

# 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

MAY

*Newsletter*

2021

*"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said." I Corinthians 14:29 (NRSV)*

*"...making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3 (NRSV)*

Inspiration is best tested, in our tradition, by the body of believers. While we have "prophets" among us, we believe that the body must find its way to and affirm its beliefs through a process of dialogue and discernment. We seek to be a body which discerns "the mind of Christ". Because this is a process, it sometimes takes time and energy to accomplish. This requires the patience and forbearance of all concerned. Vision, in order to move toward fulfillment, must be owned not only by the individual, but affirmed by the body as well.

Brethren believe that there is "wisdom in the counsel of many" not only in matters requiring discernment, but also in the decision making process of the church.

The governing structure of the Church of the Brethren, whether denominationally, within districts, or within congregations, is designed to give every member a role in decision making. Therefore, while those in leadership certainly influence direction, important decisions of the church are made by the body with the widest possible consultation. We are a church that seeks to decide what Jesus would have us to do together. Voices of diversity or of dissent should not be silenced, ridiculed or ignored, but we are called to respect the feelings and ideas of others who may disagree with the discernment of the whole body. There are voices beyond where we might currently find ourselves which can enrich our understandings, contribute to our self awareness and inspire us to greater expressions of compassion.

Togetherness affects our style of doing the work and business of the church. Brethren value and respect the authority of their leaders. Ultimately, however, the power is bestowed on the church. We believe that the Holy Spirit speaks through the body. We seek to model a style of working together that is founded upon forthright sharing, empathetic listening, mutual submission and consultation in matters which affect us all (Acts 15). Our practice emphasizes the importance of decision making that takes the time necessary for the body to come to consensus. This is frustrating to those whose preference

would be to follow the majority vote model of society. This tends to allow for better decisions that preserve the ownership and investment of the body. The business of the church is not about winning, but of learning to share resources for our faith journey together.

How can a congregation be recognizable as the Church of the Brethren? The participants, especially the leadership of the congregation, will acknowledge and respect the heritage and traditions of the Brethren. Our congregations engage in anointing, trine immersion, the full love feast and communion, the practice of Matthew 18; and support the in word and deed the outreach mission and ministries of our denomination. Since we value the wisdom of the whole body and seek to work together toward the same ideals, this means that each congregation will expect to be represented at the Annual and District Conferences of the denomination.

The Church of the Brethren embraced ecumenism or "cooperative Christianity" in the twentieth-century as a means of sharing our peculiar witness to other Christian denominations in local, state, national and international circles. We seek to understand and work with other Christians while retaining our identity and peculiarities. Our small size, willingness to serve and lack of pretense often results in Brethren being chosen for leadership in ministerial associations and councils of churches.

We have recently gone through and continue in a difficult season marked by pandemic, political uproar and division within the church. Most of us have not lived through times such as these, but our forbearers lived through similar times and, in some cases, even more difficult eras. God was with them, God is with us, and God is already in a future filled with mystery. Let us take care not to let go of our faith, our practice and our values.

*David K. Shumate*

*District Executive Minister*

## VIRLINA DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER

3402 Plantation Road, N.E.  
Telephone (540) 362-1816  
Fax (540) 362-1817

Roanoke, Virginia 24012  
Tollfree (800) 847-5462  
E-mail <virilina@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



**Smith Chapel** - Cynthia Dinger, Ashley Sigmon and Matthew Sigmon by baptism March 21, 2021.

**Vinton** - Shirley Hatten by letter January 29, 2021.

**HAVE YOU HEARD - SEED, SCATTERED AND SOWN?**

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the theme of the mission resourcing campaign for the Virlina District. The goal is to develop resources to fulfill the District's commitment to ministry with our children, youth and young adults; continue new church development and multi-cultural ministry; to provide assistance to our smaller, struggling congregations; to encourage development of ministerial leadership, to minister to our college students and to fulfill Camp Bethel's future potential. As of April 29, 2021, there are 285 pledges totaling \$588,280 with receipts totaling \$518,135. 220 pledges have been paid in full.

Would you like to help? It's easy. You can make a one-time gift or pledge an amount to be paid over three years. Contact Roger Keffer (540) 725-1595 for more information.

**MISSION AND MINISTRY BOARD HOLDS SPRING MEETING**

The Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren held spring meetings via Zoom on Friday through Sunday, March 12-14, 2021. Main items of business continued work on the board's new strategic plan and received year-end financial reporting for 2020.

