

HEADLINE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MARCH

Newsletter

2022

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!
James 5:7-9

Not too long ago, someone shared with me that she never prayed for patience. It seems that she had heard a preacher say that if one prayed for patience, God would send the individual something unpleasant to help develop it. Patience actually is a fruit of the Spirit. It develops within believers as each encounters the trials, tribulations, troubles and temptations common to all of humanity. Christians are not excused from such circumstances, but through the presence of the Spirit receive the courage to engage and the strength to endure and overcome.

These words from James encourage the believer to be patient. He uses the example of the farmer. The farmer must prepare the soil for planting by plowing, discing, and fertilizing. These depend upon the initiative of the farmer. Then the farmer must wait for the rains and the growth that are beyond individual control. Finally, with the passage of time and with diligent tending to the crop, the farmer reaps the harvest. Such words remind us that the timeless and eternal God does not move by clock or calendar as do time bound and mortal humans.

We must learn patience in our relationship with God. Patience with God can be characterized as faith. The writer of Hebrews states that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." As a believer gains experience, those circumstances of life that were difficult, heart breaking and unavoidable begin to be seen in a new light. As a teenager, I felt the call to ministry and full-time Christian service. This sense of call waxed and waned. When it came time to go to college, I chose what seemed the least taxing course of study. Two degrees in accounting and business management later, the sense of call returned in a powerful way. For many years I thought that my intellectual laziness in choosing this course of study was wasted time. Yet, upon further reflection, I realized that God was preparing me for a ministry of administration. Patience with God provides time for redemption and making what once appeared as dross to be substance.

Then, there is patience with ourselves. Patience with ourselves might be described as hope. None of us have attained righteous perfection (Romans 3:10). If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we have flaws and faults. With the Apostle Paul, we must confess that we find ourselves doing what we don't want to do and not doing those things we know are good and right (Romans 7). Perfection without flaw or blemish is not possible for us. Yet, nothing is impossible for God. It is the unmerited favor of God, called grace, that gives us the space for God to work within our spirits. As we learn from experience, we are transformed from what we were to what we will be.

Like the misshapen vessel on the potter's wheel, God is at work reshaping us. Our patience with this process is hope.

Now comes another difficult part, patience with others. Being patient with others can be called love. We live in a culture that is, by and large, becoming even more selfish, untrusting and critical. From the least to the greatest, our behavior to one another lacks the grace and civility that facilitate positive human relationships. A positive Christian witness to the world means standing aside from these negative aspects of culture that threaten the very fabric of society. Love for others, both near and far, requires meeting the other where they are, not where we believe that they should be. Awareness of our own imperfection and need for grace must work to diminish expectations of perfection on the part of others and acceptance of who they are. We cannot force or enforce what only God can change in others.

The New Testament, which we claim as our guide for faith and practice, repeatedly points us toward the depth of God's love for us. The Apostle Paul penned these inspired words in Romans 5:8, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." It is precisely that kind of sacrificial and undeserved love that paves the way for transformation of ourselves and others. It does not come naturally, but if we open ourselves to the grace of God, we ourselves will become gracious.

James admonishes us not to "grumble against one another." For in our grumbling, we push God from the judgment seat and attempt to substitute our own poverty of knowledge for that of the One who sees inside the heart and mind. So often what is needed is not to preach or pontificate, but to encourage the sharing of life experience by those whom we find difficult to relate to and to listen closely to their pain. Loud condemnation rarely brings change, but quiet presence often opens the door to relational change. This does not mean calling what is evil to be good (Isaiah 5:20), but recognizing that all of us are accountable to God and giving to others what we would claim for ourselves. Patience with others, family, friends, and even adversaries, is love indeed. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13.

David K. Shumate

District Executive Minister

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Cathy S. Huffman, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY FORMATION
Ed and Susan McKimmy, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Antioch - Cassandra Smith by letter January 2, 2022. Angela Sharp by reaffirmation January 2, 2022. Jonathan Thompson by reaffirmation January 2, 2022.

Poages Mill - Anthony Corazza by letter December 19, 2021.

