

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

SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

2021

*"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)*

Greetings to the Virlina District in the name of Jesus! The chapters preceding Isaiah 40:31 proclaim strong warnings and judgement to wayward Israel. In 2 Kings 20 God instructs Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah that his death is near and he must get his house in order. Israel, fending off the Assyrian army, will face mourning the loss of their leader. Hezekiah pours out his heart to God in a repentant prayer marked by bitter weeping. He gets the assurance that 15 years will be added to his life. God promises to defend Israel and deliver them from the Assyrians. As a sign that this would happen, the shadow on the sundial goes ten degrees backwards! God comforts Israel with the healing of Hezekiah, deliverance from Assyria, and an awesome display of His power. God is in control! Israel would do well to take notice and worship Him!

However, in the midst of this comforting word, Hezekiah finds in Isaiah 39 a disturbing prophecy. The Babylonians will one day plunder the palace, conquer Israel, and carry them into captivity. How could they fully celebrate the word of comfort knowing that their demise would soon come?

This has parallels to our contemporary experience. A global pandemic has the world in exile. We cannot see the end of it. Division within society and the church add insult to injury. This chaos creates fear and uncertainty. What will we do? Where will we go? What will society and church look like when the dust settles?

Isaiah 40 assures that all people will see the glory of God when He comes. Everyone will have a front row seat! God is sovereign over all of mankind and over the nations. There is none like our Creator! Israel got a preview of God's power when Hezekiah was healed, time turned back, and the Assyrians were defeated. The only hope Israel has is to trust in God in the midst of their terrible circumstance. The only hope we have is to trust in God in the midst of our terrible circumstance.

And then, it comes! The grand crescendo of the chapter! The profound words of Isaiah 40:31. Instead of waiting on their expected destruction by the Babylonians, God calls Israel to wait in expectant worship and service to Him. Instead of focusing on the distresses of pandemic, divisions and strife, God is calling us to renew our focus on Him! If we do, we will be a renewed and revitalized church fueled by God's power and guided by God's agape love.

I once waited tables at the Natural Bridge Hotel. I quickly learned that maximizing tips meant making our guests the focal point. Their glasses should ALWAYS be full. Dirty dishes must be promptly cleared. And after one guest left, the table must be cleaned and prepared for the next. They should feel special, but not pestered. Serving God is the same, but God is never pestered by our lavish

attention! Hebrews 11:6 reminds that He rewards those who diligently seek him. Are we diligently seeking God or merely waiting for the current struggles to end?

One of the most beloved hymns of the 20th century, written by Helen Lemmel, is "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." She was a very talented musician. After four years of intense vocal training in Germany, she met and married her husband. Returning to the United States, she sang in gospel music circuits and became a vocal teacher.

But then tragedy struck. Helen contracted a disease that left her blind. Her musical career was put on hold and her husband abandoned her. Distraught, her only hope was to trust fully in God. She retired, but continued to write poems and music to over 500 songs.

A missionary named Lilius Trotter went on retreat to be alone with God. During this time she wrote a devotional pamphlet entitled "Focused." Twenty years later it became known to Helen Lemmel. One sentence from the pamphlet inspired her: "Turn full your soul's vision to Jesus, and look and look at Him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from Him." "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" was born! In 1926 Trotter revised her pamphlet, combined it with Helen Lemmel's text and music, and published it with the new title, "Focused: A Story & A Song."

Helen Lemmel diligently sought God. Her reward was rich and generous! As her physical world went dark, the light of God shone brightly in her spirit! She wrote this beloved song because she continued to worship and serve God in the midst of a severe calamity. How does the light of God shine brightly in us? How do we show forth the comfort and peace of God in the midst of our times of calamity?

As God's people, we should look forward to when He turns brokenness and division into healing and unity. Our current circumstances must not hinder us from proclaiming the good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed takes discipline and diligence. That's what Isaiah means when he says, "wait upon the Lord."

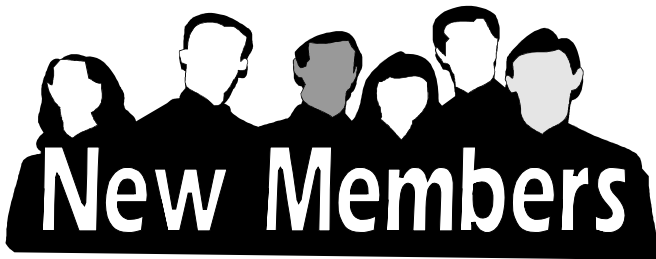
We cordially invite you to the Virlina District Conference on November 12-13 2021 at Grandin Court Baptist Church. If the Lord is willing and the pandemic does not prevent, we hope to see you!