Patrick Starkey, chair, led meetings from the denomination's General Offices in Elgin, Ill, where he was joined by chair-elect Carl Fike, general secretary David Steele, and a few staff. The rest of the board joined in via Zoom from across the country.

**NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE FOR 2021**

The NOAC Planning Team has made the decision that the conference, held every two years, will be fully online in 2021 instead of in-person at its usual site in Lake Junaluska, N.C. Dates are Sept. 6-10. Registration started May 1 at <[www.brethren.org/noac](http://www.brethren.org/noac)>.

The theme is "Overflowing with Hope" inspired by Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Christian Standard Bible).

The NOAC Planning Team includes Paula Ziegler Ulrich, Karen Dillon, coordinator Christy Waltersdorff, Glenn

Bollinger, Pat Roberts, Jim Martinez, and (not shown here) Rex Miller and staff Josh Brockway and Stan Dueck. *From Brethren Newslines.*



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

**BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - *John P. Reed, Sr. serving as interim pastor from March 1 - May 31, 2021.*

**BETHLEHEM** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

**COPPER HILL** - Full time position, profile pending - *Daniel L. Johnson has resigned effective June 30, 2021.*

**EDEN, FIRST** - *Douglas M. Diamond of the Mid-Atlantic District began on a full time basis effective April 1, 2021.*

**FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/4-I)- Harold E. Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.

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

**JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (P/2-I)- In negotiation, no trial sermon or vote date.

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

**MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Chad Beamer serving a 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 - Ed Woodard providing pulpit supply in May.

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

**NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - 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 - Congregation is not currently meeting.

**SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Alvis Jackson serving as pulpit supply.

**SHELTON** - *Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith has resigned as interim pastor effective April 30.*

**TRINITY** - Part time position, profile available by request (P) - Anne Mitchell serving as interim pastor.

## **DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING DAYS AT CAMP BETHEL - MAY 15 & MAY 22, 2021**

The Virlina Disaster Response Committee and Camp Bethel are partnering together on construction and repair projects in preparation for the upcoming 2021 summer camps. Many persons in the Virlina District have volunteered with Brethren Disaster Ministries through the Virlina Disaster Response Committee. These volunteers have traveled to areas of the country near and far to assist with disaster recovery projects. Maybe you have wanted to volunteer but have been unable until now.

With so many of the disaster project sites being shut down due to pandemic restrictions, the Disaster Response Committee has joined with Camp Bethel to provide tool-use training, support of new construction, and opportunities for repair work around the camp. You are invited to come to Camp Bethel to be briefly oriented to "a day on a Brethren Disaster Project" and to be involved in construction and repair projects. As with our disaster trips, you are welcome no matter what your skill level might be. There are projects for everyone. Overnight lodging is also an option.

For project information, to register your attendance and to be counted for the free lunch on-site, please go to [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/volunteer](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/volunteer) or contact Eric Anspaugh, Disaster Response Committee Chairperson by telephone at (540) 488-4630 or by e-mail at [eanspaugh@yahoo.com](mailto:eanspaugh@yahoo.com).

## **MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - "WHAT WILL BE THE NEW NORMAL?" - MAY 19, 2021**

The next Moderator's Town Hall will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The Town Hall will explore what the future might hold in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the possible shape of a "new normal." Topics will include: the current state of the pandemic, when and how congregations can safely resume in-person activity, the importance of hybrid (in-person plus online) approaches to ministry to ensure accessibility for all, navigating ongoing tensions and headlines related to the pandemic, facing into the loss and grief of the COVID-19 crisis, how to support both parishioners and pastors, the future trajectory of the pandemic, and how best to equip ourselves for tomorrow. Mark DeVries and Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will serve as resource persons.

The link to register is: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_frzinkNiQkKFqEakMOQE\\_A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_frzinkNiQkKFqEakMOQE_A). Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants. You can email questions about registering or information for this event to: [cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com](mailto:cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com).

## **HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MAY 25, 2021**

Deadlines for submission of material for the July 2021 HEADLINER is May 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to [EHeadliner@aol.com](mailto:EHeadliner@aol.com).

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

**David Wood**, aged 90, of Boones Mill, Virginia, died on March 1, 2021. He was a member of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren. David served as the first lay moderator of his congregation and in a number of other local or district roles. He was a farmer and orchardist.

**Dr. Dale Vernon Ulrich**, aged 89, of Bridgewater departed this life on March 3, 2021. He had a 38-year career as a professor, academic dean, and provost at Bridgewater College. A driving force in the establishment of the Brethren Encyclopedia, he was editor of the fourth volume.

