

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

JANUARY

Newsletter

2023

*"... The old has gone, the new is here! ..."
2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)*

We are leaving behind an old year. The new year, how can it be, two thousand twenty-three? We cannot undo or change the old year. It is now behind us. Some things need to be left behind: fear, hate, prejudice, violence, mistreatment, division, selfishness, and more. During the pandemic many things changed and they were not always for the best. But for every act of kindness and caring for others we saw light in the darkness. In 2023 may we see more "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness." Yes, those are the fruit of the Spirit found in Paul's letter to the Galatians (5:22). May we not only see it more, may we as followers of Christ, live it more.

Every day is a new day with a new opportunities of living and serving the Lord, not just for doing the same old thing. Do we start the day with the wonder of where will I see God today? What surprise does the Spirit have in store for me today? How can I be Christ to someone today? As long as we live, every day is new.

For Virlina District, there is some old to new going on. When I say old I mean thirty years of old. We are grateful for David Shumate's years of faithful service as District Executive Minister in Virlina District. With David's decision to retire from the executive position that closed a chapter thus becoming the old. We are approaching the new but are not there yet. We know the date of the new, February 6, 2023. That is when Daniel L. Rudy will become the new District Executive Minister. We need to pray for Dan, Tabitha, Evelyn and Josie in moving, leaving a congregation, and many changes.

God has given Dan gifts and abilities to be used in serving. When Dan becomes the new District Executive Minister he will be in ministry with a staff, board, executive committee, commissions, committees, congregations, ministers, lay per-

sons, senior adults, children, youth, young adults, middle adults, denominational leaders, other district executives, ecumenical leaders, and the list goes on. It is a big job, an important job, with lots of responsibilities. It is not a job that Dan can do alone. It is not a job that he should do alone. That is why the above list is important. Every person in Virlina District needs to do their part in praying, supporting, encouraging, volunteering and serving where needed in their congregation and in Virlina district. We are blessed to have a strong district. Thanks be to God!

There may be some of you who are thinking that I really shouldn't have selected a tiny portion of scripture to make it fit what I wanted to say. Indeed, I did choose that portion for a purpose. Nevertheless 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV) actually says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

All this is from God! God is with us in everything! Amen!

*Emma Jean Franklin Woodard
Interim District Executive Minister*

VIRLINA DISTRICT
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EMMA JEAN FRANKLIN WOODARD, INTERIM 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





Jeters Chapel: Paul Mundy by baptism September 16, 2022. Cadence Howell by baptism December 11, 2022. Lew Anne and Billy Mayhew, Carolyn Nichols, Vicky, Cody and Jordan Bowyer and Nicky Bowyer and Teigan Epperly by letter December 18, 2022.

Maple Grove - Amanda and John Pardue by letter December 4, 2022.

PleasantDale - Paul Lee by letter February 27, 2022. Dean Pittman and David Lee by letter March 6, 2022. Henry Plunkett by letter October 16, 2022.

Roanoke, Hollins Road - BJ Armes, Doris Layne and Russell Ostendorf all by transfer of letter November 13, 2022.

White Rock - Kristie Turman by baptism June 26, 2022.

WITH APPRECIATION TO SHARON JENKINS

Thank you to Sharon Jenkins as she completes 15 years as Coordinator of Financial Services for the Virlina District. Sharon will be retiring on February 28, 2023. Sharon and her husband, George, are faithful members of the Jeters Chapel congregation. We are thankful for Sharon's devotion to her work at the District Office and wish her well as she steps into the next phase of her life. Cards may be sent to Sharon at Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road N.E., Roanoke, VA 24012.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF:

George Grover Nixon, Jr., aged 90, of Christiansburg, Virginia, went home to be with his Lord on October 20, 2022. He was a member of the Christiansburg Church. Funeral services were held on October 24, 2022 at the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren officiated by Hal Sonafrank.

William "Will" Rajaniemi, aged 18, of Bedford, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, November 3, 2022. A memorial service was held on November 17, 2022, at the Lake Side Church of the Brethren Fellowship in Moneta, Virginia.