Gregory E. Fleshman
2021 District Conference Moderator

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
JOY A. MURRAY, COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
ED AND SUSAN MCKIMMY, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Christiansburg - Iva Bukkila by letter August 15, 2021. Jake Lemley by baptism August 15, 2021. Mayra "Beth" Stump by baptism August 15, 2021.

PETERS CREEK FALL BAZAAR - OCTOBER 16, 2021
The Women's Fellowship of Peters Creek Church is holding a Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm with a variety of vendors who will have many items to sell making this a great time to shop! Breakfast and Lunch items will be available for purchase while we will hold to the current CDC guidelines and protocols. Spaces for rent are still available and if interested you may register by contacting the church office at (540) 562-4346. If no answer, please leave your name and phone number for a return call.

REMEMBERING THE WITNESS AND SERVICE OF Wanetta Joann Boitnott, aged 93, of Boones Mill, VA, passed away Sunday, February 7, 2021. Joann was a life-long resident of Naffs' Community, and a member of Cedar Bluff Church of the Brethren. Funeral services were held on February 11, 2021 with interment following at Mountain View Memorial Park.

Nell Jane Hylton Long, aged 84, of Christiansburg, went to be with her Heavenly Father on June 6, 2021. In 1995, she retired after working 25 years at Radford University Post Office. She was a member of Christiansburg Church of the Brethren for over 50 years, sang in the choir, and served as deacon. Funeral services were held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, with Paul Stover officiating. Interment followed in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Dorothy "Dot" Harris Barnett, aged 87, of Salem, VA, passed away on Sunday, June 13, 2021. She was a long time active member of the Green Hill Church of the Brethren.

Gary Hill Everhart, aged 77, of Lexington, NC, passed away June 22, 2021. He was a faithful member of the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren for over forty years. A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 3, 2021 at the church.

Linda Lee Flora, aged 73, of Wirtz, VA, passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2021. She was the wife of Ron Flora. A memorial service was held at Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on July 3, 2021 with Greg Broyles officiating.

Mary Izetta White, aged 78, of Rocky Mount, VA, passed away at her home on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. She was a member of the Antioch Church and wife of Jim White, well known disaster response worker. Services were held on Friday, July 30, 2021 at Antioch Church of the Brethren with Eric Anspaugh and Andy Duffey officiating.

BASSETT - Full time position, profile meeting on September 26 - *Paul Maynard Baker retired effective August 31.*

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 circulating (P/2-I) - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

CHRISTIANSBURG - Full or part time position, profile pending. *Paul J. Stover, Jr. has resigned effective September 30 to accept the call of the Jetters Chapel Church.*

COPPER HILL - Full time position, profile meeting on September 12 - *William J. Hinton, Sr. began as interim on July 1.*

COULSON - Full time position, no profile available - *Harold E. Boyd has resigned effective September 13.*

FRATERNITY - *David A. Ansley began as pastor on a full time basis on August 16.*

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

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.

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 - Edward C. Woodard providing pulpit supply in August.

NEW BETHEL - Part time position, no profile available - Greg Hedrick serving as interim pastor.

NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Pulpit supply.

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

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

ROANOKE, HOLLINS ROAD - Full time position, profile pending - *E. B. Shoemaker has resigned effective September 30.*

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

ROANOKE, SUMMERDEAN - *Adam C. Stultz called as pastor on a full time basis effective August 15.*

SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available.

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

SHELTON - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

TRINITY - Part time position, profile available by request - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote to be determined.*

IMPORTANT COVID-19 NOTICE

Please be advised that any and all scheduled events announced in the HEADLINER may be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled due the current COVID-19 surge. Please double check with the district, camp or congregational sponsor to determine if any particular event will be held.

N E W S & E V E N T S

WORLD HUNGER GOLF TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 18

The World Hunger Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 18 at Westlake Golf and Country Club. Tee time is 1 p.m. This is an 18-hole four person Captain's Choice Tournament open to men and women of all ages. Entry fee: \$65 per person or \$250 per team, includes cart and lunch. Individual entries will be paired with a team if possible. Awards: Gifts awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Additional prizes for longest drives and closest to the pin. Download an entry form at <www.worldhungerauction.org>. Contact Chris Myers at (540) 420-2647 or <chrisnjo@gmail.com> or Adam Flora at (540) 798-4206 or <maf6q@hotmail.com>.