**Vestine Juanita "Totsie" Chewing**, aged 95, of Roanoke, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on March 2, 2021. She was a charter member of Vinton Church of the Brethren. Totsie served the congregation as the choir director and a Sunday School teacher.

**Katherine (Kathy) Lucinda Gillespie Basham**, aged 71, passed away on March 23. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Gary L. Basham, our former Director of Ministry Formation. Kathy was a nurse by profession and a gifted singer.

**Rose Marie Sage**, aged 69 of Wytheville, Virginia, died on March 30, 2021. She was the sister of Glen H. Sage, an ordained minister of the Virlina District.

**James E. Adams**, aged 82, of Martinsville, passed away on April 12, 2021. He was a member of the Boones Chapel (Snow Creek) Church.

**Esther G. Reed**, aged 95, passed away on April 10, 2021 in Salem, Virginia. She was a faithful member of the Green Hill Church.

**Gladys Reed Surratt**, aged 95, of Roanoke passed away peacefully at her home on April 15, 2021. She was a member of the Williamson Road Church.

**Jason Edward Minnix**, aged 47, of Swannanoa, N.C., formerly of Boones Mill, passed away on April 15, 2021. He was the son of Ann and Ronnie Minnix of the Boones Mill Church. He was a graduate of Franklin County High School and DePaul University. A gifted musician and teacher, Jason was currently serving Eblen Intermediate School as their Music Teacher, having previously taught at Owen High School, Bassett High School, and Bassett Middle School. "Minnix", as he was affectionately known by students, touched the lives of many during his 20-year teaching career.

**Jay Linwood Tyree Hodges**, aged 52 of Rocky Mount, Virginia, passed away on April 16, 2021. Jay was an extraordinary painter by trade who took great pride in his work. His wife, Pam, previously served on the Nominating and Personnel Committee and as Head Teller for the Virlina District Conference.



**DISTRICT OFFICE  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

3402 Plantation Road NE  
Roanoke, VA 24012

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Roanoke, Virginia  
Permit #78

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

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

**MAY 2021**

10	5:00 PM	Iglesia El Buen Steering Committee - Parkway (DKS)
	6:30 PM	Disaster Response Committee - (MSS)
11	1:30 PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Zoom (DKS)
	4:30 PM	Disabilities Ministries Committee - Zoom (MSS)
	6:30 PM	Smaller Membership Committee - Zoom (MSS/DKS)
18	6:00 PM	Race Education Team - Zoom (MSS)
	6:30 PM	Commission on Nurture - Zoom (MSS)
20	8:30 AM	Spiritual Development Committee - Zoom (MSS)
	11:00 AM	Virginia Council of Churches Coord. Cabinet (DKS)
21	1:00 PM	Historical Committee - Camp Bethel (DKS)
24	6:30 PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
25	2:00 PM	Council of District Executives - Zoom (DKS)
30	4:00 PM	Licensing Service - Williamson Road (DKS)
31		District Resource Center Closed - Memorial Day

**JUNE 2021**

1	7:00 PM	Commission on Stewardship (DKS)
4	6:00 PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
8	7:00 PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)
12	9:00 AM	Christian Growth Institute New Student Orientation (DKS)
17		Council of District Executives East - Hagerstown, MD (DKS)
19	9:00 AM	District Board Meeting (DKS/MSS)
20	6:30 PM	Bible Study - Zoom (DKS)
22	7:00 PM	Peace Affairs Committee - Zoom (MSS)
27-29		Council of District Executives Meetings - Zoom (DKS)
30		Annual Conference - Begins

# WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

## **BRETHREN EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH IN VENEZUELA**

The leadership of the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela has been carrying out evangelistic outreach to various communities living in the southern part of the country. This "Orinoco project" is taking place along smaller tributaries of this large river that cuts right through the middle of the country. Donations from Brethren in the United States have helped provide the sound system, generator, boat, and life preservers for the project. *From Brethren Newslines.*

## **OFFERING OF LETTERS FOR BREAD FOR THE WORLD**

Bread for the World, a partner organization of the Church of the Brethren's Global Food Initiative (GFI) is announcing its annual Offering of Letters to Congress. The advocacy effort supports those suffering from hunger and poverty. "Since its beginning over 45 years ago, Bread for the World's Offering of Letters to Congress is a powerful tool to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world through personal testimony and advocacy," said the announcement. This year's effort urges Congress to expand anti-hunger programs in response to the pandemic and increase funding for domestic and global nutrition programs. Find out more at <<https://ol.bread.org>>. *From Brethren Newslines.*

## **BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION GRANT FUNDS**

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.