Geneva Irene Hollandsworth Gallimore, aged 98, of Floyd, Virginia, passed away peacefully in her home on November 25, 2022. She was a devoted member of Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren for over 60 years. Funeral services were held on November 28, 2022 at the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren with Eddie Dale Gallimore, Marvin D. Wade, and Richard W. Thomas, Sr. officiating.

BASSETT - Full time position, profile pending - R. Douglas Jones serving as pulpit supply.

FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT) - Part time position, no profile available - Various persons serving as 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, lay speaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.

LYNCHBURG - *Marla B. Abe began as pastor on a part time basis effective October 9, 2022.*

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

MASONS COVE - Part time position, no profile available - Charles DeHart serving as pulpit supply.

MONETA, LAKE SIDE - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.

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

MOUNT BETHEL - *Part time position, no profile available - Dreama F. Osborne begins as interim pastor on January 1, 2023.*

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

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

OAKVALE - Part time position, no profile available - Josh Lucas continues as associate pastor.

OLEAN - Part time position, no profile available.

PLEASANT VIEW - Part time position, no profile available - John P. Reed, Sr. serving as interim pastor.

PLEASANTDALE - *Part time position, no profile available - David Tozar as pulpit supply.*

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

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

ROANOKE, WILLIAMSON ROAD - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available - Congregation not currently meeting.

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

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

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE - Part time position, profile circulating - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.

SPRUCE RUN - Plural ministry position, no profile available.

TRINITY - *Elizabeth Anne Mitchell has been called as pastor effective January 1, 2023.*

N E W S & E V E N T S

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

Wilmer Lawrence Rudy, aged 89, Myersville, Maryland, died on August 29, 2022. He was the grandfather of Daniel L. Rudy, pastor of the Ninth Street Church of the Brethren and incoming District Executive Minister. Funeral services were held on September 2, 2022.

Rebecca Ann Hodges Preston, aged 89, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Memorial services were conducted at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on November 12, 2022.

Ivy Rose Brubaker, aged 90, of Rocky Mount, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 6, 2022. Funeral services were conducted at the Antioch Church of the Brethren on November 13, 2022. Andrew C. Duffey and Timothy H. Emmons officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Hope Elizabeth Gottshall, aged 76, of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2022. She was the oldest daughter of Dick and Dottie Gottshall. A graveside service was held on December 8, 2022 at Daleville Cemetery officiated by her father, J. Richard Gottshall.

Russell Thurman Ingram, aged 81 of Floyd, Virginia, passed away on Monday, November 28, 2022. Funeral services were held on December 1, 2022 with Roy U. Turpin officiating. Interment followed in the Stonewall Cemetery.

Mildred Marie Stoots Thompson, aged 91 of Pulaski, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, December 1, 2022. She was a member of the Pulaski, First Church of the Brethren. Funeral services were held in Pulaski on December 5 officiated by David K. Shumate. Interment followed at the Oakwood Cemetery.

On Friday, December 2, 2022, **Nancy Rigney Thompson**, aged 81, departed this life. She was a longtime member of the Henry Fork Church of the Brethren. Funeral services were held at the church with Ronald D. Coleman officiating.

Wesley Melvin Prillaman, aged 74, passed away on Monday, December 5, 2022. Memorial Services are scheduled for January 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Church of the Brethren, 416 Church Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia with Kevin Kinsey officiating.

Mabel Virginia Hodges Harris, aged 94, of Vinton, passed away on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. She was a member of the Ninth Street Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia. Funeral services were held on December 9 in Roanoke, Virginia with Daniel L. Rudy officiating.

David Arnold Naff, aged 93, of Blacksburg, passed away on Monday, December 19, 2022. He was a retired minister and a member of the Christiansburg Church of the Brethren.

WORLD HUNGER AUCTION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The World Hunger Auction will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Antioch Church of the Brethren (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount). All proceeds will go to the World Hunger Auction which supports the ministries of Heifer International, Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative, RAM House and several area food banks.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE 2023 BALLOT!!