Roanoke, Hollins Road - Harold Boyd and Alett Boyd by letter January 7, 2022

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED SAINTS

Nyna Slayton Murray, aged 89, of Roanoke, VA went home to be with the Lord Wednesday, January 5, 2022. She was the mother-in-law of our Coordinator of Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Joy Murray.

Frances Dawkins Ellis, aged 71, of Hopewell, VA, made her transition on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. She was The First Lady of Wakefield Chapel Church of the Brethren as wife of Pastor Samuel P. Ellis. She retired from Home Health Care Nursing after 15 years. Funeral services were held in Petersburg, VA, on January 19 with David K. Shumate officiating.

Claude Samuel "C.S." Humbert, Jr., aged 93, of Troutville, VA, passed away Saturday, January 29, 2022 He retired as a mail carrier from the U.S. Postal Service and was a dairy farmer for most of his life. He was a member of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren. Graveside services were held on February 6 with Patrick C. Starkey officiating.

Audrey Huffman Wilkerson, aged 88, of Roanoke, VA, passed away Thursday, February 3, 2022. She was a member of the Roanoke, Williamson Road Church. Funeral services were held in Roanoke on February 7 officiated by Patrick C. Starkey and Eddie Edmonds.

Elizabeth Ellen Thomason, aged 90, of Martinsville passed away on February 16, 2022. She was a member of the Jones Chapel Church and formerly served on the New Church Development Committee of the Virlina District. Funeral services were held at Jones Chapel on February 25 with interment following at Roselawn Burial Park.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON MARCH 25, 2022

Deadline for the May 2022 issue of the HEADLINER is March 25, 2022. Forward items for inclusion to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012**. A downloadable copy of the HEADLINER can be found at www.virlina.org.



PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

BASSETT - Part or full time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

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

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

BETHLEHEM - Part time position, profile circulating - Horace D. Light, Jr. serving as interim pastor.

COULSON - *Wayburn Mosley, former pastor of the Glade Hill Baptist Church in Franklin County, VA, called effective Febuary 1, 2022.*

COPPER HILL - *William J. Hinton, Sr. has been called as pastor on a full-time basis effective February 1, 2022.*

FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT) - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

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

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

MAPLE GROVE - Part time position, no profile available - Jermiah Beasley serving as pulpit supply.

MASONS COVE - Part time position, no profile available. *W. Leonard Foley has resigned.*

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

MONTE VISTA - Part time position, no profile available - Gina Wright-Hawkins serving as pulpit supply.

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

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

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

OAKVALE
Part time position, no profile available - Josh Lucas continues as Associate Pastor.

PLEASANT VIEW
Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply by John P. Reed, Sr.

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

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

SELMA - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply by Alvis Jackson.

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

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE - *Part time position, profile pending - Tabitha Hartman Rudy has resigned effective April 30, 2022.*

NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES

Harold E. Boyd, pastor of the Hollins Road Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA, will be ordained there at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

David A. Ansley, pastor of the Fraternity Church of the Brethren in Winston-Salem, NC, will be installed there during the morning worship service on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Amber T. Harris, a member of the Durham-Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren in Durham, NC and Executive Director of SPARK, will be ordained at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022. The service will be conducted at the Burkhead United Methodist Church located at 5250 Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem, NC.

At this writing, services for **Carlton R. Hodges**, pastor of the Red Hill Church of the Brethren, and **Naomi L. Powers**, co-pastor of the Daleville Church of the Brethren were in the process of scheduling.

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIPS SCHEDULE MEETINGS

The **Northern Area Ministers Association** of the Virginia District will be meeting on Monday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m. at the Summerdean Church of the Brethren. Barry S. LeNoir will bring highlights from the upcoming 2022 season at Camp Bethel. Adam Stultz will be leading the devotions. Coffee and individually wrapped Danish/muffins will be provided.

On April 4, the Northern Area Ministers Association will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of the Troutville Church of the Brethren. The program will concern Gun Violence.

The **Southern Area Ministers and Spouses** of the Virginia District will meet on Monday, March 21, at 6 p.m. at the Jones Chapel Church of the Brethren in Figsboro, VA. Barry S. LeNoir will bring highlights from the upcoming 2022 season at Camp Bethel.