Any United States Church of the Brethren congregation, fellowship or project may apply for a grant. 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 district executive. You may download the forms at <<http://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action/>> to review the questions. To date, Virginia District congregations receiving grants include Roanoke-Central and Concord-Living Faith.

## **COMBATING RACISM MINI-GRANTS RECEIVED**

**Central Church of the Brethren** in Roanoke, Va., received \$381.83 to purchase books for a book study of *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby.

**Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren** in Durham, N.C., received \$748 for educating the congregation, community, and outreach ministries via books highlighting healing racism.

## **CONGREGATIONS ASKED TO SUPPORT VACCINATION**

Congregations are being asked to help support COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the United States. A COVID-19 Community Corps has been launched, inviting congregations, among other community groups, to help build vaccine confidence in their communities. Also, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is collecting a list of congregations and other community organizations that can help support the national vaccination effort.

In addition, federal assistance is now available to help pay costs of funerals for certain COVID-19 related deaths in the US. For more information about the guidelines for this assistance, go to <[www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance)>. To request this assistance, call the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line at (844) 684-6333. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to ( p.m. (EDT).

A release about the COVID-19 Community Corps stated that congregations as well as other nonprofits, medical providers, and individual such as educators are invited to participate and get resources to help build vaccine confidence in their communities. The effort is aimed at ending the COVID-19 pandemic in the US by encouraging the American population to choose to get fully vaccinated, "and encouraging the people in your life to do the same," said the release.

Those who join the COVID-19 Community Corps will have access to a number of resources including:

- 1) fact sheets on vaccine safety, tips on how to talk with friends and family about the importance of vaccination, and hints for planning and attending community events;
- 2) social media content to share with followers; and
- 3) regular email updates with the latest vaccine news and resources to share.

For more about the COVID-19 Community Corps and to find related resources go to <<https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/covidcommunitycorps>>.

In addition, FEMA is seeking congregations willing to help with the vaccination effort. Congregations may be asked to help provide facilities to host vaccination clinics, identify health professionals to volunteer with vaccinations, provide meals for volunteers and other workers at vaccination clinics, provide transportation and other support to help get people to vaccination appointments, and increase vaccination messaging within congregations and their communities.

If your congregation is willing, please send your response to <[Partnerships@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Partnerships@fema.dhs.gov)> to be added to the list as a possible resource for vaccine distribution.

*Adapted from COB Newslines for April 24, 2021*

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

## THE PROPOSED COMPELLING VISION

*"Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless."*

There is much in this rich vision to unpack as we look to scripture to further interpret each significant phrase. We encourage everyone to read the full interpretive statement available online at <<https://www.brethren.org/ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/09/compelling-vision.pdf>>.

In preparation for engagement in the process that will continue to unfold at Annual Conference, we encourage people across the church to read the full document, study the scripture passages that undergird the document, engage in the Compelling Vision Bible Study, and reflect on the following questions:

How does the compelling vision reflect the soul of your congregation?

How does it reflect the soul of the Church of the Brethren?

What are the creative ways your congregation, your district, or the denomination as a whole, might embody this vision?

We also hope everyone will continue to bathe the process in prayer.

## 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 at <<https://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/bible-studies/>>

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 L. Daggett, an ordained minister, former pastor, associate district executive and a native of the Red Oak Grove Church in Floyd County, Virginia.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE MODERATOR'S Q&A SESSIONS

Paul Munday, 2021 Annual Conference Moderator, along with the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren, held 24 Moderator's Q&A Sessions in fourteen districts during the past months of 2020-21. As a result, in the course of holding those sessions, a collection of questions and answers about the current state of the church was developed. What follows is a link to those FAQ's at <<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/State-of-the-Church-FAQs.pdf>>

## 2021 DELEGATE BRIEFING VIDEO

The 2021 Delegate Briefing Video has been completed and posted on the 2021 Annual Conference site at <<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/>>. The Annual Conference Office encourages all persons, but especially delegates, to please view this video before Annual Conference.

## TWO BALLOTS COMING TO THE 2021 CONFERENCE

When last year's Conference was cancelled because of the pandemic, the Nominating Committee recommended deferring the 2020 ballot to 2021. Each person on the 2020 ballot has been asked their willingness to be considered in the 2021 vote. People holding positions elected by Annual Conference whose terms expired in 2020 have been asked their willingness to extend their terms until the election in 2021.

This has resulted in two ballots coming before the delegate body this year: the 2020 deferred ballot and the 2021 ballot.

Those elected from the 2021 ballot will serve the usual term for their office.

Those elected from the 2020 deferred ballot, except for the moderator-elect, will serve one year less than the usual term.

To view the ballots and details about the nominees go to <<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/ballots/>>

## THE CHALLENGE OF AN ONLINE ANNUAL CONFERENCE - IDEAS NEEDED!

The territory of the Virlina District is inclusive of an area of about 100,000 square miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ohio River across portions of three states. Having an online Annual Conference is necessary given the restrictions and uncertainties amidst a pandemic. Nevertheless, internet accessibility is limited in many areas of the district. As we ponder how to include the greatest number of our congregations in the Annual Conference it is clear that we need creative approaches. One idea has been to have congregations with strong internet connection and considerable space serve as "cluster points" for delegates. If you have thoughts on this matter, please send your ideas to us at <[nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)>.

# CAMP BETHEL

## **CAMP BETHEL 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 abound. All information is at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps)>.

## **COUNSELORS AND KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED FOR 2021**

We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our 2021 Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve May 31 through July 24, and 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)>.

## **SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION 2021: PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

We seek groups, congregations, and individuals to adopt one of 36 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. Info at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt)>.

## **CAMP SUPPORTER VIDEO AND PACKETS AVAILABLE**

Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation watches the recorded Camp Supporter Workshop video. Pick up your congregation's Camp Rep Packet at the Virgina District Office or the Camp Bethel Office, or request your packet by mail. All documents and video is at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep)>.

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

We couldn't hold our 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. Please give \$380 for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or donate at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate)>.

## **MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND, MAY 28-31, 2021**

Check <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay)> for information and to reserve your meals before May 21.

## **SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS VIDEOS ONLINE THROUGH JUNE 19**

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 raise funds for Camp Bethel. <[www.SoundsoftheMountains.org](http://www.SoundsoftheMountains.org)>.

## **CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K - SEPTEMBER 4, 2021**

In-person safety adaptations include "wave-starts," physical distancing, pre-wrapped food, and more at our annual 5K fundraiser for "the PEPPIEST gang around!"

Plans, sponsors, and registration at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K)>.

## **BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 22 for our adapted 2021 Golf Tournament at Ashley Golf Course. Tee off is at 12:30pm. \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and boxed lunch. Updated plans and safety adaptations, plus registration and sponsor information is at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf)>.

## **"TREE COOKIES" NEEDED**

Can you help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our 2021 programs (nametags, KinderCritters, crafts, etc.)? Any hard wood and any 2.5" or larger cross-cut showing tree rings is ideal. Cut 'em, drill 'em, deliver 'em, or contact us (540) 992-2940 or <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

## **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS**

at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe)>.

## **A VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE - SLEEVES UP BRETHERN**

Every year, many who attend the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference make a point of intentionally carving out a space in their busy Conference schedule to donate blood. Through the Annual Conference Blood Drive, sponsored by Brethren Disaster Ministries, between 1984 and 2019 attendees gave 8,825 pints of blood.

This year, with the entire Conference online, we are encouraging everyone in the Church of the Brethren--regardless of whether registering for or attending the Conference--to join the Virtual Blood Drive and to donate locally between June 15 and July 15. Read more at <[www.brethren.org/news/2021/virtual-blood-drive](http://www.brethren.org/news/2021/virtual-blood-drive)>. *From Brethren Newslines.*

## **FULL ARCHIVE OF PAST ISSUES OF MESSENGER AVAILABLE**

The full archive of past issues of Messenger, the Church of the Brethren denominational magazine, is now online. Available to the general public are Messenger issues from 2000-2019 at <[www.brethren.org/messenger/archive](http://www.brethren.org/messenger/archive)>, where there also is a link to access the issues of Gospel Messenger and Messenger from 1883-2000 that are saved in the Brethren Digital Archives. The most recent two years of the magazine--currently 2020 and 2021--are reserved for subscribers to the print magazine, who receive a password to access those digital copies. For questions contact <[cobweb@brethren.org](mailto:cobweb@brethren.org)>.