The Nominating and Personnel Committee needs your help. As a member of a congregation, your insight is vital to having good leaders in the district ministry. Nominating and Personnel will begin their work on January 21, 2023. Your nominations would be very helpful. For this part of the process, you do not have to ask the person if they are willing to let their name go on ballot. We need the names of persons that you believe have the gifts and abilities to serve in the district ministry and mission, as well as a commitment to the edification and wholeness of the Church of the Brethren. These persons do not have to be from your congregation or area. These persons can be from anywhere in the district.

The following positions are sought for the 2023 ballot: Moderator-elect (clergy); Program and Arrangements; Nominating and Personnel - Martinsville, Floyd, Botetourt; District Board - Franklin County, Martinsville, and Easter Virginia; District Board At-large; and Outdoor Ministries Committee.

A copy of the Nomination Form may be obtained by e-mailing <virlina2@aol.com> or online at <www.virlina.org>.

QUILT SQUARES FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren (AACB) is requesting quilt squares from Church of the Brethren congregations in order to construct quilts and wall hangings at the 2023 Annual Conference. Each year, these items are auctioned to raise money for hunger projects.

Each congregation is encouraged to create an 8 1/2 inch square quilt block and send it in by May 15, along with a \$1 or more donation to offset the costs of quilting materials. Quilt tops will be assembled before the Conference. Blocks must be made from pre-shrunk cotton or cotton blend, and if used, only water-soluble, very soft, or easily removed backing. Double knit fabrics, counted cross-stitch on canvas, liquid embroidery, padded blocks, or heat-applied designs or photos and glue should not be used. Use your own creativity to make your pattern design. Blocks should be cut to size after being pieced, embroidered, or appliquéd, and include the congregation's name, state, and district. This information makes the quilts more valuable.

Quilt tops are assembled before conference. No blocks can be accepted at conference for this year's quilts. All blocks delivered at conference will be considered for next year's quilts and wall hangings.

Mail these to AACB, c/o Margaret Weybright, 1801 Greencroft Blvd. Apt #125, Goshen, IN 46526.



**DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

JANUARY 2022

2			District Resource Center - Closed
3	7:00	PM	Race Education Team (Z) (MSS)
5	2:00	PM	Race Education Team - Conference Room (MSS)
7	9:00	AM	District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel (MSS)
9	6:00	PM	Northern and Southern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Oak Grove
17	10:30	AM	Awakening Committee - DRC
21	2:00	PM	Nominating and Personnel (Z) (MSS)
23	6:30	PM	Lake Side Steering Committee

FEBRUARY 2022

6	8:30	AM	Northern Area Ministers Meeting at The Way
	1:00	PM	New Church Development Committee - DRC
9	7:00	PM	Race Education Team (MSS)
13	9:00	AM	Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee - DRC
14	1:30	PM	Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. - Buena Vista (Stone)
17	6:00	PM	Commission on Ministry
19	3:00	PM	Necessary Conversations Event at Roanoke College (MSS)
20	1:00	PM	Historical Committee - DRC
	6:00	PM	Southern Area Ministers and Spouses - Bethlehem
21	6:30	PM	Commission on Stewardship - Roanoke, Oak Grove
24-26			Youth Roundtable - Bridgewater College

Best wishes for a blessed and productive New Year 2023

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

NECESSARY CONVERSATIONS: LET'S TALK ABOUT COLORBLINDNESS - FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Necessary Conversations: Let's Talk about Colorblindness will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Wortmann Ballroom (second floor of the Colket Center) at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. Presented by the Race Education Team of the Commission on Witness, this event will feature Dr. Jennifer McCloud and Professor Karin Kaerwer. A flier will be mailed to every congregation. .15 CEU's are available for ordained ministers. For more information, contact Mary Sink St. John at <virlina2@aol.com> or (540) 362-1816.