WILLIAM "BUDDY" CRUMPACKER MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Celebration of Life will be held for William "Buddy" Crumpacker at Camp Bethel. This has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Buddy, aged 78, of Blue Ridge, VA passed away on December 22, 2021. He was born on December 12, 1943 to the late Ned W. and Frances Jonas Crumpacker. Buddy was a lifelong member of the Church of the Brethren. He was a passionate servant and cheerleader for Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA, and for Brethren Disaster Ministries.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Shields Crumpacker, daughters Melinda Dearing (Jeff) and Cynthia Falls (Dennis), son William Crumpacker, Jr. (Michelle), seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He is also survived by his twin sister Rebecca Poe and sister Sharon Mitchell (Phillip) and numerous other family members. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Camp Bethel, 328 Camp Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090.

MARTINSVILLE AREA - LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Services have been scheduled for five congregations in the Martinsville, VA area. Each service will begin at 7 p.m.

Services are scheduled as follows with date, location and speaker:

March 13 - Jones Chapel - Noel S. Naff
March 20 - Bassett - Douglas M. Diamond
March 27 - New Hope - R. Douglas Jones
April 3 - Mount Hermon - Thomas E. Auker
April 10 - Eden, First - Richard T. Randall

Following each service there will be insight sessions on topics of timely interest to members and friends of the Church of the Brethren.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Glenna Bell Roop Hart, aged 86, of Salem, Virginia, passed away on January 25, 2022. She was a faithful member of the Masons Cove Church of the Brethren.

Wanda T. Semones, aged 67, went to be with the Lord on February 3, 2022. A celebration of life service was held at the Rocky Mount, First Church of the Brethren on Saturday, February 12, with Frances S. Beam officiating.

Franklin Roosevelt Dillon ("Rose"), aged 88, of Rocky Mount, VA passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 6, 2022. Rose was a sweet man who lived a simple life. He was a member of Rocky Mount, First Church of the Brethren. A graveside service was held at Mountain View Memorial Park on Thursday, February 10, with John W. Collins officiating.

Anthony Duane "Andy" Saul, aged 63 of Pilot Mountain, NC and formerly of Boones Mill, VA passed away suddenly on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Memorial services were conducted at the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Sunday, February 20, 2022 with Greg Broyles officiating.

Margaret Jewel Rader Webb, aged 98, of Botetourt County, VA, died on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Baptized on November 11, 1934, she attended New Bethel Church of the Brethren in her early years and later the Troutville Church of the Brethren. She started her career in banking at the First National Bank in Troutville in 1943 as a bookkeeper and secretary. In 1986 she retired as the Vice President and Branch Manager of the successor bank.

Private graveside services were held at the Mill Creek Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at the Troutville Church of the Brethren at a later date.

Betty Wimmer Dent, aged 69 of Rocky Mount, VA, died on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Memorial services were held on Friday, February 25, at the Henry Fork Church of the Brethren with Ronald Coleman and Denver Turner officiating.



DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2022

1	7:00	PM	Commission on Stewardship (DKS)
4-5			Christian Growth Institute Spiritual Development Retreat - Camp Bethel (DKS)
7	9:00	AM	Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Summerdean (DKS)
8	10:00	AM	Virginia Council of Churches - Coordinating Cabinet (DKS)
	6:00	PM	District Board Executive Committee (DKS)
	7:00	PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
9	1:00	PM	Virginia Council of Churches - Judicatory Check-In (DKS)
11	10:00	AM	Christian Growth Institute Staff Meeting (DKS)
14	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
19	9:00	AM	District Board Retreat and Meeting - Roanoke, Oak Grove (DKS/MSS)
21	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Jones Chapel (DKS)
26	1:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel Committee (MSS/DKS)
29	6:30	PM	Long Range Financial Planning Committee - Oak Grove, South (DKS)

APRIL 2022

1	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
3-7			Council of District Executives - Elgin, IL (DKS)
12	7:00	PM	Race Education Team - (MSS)
15			District Resource Center Closed - Good Friday
18	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers - Eden, First (DKS)
19	6:00	PM	Commission on Witness (MSS)
22	1:00	PM	Ministry Advisory Council (DKS)
25	5:30	PM	Iglesia El Buen Pastor Steering Committee - Blacksburg (DKS)

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

WITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

2021 BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRY PROJECTS

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

The Virlina District is scheduled for the following weeks for disaster work in North Carolina and other locations to be determined. Please note the dates and contact Ed or Susan McKimmy at <virlinaddr@gmail.com> or (540) 354-5345 if you are interested in serving for one or more weeks.

Coastal NC	March 20-26	12 volunteers needed
Undetermined	May 22-28	
Undetermined	July 17-23	7 volunteers needed
Undetermined	July 31-August 6	15 volunteers needed

During these challenging times we can continue to share our call to serve others in Christ's name through disaster response. By doing so, we allow the love of Christ to shine through in a unique way.

KENTUCKY TORNADO OFFERING

On December 10, 2021, an intense tornado mowed through Western Kentucky, producing severe to cataclysmic damage in several towns. Passing through eleven counties throughout its duration, the tornado was exceptionally long-lived, traveling over 165 miles. It was the most lethal tornado in an outbreak that produced many powerful tornadoes in several states. At least 58 fatalities resulted from the tornado.

Offerings from congregations for the Kentucky Tornado Disaster Response may be sent to the District Resource Center. Please mark memo line KY Tornado - Acct #33501. ALL OFFERINGS RECEIVED WILL BE MATCHED BY THE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE.

36TH ANNUAL WORLD HUNGER WALK - APRIL 24, 2022

Mark your calendars for the 36th Annual World Hunger Walk which will be held on Sunday, April 24 at 3 p.m. at Antioch Church of the Brethren (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount). The six-mile walk raises awareness of and generates funds for world hunger. Walkers walk for money that has been pledged to them or they may make a contribution.

The walk starts and finishes at Antioch and includes rest stops along the way with refreshments provided. There will also be two shorter alternative walks: At the Antioch Community Park (on Callaway Road) and a Memorial Walk (around the Antioch Church cemetery). An entry form (with a pledge sheet) is available on the World Hunger Auction's Facebook page.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT OUTREACH POSSIBILITIES

NCP offers these projects and programs for members and congregations to share God's love, preserve God's creation, and help us as God's people encounter our world.

Keep 'em Safe is an NCP campaign to build a protective wall around a shelter for young survivors of human trafficking in Nepal, as they are at risk from their former abusers. The goal is \$25,000 – any help will be appreciated.

NCP Learning Tours are up and running again! Following Nepal in January, groups will head to Rwanda and Malawi in early May, the Ecuadorian Amazon in late May, Lybrook, NM in mid-summer, Denali/Kenai Fjords in early August, and Arctic Village in mid-August. January 2023 will offer either Myanmar or Nepal. These trips are open to all ages and explore the beauty of and challenges facing God's creation and God's children.

With Earth Day on the horizon, some congregations are coupling sermons on the significance of trees in the Scriptures with a fund-raiser for NCP's **Million Tree Campaign**. With every \$1 planting 10 trees, the impact can be substantial and help us do something tangible in the face of challenging environmental issues.

For more information, contact <dradcliffnecp@yahoo.com> or (540) 855-1199.

BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE

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

Among Virlina District congregations receiving grants were Concord-Living Faith, Germantown Brick and Roanoke-Central.

Who May Apply

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

Application Process

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

For details

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

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

FAITHX WORKCAMPS - BOUNDLESS FAITH!

"Boundless Faith" is the theme for the 2022 FaithX events. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7) is the theme scripture. According to the theme statement: "We are told that we walk by faith, but what does that mean? What does our faith look like and how do we make sense of it? Let us find out together. Let us imagine a bigger and bolder faith to go with a big and bold God that we serve. Push past the usual answers and seek deeper truths. Go forth and serve outside the safety of normality. Move beyond the mundane and walk with us, together, in boundless faith."

To register or find more information for FaithX (formerly workcamps) events in the summer of 2022 go to <www.brethren.org/faithx>. Currently listed events are found below:

Junior High Events (Completed Grades 6-8)

+Roanoke, Virginia

June 12-16 (25 participants) \$285
Project includes working in a food bank, a soup kitchen, a thrift store, and packaging clothes

+Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

June 19-23 (20 participants) \$285
Project includes gardening and eco-service construction, painting, working in a food bank, and at a soup kitchen.

+Milford, Indiana - Camp Alexander Mack

June 27-July 1 (25 participants) \$285
Project includes gardening and eco-service construction, as well as painting.

+Lincoln, Nebraska

July 6-10 (20 Participants) \$285
Project involves work in a food bank, a soup kitchen, a thrift store, and packaging clothes

+Winston-Salem, North Carolina

August 1-5 (25 Participants) \$285
Participants will work at a food bank, a soup kitchen, a thrift store, and packaging clothes.

Adult Events

Age 18 and up

+Rwanda

June 2-13* (20 participants) \$750**
This involves relational service construction, painting, etc.

+Bethel, Pennsylvania - Camp Swatara We Are Able Assistants

June 20-23 (10 participants*) \$385
Relational service with other abled in a food bank, and a soup kitchen.

+Bethel, Pennsylvania - Camp Swatara We Are Able

Age 16 to 30
June 20-23 (10 participants) \$385
Working in a food bank and/or a soup kitchen.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY - MAY 7, 2022

Ministry and Mission Day in Virilina District is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on Virginia Route 40 between Rocky Mount and Ferrum. Although this has been an annual event for over two decades, circumstances during the last two years have forced us to hold virtual events. We are excited to finally get together again for a day of worship, workshops, lunch, and the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing.

The event begins with a worship service led by Patrick Starkey, pastor of the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren, who will speak on the 2022 District Conference theme, "Bound Together by Love" from 1 John 4:21. In addition, each of our district commissions will be hosting workshops, most of which will provide CEU credit for pastors. Among these will be workshops on grief and recovery, as well as Deacon Training. The Commission on Witness' Race Education Team will host a workshop outlining events and books that they can use to resource district congregations. There will be other informative workshops as well.

The event requires a lunch reservation. This may be obtained by calling Betty Wils of the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816 or by e-mail at <virlinasecretary@gmail.com>.

After an hour lunch break, the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing will be conducted by David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, and the Standing Committee Delegates from our district. All conference delegates and church leaders are encouraged to attend! More information will be available on our website at www.virlina.org or questions about events may be directed to Mary StJohn at (540) 362-1816.

AWAKENING SERVICES RESCHEDULED - SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2022

The Awakening Services for congregations in the Roanoke-area, including Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin Counties, are scheduled to be held at the Cloverdale Church of the Brethren on September 18-21, 2022. These nightly services will feature the powerful preaching of Paul Munday, the immediate past Annual Conference Moderator. Bible studies will be held during the mornings of September 19-21 at selected area congregations. This event has been rescheduled to accommodate continuing health concerns.

IS CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE FOR YOU?

Feeling a call to ministry? Experiencing spiritual rebirth? Desiring to deepen personal faith? Learn about Christian Growth Institute, the district ministry training 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 on June 4, 2022 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Stone Church of the Brethren in Buena Vista, Virginia. Contact Cathy Huffman at <cashuffman@gmail.com> for more information.

CAMP BETHEL

SUMMER CAMPS 2022 - "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

Together: with God, with each other, and with creation. When we live together in intentional Christian community, even for just one week, we gain person-to-person relationship skills to benefit our families, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. There were ZERO reported cases of COVID-19 at Summer Camp at Camp Bethel in 2021. We are preparing for safe and fun 2022 Summer Camps with multiple health and safety adaptations. Registration is OPEN for safe and fun summer camps. Camperships are available! For more information, go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps>.

SUMMER COUNSELORS AND KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED

We seek hard-working and resilient young adults for our 2022 Summer Camp Staff. Counselors serve May 30 through July 23, pay is \$320/week, plus a \$325+ end-of-summer bonus, plus recruitment bonuses. Kitchen Staff serve May 30 through August 13, pay is \$350-or-\$420/week. Position descriptions, videos, and applications are at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff>.