PRAYING FOR PEACE - SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

The Annual "Prayer for Peace" Service will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 3 p.m. This event will be held outdoors at the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren picnic shelter. The featured speaker will be Eric Landram, pastor of the Lititz Church of the Brethren in Lititz, PA. Eric is a graduate of Bridgewater College and has spoken at National Youth Conference, Roundtable, National Young Adult Conference and many other events.

The 2021 theme is "Weltschmerz." This is a German word that literally means "world-pain." Many of us have spent the past eighteen months in a state of weariness. This is related to how we hope the world would be as opposed to how we see it differ from our ideals. Participants will gain a better understanding of how Jesus leads us to peace even in the midst of grief over world events and difficult circumstances. Fellowship and refreshments will be offered based on the safety protocols in effect in September. Please save the date and plan to attend! For more information please contact Mary Sink StJohn at (540) 352-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com>.

PILGRIMAGE - OCTOBER 8-10, 2021

Pilgrimage: A FaithQuest for Adults will be held October 8-10, 2021 at Camp Bethel. Pilgrimage is a spiritual retreat for adults of all ages, and God is working through this ministry in wonderful ways. The structure of the weekend includes talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more. God knows where we are on our spiritual journey and meets us right there. Whether you need peace, or joy, or forgiveness, or encouragement, or hope, or revival, or a little extra time with Him...He gives more than we even desire. It is difficult to put into words how wonderful the weekend is. The only way to truly understand what Pilgrimage has to offer is to experience it! Prayerfully consider if this is your year to attend. If you would like more information, go to <www.experiencepilgrimage.com> or contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or <haynesmk1986@yahoo.com>.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

Deadlines for submission of material for the November 2021 HEADLINER is September 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <EHeadliner@aol.com>. The same address may be used if you wish to be added to the E-HEADLINER e-mail list. The E-HEADLINER provides more frequent updates about the ministry and events of the Virlina District and the Church of the Brethren.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT RESCHEDULED FOR 2022

The Virlina District Ministers and Spouses Retreat has been rescheduled and is hoped to be held on February 25-26, 2022 at the W.E. Skelton 4-H and Conference Center located at 775 Hermitage Rd, Wirtz, VA 24184. Steven J. Schweitzer, Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, will lead the event. The focus is "Science Fiction and Theology."

Born into an observant Catholic family, Schweitzer's parents joined the Assembly of God when he was in 8th grade. Through high school and college, he was an active member in the Assemblies of God. After college he, along with his wife, Jill, attended a non-denominational Pentecostal church in St. Paul for five years. In 2000, they moved to South Bend, Indiana and began attending Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren. During this time, their three children (Luke, Anna, and Benjamin) were born and he completed his degree at Notre Dame. He taught at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana for three years as Assistant Professor of Old Testament. After nine years in that congregation in South Bend, he and his family moved to Richmond, Indiana when he became Academic Dean at Bethany. They are currently participating in the Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

This event provides .6 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$50 for commuters (meals included). A registration form/brochure will be forthcoming.

AWAKENING SERVICES - APRIL 3 - 6, 2022

Awakening 2022 will be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren (located at 4708 Read Mountain Rd, Cloverdale VA), beginning on Sunday, April 3 through April 6, 2022. Each night will begin with a hymn sing at 6:45 followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow the services on Sunday and Wednesday nights. There will be a Bible Study preceded by a light breakfast from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. beginning Monday, April 4 through Wednesday, April 6.

Our speaker this year is Paul Munday, the immediate past Annual Conference Moderator, longtime pastor of the Frederick (MD) Church of the Brethren and former evangelism staff of the denomination. Come and join us for an uplifting time of singing, worship, Bible Study and enjoying the company of our fellow local Brethren as we praise God together during the Lenten Season.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF

Michael David Baker, aged 71, of Buchanan, VA, passed away on Monday, July 19, 2021. He was formerly Executive Vice-President of Cavalier Equipment and Kav Kan Disposal. Mike was a member and deacon of Daleville Church of the Brethren; enjoyed the outdoors and his Harley Davidson. A memorial service was held at the Daleville Church of the Brethren on Saturday, July 24, 2021 officiated by Irving Glover and David Shumate.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