YOUTH ROUNDTABLE - FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023

The annual Roundtable at Bridgewater College for youth, grades 9-12, is scheduled for February 24-26, 2023. This year's theme is UNASHAMED based on Romans 1:16. Michaela Alphonse, pastor of the First Church of the Brethren in Miami, Florida, is the featured speaker. The cost will be around \$70 per person. An IYC newsletter, with registration information, will be mailed to youth leaders in January. More information will be available at the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet website at <<http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc>>.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 17-19, 2023

Pilgrimage XXIV (A FaithQuest for Adults) will be held March 17-19, 2023, at Camp Bethel. Pilgrimage is a weekend retreat for adults of all ages who want to spend some intimate time with our Creator and Redeemer.

Filled with speakers, small groups, worship, reflection, and fun, Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper relationship with God.

God works in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your personal participation. For more information, contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263, by email at <haynesmk1986@yahoo.com>, or go to our website at <www.experiencepilgrimage.com>.

FAITHQUEST - MARCH 10-12, 2023

Senior High Youth are invited to attend FaithQuest - a retreat held every two years at Camp Bethel.

You might be wondering...What is FaithQuest? FaithQuest offers senior high youth an opportunity to explore their relationship with God while considering different spiritual practices, which symbols are sacred to us, and how to live in community with each other as Christians.

FaithQuest is scheduled for March 10-12, 2023. Check-in begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. The retreat ends at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. It will be at Camp Bethel in Heritage Lodge. A registration form and more information will be forthcoming at <<http://virlina.org/events.html>>.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES - MARCH 10-11, 2023

Our annual MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT is scheduled for March 10-11, 2023 at our own CAMP BETHEL in Botetourt County, Virginia. Leadership for the retreat will be David Radcliff, Director of the New Community Project

and former denominational staff person. Registration forms will be available prior to the end of the year. This retreat is sponsored by the Commission on Ministry of the Virlina District Board. It is for all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers of the Virlina District, as well as lay speakers, and spouses. There is much time for fellowship and quiet reflection, in addition to worship and the program. CEU's are available for commissioned and ordained ministers. The 2023 event has been scheduled to avoid conflict with the annual Youth Roundtable at Bridgewater College. Registration information is forthcoming.

AWAKENING SERVICES - MARCH 26-29, 2023

The Awakening Services for congregations in the Roanoke-area, including Bedford, Botetourt and Franklin Counties, are scheduled to be held at the Peters Creek Church of the Brethren on March 26-29, 2023. These nightly services will feature the preaching of Jim Benedict, former pastor in Maryland and author of the most recent ethics curriculum. Bible studies will be held during the mornings of March 27-29 at selected area congregations. More information will be forthcoming.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 22-27, 2023

Christian Citizenship Seminar 2023. April 22-27, 2023. Washington, DC. High school youth and their advisors. The event, themed "Hot and Hungry" with the focus scripture of 1 Kings 17:7-16, will explore the climate crisis in relation to food security. This year's event will take place entirely in Washington, D.C. The registration fee is \$500 and includes event programming, hotel lodging for five nights, and two dinner meals. Registration will open at www.brethren.org/yya/ccs on Jan. 9, 2023.

NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 5-7, 2023

National Young Adult Conference 2023 will take place at Camp Mack near Milford, Ind., on May 5-7, 2023. People ages 18 to 35 will gather for a weekend of fellowship and worship. Save \$50 by registering in January! Regular registration, \$250, will be available during February, March, and April. The Young Adult Steering Committee will be gathering soon to discern the weekend's theme and other details. Stay tuned for more information to be posted at <www.brethren.org/yya/yac>.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 7, 2023

National Youth Sunday in the Church of the Brethren will be held on May 7, 2023. This year's scripture, theme and worship planning resources will be available early March at <<https://www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday>>.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - JUNE 16-18, 2023

The National Junior High Conference is scheduled to be held at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania on June 16-18, 2023. This conference is for those youth who have completed grades 6-8 and their advisors. Worship, sing, laugh, learn, and make friends from all over the country! Early bird registration will begin during January 2023. For more information go to <<https://www.brethren.org/yya/njhc>>.

NURTURE OPPORTUNITIES

BAML OFFERS "WHAT BRETHREN BELIEVE" COURSE

The Brethren Academy will offer this online course, *What Brethren Believe*, from April 19 - June 13, 2023. Denise Kettering-Lane, assistant professor of Brethren Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, will be the instructor and TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion, and the BTS experience after writing the required report. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course.

