his people. This love calls others to him, much as Andrew called Peter to meet his Lord. It draws persons together who are radically different and have had varying experiences. Total opposites in every imaginable combination are united in the body of Christ. Love is the glue which holds the church together. This love is a total commitment to Christ and to his people. Love overcomes, but does not destroy, the differences which would separate us according to the standards of society.

The love manifested by the people of God witnesses in a powerful way to the truth of scripture. It is one thing to say that we believe the scripture or that the New Testament is our creed, but it is another to demonstrate it before others. Love is more than speech or lip service, it is confirmed by truth, by action. Love goes beyond word to become deed. It must extend to "the brother or sister in need" and not merely those of our clan and creed. Can we do less than our best for him?

God has shown us love supreme in Jesus Christ, both on the cross and in our experience of his love through one another. That experience is the drawing card of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit calls us to share this love. Christ's love is not only for our own benefit, but also for the benefit of our world. Every day is a test given by the Master Teacher! Does our love for one another and all God's creatures make the score? Is it impacting life in our congregations and society? Or do we need to review the sacred text and our behavior once more in the light of the one who is God's love incarnate, Jesus Christ our Lord?

As we struggle with issues, such as racism in our society, love means that we listen more than we speak. We must hear the testimony of those whose experiences differ from ours. Having the humility to listen to other voices, even when those voices are angry, is loving another. Love also means learning from what we hear and responding in ways that build community. Love always edifies and builds up. If it means that we must sacrifice, then so be it.

David K. Shumate
District Executive Minister



VIRLINA DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

3402 Plantation Road, N.E. Roanoke, Virginia 24012
Telephone (540) 362-1816 Tollfree (800) 847-5462
Fax (540) 362-1817 E-mail <virlina@aol.com>

David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER
Mary Sink St. John, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE, NURTURE AND WITNESS
Cathy S. Huffman, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE

LOCAL INTEREST



Beaver Creek - Emma Smith by baptism December 1, 2019. Addison Allen by baptism December 8, 2019. Megan Aldridge and Grace Aldridge by baptism January 19, 2020.

Germantown Brick - Kerri Dillard by baptism May 5, 2020.

Green Hill - David Ilgenfritz and Yvonne Ilgenfritz by letter March 8, 2020.

Roanoke, Hollins Road - Bob Baker by reaffirmation April 7, 2020.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Paris Elbert "Pete" Bain, aged 90, died on Saturday, March 14, 2020. He was born on March 12, 1930 in Roanoke County, Virginia. He was the son of the late Milton A. and Martha Kate Bain. Pete was preceded in death by his beloved wife and helpmate of 65 years, Christine Eakin Bain, on November 30, 2017. They were the parents of four daughters, Carol, Sharon, Teresa and Stephanie. In addition, they had four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pete was a graduate of the Andrew Lewis High School in Salem, VA. He was licensed at Peters Creek Church of the Brethren in 1958 and ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Masons Cove Church of the Brethren in 1967.

Pete served as a pastor at numerous congregations in Virginia including: Jeters Chapel (1959-63, 1969-72, 1998-2001), Cave Rock (1963-66), Masons Cove (1966-68), Lynchburg (1968-69), Vinton (1971-79), Copper Hill (1980-86), Trinity (1987-88), Pleasant Dale (1987-88) and Peters Creek (1988-95). He served as interim pastor at Roanoke - Hollins Road (1979-80), Red Hill (1997-98) and other congregations. In addition, he was maintenance supervisor at Camp Bethel (1986-87).

Pete was a committed, capable and exceptionally effective pastor. He was noted for his excellent relationships with people. His people skills were honed by his career with the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier and mediator. He was an encourager and equipper of other disciples. He served seven years on the Virginia District Board, including service as Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry and has served on the Staff Counseling Committee.

A memorial service will be planned for later this year. We will keep you updated as we have more information.