GIVE A CHILD A CAMPERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP

We will not hold an in-person Sow the Seed Banquet, so please give instead. We annually grant Camperships to an average of 108 children for an average total of \$27,165 (2010-2019). Please give \$390, which is the 2022 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or make your donation at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - APRIL 2, 2022

Our Spring Volunteer Workday begins on Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 a.m. with a free breakfast and continues at 1:00 p.m. with a complimentary luncheon. We need YOUR help! Workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. Please reserve meals by March 26 by phone at (540) 992-2940, or by e-mail at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. For complete information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

21ST SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 8-9, 2022

The 21st Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival will be held at Camp Bethel on April 8 - 9, 2022. This year's event features Bil Lepp, Len Cabral, Lyn Ford, Josh Goforth, and Beth Horner. Be here to participate in another dynamic and fun storytelling event. Tickets, information, and videos at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION FOR 2022

We are seeking groups, congregations, and individuals to adopt one of 42 Summer Staff with a commitment of prayer, letters, and a \$100+ "end-of-summer" bonus. This program helps us recruit and retain the highest quality Counselors for our Campers, and it helps these excellent young adults accept God's call to summer ministry in what will be another challenging (adapted-for-COVID-19) program. Last summer's adoption program was a big success, because families and congregations gave enough to provide a \$325 end-of-summer bonus to our excellent Summer Staff. Info at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt>.

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST

Clorox wipes; road-worthy mini-van or 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); road-worthy pickup truck (2010 or newer); clothes dryer; refrigerator (full or mini); gas grill; LED light bulbs; new (in-the-box) first-aid kits; brooms & dustpans; 3'x8' plyboards for under bunk mattresses (any thickness or quality); "Tree Cookies". Please help our Amazon wish-list at: <<https://a.co/5qG5JYq>> or <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>. All gifts are tax-deductible!

TREE COOKIES NEEDED

Please help supply THOUSANDS of Tree Cookies for our year-round programs. Ideal "cookie" is hard wood, cross-cut showing tree rings, 3"+ diameter and less-than 0.5" thick. For more information call us at (540) 992-2940 or contact us by e-mail at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. THANK YOU!

EXCELLENT POTENTIAL EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Camp has benefitted in recent years from several Eagle Scout projects. With several new trails opening, we need several new foot-and-bike bridges. Portable benches are another excellent addition to campus. Contact Barry LeNoir for information and locations by e-mail at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or by phone at (540) 992-2940.

MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS OPEN AT CAMP

Volunteers headed by Rob Odenwelder (Troutville CoB) have built excellent new trails and bridges winding through our "Adventure Forest" Please call or email in advance, and bring your bike and helmet for fun on our beautiful property. Contact Barry at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Trail Maps are on the Camp Office porch and our website.

PILGRIMAGE POSTPONED TO MARCH 17-19, 2023

The Pilgrimage Committee has postponed this event until next year. The new date is March 17-19, 2023. Although the numbers from the current variant are expected to decrease by March, the present situation prevents the team trainings.

ARK TREASURE HUNT!

We are excited to present an event for all congregations, families, groups, and adventure enthusiasts in our district to go and explore together! The Treasure Hunt or THE ARK, starts April 1st in Henry County, VA, on June 1st in Franklin County, VA., and on July 1st in Roanoke County. Your quest is to find five ARKS OF THE COVENANT hidden outdoors in plastic containers. In each ARK are different color rubies or stones. Collect five different color rubies and receive a prize from the Virilina District Resource Center suitable for a family or small group. The Bible is necessary for some of the clues. Your first clue will be posted on-line the first day of the month at noon. Solve it, and you are on your way exploring and being an ARK seeker. A paper copy of the clues will be available from the District Resource Center. This fun project originated from our Moderator-elect, Noel Naff, to provide opportunities for togetherness, fun, and Bible Study. Visit the www.virilina.org website after March 30 or contact Mary StJohn, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness at (540) 362-1816. or <virilina2@aol.com>.

NEWS & EVENTS

BRETHREN AND THE POLARIZING PANDEMIC: WHAT NEXT? - MARCH 10-11, 2022

On March 10-11, Bridgewater College and the Forum for Brethren Studies will present a symposium on "Brethren and the Polarizing Pandemic: What Next?" The event is open to the public.

The symposium will contemplate the Church of the Brethren as it emerges from the global pandemic, assessing pre-COVID trends and determining their likely post-COVID trajectory. Topics include the likelihood of further division, social and economic inequality, and the influence of external authority, as illustrated by the 1919 and 2021 pandemics. Presenters are Robert Johansen (Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, Notre Dame University), Stephen Longenecker (Professor of History Emeritus, Bridgewater College), and Samuel Funkhouser (Director, Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center). Bethany Seminary President Jeffrey Carter and Shenandoah District Executive John Jantzi will present current perspectives from their constituencies, and Carl Bowman, (Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia) will chair a panel of Brethren leaders (Donita Keister, Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey and Larry Dentler) offering personal reflections on the meaning of Brethren membership.

Emma Green, staff writer for The New Yorker and The Atlantic, will begin the symposium on Thursday evening, March 10, (Cole Hall) with an Endowed Lecture: A Sickness in the Body Politic and the Body Faithful: How COVID Has Shaped U.S. Religious Communities. Green has written extensively on culture, politics and religion, and her lecture will bring reflections on religion in post-COVID America. She will also open the symposium on Friday morning, March 11, with Q and A. The lecture is free; the Friday session, (President's Suite, Nininger Hall) has a registration fee of \$20, mostly to cover lunch.

The sponsor of the event is the Forum for Brethren Studies. Advance registration is greatly appreciated, but walk-ups are welcome. For information, to register, and to receive parking information, contact Carol Scheppard at <cscheppa@bridgewater.edu>.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 1, 2022

"FOUNDATIONAL" is the theme for National Youth Sunday in the Church of the Brethren on May 1, 2022. The theme is based on Colossians 2:5-7. Worship resources will soon be available at <<https://www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday/>>.

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 27-30

The theme of the 2022 National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) is "I Am because We Are" based on Romans 12:5. NYAC is scheduled for May 27-30, 2022 at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. This event offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! For more information go to <<https://www.brethren.org/yya/yac/>>.

NON-DELEGATE ONLINE OPTION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JULY 10-14, 2022

The Annual Conference office has announced a virtual, online option for nondelegates who are not planning to travel to Omaha, Neb., for this summer's Conference but would like to participate in more than just worship (which will continue to be livestreamed for all, free of charge).

This is not an opportunity to participate fully and interactively in all activities. Registering as a virtual nondelegate participant will give access to live-stream:

- business meetings
- the Ted & Co performance of We Own This Now
- the Bittersweet Gospel Band concert
- the Mike Stern & Friends concert
- selected equipping sessions

Some equipping sessions and talk-back sessions with the Annual Conference agencies will offer an opportunity for more interactive engagement.

Online registration began on Tuesday, March 1, for the Annual Conference taking place in Omaha, Neb., on July 10-14. Go to <www.brethren.org/ac2022>.

GENEROUS BEQUEST RECEIVED FROM WOOD ESTATE

As previously announced, Bethany Theological Seminary received a gift of \$1.2 million from the estate of the late David Thomas Wood and Jane Merchant Wood of Boones Mill, Virginia. The Woods were members of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren and very active in district and denominational ministries. Among other recipients were the Bethlehem Church, the Mission and Ministry Board/Church of the Brethren, Inc. and the Virginia District Board. The \$800,000 received by the district has been set aside for leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, multi-ethnic mission and general new church development.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Oscar Jones Jr., aged 76 of Floyd, VA, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. He was a faithful member of the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren and loved spending his free time helping out around the church. Funeral services were held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren with Roy Turpin and Brian Turpin officiating.

Kelly Murin Maxey, aged 60 of Roanoke, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Funeral services were conducted on Tuesday February 1, 2022 in Vinton, VA with Angella Haranzo officiating.

Ruth Evelyn Barnhart Flora, born July 14, 1927, went to be with our Lord on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. She was 94 years old. She had a beautiful smile and was loving, kind, and concerned for all. Ruth was a wonderful mother who loved the Lord and lived her faith every day. Her funeral service was held at the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Sunday, February 6.