This course will explore Brethren beliefs related to a variety of issues, including Scripture, the person of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the nature of the church, original sin, and the end times. It will also examine how these beliefs and practices have changed over time and consider the diversity of beliefs found among Brethren today.

The deadline to register for this course is March 15, 2023

WISDOM LITERATURE COURSE FROM BAML

The Brethren Academy will offer the online course, *Wisdom Literature*, from March 15-May 9, 2023. Bethany Theological Seminary's Academic Dean, Steve Schweitzer, will be the instructor. TRIM students will receive one credit in Bible/Theology upon completion and the BTS experience after completing the written report form. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course. Pastors taking this course will earn 2 continuing education units or persons may take it for personal enrichment.

Biblical wisdom literature addresses difficult and probing questions of the meaning of life, freedom and responsibility, divine-human interaction, suffering and the problem of evil, the function of praise and lament, and the proper ethics that flow from a proper theology. In this class, students will discuss the perspectives presented by the wisdom traditions, especially as manifested in the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes

The deadline to register for this course is February 8, 2023.

Online courses "meet" for eight weeks in Moodle, a virtual classroom. The Brethren Academy provides each new student with their own Moodle access code before the course starts. A Moodle tutorial will be provided upon request. Previous Academy students may use their Academy log-in information. Anyone needing their password reset may contact the Brethren Academy office.

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

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded after the instructor has notified the Brethren Academy of successful completion of the course. Successful completion is defined by the following:

- Meeting the attendance requirement
- Completing the assigned reading\
- Engaging in the course through participation
- Completing reduced assignments that may be required by the instructor and outlined in the syllabus.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register and pay online at <<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>> There is a 3% service charge when registering online. Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at <oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu> or (765) 983-1820.

CGI OFFERS "INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY"

The next class to be held at the Roanoke, First Church of the Brethren, will be INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY taught by Dan Rudy.. Textbooks are Another Way of Believing, Dale Brown, Elgin IL: Brethren Press, 2005 and What's Theology Got to Do With It? Convictions, Vitality, and the Church, Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2006.

Please note the dates and times for this class. The class dates are January 14 and 28 and February 11 and 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuition for the class will be \$100.00 for students who are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks which can be found on Amazon. Audit and CEU Credit fees are \$25.00. CEU certificate fee for ordained ministers is \$10.00.

For more information or to obtain a registration form please contact Donna Hornsby, CGI Coordinator, by telephone at (540) 266-0733 or by electronic-mail at <dshornsby912@gmail.com>. Make checks payable to VIRLINA DISTRICT and mail with the registration form to arrive by December 30, 2022 to: Donna Hornsby, 420 Bluebell Lane, Apt. 304, Roanoke, VA 24012. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Alvah Donald Preston, aged 89, entered the gates Heaven on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Funeral services were conducted at the Fairview Church (Rocky Mount) on December 20, 2022 with Jeffery Wray officiating. His wife, **Rebecca Ann Hodges Preston**, aged 89, went to her heavenly home on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Memorial services were conducted at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on November 12, 2022.

2023 A YEAR OF TRANSITION AT CAMP BETHEL

Barry LeNoir, Camp Director, will be leaving on June 30, 2023. We look forward to introducing the next Camp Director to you. We depend on your continued prayers and support. Please ensure that at least ONE person from your congregation attends our February 11 Camp Supporter Lunch. Please participate in camp events during this important year. You will find the Camp Director job information at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/jobs>.

MAKE A BIG IMPACT AT CAMP BETHEL!

Experiences at Camp Bethel make a lasting impact on our campers, our summer staff, and our guests. Like a drop rippling outward on the Spring Pond, ordinary gifts become extraordinary experiences. Your gift helps with all the little needs that add up and make Camp Bethel extraordinary: Together with God, each other, and creation. <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>.

WINTER CAMP - JANUARY 7-8, 2023

Winter Camp is a fun and spiritual retreat for children in grades 1-5 and youth in grades 6-12 led by our reunited Summer Staff. The \$75 fee includes four meals, the lodging, and the program. You can find registration at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/WinterCamp>.