James Luther Rutter Sr, aged 82, of Floyd, passed away on November 18, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons, James Jr., Jeffery, Michael, Christopher; grandchildren, Stephanie, Zachary; sister, Christene and brother-in-law Arnold; along with many nieces; nephews; and church family. Extended family, Steve, Keith, Christian, Kasey, Josh, Bob, and Holly. A memorial service was held on Saturday November 30, 2019 at the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren.



BETHANY - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit Supply.

EDEN, FIRST - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I-5) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.

FRATERNITY - Full time position, profile pending - Harold E. Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.

GREEN HILL - Part time position, profile pending - *Anthony Leo Johnson, Sr. resigned effective May 31, 2020.*

JETERS CHAPEL - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Pulpit supply.

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

LYNCHBURG - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.

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

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.

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.

SELMA - Part time position, no profile available - *Karl E. Reese, Sr. has resigned as 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 interim pastor.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON JULY 25, 2020

Deadlines for submission of material for the September 2020 HEADLINER is July 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

NEWS & EVENTS

"NEW WORLD COMING" - WORSHIP GATHERING - JULY 1
On July 1, 2020, a Denominational Worship Gathering will take place virtually at 8:00 pm EDT. It will center around the theme: "New World Coming!"

The service will feature the preaching of Kayla Alphonse and Paul Munday, with a wide array of music, including selections by Jacob Crouse, Janelle Flory Schrock and Kendra Flory, the Keister Sisters, Shawn Kirchner, Nancy Faus Mullen, and Josh Tindall. Two of the hymns of the denominational virtual choir will be offered: 'Move in Our Midst,' and 'I See A New World Coming.'

General Secretary David Steele will offer prayers for the church. A wide array of persons from around the denomination will offer other expressions of worship leadership.

A series of congregational stories will also be featured, lifting-up the missional fervor and outreach of the Church of the Brethren from around the world.

In a season of disruption and despair, the service will point to God in Christ who makes a way where there seems to be no way (Isaiah 43:19) -- encouraging us to build new worlds in God's name (Luke 4:18-19) -- seeing with eyes of faith, the vision of the Lamb (2 Corth. 5:7) -- as a weary earth sings - nevertheless -- a New Song of New Creation, in Jesus (2 Corth. 5:17; Rev. 21:1-8)!

A worship bulletin will be available by June 24th at www.brethren.org/ac/virtual

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP EXPERIENCE - JULY 1, 2020

Mark your family calendar for a 25-minute children's worship experience on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. (ET) where you'll meet Louise Boid, a colorfully opinionated bird from Brooklyn, NY, as she moves to central Pennsylvania to get away from those noisy New York City ducks and pigeons! Louise Boid is brought to us by "The Puppet and Story Works" founded by Dotti and Steve Seitz of Manheim, PA.

You'll also experience a storyteller, Linda Himes from LaVerne Church of the Brethren, sharing the message of God's love for each of God's children, yourself included!

There will be songs, led by Carol Hipps Elmore, Minister of Nurture and Music at the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, interspersed throughout that will keep you singing and moving. Finally, Louise Boid will sing her latest rendition of Rockin Robin!"

We hope you'll join us for a delightful children's worship time, immediately preceding the denominational worship service. Both worship times are planned and sponsored by the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

DENOMINATIONAL VIRTUAL CHOIR

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for a denominational virtual choir. The webpage for this effort is available at www.brethren.org/ac/virtual/choir. This has resources that will allow persons from across the

church to add their voice to a mass Church of the Brethren choir. Three hymns are projected to be a part of the overall project: "Blessed Assurance," "I See A New World Coming," and "Move In Our Midst."

Assisting Munday with this project are Moderator-Elect David Sollenberger and Enten Eller, who coordinated the recent denomination-wide Love Feast. A proactive timeline is underway to encourage participation and energy toward this vision.

Commenting on the vision of a denominational virtual choir, Paul Munday noted: "As we continue to explore new ways to connect with each other during the ongoing pandemic, the possibility of a denominational virtual choir holds great promise. Throughout history, song has united people of faith during times of crisis. I anticipate that uniting the Church of the Brethren in song virtually will accomplish a similar outcome."

A number of other faith communities, including the Episcopal Church, have initiated similar projects.

Persons who want to be on the mailing list for the denominational virtual choir to receive updates and the link to the project webpage, when available, are encouraged to e-mail their contact information to the following address: cobvirtualchoir2020@gmail.com. The deadline for those interested to sign up and submit their participation in the all-denominational virtual choir was Sunday, June 14.

ONLINE CONCERT - JULY 2, 2020

An hour-long music celebration featuring Church of the Brethren musicians from across the church will be presented online July 2, 2020, the evening after the Denominational Worship Gather and Children's Worship Service.

The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee is securing musical offerings from a wide variety of Brethren musicians, providing a variety of musical styles and instruments.

Contributors to the concert will include Brethren singer/songwriters Joseph Helfrich, Michael Stern, Shawn Kirchner, Seth Hendricks, Terry and Andy Murray, Jacob Crouse and Bittersweet Gospel Band. In addition, selections are scheduled from the Miami First Church of the Brethren, the women's choir from EYN Mubi, and several memorable excerpts from recent Annual Conferences.

In addition, a longtime friend of the Church of the Brethren, Ken Medema, has agreed to write and record a song specifically for the event.

The concert will be hosted by Program and Arrangements Committee members Emily Shonk Edwards and Carol Elmore.

We hope you'll join us for this cross section of inspirational music from around the church, as part of the two-day activities in lieu of an actual in-person Annual Conference gathering.



DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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Roanoke, VA 24012

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2020

1	9:30	AM	Council of District Executives - Zoom (DKS)
13	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
15	2:30	PM	Council of District Executives East - Zoom (DKS)
17	2:00	PM	Historical Committee - District Resource Center (DKS)
25	9:00	AM	District Board - Summerdean (DKS/MSS)
26 - 31			VACATION (DKS)

AUGUST 2020

1			VACATION (DKS)
3	9:00	AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee (DKS)
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee (DKS)
	6:00	PM	Peace Affairs Committee (MSS)
7	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
11	1:30	PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (DKS)
	6:00	PM	Commission on Witness (MSS)
13	6:00	PM	Good News Team (Zoom)
18	10:00	AM	Northern Area Women Executive Committee (MSS)
	5:30	PM	Commission on Nurture (MSS)
20	4:30	PM	Disabilities Ministries Committee - Oak Grove (MSS)
21	7:00	PM	Commission on Stewardship (DKS)
23		AM	Smith Mountain Lake (DKS)
25	10:00	AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)
29	9:00	AM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)

"If it the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

ENGAGING THE COMPELLING VISION CONTINUES

With the news that Annual Conference has been cancelled this summer, the Compelling Vision Working Group has outlined a plan for continued engagement around the compelling vision even as affirmation by the Conference body has been delayed.

We recognize that the context in which we live has changed dramatically since release of the vision. This has impacted not only the compelling vision process, but church life. Congregations are facing both unprecedented challenges and unprecedented opportunities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are being compelled to live as innovative, adaptable, and fearless ministers of the gospel.

We know there are stories of congregations that have embraced the opportunity to radically live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ in their neighborhoods in response to the challenges presented by the pandemic. We want to hear and share those stories. They can be a source of inspiration as we all seek to live and minister in the midst of the new normal. If you have a story to share about how your congregation has engaged with your neighbors in new ways during this time, please send them to the Compelling Vision Team at <cvpt2018@gmail.com>.

In addition to inspiring new opportunities for ministry, this one-year extension of the compelling vision process gives us time to engage together in Bible study around the vision. Plans are in the works to develop a Bible study series around key themes in the vision to help us all discover and more fully embrace God's call for us as the body of Christ in these times. Watch for more information later this summer.

This extension also gives us time to reflect more deeply on the potential institutional impact of the compelling vision. A truly compelling vision will not just inspire localized ministry and dreams about unity, but will prompt us to think about who we are, how we do things, how we make decisions, and how our life together is structured, inspiring meaningful transformation. We recognize that the potential impact of the compelling vision hinges on affirmation of the vision by Annual Conference; however, that doesn't mean we can't begin to think about these important questions.

Finally, we invite everyone to join us in prayer as we consider the potential transformation this vision could inspire in the lives of our members, our congregations, and our life together.

To read the compelling vision statement and the accompanying interpretive document, or for more information about the compelling vision process, visit <www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision.html>.

Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Compelling Vision Team Chair

CLOTH FACE MASKS NEEDED BY DISASTER MINISTRIES

Brethren Disaster Ministries is asking for help with supplying cloth face masks. "Whenever serving is possible again, these will be used to provide to those volunteering on rebuilding project sites who do not have their own," said an announcement. "Depending on the supply available, more could be provided to homeowners, other partners in the areas of our sites, or other places as identified. Two suggested options with instructions on how to make the masks can be provided." If you, a group at your church, or your district can help with making and supplying masks contact Terry Goodger at (410) 635-8730 or <tgoodger@brethren.org>.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Charles Curtis Rhudy, aged 79, of Jonesborough, Tennessee passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2020 after a brief illness. Curtis served pastorates in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. He served the Blue Ridge Church in Virlina District from 1967 until 1971.

He graduated from Jonesborough High School in 1959. Curtis graduated from Bridgewater College in 1963 and from Bethany Theological Seminary in 1968. He later received a Doctor of Ministry from Bethany as well.

Curtis Rhudy will be remembered by friends and family for his devotion as a minister, his sense of humor, his abundant garden, his beautiful flowers, his positive attitude, his generosity, and his love as husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, MaryJane Rhudy, his daughter Kimberly Chaffin (husband Doug), his son, Christopher Rhudy (wife Anna), and his grandchildren, Brent Chaffin, Timothy Chaffin, Audrey Chaffin, Olivia Chaffin, and his great-granddaughter, Peridot Chaffin, and his sister, Linda Wise. Preceding him in death were his parents, Charles and Mavis Rhudy, and his sister, Betty Ford.

A private memorial service for family only was held at the New Hope Church of the Brethren on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Jettie Adkins English, aged 87, of Chatham, entered into rest on Monday, April 27, 2020. She graduated from Climax High School in the class of 1950. She was a member of New Bethel Church of the Brethren. Jettie is survived by her husband of 69 years, Curtis English, pastor of the Emmanuel Church of the Brethren in Danville, Virginia. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two sons, Rodney English and Patrick (Shelley) English; three grandchildren, Nathaniel Mayhew, Matthew English, and Ricki English; and a great-grandchild, Lucas Oakes.

A graveside service was held at the New Bethel Church Cemetery on Thursday, April 30, 2020 with Richard W. Berkley officiating.

N E W S & E V E N T S

VIRTUAL WORKCAMPS IN JULY AND AUGUST

The Workcamp office is excited to announce that we will be holding seven weeks of virtual workcamps this summer! Virtual workcamps will be held from 4-5 p.m. (ET) every Monday. Each week will focus on one of the daily themes from our workcamp devotional book. Participants will hear a short reflection from one of our awesome workcamp directors, engage in small and large group discussions, and play some fun games with us!

Here is the schedule of our weekly themes and leaders:

July 6 - Ben Bear on the theme "Receiving the Call"

July 13 - Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred on the theme "Bringing Your Voice"

July 20 - Walt Wiltschek on the theme "Building the Body"

July 27 - Eric Landram on the theme "Singing in Harmony"

August 3 - Lori Walmer on the theme "Going Out with Joy"

Each week, participants who registered for 2020 workcamps will receive a Zoom link via email to join these gatherings.

If someone who was not registered for workcamps would like to join the Zoom calls, they can be in touch with the workcamp office at <cobworkcamps@brethren.org> for the link and to receive an electronic version of the devotional book that will be followed in the sessions.

We will record the director's reflection and post it on our Facebook page <www.facebook.com/CoBWorkcamps> so that participants who can't join the call can watch later.

Participants will also receive a link to an electronic copy of our workcamp participant devotional book. This book includes daily themes and scriptures, reflection questions, and fun activities. Participants are encouraged to use this resource and follow along as they join our sessions and learn how to be a voice for peace in their communities!

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SAINTS

Helen D. Ronk, aged 88, departed this life on Saturday, March 28, 2020. She was the mother of Patricia Ronk, licensed minister of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church.

Robert Gene Montgomery, aged 73, of Roanoke passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. He was a member of the Roanoke, Ninth Street Church and was retired from Friendship Manor in 2014 after 17 years of service.

Guy Raymond Kidd, aged 92, of Fincastle, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. He was a member of the Cloverdale Church and a good neighbor to Camp Bethel.

William Riley Conner, aged 88, of Cloverdale, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. He was a brother to Myrtle Conner, longtime Camp Bethel staff member.

Maxine Williams Taliaferro Tucker, aged 95, celebrated her new life in Heaven on Sunday, April 19, 2020. She was a registered nurse and a member of the Roanoke, Ninth Street Church.

James Leslie "Jake" Viar, aged 89, of Roanoke, Virginia, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 26, 2020. He retired as Interim Police Chief for the City of Roanoke in 1998 and was a member of the Roanoke, Ninth Street Church.

Helen Kinzie Crumpacker, aged 101, of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 1, 2020. She was a member of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren and was an alumna of the Class of 1940 at Bridgewater College.

Margaret H. Saul, aged 95, passed away Wednesday, June 10, 2020 in Winter Haven, Florida. She was a registered nurse having served the Salem V.A. facility for 34 years. and a member of the Peters Creek Church.

Rebecca Alma Weeks, aged 77, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2020. A graduate of Bridgewater College and Virginia Tech, she served as an educator and principal in the public schools of Virginia and Maryland. She was a member of the Laurel Branch Church of the Brethren.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF

Joyce Elaine Myers Fike, aged 78, of Marietta, passed away on Thursday, February 6, 2020. She was born in Harrisonburg, VA on August 25, 1942. Joyce married her best friend and husband of 60 years, Cecil, on June 7, 1959 at the age of 17. She was great support to her husband as they ministered to five Church of the Brethren congregations in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. These included service at the Fraternity Church of the Brethren from 1966 until 1971.

She served as pianist, organist, youth and children's choir director. After retirement Joyce accompanied her husband in mission work to the former Soviet Union Republic of Georgia where she taught young girls to sew, assisted in the painting of a Deaf School and helped in the construction of a Georgian Orthodox Chapel. Most recently she was a member of Marietta First United Methodist Church and Open Door Sunday School Class.

Joyce was a graduate of Bridgewater College. As a teacher, she taught in Addison, IL and in Roanoke, VA. She taught at Sprayberry High School in Marietta, GA for 21 years. Following a medical retirement from Sprayberry High School Joyce became the Administrative Assistant for the Vice President and General Manager at The University Financing Foundation, Atlanta, GA.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents, Harold Abram Myers and Janet Adel Liskey Myers; and infant brother, David Wayne Myers. She is survived by her husband, Cecil Wayne Fike, of Marietta; son, Kevin Allen Fike, of Kennesaw, GA; and grandson, Chandler Abram Fike of Kennesaw, GA; sister, Barbara Myers Kiracofe of Bridgewater, VA. A memorial service was held on Sunday, February 16 at Marietta First United Methodist Church.

CAMP BETHEL

CAMP BETHEL IS OPEN FOR FAMILIES AND GROUPS

In accordance with Virginia's Phase 2 and Phase 3 guidelines, facilities and campsites are available by reservation. Cyclists, hikers, and walkers are always welcome. Visit www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups for prices and timing, and visit www.CampBethelVirginia.org/self-guided-adventures for new activities using our Compass Trails and GPS Trails.

FREE "ONWARD WE GO!" SUMMER BIBLE STUDY ON LINE

We're bringing Camp Bethel to you with our interactive 6-day Bible Study videos with our Summer Staff at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/CampAtHome. Sunday = Blessed as We Go. Monday = Led as We Go. Tuesday = Walking Together as We Go. Wednesday = Challenged as We Go. Thursday = Rejoicing as We Go. Friday = Sent Onward We Go!

COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS CREATE FUNDING VOID

Nearly everything we do at Camp Bethel involves being TOGETHER with others: summer camps, retreats, festivals, meals, and family weekends. Like most camps in Virginia, Camp Bethel had to suspend our 2020 summer camps, and we lost all group rentals from March 14 through June 30. We re-opened on July 1 for rentals, but many guest groups have cancelled their scheduled events through October. We need your gifts more than ever to help Camp Bethel remain viable through 2020. Please give at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate. Thank you!

PLEASE DONATE YOUR BUDGETED "GOOD-AS-GOLD" FUNDS

We ask and encourage your Congregation to consider giving your 2020 budgeted "Good-As-Gold" to help Camp Bethel bridge this difficult year as we face serious financial challenges. Every gift helps! Thank you! www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate.

LABOR DAY FAMILY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 4-7

The weekend will be different (no pool and no potluck), but we'll be together! Pack your facemasks and check www.CampBethelVirginia.org/LaborDay for updates and to RSVP meals before August 28.

"CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K" SEPTEMBER 5

Whether it is in-person, individual, or virtual, we are planning to hold our annual 5K fundraiser for "the PEP-PIEST gang around" on September 5. Information, updated plans, sponsor packages, and registration is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 23

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 23 for our 2020 Golf Tournament and Dinner. Tee off is at 12:30pm at Ashley Plantation Golf Course, and \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and dinner at camp. Go to www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Whether our 2020 Heritage Day Festival is in-person at Camp or held at your individual church, please participate in this vitally important fundraiser for Camp Bethel. Updated plans, forms, fliers, and information is at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day or available by contacting us at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or (540) 992-2940.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF

L. Clyde Carter Jr., aged 84, of Daleville passed away peacefully in his home on Friday, February 28, 2020, in the presence of his wife and daughter.

Clyde was born on April 4, 1935 in Bassett, VA. Clyde was the son of the late Leonard Clyde Carter, Sr. and Gladys Stone Carter. Brother Clyde was baptized into the body of Christ in the Bassett Church of the Brethren in 1944 and licensed to the ministry there in 1961. He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in May 1962 by the Midland Church of the Brethren in the Eastern District of Virginia (now the Mid-Atlantic District). He was in the ministry for 50 years.

Brother Clyde is survived by his wife of 60 years Karen Spohr Carter; daughter Claudia Carter Egge; sons Kermon Carter and Leonard C. Carter, III; and 5 grandchildren.

Clyde graduated in 1952 from the John D. Bassett High School, in 1956 from Bridgewater College, and in 1961 from Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. He served as pastor of Midland Church of the Brethren (1961-1972), the Daleville Church of the Brethren (1972-1979) and the Mount Bethel Church of the Brethren (1979-1995). Clyde served as conference moderator for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1966 and for the Virlina District in 1993. Clyde has served on the Virlina District Board, in several local ministerial associations, as state president of the Weekday Religious Education program and on the Community Action Board of Directors. For many years he served as the Pastor to Pastors of the Virlina District.

Clyde's ministry has been marked by an emphasis on peacemaking and counseling. Clyde served as a conscientious objector with Brethren Volunteer Service in Germany from (1956-1958), working in refugee camps. His motto "Listen to the pain!" was exemplified through the conciliatory approach he provided in a variety of contexts: volunteer mediator, certified state court system mediator, magistrate, family counselor, and refugee advocate. He operated a counseling service from his home for many years. His ministry is best illustrated by the old cliché: "Preach the Gospel, use words if you must."

A memorial service was held at the Daleville Church of the Brethren on Sunday March 8, 2020. Officiating at the service were David K. Shumate, Thomas and Naomi Powers.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

BRETHREN IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC - JULY 7, 2020

A special course from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson College is coming up in July will be "Brethren in the Age of Pandemic: A century ago and today" and presented by Frank Ramirez. The class will be held online Tuesday evening, July 7 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. CST.

This isn't the first rodeo for the Brethren, when it comes to closing churches and changing habits in the face of a global pandemic. What happened to the Brethren a century ago, and what lessons can we learn as we redefine what it means for us to be the church? This special hour and a half Ventures course will explore the history of Brethren in times of pandemic.

Frank Ramirez, pastor of the Union Center Church of the Brethren in Nappanee, Indiana, is a prolific writer, well known for his feature "Out of Context" in the Guide for Biblical Studies. He and his wife Jennie share three adult children and six grandchildren.

Registration and more information about Ventures in Christian Discipleship are available at www.mcpherson.edu/ventures. (Please note: Online registration is available, however, due to website conversion, CEU payments cannot be accepted online at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Kendra Flory at floryk@mcpherson.edu.)

If you would like to make a donation to Ventures, please go to our website and under the designation menu, select "Ventures in Christian Discipleship" by scrolling to the bottom.

SECOND ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL POSTPONED

The Second Annual Virlina District Choir Festival scheduled for September 11-12, 2020 has been postponed. The Spiritual Development Retreat Committee is considering dates for a rescheduled event. In the meantime, the committee sends this word of hope and encouragement: "We will sing together in person again!"

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held October 30 - November 1, 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.

For more information, please contact Karen Haynes by telephone at (336) 765-5263 or by electronic mail at haynesmk1986@yahoo.com or go to our website at www.experiencepilgrimage.com

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO CHURCH LIFE IN PANDEMIC

The recent survey by the Commission on Witness of Creative Approaches to Church Life in a Pandemic has been posted on the www.virlina.org website soon. Read it!

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF

Gordon Ernest Deyerle II, aged 72, of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. The son of Gordon and Lois Turner Deyerle, he was born on September 17, 1947. He was a graduate of Bridgewater College, The University of Virginia, and Trinity Theological Seminaries. He also attended Bethany Theological Seminary. Ernie spent his life in service to others as a teacher, principal, minister, and counselor. He nurtured a love of faith, family, ice cream and humor that will be carried on by his high school sweetheart and wife, Janice Pitts Deyerle; his daughter, Jennifer Cudahy and her husband, Jim; and son, Jeff Deyerle and his wife, Shanon. He had seven grandchildren.

Ernie never met a stranger as evidenced by his legacy of friends from the Old Order Mennonite community in Dayton, Va., his brothers and sisters from the Troutville and Red Hill congregations of the Church of the Brethren. Most recently, as a member of Calvary Baptist Church, he served as a Sunday school teacher, choir member and a deacon. We cherish the lessons he imparted from years of Sunday sermons, the courage and perseverance he modeled, and his example of always putting your spouse first. To honor him, we will love our people well, stir up a little mayhem at family dinners, listen with care to troubled friends, and give the shirt off our backs for someone in need. His family will be forever grateful for the care he received from his team at Good Samaritan Hospice and his favorite caregiver and sister-in-law, Kim Pitts. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

AVAILABLE ON THE WWW.VIRLINA.ORG WEBSITE

Our district maintains a website with many resources for our congregations and membership at www.virlina.org. Just a few of the items include the Virlina District Prayer Calendar (issued quarterly), the HEADLINER (issued six times each year), the E-Headliner (issued roughly every two weeks), the Memo for Ministers (issued six times each year for pastors and district leaders), and many other helpful documents. Check it out!

PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT

The Pandemic Management Team has met three times during the last three months. At their meeting on June 8 the current status of various phases of reopening were reviewed, reports were received from the district and camp staff, an update on the SBA/PPP loan and its allocation was received, and the previous action terminating staff persons at the District Resource Center was rescinded. Various materials related to the pandemic and the church response to it can be found on the district website.