

# HEADLINE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH

Newsletter

2021

***"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted. "***

**Luke 18:9-14 (NRSV)**

Two men went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, the other a Publican. One was outwardly religious and esteemed as upright. The other collected taxes for the hated occupation forces of Rome. He was considered a sinner before God and a traitor to his people.

Lifting his eyes toward heaven, the Pharisee took his place near the altar of God. Confident in his acts of righteousness, he gives thanks unto God that he is not like others. He is not a thief, an evildoer or an adulterer. Spotting the tax collector standing apart, he expressed gratitude that he wasn't corrupt or traitorous. Going on he began to enumerate his many good works. Although the law did not require it, the Pharisee bragged that he fasted twice a week and was a good tither.

Looking down, the tax collector beats his chest. In deep spiritual agony he beseeched God to have mercy upon him as a sinner.

Jesus told this story, it is written, to those confident in their own righteousness who looked down upon others. He makes the point that the least likely candidate goes home justified (or made right) with God. In God's upside-down kingdom, those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

Let us first consider the spirituality of the Pharisee. It appears that his religious practice is based on relativism and achievement. He observes those around him. He is grateful that he is not like them, especially the tax collector. This gratitude exalts him in his own eyes.

He will always find someone who is apparently less faithful in comparison. We can as well. However, accountability to our Creator is not based on a hierarchy of holiness and does not adhere to a bell curve. The focus of spiritual examination needs to be within and not without (Matthew 7:1-5). The apostolic teaching in Galatians 6:4 is clear. "Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else..."

As a Pharisee he is concerned not only with orthodoxy or correct doctrine, but also with orthopraxis or proper living. That is, of course, commendable. Hearing and doing go

together (James 1:22). Nonetheless, the Pharisee's remarks on his achievements in excess of the law's demands are focused upon his own personal holiness and not upon the graciousness of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). Perhaps he had forgotten that the sacrifices for sin, offered repeatedly from time to time, included them.

And now, let us turn to the Publican or tax collector. He stands way off from the altar. His very position reflects his self-understanding. Like the prodigal son who came to himself in the muck and mire of the pig pen, he has seen himself as he is (Luke 15:17). He is, as the beloved invitation hymn reminds, without one plea! His is a humble spirit and a contrite heart. He begs God for mercy. His very prayer is a demonstration of trust and faith in the One who hears all. His confession opens the door.

Reflecting upon this, we are reminded that "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b). We must take care that we do not pronounce judgment upon others, but rather examine ourselves, our motives and our acts. It is not our role to judge the servants of another (Romans 14:4), neither to condemn nor to condone.

Many years ago, in high school, I had a teacher who told the class that there would be a lot of surprises on the day of judgment (see Matthew 25:31-46). Some, like the Pharisees who trust in their own holiness and good works, will find themselves cast out (Matthew 7:21-23). Others, whom like the tax collector stand afar off, will find themselves included (Matthew 21:31-32). Perhaps the empty places in our congregations would be filled if we spent more time proclaiming the Good News, than spending God's time expounding the unfaithfulness of others. A humble approach to God trumps spiritual pride every time.

*David K. Shumate*

*District Executive Minister*

**VIRLINA DISTRICT**  
3402 Plantation Road, NE  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Ph. (540) 362-1816  
Fax (540) 362-1817  
1-800-VIRLINA Toll Free

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



**Jones Chapel** - Tom Auker and Linda Auker by transfer of letter January 2020. Jennifer Thornton Griggs by baptism September 6, 2020. Claire Sue Howe by baptism September 13, 2020. Ian Bishop by reaffirmation January 17, 2021.

**Topeco** - Kayelin Hylton by baptism February 9, 2020.

**REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SAINTS**

**Jennifer Qualey French**, aged 67, of Pulaski, Virginia passed peacefully on August 29. She was a former member of the Pulaski, First Church.

**Donna Canter Dille**, aged 59, died Sept. 12, 2020, in Aurora, Colorado. Donna was a former member of the Oak Grove Church in Roanoke and formerly served as a staff person at Camp Bethel.

**Jack Donald "Donnie" Lee**, aged 84, of Fincastle, Virginia, passed away Sunday, November 1, 2020. He was formerly a member of the Pleasant Dale Church in rural Botetourt County, Virginia.

**James Edward Spencer**, 87, of Martinsville, passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2020. He was the father of Ellen "Ronnie" Randall, wife of New Hope Pastor Rick Randall. He was a charter member of the Collinsville Presbyterian Church. He was a long-time active volunteer in Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) where he served as project director.

**Lola Marie Thomas "Dee" Raines**, aged 96, died on December 22, 2020, at Lindside, West Virginia. She was baptized July 29, 1956 and was a faithful member and deaconess of the Spruce Run Church of the Brethren.

**Ronald "Ronnie" Dean Wray**, aged 76, of Boones Mill, Virginia, passed over into eternal life with Christ on Christmas Day, 2020 after contracting COVID-19. He was a member of the Cedar Bluff Church in the Naff's Community and brother of Fairview (Rocky Mount) Pastor Jeff Wray.

**Paul Henry Garst**, aged 95, of Roanoke, Virginia, entered his Heavenly home on January 21, 2021. He worked at Garst Brothers Dairy and its successors. Paul was a lifelong, active member of the Central Church of the Brethren. He was present as a babe in arms at the dedication service at Central in 1925. Brother Garst was an excellent carpenter and woodworker who often using his skills to help with fundraising for Camp Bethel.

**Fred Lee Rector**, aged 83, of Hollins, Virginia passed away on January 31, 2021. He was a member of the Masons

Cove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke County, Virginia and served as deacon there. In 1968 he coordinated efforts with others to establish the Fire Department in Masons Cove. He was a faithful member of the MCVFD until retiring as Assistant Chief after almost 40 years.



**PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT**

**BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - Emma Jean Woodard serving as interim pastor.

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

**BETHLEHEM** - Full time position, profile pending - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

**EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I-6) - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote on March 14.*

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

**GREEN HILL** - Part time position, profile available (P) - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.

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

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

**MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Chad Beamer serving as pulpit supply.

**MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Christian J. Becker (FGBC) continues as pulpit supply.

**MONTE VISTA** - Part time position, no profile available - Bruce E. Huffman serving as pulpit supply.

**NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

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

**OAK GROVE - SOUTH** - Part time position, no profile available. Pulpit supply.

**ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

**SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Not meeting at current time.

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

**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 MARCH 25, 2021**

Deadline for the May 2021 issue of the HEADLINER is March 25, 2021. Forward items for inclusion to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.**

# NEWS & EVENTS

## WORSHIP SURVEY OF DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS

We recently reached out to pastors and contact persons from our 93 worshipping communities inquiring about the current methods of maintaining regular worship services. 62 congregations responded. Of these 62, 39 are currently having "in house" worship services. Of these 39, only nine have no other attendance option (i.e., internet or parking lot).

39 congregations report that they use the internet for their worship services (most often Facebook Live, YouTube or Zoom). Eleven reported that this is their only option.

22 congregations are using FM transmitters for parking lot services. Three of these use this option only.

Four congregations offer all three methods.

Four congregations are not meeting at the current time.

Several congregations not currently meeting "in house" have intermittently been "in house" and had to subsequently use alternate methods after outbreaks of COVID-19.

## COMPELLING VISION BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Compelling Vision Team has developed a 13-session Bible study series around the Compelling Vision. Designed for use by youth and adults, the series is available at no cost on the Compelling Vision webpage. Recognizing the importance of discerning the mind of Christ through communal study of scripture, it is our hope that this Bible study series will serve a two-fold purpose: to help congregations engage more deeply with the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision and to help congregations and their delegates prepare for the conversations to take place at Annual Conference as we move toward affirmation of the vision.

Each of the thirteen sessions has as its focus a question that invites participants to explore a different word or phrase in the vision and has been written by a different person, creating a series that is rich in both breadth and depth. The project is being edited by Joan Lawrence Daggett (a native of our own Red Oak Grove Church in Floyd County, Virginia). Plans are also underway to translate this resource into both Spanish and Haitian Kreyol.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 2, 2021

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will open at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Registration will stay open through the end of conference.

Delegate registration fees provide each delegate with a Conference booklet and the business materials packet. Each congregation registering a delegate will also receive a copy of the 2021 Annual Conference minutes.

Please note: Unique to this year's ONLINE Annual Conference, each delegate MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS, A COMPUTER OR TABLET, AS WELL AS ADEQUATE WIFI SERVICE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

Please ensure that your selected delegate meets these requirements to participate so that your congregation can be fully represented at Annual Conference.

We are aware that some congregations do not have much access to the Internet and we hope delegates from those congregations will be able to participate. Perhaps your district office will have counsel as to how you can obtain individual Internet connections for each of your delegates.

One online site will be used for all business, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more. A link and password for access to the site will be emailed to each registrant in the days prior to the start of Conference. Training sessions will be provided in the weeks before Conference begins for those wanting to learn how to navigate the site. The many details of the event will be frequently updated on <[www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac)>. Please check back often! Also watch for weekly emails sharing information about all that Annual Conference will have to offer online.

## Registering a Delegate

Beginning Tuesday, March 2, at 12:00 noon Central Time, congregations may register their delegates online at [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac). Click the "Registration" button and then choose "Delegate Registration." Payment options include paying by credit card or sending a check. Each delegate's complete name, address, email, and phone contact are required. Please use the delegate's own email address, not the church email! If you need assistance, call the Annual Conference Office at (800) 323-8039 ext 366, or (847) 429-4366.

## Delegate Eligibility and Allotment

Delegates must be full members of the Church of the Brethren. The number of delegates for each congregation is based on the membership statistics as reported in the 2020 Church of the Brethren Yearbook. The number allowed is as follows:

Up to 200 Members	1 delegate
201-400 Members	2 delegates
401-600 Members	3 delegates
601-800 Members	4 delegates

## Non-Delegate Registrations

Non-delegate registration opens the same day as delegate registration. When registering anyone other than a delegate, click on the "Non-Delegate Registration" button. This year's reduced price of \$99 for non-delegates provides access to the business sessions, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more.

All five worship services will be available free of charge to all registered and non-registered persons.

## New Delegates

Please encourage delegates who have never been or have not recently been to Annual Conference to attend the New Attendee Orientation session, online at 3:30 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday afternoon, June 29.

## Online Information

Please check out our webpage at <[www.brethren.org/ac2021](http://www.brethren.org/ac2021)>.



**DISTRICT OFFICE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

3402 Plantation Road NE  
Roanoke, VA 24012

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MARCH 2021**

1	7:00	PM	Northern Area Ministers - Zoom (DKS)
2	7:00	PM	Commission on Stewardship - Zoom (DKS)
	7:00	PM	Commission on Nurture - Zoom (MSS)
8	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
9	6:00	PM	District Board Executive Committee - Oak Grove South(DKS)
16	6:00	PM	Race Education Team - Zoom (MSS)
20	9:00	AM	District Board Meeting - Summerdean (DKS/MSS)
25	8:30	AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee - Zoom (MSS)
28 - 31			VACATION (DKS)

**APRIL 2021**

2			District Resource Center Closed - Good Friday
3 - 5			VACATION (DKS)
6	1:00	PM	Council of District Executives - Zoom (DKS)
	6:00	PM	Commission on Witness - Zoom (MSS)
7	2:00	PM	Ministry Advisory Council - Zoom (DKS)
9	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry - Zoom (DKS)
12	9:00	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Zoom (DKS)
20	6:00	PM	Race Education Team - Zoom (MSS)
24	10:00	AM	Program and Arrangements Committee - Zoom (MSS)
	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Comm.- Zoom (MSS/DKS)

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11*

# WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

## 2021 BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRY PROJECTS

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

The Virilina District is scheduled for the following weeks for disaster work in North Carolina and Dayton, Ohio, in 2021. Please note the dates and contact Ed or Susan McKimmy at [virlinaddr@gmail.com](mailto:virlinaddr@gmail.com) or (540) 354-5345 if you are interested in serving for one or more weeks.

Coastal NC	March 21-27
Dayton, OH	April 4-10
Dayton, OH	June 6-12
Dayton, OH	August 8-14
Dayton, OH	October 10 -16
Dayton, OH	December 5 -11

In addition to providing volunteers for disaster projects, we continue to receive kit supplies, cleanup buckets and school kits at the District Resource Center. During these challenging times we can continue to share our call to serve others in Christ's name through disaster response. By doing so, we allow the love of Christ to shine through in a unique way.

## THE REWARD OF RISK - A VIRTUAL NEW AND RENEW EVENT - MAY 13-15, 2021

"The Reward of Risk" is a virtual NEW AND RENEW EVENT sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. This year, the keynote speakers will be Christiana Rice and José Humphreys. Offered in at least three languages, we will be providing opportunities to network with others as we learn and grow. An interpretive document is available - in Spanish, Haitian Creole and English. If you want a copy, please contact us at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com).

Registration opened February 1, 2021. Virilina District persons who would like financial assistance from the New Church Development Committee may advise us at [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com). We will register those individuals. The website link for all things related to the 2021 NEW AND RENEW EVENT is found at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>.

## A WORD FROM THE VIRILINA RACE EDUCATION TEAM

We live in a time of racial tension in our nation. Believing that Christians must stand together at all times and, in particular, when brothers and sisters are in pain, the Commission on Witness has called together a Race Education Team. The purpose is to increase our understanding about racism's affect on our congregations and communities. Members of the team include Eric Anspaugh, Dava Hensley, Anne Mitchell, Ellen Phillips and Jennie Waering.

They have developed a video presentation on race titled "Necessary Conversations" with special guests Barbara Pendergrass Richmond of Bethel AME Church and Ron Robinson, a Roanoke City Police Officer, of the Roanoke-Oak Grove Church. This can be found on the team's Facebook page.

The team is committed to providing individuals, groups and congregations throughout the district with a variety of resources to help them better understand this difficult and continuing problem. They would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your group or congregation. All virtually for now, but hopefully in person in the not so distant future. For further information, please email the team at [virlinaret@gmail.com](mailto:virlinaret@gmail.com).

## BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE

Formed by funds generated from the sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, the Brethren Faith in Action Fund provides grants to fund outreach ministry projects that serve their communities, strengthen the congregation, and expand the reign of God. Such ministries will honor and continue the legacy of service that the Center has epitomized while also addressing the dynamics of the present age. Grants of up to \$5,000 per congregation or ministry project per year are awarded, with a maximum of \$15,000 allocated to any one ministry project over multiple years.

## Who May Apply

Any United States Church of the Brethren congregation, fellowship or project

## Application Process

Grants will be awarded as determined by the Grant Oversight Committee each month. A grant application will require basic information such as amount requested, description of the project, budget, affirmation that congregation will provide match as recorded in the minutes of the congregation's decision-making body, and a statement of support from the district executive.

## For details

Go to <https://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>

## OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

**Cecil Allen Boone**, aged 90 of Boones Mill, passed away Sunday, January 17, 2021, peacefully at home surrounded by family.

He was an active member of his community, volunteering with the Clearbrook Rescue Squad and Fire Department for 38 years. Brother Boone was a faithful member of Red Hill Church of the Brethren, and participated in Project Warm and Camp Bethel. The planned R.V. Village at Camp Bethel was his special vision. Cecil was proud to be an American Red Cross donor, having donated 835 times for a total of 171 gallons over 30 years.

A celebration of Cecil's life will be held at a later date due to the continuing pandemic.

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE-SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT RETREAT - MARCH 6, 2021**

The next Spiritual Formation Retreat will be March 6 via Zoom. Josh Brockway will be the presenter. Video lectures will be provided prior to March 6 to be viewed prior to the retreat. There will be a 4-hour podcast/audio recording of Rowan Williams on prayer included. Saturday, March 6 will be for discussion and group work. All participants are required to complete watching all videos and read several primary texts beforehand that will be provided.

Tuition for the class will be \$100.00. For more information or to obtain a registration form please contact Donna Hornsby, CGI Coordinator, (540) 266-0733; email: <dshornsby76@cox.net>. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with the registration form to arrive by March 1, 2021 to Sarah Long, CGI-Shenandoah Center, P. O. Box 67, Weyers Cave, VA 24486.

## **MENTORING AS MINISTRY - MARCH 25, 2021**

"Mentoring as Ministry" workshop will be offered on March 25, 2021 from 7 until 9 p.m. as a Zoom video conference. This workshop will explore biblical models of mentoring and offer specific steps for effective mentoring. The workshop will be led by Brian Messler, lead pastor of the Ephrata (PA) Church of the Brethren. Messler's passion is helping people reach their greatest potential. All current licensed ministers and their mentors are strongly encouraged to register for this event. Mentors will receive 0.2 units of CEU credit. The workshop is open to anyone who strives to strengthen church leadership. This event is free, but registration to receive the Zoom link is required by March 20th. Send your request to <cashuffman@gmail.com>.

## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 24-28, 2021**

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. This year, students will consider economic justice during the online event scheduled for April 24-28 from 7-9 p.m. (EST) daily. The cost is \$75 each and registration is now open. To register and find more information on CCS go to <www.brethren.org/ccs>.

## **CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE - ROANOKE CENTER - WORSHIP CLASS - REGISTER BY APRIL 1, 2021**

The next class to be held at the Roanoke Center will be WORSHIP, taught by Becky Rhodes. Textbooks for the class are: Worship for the Whole People of God, Ruth Duck, Beyond the Worship Wars, Thomas G Long, For All Who Minister-A Worship Manual for the Church of the Brethren, Brethren Press, et. al, Hymnal: A Worship Book, Brethren Press, Hymnal Supplement

Please note the class will meet on Sundays. The class dates are April 25, May 9, May 23, and June 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. 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 Donna Hornsby, CGI Coordinator: Email: <dshornsby76@cox.net> or Phone: (540) 266-0744. Make checks payable to VIRGINIA DISTRICT and mail with the registration form to arrive by April 1, 2021 to Donna Hornsby, 420 Bluebell Lane, Apt 304, Roanoke, VA 24012. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

## **YOUNG CENTER PRESENTS ONLINE - APRIL 13, 2021**

Elizabethtown College (PA), Young Center and Bowers Writers House present "Travelling through the National Dark: Poet and Pacifist William Stafford," a celebration of Stafford, a Library of Congress Poet Laureate with ties to the Church of the Brethren, on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. Poet Fred Marchant and Writers House director Jesse Waters will discuss Stafford's life and legacy and read some of his poems. Young Center interim director Steve Nolt will review the World War II context in which Stafford declared his conscientious objection to war and the Civilian Public Service program in which he served. For details and the link to the Zoom presentation, visit <www.etown.edu/youngctr/events>.

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

**David R. Amos**, aged 70, of Goodview, Virginia passed away on Wednesday, February, 10, 2021. He was a member of Nineveh Church of the Brethren.

**Patsey Martin**, aged 80, passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Leonard Martin. Brother Martin has served as pastor, interim pastor and pulpit supply in a number of district congregations. A service was held at the Boones Mill Church on Friday, February 12, 2021 officiated by Jerry Naff.

**Edgar Kyle Baker**, aged 76, of Daleville, Virginia, died Friday, January 15, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital after contracting the COVID-19 virus. Ed was born in Christiansburg, VA on September 22, 1944, and lived in Botetourt County most of his life.

Ed was a longtime active member of the Daleville Church of the Brethren and served as the treasurer of the district board in the mid-1990's. For most of his life, he got satisfaction from work and particularly the resulting relationships he developed. Even after formally retiring, he continued to very much enjoy his efforts on the corporate boards of Bank of Botetourt, Friendship Manor and Rockydale Quarries.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, the family hopes to hold a memorial service celebrating Ed's life later in the year. For those wanting to acknowledge Ed's passing, the family asks that donations be made in Ed's memory to the Daleville Church of the Brethren (P.O. Box 85, Daleville, VA 24083), Big Brothers Big Sisters at <www.bbbs.org> or Good Samaritan Hospice at <www.goodsam.care>.



# C A M P B E T H E L

## **CAMP BETHEL IS OPEN FOR GROUPS AND FAMILIES**

In accordance with Virginia's Phase Three guidelines, facilities, food services, and conference rooms are available to reserve. Cyclists, hikers, walkers, and day-visitors are always welcome; hiking and biking trail maps are on our office porch. Disc Golf coming soon! <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups)>

## **CAMP SUPPORTER ZOOM WORKSHOP - MARCH 6, 2021**

Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends. This online event is from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 6. All camp representatives, pastors, youth leaders, OMC members, friends and supporters of Camp Bethel are encouraged to attend our FREE Camp Supporter Workshop (online via Zoom). Register by March 4 at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep)>.

## **SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - APRIL 3, 2021**

The Spring Volunteer Workday at Camp Bethel is planned for Saturday, April 3. It begins with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP for meals by March 26 by telephone to (540) 992-2940 or by electronic mail <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>. For more information please go to <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday)>.

## **SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS ONLINE - APRIL 17, 2021**

Our big 20th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival will be online on Saturday, April 17! Donald Davis returns to our amazing "all-headliners" festival including Dolores Hydock, Kevin Kling, Bil Lepp, Barbara McBride-Smith, and Donna Washington. Enjoy this fun, FREE, and truly unique online storytelling event to encourage donations to Camp Bethel. For information online please go to the Sounds website at <[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)>.

## **SUMMER CAMPS 2021**

Registration is OPEN for SAFE and FUN 2021 resident camps, adventures, and day camps using our "Small Group Unit" model. Health and safety adaptations include: each Unit has their own cabin, bathhouse, and shower; equipment and facilities thoroughly sanitized between use; physical distancing during activities; use of facemasks within 6-feet and indoors; increased Unit autonomy; daily health checks; and following Health and Safety Behaviors. Schedule, safety information and more can be found online at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps)>.

## **GIVE A CHILD A CAMBERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP**

We cannot hold an in-person Sow the Seed Banquet, so please give instead. We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$380, which is the 2021 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with "Camperships" on the memo line or donate online at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)>

## **SUMMER 2021 COUNSELORS & KITCHEN STAFF**

We are seeking hard-working and resilient young adults for our 2021 Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve from May 31 through July 24. Kitchen staff serve May 28 through August 14. Position descriptions, videos, and applications are at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/summer-staff)>.

## **ADOPT A SUMMER STAFF PERSON AT CAMP IN 2021**

We are seeking congregations, groups, and individuals to adopt one of 40 Summer Staff Members with a commitment of prayer, letters, and \$100. This program benefits everyone involved: it helps Camp Bethel recruit and secure the highest quality Counselors for our campers, and it helps these excellent young adults to accept God's call to summer ministry in what will be an unusual (adapted-for-COVID-19) program. Information about staff person adoption can be found online at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt)>.

## **PROPOSALS NEEDED FOR RV VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION**

We have approval from Botetourt County, and we have initial funding provided by your gifts to the "Seed, Scattered and Sown" campaign, so now it is time to build! Updated site layout and images for Camp Bethel's long-planned 15-site "RV Village" area are at [VirlinaFuture.org](http://VirlinaFuture.org). Plans include water, electric, sewer, picnic table, campfire ring, and parking for 2-3 cars. Contact Barry Lenoir for precise information!

## **FOUR WAYS TO HELP CAMP BETHEL IN 2021**

1. WINTER/SPRING FAMILY VACATION... AT CAMP! Visit <[CampBethelVirginia.org/groups](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/groups)> for information and availability.
2. SPONSOR our Sounds of the Mountains (SOTM) Festival at <[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)>.
3. ORDER Apple Butter and/or Blankets online at <[CampBethelVirginia.org/TradingPost](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/TradingPost)>.
4. DONATE! Every gift helps us keep our staff onsite! Thank you! Online at <[CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)>.

## **FINANCIAL CHALLENGES CONTINUE AT CAMP**

We are inspired and blessed by generous gifts and sponsorships from hundreds of individuals, families, and groups. Camp Bethel "survived" 2020. Until the pandemic ends, we will continue to rely on your donations to retain staff, safely reopen, and adapt how we operate. Please give what you can to help keep Camp Bethel viable through 2021. Donations can be made at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)> or by sending a check directly to camp. Thank you!

## **CHURCH DIRECTORIES NEEDED - REMINDER**

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



# NEWS & EVENTS

## **A WORD FROM AC MODERATOR - PAUL MUNDEY**

Traditionally the moderator of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference calls the church to Bible study and prayer as we anticipate Annual Conference. This year is no exception, but with an added plus: the availability in mid-February of 13 Bible studies focused on the themes of the proposed compelling vision for the Church of the Brethren. These can be found at [www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision](http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision).

Available now are two sample lessons from the Bible studies, in both English and Spanish, at [www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/bible-studies](http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/bible-studies).

This year's Annual Conference will be an empowering resourcing event. At its heart will be intentional, prayerful engagement with the proposed compelling vision as we seek the mind of Christ, living into the Conference theme "God's Adventurous Future." Excellent preparation for this spiritual engagement will be participation by your congregation in the 13 compelling vision Bible studies.

We live in a season of pandemic and polarization; people are experiencing much unrest and confusion in their context. However, an emphasis on "Jesus in the Neighborhood," our compelling vision banner theme, will help resource and center, contributing to a renewed perspective on God and hope.

Recently, I rediscovered 2 Chronicles 20:12: "[O God] we [feel] powerless against this great multitude [of realities] coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." The speaker is King Jehoshaphat of Judah, and the great multitude in his case was the powerful three-some of the Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites. Up against such forces, Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and gathered the people together—great and small, male and female—to seek the Lord. As they did so, their eyes were indeed on God. Just then, Jahaziel, son of Zechariah, heard from God and prophesied. He said a lot, but the gist is found in 2 Chronicles 20:15: "Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's." In turn, Jehoshaphat and the people took courage, praised and magnified God, and went forth to meet the challenge before them.

For me, Bible study and prayer are prime tools to assist as I strive to keep my eyes on God and God's accompaniment, when a multitude is before me. Thus, I am excited that Annual Conference delegates, participants, and other people from our congregations will soon have access to a new Bible study resource for the Church of the Brethren.

As we anticipate the 2021 Annual Conference, a great multitude of challenges are indeed before us—not Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites, but schism, political unrest, and racism, among others. Given such challenges, we need to "eye" something that will lead us forward. I am confident that the compelling vision Bible studies will do just that as they point us to God in Christ, and the challenge of

the proposed vision to "develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless."

## **TWO MINISTRY SKILL COURSES FROM BAML FOR SPRING 2021**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering two ministry skills courses this spring.

**Defining Set-Apart Ministry Within the Multivocational Reality** is online from April 7 - June 1. Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. The instructor for this online course will be Sandra Jenkins.

Multivocational ministry is a reality in many denominations. It is not only a calling but a necessity; part-time ministry placements often outnumber full-time placements. This class will explore the set-apart ministry within the multivocational context, including the rewards and challenges for both pastor and congregation. The deadline to register is March 3.

**Doing Church Differently: Ministry in Times of Crisis** is online from May 5 - June 29. Participants will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. The instructor for this online course will be Debbie Eisenbise.

This course examines how pastors are called to lead and assist congregations in adapting to maintain organizational integrity, pastoral viability, and foster spiritual growth in the midst of corporate/community crises (natural disasters, active shooter incidents, pandemics, climate crises, etc.). The deadline to register for this course is March 31.

Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors. These online classes "meet" for 8 weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom platform. The Brethren Academy will provide students with Moodle access before the course starts. The office will also provide a Moodle tutorial if one is needed. Pastors taking this course will earn 2 continuing education units or persons may take it for personal enrichment.

New lessons are posted once a week, once the course begins, and students are given a week to complete their assignments. Students can log on at any time, day or night, to read lectures, watch videos, work on group projects and/or engage in forums (email-style conversations) with their classmates. In this way, online courses are fairly flexible.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for continuing education credits (CEU) or personal enrichment (PE) may enroll as a student and select their category (CEU or PE) upon registration.

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

**Iva Dell Harris**, aged 89 of Willis, Virginia, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2021. She was a long term member of the Topeco Church. Funeral services were held there on January 11, 2021 officiated by Ted Turner and Mike Varner.

**Patricia Ann "Pat" Harris**, aged 87, of Cloverdale, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. She was a member of the Green Hill Church in Salem, Virginia.