CAMP SUPPORTER LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Our Camp Supporter Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. This is for all Camp Representatives, pastors, youth leaders, supporters, and at least ONE person from your congregation. After a free lunch in the Ark, we'll share and distribute all the tools you need to communicate Camp Bethel to your congregations. Register at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep>

SOW THE SEED BANQUET - MARCH 9, 2023

Our annual Sow the Seed Scholarship Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. Plant seeds of FAITH in the lives of children, youth and young adults! \$50 is the per person donation (larger gifts accepted). All donations from the evening directly fund "Camperships." Reserve your meal(s) no later than March 2 to <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or (540) 992-2940. Donations are accepted in advance or at the table. Your gift is tax-deductible! Our base fee for a week of camp in 2023 is \$400. A week at camp can change a life forever.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2023

The 22nd Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival is planned for March 31 and April 1. In person and on site at Camp Bethel! Donald Davis, Adam Booth, Joe Collins, Beth Horner, and Kim Weitkamp. Be here for another dynamic and fun storytelling event. Tickets, schedule and more at <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

COUNSELORS AND KITCHEN STAFF NEEDED IN 2023

Counselors serve May 29 to July 22, the pay is \$320+/week, plus a \$300+ end-of-summer bonus, plus recruitment bonuses. Kitchen Staff serve May 29 to August 19, the pay is \$350-or-\$420/week. Info and applications are at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/staff>.

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS APRIL 15, 2023

Our Spring Volunteer Workday is Saturday, April 15. Enjoy free breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. and a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need YOUR help! Workday projects (rain or shine, indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. Please reserve you meals by March 29 at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

GIVE A CHILD A CAMBERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP

In 2022 we granted camperships to 41 campers totaling \$14,395. \$400 is the 2023 cost for a child to attend one week of camp. Mail checks with memo "Camperships" or donate at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>

2023 SUMMER STAFF ADOPTION PROGRAM

40 young adults were blessed in 2022 by 11 congregations and one ministers' fellowship group with prayers, cards, care packages, and financial help. We provided each counselor with a \$300 end-of-summer bonus for completing their contract! Our ability to declare this is an extremely valuable recruitment tool. Information and giving portal is at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/adopt>.

CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST

Skid Steer, tracked or wheeled; 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); Pickup truck (2010 or newer); Clothes washer and dryer; Refrigerator (full or mini); Chest freezer or upright freezer; LED light bulbs; new first-aid supplies; brooms & dustpans; 3'x8' plyboards for bunks (any thickness or quality); "Tree Cookies" (3"+ diameter and less than 0.5" thick); Amazon wish-list at: <<https://a.co/5qG5JYq>> or <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>. Tax-deductible!

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Reba Kathryn Wood, aged 86, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2022. She was a longtime member of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren. Reba held various positions in the congregation and was a very active member throughout her life. Reba taught at Cave Spring High School for 32 years after graduating from Radford College (now Radford University) A graveside service was held on October 29 at the Bethlehem Church Cemetery.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

As this is perhaps my last opportunity to do so, I want to express my appreciation to all of those with whom I have worked over the past thirty years (or 10,957 days). I am grateful for your partnership in the district ministry and mission. It takes all of us working together in partnership to respond to God's call! I am also thankful for the many positive affirmations received by word, by card, by letter, by recognition in congregational settings and by the great celebration at Camp Bethel on December 3. Blessings to you all! +David.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON JANUARY 25, 2023

Deadline for the March 2023 HEADLINER is January 25, 2023. Forward items for inclusion to <EHeadliner@aol.com> or to **3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.**

DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The Virginia District Conference of the Church of the Brethren gathered at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 11-12, 2022. "Bound Together by Love!" was the theme of the 2022 District Conference. The theme was based upon I John 4:21, "And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." 224 attendees from 58 congregations participated in the worship, fellowship and spiritual discernment for the district under the leadership of Moderator Lynn N. Myers, a member of the Antioch Church of the Brethren in Franklin County, Virginia.