## **BRETHREN SERVICE CENTER SHIPS RELIEF MATERIALS**

Staff of the Church of the Brethren Material Resources program loaded two shipments in late March on behalf of Brothers Brother Foundation. The program warehouses and ships relief materials on behalf of a number of partner organizations, working out of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md. A shipment of hospital equipment and 13 pallets of hospital supplies are on their way to be consolidated with other supplies and shipped to Sierra Leone. Another 40-foot container loaded with beds and other equipment is on its way to a hospital in Jamaica.

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION - JUNE 6, 2021**

The Race Education Team is inviting persons to a district-wide live zoom meeting. "Let's Have a Conversation" will be held June 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a guest emcee, opening with a fun trivia game, a chance to win a new book, and a virtual place to bring your favorite ice cream as we play games and get to know each other. Afterwards participants will move into the conversation about why we need this team at this point in our life together as a church and with those in our neighborhoods. A registration e-mail will be distributed at some point in May. A flyer concerning this event is found at <https://www.virlina.org/>. Our hope is to have at least one person from every congregation in attendance! We look forward to working together to share God's love, justice, and peace.

## **RACE EDUCATION TEAM RECEIVES MINI-GRANT FOR RESOURCES FROM INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES**

The Race Education Team recently received \$500.00 in response to a mini-grant application from the Church of the Brethren Intercultural Ministries. Twenty-three books and one video were purchased and are now on loan from the library at the Virlina District Resource Center. The purpose of this program is to empower you in your communities and congregations to provide opportunities for learning about racial healing. Please take the time to come by and check these out!

## **CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION - JUNE 12, 2021**

Feeling a call to ministry? Experiencing spiritual rebirth? Desiring to deepen personal faith? Learn about Christian Growth Institute, the district program that promotes spiritual growth for persons from all educational backgrounds. Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year, and students who enter the program are expected to complete all the offerings in four years. The next new student orientation will be held virtually on June 12 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Contact Cathy Huffman at [cashuffman@gmail.com](mailto:cashuffman@gmail.com) for more information and to schedule an in-person meeting at the Virlina District Resource Center prior to June 12.

## **EXPERIENCE PILGRIMAGE - WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE IT!**

Do you have questions about God and what it means to be a Christian? Are you searching for a more meaningful prayer life? Do you struggle with how to live out your Christian faith in today's world? Would you simply like to spend some intimate time with God? Then join us in a weekend of study, reflection, and sharing centered on questions of faith and spirituality!

The Pilgrimage retreat is a spirit-filled experience for adults of all ages who want to explore their relationship with God. Pilgrimage is an opportunity to share and learn with others as we journey together to a deeper spirituality and commitment.

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.

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held October 8-10, 2021 at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults. For more information, please contact Karen Haynes by telephone at (336) 765-5263 or by e-mail at [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com) or go to our website at [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com).

## **ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL CHURCH HISTORY CLASS**

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering **Ancient & Medieval Church History** from August 25-October 19, 2021. TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion, along with a Bethany Experience. The instructor for this online course will be Ken Rogers, Professor of Historical Studies at Bethany Seminary.

This online course provides a brief overview of the history of Christianity from the close of the New Testament era to the eve of the Reformation (approximately 150 CE to 1450 CE). Topics include early Christianity, the beginning of Christian theology, and issues in the study of church history. The course focuses on the development of Christian thought...Ken Rogers

Please give consideration to participating in this class. The deadline to register is July 21, 2021. A brochure for the class is available by emailing [nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com). Questions about taking an Academy course for CEU's or personal enrichment may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at [oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu) or (765) 983-1820.

## **YOUNG ADULT NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The latest issue of Bridge, the Church of the Brethren young adult newsletter, is now available online. Features include reflections on the theme of this year's National Young Adult Conference, "Unfolding Grace," and introductions of the conference leadership; reflections on life during the pandemic including an interview with nurse Krystal Bellis; an article by Jenna Walmer about STAND, a student-led organization to end mass atrocities; Mylea Evans' mural for Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren and an article about Alyssa Parker's role at bcm PEACE in Harrisburg; and more. Find the newsletter at <https://issuu.com/brethrenyya/docs/bridge-spring2021.final>. *From Brethren Newslines.*

## **LUZINSKI TO BE LICENSED ON MAY 30, 2021**

Terri W. Luzinski, a member of the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, will be licensed to the Gospel Ministry on Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 4 p.m. She currently serves on the staff of a Presbyterian congregation as Director of Christian Education and Youth.