3402 Plantation Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24012

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

5		LABOR DAY - District Resource Center Closed
7	6:30 PM	Smaller Membership Congregational Comm. - Boones Mill (MSS)
9	9:00 AM	Spiritual Development Retreat Committee (MSS)
	10:00 AM	Virginia Council of Churches Steering Committee (DKS)
13	8:30 AM	Northern Area Ministers Meeting - Camp Bethel (DKS)
	6:30 PM	Disaster Response Committee (MSS)
18	9:00 AM	District Board Meeting (DKS/MSS)
19	3:00 PM	Peace Event - Roanoke, Hollins Road (MSS) DKS)
20	6:00 PM	Southern Area Ministers Meeting - Christiansburg (DKS)
21	10:00 AM	Awakening Committee (DKS)
	6:00 PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
	6:30 PM	Long Range Financial Planning - Germantown Brick (DKS)
22	1:00 PM	Council of District Executives (DKS)
27	6:30 PM	Moneta - Lakeside Steering Committee (DKS)
29	1:00 PM	ACTS Summit (DKS)

OCTOBER 2021

1	6:00 PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
2		Heritage Day Festival - Camp Bethel (DKS/MSS)
4	10:00 AM	Virginia Council of Churches Coordinating Cabinet - Weyers Cave (DKS)
5	4:30 PM	Disabilities Ministries Committee (MSS)
8-10		Pilgrimage: A FaithQuest for Adults - Camp Bethel
18	6:00 PM	Southern Area Ministers Meeting - Laurel Branch (DKS)
19	6:00 PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
21	4:30 PM	Spiritual Development Retreat Comm./Disabilities Ministries Comm. (MSS)

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2021 VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

November 12-13

Grandin Court Baptist Church

2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA

In-person Worship & Delegate Business Sessions

All plans for District Conference have been made with Program and Arrangements Committee as of August 21, 2021. Please watch for any last minute changes by mail, <www.virlina.com> or on Facebook.

o FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 o

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES DINNER

5:15 PM

Gymnasium/Ground Floor of Grandin Court Baptist Church

Speaker: David Sollenberger,

2022 Annual Conference Moderator

Menu: Boxed meal from Roanoker Restaurant.

See article under "Meals"

Cost: \$10.00/person

Reservation: By October 20, 2021

WORSHIP SERVICE

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Sanctuary Grandin Court Baptist

Worship Leader: Greg Fleshman, 2021 Moderator Virlina District Conference

Speaker: David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator

Music: Steven Wills, Organist

There will be no on-site childcare.

Fellowship hour will return 2022.

o SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 o

BUSINESS SESSION

8:15 AM - 11:55 AM

Beginning with the morning worship service

Delegates only on the sanctuary main floor.

Worship Leader: Lynn Myers, Moderator Elect

Join us for a unique 2021 conference, where limited events will be held in-person, some reports and music will be online, and our voting for district leadership positions will be by mail.

o SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 o

LUNCH

12:00-1:15 PM

Gymnasium/Ground Floor of Grandin

Reorganization lunch areas for newly elected District Board and Outdoor Ministries Committee

Reservation required October 20, 2021

BUSINESS SESSION

1:20 PM - 2:30 PM

Sanctuary - Delegates only

Commissioning new leadership

Adjournment of 2021 District Conference

"...but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."



Isaiah 40:31

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Ministers & Spouses Dinner 5:15 PM

The Annual Ministers and Spouses Dinner will take place in the spacious gymnasium of Grandin Court. The dinner will be served in individual containers from The Roanoker Restaurant. Because this event is slightly more informal, there is a price reduction this year! David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, will host a Question-and-Answer time for all in attendance. ***This event requires pre-registration by October 20 in order for the exact number of dinners to be provided. There will not be extra food or meals on site.***

Conference Registration

Delegates must preregister by paying the \$25.00 fee by September 30 to receive a booklet and to register as a voting member of the conference, thus receiving a ballot by mail. (A limited number of conference report booklets will be available for nondelegates at \$5.00 each.) Ballots will be counted prior to conference so delegates must pre-register.

Exhibits

To limit "touch points and gathering spaces" there will not be an exhibit hall this year. All agencies and Virgina committees may provide information to be included in the delegates' packets by September 30. Some agencies will have video reports for viewing on the Virgina website at <www.virlina.org>.