Assisting in leadership during conference was Moderator-Elect Noel S. Naff of the Mount Hermon Church in Henry County, Virginia, Pamela K. Clark of the Peters Creek Church who served as Clerk, W. Gregory Broyles of the Germantown Brick Church in Franklin County, Virginia, who served as Timekeeper, and Timothy P. Harvey of the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church who served as Parliamentarian. David Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren, spoke for worship on Saturday morning and the Ministers and Spouses meal on Friday night. Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Theological Seminary spoke for the Friday evening worship service.

Saturday's business included the following:

Persons Called To Ballot Positions:

- * Moderator-Elect - Stacy W. Goff (Copper Hill).
- * Clerk - Clarissa B. Craighead (Oak Grove - South)
- * District Board - Freda G. Horn (Smith Mountain Lake), Michael L. Pugh (White Rock), Samuel P. Stump (Mount Union), Caleb L. R. Quinn (Roanoke, Ninth Street), Joshua N. Lucas (Oakvale), Kenneth F. Hines (Spruce Run), J.W. Rhoades (Trinity), W. Gregory Broyles (Germantown Brick), Jerry L. Hylton (Stonewall), and Tonya J. McPeck (Mount Hermon).
- * Outdoor Ministries Committee - J. Randall Eakin (Roanoke, Oak Grove) and William J. Hinton, Sr. (Copper Hill).
- * Standing Committee - Cathy S. Huffman (Antioch).
- * Program and Arrangements - Michelle King (Germantown Brick) and Emily Van Pelt (Antioch).
- * Nominating and Personnel - Jan E. Mohler (Antioch), Nanelene B. Dulaney (Christiansburg) and Kevin L. Beers (West Richmond).

The 2023 District Board Budget of \$743,113.88 (including designated items of \$450,000, but not including Camp Bethel) was approved. This included a 8.2% salary increase for the District Resource Center staff.

Approval of a resolution increasing the District Conference Delegate Fee from \$25 to \$30.

Approved the disorganization of the Collinsville Church and the Coulson Church as congregations of the Church of the Brethren.

Other newsworthy items included:

A resolution of the Executive Committee of the Virginia District Board expressing appreciation to David K. Shumate, retiring District Executive Minister, for his thirty years of service.

A resolution of the Outdoor Ministries Committee commending Barry S. LeNoir on his twenty-year tenure as Camp Director.

The Friday evening offering of \$373.00 was applied to Church World Service kit expenses and a Saturday offering of \$1,547.00 for District Conference Expenses. 14 Disaster Clean up buckets, 11 School kits, 84 Hygiene kits were an in kind offering.

The District Board reorganized during the lunch hour. Serving as chairpersons are: Hannah M. Jarrett (Roanoke, Summerdean) - District Board, J.W. Rhoades (Trinity), Vice Chair - District Board, Timothy H. Emmons (Nineveh) - Commission on Ministry, Robin W. Lavinder (Germantown Brick) - Commission on Nurture, Rudolph H. Taylor, III (Cloverdale) - Commission on Stewardship, and W. Gregory Broyles (Germantown Brick) - Commission on Witness. Stephanie L. Naff (Mount Hermon) will serve as Chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee and Douglas E. Diamond (Eden, First) will be Chair of the New Church Development Committee.

Delegates heard the reports of the District Board, New Church Development Committee, Outdoor Ministries Committee and other institutions of the district and denomination, as well as reports from the district staff. Among those representing the wider church were: David Steele (Church of the Brethren, Inc.), Jeff Carter (Bethany Theological Seminary), Ed Shannon (Eder Financial), and Dewey Williard (Bridgewater College).

Cathy S. Huffman, Director of Ministry Formation, awarded diplomas to Terri Luzynski and Gina Wright-Hawkins as graduates from Christian Growth Institute.

Timothy H. Emmons, Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry, led a memorial service for those ministers, former district staff persons, spouses and family members, who have died since the 2021 conference: William L. "Buddy" Crumpacker, Frances Dawkins Ellis, Martha Mae Lucore Flora, Sylvus Dean Flora, Terence Edwin "Terri" