

# 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

2017

*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 is a comforting Scripture verse for me. It shares order, structure, and surety. The next seven verses give a list of a time for this and a time for that. Ecclesiastes is described by some as strange, difficult, and depressing.

Ecclesiastes does not start out uplifting. No matter which Bible translation is read, there is despair. "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity." (KJV) "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (NIV) "Perfectly pointless. Everything is pointless." (CEB) "Nothing is worth while; everything is futile." (TLB). The book is filled with warning, difficulty, suffering, hopelessness, and much more.

Nevertheless, Ecclesiastes does not end in gloom and doom. Ecclesiastes 12:13 (CEV) says, "Everything you were taught can be put into a few words: Respect and obey God! This is what life is all about." Yes, the truth is, it is all about God. Revelation 1:8 (NRSV) says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Gratefully, God made a way of salvation and right relationship for us. John 3: 16 and 17 (NKJV) says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Thanks be to God for the love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and blessings given to us. Ecclesiastes and much of Scripture records the Hebrew people and nations experiencing ups and downs, peaks and valleys, successes and failures, victories and defeats, trials and successes. We, in the 21st Century and all the time in between, continue with those experiences and have trials, doubts and fears. When the tragedies and difficult times come, we may ask questions. "Why?" "What did I do to deserve this?" "Where is God?" "Why didn't God answer my prayer for a miracle?" The things of earth can weigh us down and even overwhelm us at times. No matter what, God can handle all of our doubts, fears, and questions. God's presence and love is always present even when we do not feel it or are even angry at God.

I write this article as a statement of my faith. It is about God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Empowerer. We are on a journey called life. We are challenged to give and live our lives faithfully in trust and loyalty to our Lord. Life is finite on this earth. We are challenged to give and live our life surrendered to the Three in One. We are to work and serve the Lord. Abundant life goes beyond earth and goes forever.

For the last seventeen years I have served the Lord and the Virlina District as associate district executive minister. In preparation for leaving this position I pondered what to say in my resignation letter. I would like to close my article with the letter written to Board Chair Noel Naff and shared with the Executive Committee. These are my thoughts and feelings for all in the Virlina District.

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*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Indeed there is a time for everything: a time of beginning and a time of ending. The time has come for me to end my time as associate district executive minister in Virlina District effective May 22, 2017.

Serving in this position for seventeen years has been an incredible privilege and honor. There were, times of challenge, struggle, and sorrow. But the joys, relationships and celebrations have been beyond all measure of expectation. I am very grateful for all the support, care, and grace given to me.

I pray for God's continued guidance in the ministry and mission of Virlina District. Each congregation, meeting point, and fellowship is unique and special. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ abide with you all on your journey of faith and life.

*Blessings*

*Emma Jean Franklin Woodard  
Associate 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 <virlina@aol.com>

David K. Shumate, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER  
Emma Jean Woodard, ASSOCIATE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER  
Gary L. Basham, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION  
James R. Kropff, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



**Beaver Creek** - Mike Donnelly and Kay Donnelly by reaffirmation December 4, 2016.

**Copper Hill** - Aubrie Johnson, Emma Whitlock, Logann Flinchum and Lissie Goff by baptism February 12, 2017.

**Mount Hermon** - Joeleana D. Branch by baptism May 22, 2016.

**Roanoke, First** - Mary Ellen Goodwin by letter April 10, 2016. Jacob Hartsell, Jesse Hartsell, Brian Hartsell, Ronnie Patterson, Davey Patterson, Tabby Patterson, Mina Simmons and Kevin Felvus by baptism October 23, 2016. Guy Gibson and Susan Gibson by letter November 6, 2016.

**Roanoke, Oak Grove** - Brooke Betzler, Daren Haas and Caroline Meisenzahl by baptism March 5, 2017. Shelly Haas by letter March 5, 2017.

**Smith River** - Michael Fain by letter February 19, 2017.

## MINISTRY AND MISSION IN VIRLINA - MAY 6, 2017

The annual Ministry and Mission in Virlina event will be held at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren (2138 McVitty Road, Roanoke, Virginia) on Saturday, May 6. It will be a day of worship, workshops, food, fellowship, and the Annual Conference Briefing. The theme will be *"Listen to the Spirit!"* with the scripture focus from Revelation 3:13-22. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the event will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

The day begins with worship at 9:00 a.m. Timothy H. Emmons, Virlina District Conference Moderator, will preach. Following worship there will be a variety of workshops sponsored by the commissions and committees of the District Board. Workshops include the following:

- "Escaping Purgatory: Choosing 'WHY 2.0' to Overcome Existential Threats to Church and Camp" - Barry LeNoir, Camp Bethel
- "Help! There's too much month at the end of my money!" - Nevin Dulabaum, Brethren Benefit Trust
- "New Educational Partnership Between Bethany and EYN" - Mark Lancaster and Musa Mumbula, Bethany Theological Seminary
- "Snazzy Ministry Opportunities" - Tim Emmons, District Conference Moderator and Pastor at Nineveh Church
- "Your ticket to retirement" - Nevin Dulabaum, Brethren Benefit Trust

The Oak Grove congregation will provide lunch: sandwich, side dish, fruit, chips, cookie, and beverage. The cost of lunch will be \$8.00. After lunch, the Virlina District Standing Committee Delegates, Stafford Frederick, Roy McVey and Susan Starkey, as well as the Annual Conference Secretary, Jim Beckwith, will conduct the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing.



**BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Lloyd David McDaniel has retired effective April 16, 2017.

**CHRISTIANSBURG** - Full time position, profile meeting on February 5 - Pulpit supply by J. Hebron Quesenberry and Glen H. Sage.

**DALEVILLE** - Part time position, profile forthcoming - Douglas E. O. Veal has resigned effective September 30.

**GERMANTOWN BRICK** - Full time position, profile meeting on April 23 - Bruce E. Huffman is retiring effective November 30.

**HOPEWELL** - Part time position, no profile available - R. Wayne Pennington serving as interim pastor.

**JONES CHAPEL** - In negotiation, trial sermon and vote on April 23.

**MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Timothy Sink serving as interim pastor.

**OAKVALE** - Part time position, no profile available - James J. Stade continues as pastor and Joshua N. Lucas as pulpit supply.

**PLEASANT VIEW** - Part time position, profile pending - C. Richard Edwards is retiring effective June 30.

**RED OAK GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor through April 30.

**ROANOKE - HOLLINS ROAD** - Full time position, profile circulating (1) - Glenn D. Stevens serving as interim pastor.

**ROANOKE - SUMMERDEAN** - Adam C. Stultz has been called as associate pastor on a full time basis effective May 1, 2017.

**SAINT PAUL** -Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.

**SAUNDERS GROVE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

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

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

**SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMUNITY** - Full-time position, profile meeting on April 2. Edward C. Woodard is serving as interim pastor effective March 15..

**TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating - J. Neil Varner is serving as interim pastor effective January 1.

**WEST RICHMOND** - Full time position, profile meeting on March 12 - Tracy K. Hartman, professor at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, is serving as interim pastor effective March 19.

## HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MAY 25

Deadlines for submission of material for the July 2017 HEADLINER is May 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

**MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE PROJECT DEADLINE - MAY 8**  
Honor a woman you know and love by celebrating and supporting mothers around the world!

Global Women's Project announces our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project! Rather than buying more material gifts for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects focused on women's health, education, and employment. In return, your chosen recipient(s) will receive a lovely, hand-written card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor, with a brief description of GWP.

To participate, send a donation (write checks to GWP) to:  
Global Women's Project  
c/o Emily Matteson  
6456 Adobe Circle Road South  
Irvine, CA 92617

Remember to include your name(s) and recipient's name and address. You may also make memorial donations, which will be honored on our website: <[www.globalwomensprojectwordpress.com](http://www.globalwomensprojectwordpress.com)>.

Gratitude cards will be mailed in time for Mother's Day if you send your request to Emily by May 8, 2017. After the 8th, she will mail them as soon as she receives your request.

This Mother's Day, share a gift in honor of a woman you know and in honor of women in Haiti, India, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United States, who are improving the lives of women in their communities.

Global Women's Project seeks to raise awareness of the poverty, oppression and injustice suffered by women around the world; to recognize how our overconsumption and misuse of resources contributes to that suffering; to change our way of living; and to support self-help community projects that are led by, empower, and benefit women.

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 10-11, 2017**  
Virilina District congregations gather annually to worship, fellowship, learn, and handle business items. The 2017 Virilina District Conference will be held on November 10 and 11 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church (2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia). The theme will be Listen to the Spirit! with the scripture focus "Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying . . ." Revelation 3:13-22 (NRSV)

Samuel K. Sarpiya, 2018 Annual Conference Moderator, and David A. Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren, will be our preachers. Samuel Sarpiya will speak at the Ministers and Spouses Dinner and preach at the Saturday morning worship service. David Steele will preach at the Friday evening worship service.

The following are our conference officers: Timothy H. Emmons, Moderator, Deborah S. Humphrey, Moderator-

Elect, and Pamela K. Clark, Clerk. The District Conference Committees, Program and Arrangements and Nominating and Personnel, have begun their work in preparations for conference and for the ballot respectively.

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss the 2017 District Conference!

**BRETHREN BIBLE INSTITUTE - JULY 24-28, 2017**  
Brethren Revival Fellowship offers the annual Brethren Bible Institute on the campus of the Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania beginning July 24, 2017. This is a one-week school intended to provide systematic instruction in the Bible for any person 16 years of age or older. Students may take one, two, or three courses. The cost is the same regardless of how many courses are taken. It is expected that dormitory students take three classes, unless special arrangements have been made with the principal prior to the opening of the Institute.

Students will meet for chapel each morning at 8:10 a.m. with classes to follow. Classes meet every day, Monday through Friday. Each class is 1 1/2 hours in length.

Total cost for dormitory students (including room/board/tuition) is \$ 250.00 for the entire week. The cost for commuting students is \$ 100.00 for the week. BRF significantly subsidizes the overall costs of the school. Applications must be received at the Denver, PA address by

JUNE 25, 2017.

**LICENSED MINISTER TRAINING**  
Some classes may be applied toward licensed ministers' training for ordination within the Church of the Brethren. These classes are double periods. Plan to attend both periods for each class chosen. Call Kenneth Leininger at (717)336-1287 for details.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**  
A certificate of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered for ordained ministers at a rate of one tenth of a CEU for each hour spent in class. Therefore, each completed course will count as .75 CEU. Ministers should request the certificate when they register.

**SCHOLARSHIP AID**  
Scholarship aid is available to students who cannot afford the tuition. To apply for the scholarship aid you should write a letter requesting the aid, and supply the name, address, and phone number of your pastor, elder, minister, or other church leader to whom you are accountable. Send requests to the BBI address at:  
Brethren Bible Institute  
155 Denver Road  
Denver, PA 17517

**IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS**  
Please call (540) 362-1816 or (800)847-5462 or e-mail <[virilinasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:virilinasecretary@gmail.com)>.



**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN**  
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*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 2017**

1	8:30	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, First (DKS/EJW)
2	6:30	PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS/EJW)
5	2:00	PM	Historical Committee (DKS)
6	8:30	AM	Ministry & Mission Day - Roanoke, Oak Grove (EJW/DKS)
7	4:00	PM	Celebration for Emma Jean - Roanoke, Oak Grove (DKS/EJW)
8	9:30	AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation (DKS)
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee (DKS)
	6:00	PM	Pastoral Program Assistance Committee (DKS)
8-21			VACATION (EJW)
9-10			Virginia Council of Churches - Richmond, VA (DKS)
15	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Coulson (DKS)
16	6:00	PM	Mission Resourcing Committee (DKS)
20	9:00	AM	District Board - Maple Grove - Lexington, NC (DKS)
21	11:00	AM	Fairview, Rocky Mount - 85th Anniversary (DKS/EJW)
23	1:30	PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (DKS)
29			Memorial Day - District Resource Center Closed
30	6:30	PM	Roanoke, Renacer Steering Committee (DKS)

**JUNE 2017**

2	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
5	5:30	PM	Floyd, Renacer Steering Committee (DKS)
19	7:30	PM	Pastoral Comp.Benefits Advisory Comm. Conference Call (DKS)
20	6:00	PM	Mission Resourcing Committee (DKS)
25-30			CODE/Annual Conference - Grand Rapids, Michigan (DKS)
26-30			Annual Conference - District Resource Center Closed

*Plan now to attend the 231st Recorded Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 28-July 2, 2017.*

# WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

## 2017 EVANGELISTIC, REVIVAL AND RENEWAL SERVICES

Please send additions, deletions and corrections to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

Date	Location	Speaker
May 17-21	New Bethel, VA	Various Speakers
May 21-24	Jeters Chapel, VA	David K. Shumate
June 11-14	Burks Fork, VA	Blonnie Gregory
July 23-27	Pleasant Valley, VA	David K. Shumate
August 20-22	Bethlehem, VA	Todd A. Reed
Sept 17-20	Oak Grove South, VA	Dava C. Hensley
Sept 24-26	White Rock, VA	D. Dewayne Troutt
Sept 24-27	Red Oak Grove, VA	Ronald Coleman
Sept 24-27	Smith River, VA	Roy U. Turpin
October 1-4	New Hope, VA	D. Dewayne Troutt
October 1-4	Rocky Mount, 1st, VA	Marvin D. Wade
October 1-6	Spruce Run, WV	R. W. Thomas, Sr.
October 2-5	Pulaski, First, VA	Russell R. Payne, Jr.
October 15-20	Beaver Creek, VA	Franklin D. Peters
October 22-25	Masons Cove, VA	Tabitha H. Rudy

## OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

**C. Berkley Stevens**, aged 86, passed to his eternal home on February 10, 2017. He was born to the late Samuel and Annie (Holdren) Stevens on November 25, 1930 and was the 11th of 15 children. Berkley was a 1950 graduate of the Stewartville High School. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy. They were the parents of two children, Tim and Regina.

Brother Stevens was baptized into the Saunders Grove Church in 1945. While working as a foreman's assistant at General Electric, he became interim pastor of the Nineveh Church of the Brethren in Hardy, Virginia in 1980. He was called to the pastorate there in 1982 and served until March 15, 1997. Berkley was licensed in 1983 and, following completion of the Christian Growth Institute in 1988, was ordained in 1989. Following retirement from GE, Berkley worked 15 more years at the Kroger in Bonsack, Virginia.

Funeral services were held in Vinton, Virginia on February 14, 2017. Interment followed at Glade Creek Baptist Cemetery.

**Flora Lee Forbes**, aged 89, of Roanoke, Va., ran home to Jesus on Saturday, February 25, 2017. Flora is survived by her husband of 68 years who dearly loved her, Roy Lee Forbes; her sister, Shirley McCreary; her three children, David Forbes (Susan), Cindy Jones (Bruce) and Steve Forbes (Mary); nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Flora had a passionate love for family and loved serving in her church. Her grandchildren describe her as, "selfless, joyful, generous, vivacious, devoted and intentional." A Service of Celebration was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at the Summerdean Church of the Brethren in Roanoke with Stafford C. Frederick and Allen Lenker officiating.

## 2017 VIRLINA DISTRICT DIRECTORY

The Virlina District Directory has been mailed to every congregation. We have a limited number of printed copies, but a PDF version of the directory is available by contacting Betty M. Wills at (540) 362-1816, (800) 847-5462 or emailing <virlinasecretary@gmail.com>.

## NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE (NYC) - JULY 21-26, 2018

Participants in National Youth Conference (NYC) 2018 will focus on the theme "Bound Together: Clothed in Christ" The scriptural theme is from Colossians 3:12-15: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful" Kelsey Murray is the 2018 NYC coordinator and Carol Elmore (Virlina) is an advisor on the National Youth Cabinet.

NYC will take place July 21-26, 2018, in Fort Collins, Colorado. The event is for youth who have completed ninth grade through one year of college at the time of NYC (or are age equivalent to this range) and their advisors. (Information from Newsline for March 18, 2017)

## OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

**Dr. W. Graham "Grammy" Stephens**, aged 88, of Troutville, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Graham was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 31, 1928, the son of the late Wallace T. and Nan Watkins Howison Stephens. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Thelma Lenz Stephens of Troutville; his sons, Graham (Trina) and Bruce, his daughter, Mary S. DePuy (Craig); along with grandsons, Luis DePuy and John DePuy. Graham graduated from Luray High School in 1945 and Hampden-Sydney College, magna cum laude, in 1949, followed by University of Tennessee School of Medicine in Memphis, Tenn. Following an internship and residency, Graham served as a medical officer in the United States Air Force. After his military service, Graham joined a family practice in Boones Mill, Va. followed by a family practice in Troutville from 1958-1968. In 1968 as he joined, with four other doctors, to found the emergency room group at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He remained with the group for over 35 years. In 1981, he became one of only eight Virginia physicians to be boarded in Emergency Medicine and the first doctor to achieve this status in Southwest Virginia.

He became a Boy Scout in 1940 in Luray, Va. Dr. Stephens then served as Scoutmaster or Committee Chair for Troop 157 at Troutville from 1968 until 1993. He received many Scouting accolades over the years, including Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Vigil Honor Order of the Arrow, and the Protestant Religious Award. After retirement, Dr. Stephens continued to work actively with a medical mission group, International Medical Assistance Corporation. He made multiple trips to Honduras over the years, sharing both his love of medicine and Christ. He was a founder and board member of Casa Latina. Graham was a member of Troutville Church of the Brethren. A celebration of Graham's life was held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Troutville Church of the Brethren with Terry Johnson and Daniel D'Oleo officiating.

# N E W S & E V E N T S

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

"Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation" is the theme of the mission resourcing campaign for the Virlina District which runs through 2020. 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 set apart ministerial leadership, to minister to our college students at Radford University and Virginia Tech; and to provide necessary enhancements to fulfill Camp Bethel's future potential. As of March 15 \$396,000 has been pledged to the campaign which is 53% of our Victory Goal of \$750,000.

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

*We must plant now to harvest later.*

## FAMILY FUN TUESDAYS AT CAMP BETHEL

Experience a Camp Bethel evening TOGETHER! Join us for 5:30 on Tuesdays in June and July for dinner and singing in the Ark Dining Hall followed by Climbing Wall and games or Nature Fun and games, topped off with a campfire and S'mores. \$10 per person fee includes dinner, activity leadership, supplies and S'mores. Check it out at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs)>

## LIL' OTTERS FAMILY ACTIVITY BY CAMP BETHEL

Paddle the Camp ponds or the James River TOGETHER! We'll have Lil' Otters Family Activity on each Tuesday and Wednesday. Join us for 5:30 dinner at camp followed by Stand-Up Paddleboarding on the ponds (Tuesdays) OR a short canoe trip on the beautiful upper James River (Wednesdays). It's a great way to introduce paddling to your family. We'll return to camp for a campfire and S'mores and access to showers. Participants must be comfortable with being on water. \$28 per person fee includes dinner, transportation, paddling gear, lifejacket and S'mores! For more information go to our website at: <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/family-fun-programs)>

## BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT IS AUGUST 23

Golfers and sponsors needed for our 2017 Camp Bethel Golf Tournament and Banquet on Wednesday, August 23, at the Botetourt Golf Club. Tee off is at 12:45pm, and \$70 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner at camp. Become a Tournament Sponsor and provide much-needed support for our summer camp programs! For more information about this exciting event go to <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf)>.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Roanoke, Summerdean Church is seeking a Music Director/Coordinator. Keyboard/piano musicians are also needed. These are part-time positions. Anyone interested can contact the church office at (540) 366-6835 or Wanda Flora (540) 915-0587.

## GENERAL SECRETARY LISTENS IN VIRLINA DISTRICT

David Steele, the new General Secretary for the Church of the Brethren, is holding listening sessions around the denomination. This is a way for David to listen closely to people within the church. It's a good way for you to meet our new General Secretary. Three listening sessions will be held in the Virlina District. The first will be held at the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren on Monday, May 1, at 2:00 p.m. The second will be held on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Antioch Church of the Brethren. The third session will be held at the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren on Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

## UPCOMING MINISTERS MEETINGS FOR MAY 2017

**May 1 - 8:30 a.m. - Northern Area** at the Roanoke, First Church (2001 Carroll Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia). Breakfast is provided at a cost of \$7.00. Anne Mitchell will provide the program.

**May 15 - 6:00 p.m. - Southern Area** at the Coulson Church (4127 Coulson Church Road, Hillsville, Virginia). Dinner is provided at a cost of \$10.00. The Preachers Choir will provide the program.

## CELEBRATING A JOB WELL DONE - MAY 7, 2017

We will be having a celebration for Emma Jean Woodard, Associate District Executive Minister, on Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 4-6 p.m. at the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, 2138 McVitty Road, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia. This celebration is to acknowledge Emma Jean's seventeen plus years of dedicated service to Virlina District.

We want to show our appreciation, love and respect for her devotion to our congregations, individuals and the many events she provided for our spiritual growth and the many District Conferences she coordinated for the business of our district. In lieu of gifts, cards will be gratefully received.

## YOUTH END-OF-YEAR PICNIC - MAY 20, 2017

The annual Youth End-of-Year Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Camp Bethel. The group will gather at the Cave Trail Picnic Shelter and a variety of activities will be provided by Camp Bethel staff. There will be a picnic lunch with the district providing hot dogs, buns, condiments and paper products. Youth groups are asked to bring side dishes, desserts, and drinks. This event is for all youth, grades 6-12. Come enjoy activities, God's creation and being with friends. Please e-mail questions to <[virlina2@aol.com](mailto:virlina2@aol.com)>.

## "CREATED TO CREATE" - SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

"Created to Create," a spiritual development retreat, will take place on Saturday, September 30, in the House of Pillars at Camp Bethel. The scripture focus will be Isaiah 64:8 (NRSV), "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Stephanie L. Connelly, artist, former Pilgrimage Retreat Coordinator, and member of the New Covenant Church of the Brethren, will be the retreat leader. A flyer with details and registration form will be available in May.

**"BRANCHING OUT: CONNECTING THROUGH CHRIST"**

The theme of our Summer Camps in 2017 is "Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ" The scriptural basis for this is found in Romans 8:38-39: *"I am convinced... nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus."*

The daily themes for each week are as follows:

Sunday - The Place We Camp: Joshua 4:1-9; John 15:1-11.  
Where and when is God present with us?

Monday - I Am the Vine: 1 Cor 11:23b-26.  
Jesus entered into a covenant with us, and us with Him.

Tuesday - I Chose You: Luke 15:11-32.  
We can choose to disconnect to learn where God is.

Wednesday - I Have Spoken to You: 1 Kings 19:11-13.  
We have to listen for God in the still small voice.

Thursday - Abide With Me: Luke 24:13-35.  
We connect with God as we walk with Jesus.

Friday - I Abide in You: Romans 8:35, 37-39.  
Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

On-line registration is open, and all Summer Camp information (brochure, forms, schedules) was mailed to campers and churches AND is available at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps)>. Request a brochure packet by telephone at (540) 992-2940 or by e-mail at <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>. Register early to guarantee your chosen program, and ask your camp rep about on-line registration for congregational Good-As-Gold.

There will be a NEW Family Camp, NEW Skateboarding Camp, and NEW Adventure Combos!

Again this year are the Traveling Day Camps in the Roanoke-area at the Peters Creek Church and the Oak Grove Church, in Botetourt County at the Cloverdale Church, in Franklin County at the Antioch Church and in Henry County at the Mount Hermon Church.

And as always, there will be Family Fun Tuesdays, Family Paddleboard Play Tuesdays, and Lil' Otters Wednesday Family River Trips.

**MALE SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED**

Best summer job EVER. Seeking men age 18-23 to serve as resident Senior Counselors May 29-July 22. Info and application at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/counselor](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/counselor)>.

**BRIGITTE BURTON ENTERING LAW SCHOOL**

Camp Bethel's Food Services Coordinator, Brigitte Burton, will enter Law School this fall (either Boston Univ. or Northeastern Univ). Brigitte brought her unique wit, cooking skills, and efficiency to Camp Bethel, and since 2011 she has fed thousands during summer camps, retreats, and banquets. We celebrate with a big "Thank You!" to Brigitte for seven

excellent years of service in Camp Bethel's Ark Dining Hall. Brigitte's last day at camp will be July 31. Mail greetings to Brigitte at 330 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090, or email to <[CampBethelArk@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelArk@gmail.com)>.

**FOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR AT CAMP BETHEL**

Camp Bethel is accepting on-line applications for a full-time, year-round Food Services Coordinator. Culinary experience or training is required, and staff management experience is preferred. Starting benefits package includes salary of \$29,000, optional family medical insurance plan, a pension plan, travel allowance, professional growth funds, and a flexible schedule. Start date is as early as May 26 and not later than July 1, with intentional summer camp overlap with the current Food Services Coordinator. Application and complete information can be found on the internet at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs)>.

**GET YOUR CONGREGATION'S 2017 CAMP PACKET NOW**

Distribute this crucial information to your congregation including bulletin inserts, Good-As-Gold information, Heritage Day packets, Golf Tournament forms, summer camp brochures and schedules, and more at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Camp-Reps](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Camp-Reps)>. Request a post-mail packet by telephone at (540) 992-2940 or by e-mail at <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

**NEXT GENERATION TREE PLANTING**

New saplings of shortleaf pine, hazelnut, river birch, persimmon, and sycamore are in place near the Shelter by the Spring and the Ark Pond. These plantings ensure the future of a healthy tree population for scenic value, shade, and water protection. Camp visitors will notice four-foot-tall green tree tubes with nets and stakes. Peek inside to see baby persimmon trees, protected from deer teeth and human feet. Each group of our 2017 summer campers will adopt a tree sapling to care for during their week as part of their "Branching Out" Bible study and nature lessons.

**MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND - MAY 26-29, 2017**

Check <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay)> for the schedule of activities and our concert schedule. Please reserve your meals before May 20 by contacting Beth at (540) 992-2940 or <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

**FAMILY FUN DAY AND CAMP OPEN HOUSE - MAY 27, 2017**

Camp Bethel invites you to come walk the grounds, meet other families and the camp staff, check a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 27 from 1:00-4:00. Meet at the Ark at 1:00pm; stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend free swimming and 7:30pm concert.

**SUMMER STAFF COMMISSIONING DINNER - JUNE 9, 2017**

Lend your voice and show your support to our Summer Camp Staff on Friday, June 9 at 5:30 for a free dinner at the Ark Dining Hall. After dinner, with your help, we will commission the newly trained summer staff for their summer of ministry and mission to over 1,200 children and youth during seven weeks of Experiential Faith Formation and Outdoor Christian Education. RSVP meals by June 5 to 540-992-2940 or <[CampBethelOffice@gmail.com](mailto:CampBethelOffice@gmail.com)>.

# NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## **WORLD HUNGER GOLF TOURNAMENT - MAY 6, 2017**

Join us at Mariner's Landing Golf and Country Club for our 13th Annual eighteen-hole captain's-choice golf tournament. The World Hunger Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 - Lunch is at noon and tournament play begins at 1 p.m. There will be prizes for top three, team scores, longest drive, closest to the pin and more. The tournament includes lunch, driving range access and soft drinks during play, with all proceeds go to support world hunger. Download your team registration form from <<http://www.worldhungerauction.org/events>> and be sure to let all your golfing friends know about this great opportunity for golf, fun, fellowship and the support of a great cause! For more information or questions you may have, please contact Chris Myers at (540) 420-2647 or <[chrisnjo@gmail.com](mailto:chrisnjo@gmail.com)> or Adam Flora at (540) 798-4206 or <[maf6q@hotmail.com](mailto:maf6q@hotmail.com)>.

## **NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 7, 2017**

**"Generations Celebrating Faith"** is the theme for National Youth Sunday on May 7. The theme is based on Psalm 145:4 and Acts 2:42-47. Worship resources are available at <[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)>.

## **KEEPING IT REAL MEN'S EVENT - MAY 23, 2017**

**"Keeping It Real"** is an evening of dinner, fellowship and fun for the men of Virgina District. This event will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Summerdean Church (6604 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA). The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 (pay at the door). Mike Stevens, former WDBJ Sports Director, current Communications Director for the City of Salem, and member of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church, will be the speaker for the evening. To reserve your place for dinner, call Betty Wills at the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816. May 17 is the deadline for dinner reservations.

## **2017 YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 26-28, 2017**

The 2017 Young Adult Conference (YAC) will be held May 26-28 at Camp Harmony, near Hooversville, Pennsylvania. The theme is "Loving Neighbor" from Matthew 22:36-39. YAC offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic. The registration is 150 which includes food, lodging and programming.

The speaker for YAC will be Emmet Eldred, Wendy McFadden, Monica Rice, and Dennis Lohr. Leah Hileman will provide music leadership and Jess Hoffer and Jenn Chillias Balmer will provide worship leadership. To register, go to <[www.brethren.org/yac](http://www.brethren.org/yac)>.

## **WORLD HUNGER BIKE RIDE - JUNE 3, 2017**

The World Hunger Bike Ride is the longest running continuously held cycling event in Franklin County, Virginia. This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the rides departing at 8:30 a.m. from the Antioch Church of the Brethren located at 2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151.

Bikers can choose from a fifty, twenty-five, ten or five mile

course through the mountains and valleys of Franklin and Floyd counties starting and ending at Antioch Church of the Brethren. Rest stops are provided along the way. Bikers are sponsored which provides another important source of funds to make a difference to those who are hungry. You can download your registration and pledge forms at <<http://www.worldhungerauction.org/events>>.

## **NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - JUNE 9-11**

The National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed grades 6-8. Youth and their advisors will consider Jonah's story through the theme "Called for a Greater Cause: Jonah's Journey." The conference will be held June 9-11 on the campus of Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Come, sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God.

Worship speakers will include Katie Heishman, Rudy Amaya, and Jeff Carter. Kyle Remnant will be coordinating music and worship will be coordinated by Rebekah Houff and Trent Smith. In addition to four celebrations of worship, there will be time for learning during workshops, and time for play during recreation and evening activities. The cost is \$175 per person. After March 31, the cost increases to \$200 per person. For more information or to register, visit <[www.brethren.org/njhc](http://www.brethren.org/njhc)> or call (847) 429-4385.

## **PRACTICE OF MINISTRY DAY - AUGUST 5, 2017**

The 2017 Practice of Ministry Day will be Saturday, August 5, 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Summerdean Church (6604 Plantation Road, Roanoke, Virginia). The theme will be "Addressing Difficult Issues in Pastoral Care." Leadership for the day will be provided by Bryan Harness, an ordained minister of the Lynchburg Church who serves as a hospital chaplain, and Beth Jarrett, pastor of the Harrisonburg-First Church. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers.

## **NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE (NOAC)**

Inspiration 2017, the National Older Adult Conference (NOAC), is a spirit filled gathering of those 50+. The theme will be "Generations" from Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall laud God's works to another and shall declare God's mighty acts." NOAC will be held September 4-8, 2017 at Lake Junaluska Conference Center in Western North Carolina. For more information or to register, go to the website, <[www.brethren.org/noac](http://www.brethren.org/noac)>.

NOAC leadership will include: Bible Studies - Stephen Reid, Preachers - Rodger Nishioka, Susan Boyer, and Wendy McFadden, and Kenote Speakers - Missy Buchanan, Jim Wallis, and Peggy Reiff Miller. In addition to Bible study, worship, and presentations, there are many activities, service projects, meals, fellowship times and ice cream socials.

Bus transportation will be available from two districts with stops in Roanoke: from the Mid-Atlantic District bus contact Pat Ecker at (410) 871-0765 or at <[wecker@gis.net](mailto:wecker@gis.net)> or from Shenandoah District contact Sandy Kinsey at (540) 234-8555 or at <[districtoffice@shencob.org](mailto:districtoffice@shencob.org)>.



# PAGE LAYOUT FOR PRINTING

*HEADLINER* Newsletter  
MAY 2017

3	2
NEWS & EVENTS	LOCAL INT.
CALENDAR OF	HEADLINER
4	1

**Side A**

WITNESS OPP	NURTURE OPP
5	6
CAMP BETHEL	NEWS AND EV
7	8

**Side B**