Worship 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Worship Leader: Greg Fleshman, 2021 District Conference Moderator

Speaker: David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator

Worship will be a shortened in-person service with special music. The sanctuary is spacious and can seat up to 350 people at full capacity. We are encouraging family groups to sit together, skipping a space, and then a separate group to sit together, etc. Masks will be available and encouraged, and CDC guidelines will be taken into account when indoors.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Children and Youth

There will not be in person nursery, childcare or youth activities. Because making decisions about school, sports, and other activities are overwhelming this year, the Program and Arrangements Committee opted to eliminate one more activity for parents to have to make a decision about. There is also uncertainty of availability of the children's wing and nursery due to possible CDC restrictions due to the known rise of covid infections at this time in persons under the age of 18. We apologize for the inconvenience. We look forward to next year where we can return to safe, fun, and meaningful activities for the children of Virgina.

All plans for District Conference will be posted on <www.virlina.com>. In addition, all congregations and pastors have been mailed registration forms and information sheets about meals, etc. as of August 31. Please watch for any last minute changes by mail, www.virlina.com, or on Facebook.

Saturday Business Sessions 8:15 AM

Worship Leader: Lynn Myers, Moderator Elect

In order for the sanctuary to feel comfortable for most, the Program and Arrangements Committee is requesting that only the delegates be present on the sanctuary main floor. All of our district membership is welcome to be at the business sessions, but only the delegates will be seated on the main level sanctuary on Saturday. There is a balcony and limited seating outside of the sanctuary for nondelegates. We are saddened by the changes in our traditional method of gathering and look forward to next year where we can all safely sit together in the sanctuary and sing our beloved hymns in harmony once again.

Mail in Ballots

As in 2020, we will once again be having mail-in ballots in order to limit touch points with paper and in order to count the ballots in a spacious room prior to conference. Delegates will receive the ballots in their booklets which will be mailed to each congregation for distribution. Only the nominees who have been elected will need to be present on Saturday for the lunch hour reorganization, and they will be contacted prior to conference to request their presence. We are thankful for each person's willingness to have their names run on the ballot and are anxious to get back to when we can meet each willing nominee in person. ***The ballots must be returned to the District Office, through personal delivery or mail, by Wednesday, November 3.***

C A M P B E T H E L

2021 SUMMER CAMPS WERE SAFE AND FUN!

Resident camps, adventures, trips, and day camps were safe and fun in 2021 because of our "Small Group Unit" model and multiple safety measures, health protocols, and reduced capacity. 554 kids and teens truly benefited from Summer Camp in 2021! Learn more at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>.

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>.

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 2, 2021

Please encourage everyone in your congregation to participate and help in this vitally important fundraiser for Camp Bethel. 2021 plan is for "in-person and on-site!" Heritage Day forms, fliers and information are available at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day>.

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Our fall volunteer workday will be Saturday, November 6, 2021 beginning with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will also receive a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need your help preparing camp for the winter conference season. There will be workday projects for all skill levels and all ages. This event will be held rain or shine, inside or out. Please reserve your meals by October 31 <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 9, 2021

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet will be held on Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. This includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your \$50 gift (larger gifts accepted) provides needed year-end funding. Please reserve meals for your family or group by December 2 by calling us at (540) 992-2940 or by e-mail at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

WINTER CAMP YOUTH/ KIDS' RETREAT - JANUARY 8-9, 2022

Winter Camp is a fun retreat for kids grades 1-5 and youth grades 6-12 led by our reunited Summer Staff. \$75 includes 4 meals, lodging, and program. Register at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp>.

THANK YOU CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEERS!

Work teams from Cedar Bluff Church completed a beautiful new wrap-around deck at the renovated Bandage Box Cottage. Teams from the Antioch Church and the Summerdean Church along with the Virgina Disaster Response Ministries built our new Adventure Village platform huts and dining shelter.

GIVE A CHILD A CAMPSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP

We could not hold our in-person Sow the Seed Scholarship

Banquet, so please give instead. We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019), and in 2021 we granted Camperships to 40 campers totaling \$12,280. Please give \$380, which was the 2021 base cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or donate at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>

2021 SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION PROGRAM WAS A BIG SUCCESS

Families, groups, congregations, and individuals adopted our 29 Summer Staff with a commitment of prayer, letters/care, and a \$100 "end-of-summer" bonus, (matching funds increased this to \$325!) This program helps Camp Bethel recruit and secure the highest quality Counselors for our Campers, and it helps these excellent young adults to accept the call to summer ministry. Info at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt>.

NAFF TO SERVE AS FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR!

Daniel Naff has been employed as Food Service Coordinator at Camp Bethel. He is a 2020 graduate of Bridgewater College and a member of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. Daniel served on our Camp Bethel Summer Staff from 2016-2020 as an Adventure Counselor, Trips Coordinator, and Assistant Program Coordinator. He is completing a year of service through AmeriCorps at Breaks Interstate Park (on the VA & KY border). An Eagle Scout and amateur birder/naturalist, Daniel brings a wealth of experience and a love for cooking to his new role at Camp Bethel. "Camp Bethel is, without exaggeration, my favorite place on earth. I look forward to working again at a place that holds such an important spot in my heart." We welcome Daniel as he begins on October 19.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

Jacob Evan Doss, aged 19, of Hurt, VA died Monday, July 19, 2021 as the result of an automobile accident. He was a member of New Bethel Church of the Brethren and a 2019 graduate of Gretna High School. He had a passion for music and was the lead guitarist and vocalist for his band, The Jacob Doss Project. Funeral services were held on Friday, July 23, 2021 at Gretna High School Auditorium by Greg Hedrick and Leo Johnson. Burial followed in the New Bethel Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

Flora Craighead Kelly, aged 101, of Roanoke, VA, passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2021. She was a member of Williamson Road Church of the Brethren and was a registered nurse. Funeral services were held on Monday, July 12, 2021, with Harvey Leddy officiating. Burial followed at Sherwood Memorial Park.

Jimmy Lee Custer, aged 83, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. He formerly served as a deacon in the Bethany Church.

Basil B. Quinn, aged 88 of Ferrum died Monday, August 30, 2021. He was a stalwart member of and leader in the Ferrum Church of the Brethren. A graveside service was held on Thursday, September 2 with Ray Bayse officiating.

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

MEAL EVENTS

Ministers and Spouses Meal - Reservation required by October 20!

Individual boxed dinners provided by the Roanoker Restaurant. Meal option one: Chicken breast, ham biscuit, potato salad, brownie; Meal option two: Vegetarian wheat wrap with broccoli, carrots, squash, cauliflower, cheese, house dressing, potato salad, brownie. Tea, lemonade and coffee. \$10.00 per person.

On-Site Lunch on Saturday - Reservation required by October 20!

Individual boxed lunches provided by Honey Baked Ham. Meal option one: Turkey Classic on bakers roll, turkey, lettuce tomatoes and cheese, chips, cookie, and mint; Meal option two: Garden salad, dressing packs on the side, cookie, and mint Tea, lemonade and coffee \$10.00 per person.

Lunch is scheduled from 12:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M. Meals must be preordered this year to ensure there are enough boxed meals to go around. If you are a newly elected District Board or Outdoor Ministries member, you will be expected to have your lunch in the assigned meeting rooms where there will be a reorganization of leadership. Signs will be on the designated rooms for gathering. All other lunches will be distributed and eaten at tables in the large gymnasium of Grandin Court on the ground floor.

Snacks for Saturday - Available to registered delegates, speakers, volunteers

We know the day gets long, so snack bags will be available in the registration area. The bag will contain a small bottle of water, a piece of fruit, gluten free sweets and chips. There will be breaks and coffee stations, but no food will be offered outside of the snack bags and lunch options. No food is permitted in the sanctuary. This change is temporary and meant to be for the good of all as we seek to eliminate touch points and common areas for close gathering.

OTHER NOTES OF IMPORTANCE

Recorded Worship, Reports and Music

The Program and Arrangements Committee plans to record the Friday night worship service and have it on the website as soon as possible after Friday night. There will not be live streaming, but we do hope to have as much of the service as possible on the Virlina website. Some Church of the Brethren agency reports may be viewed by going to www.virlina.org immediately after conference is over. We also are making a commitment to include recorded music to help highlight some of Virlina's musically gifted members. For those who choose to stay at home, we pray that viewing portions of District Conference will be a blessing.

Sensory Room/Parlor

A quiet space is located outside of the sanctuary to the right of the elevator. If being in close quarters becomes overwhelming, the Disabilities Ministries Committee has reserved the parlor for anyone who needs to step away from the crowd for a while.

Recorded Virlina Music Links Requested

The Program and Arrangements Committee invites all Virlina choirs, soloists, duets, and bands who have recorded hymns in the last year to select one recording and send the link to Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness at virlina2@aol.com. We will be posting each congregation's music selection on the website so that everyone in the district can hear the talents of so many of the musicians in Virlina. The Spirit has moved us all to find unique ways to share our gifts in the past year. Deadline to receive videos and links is October 30. Let us hear from you!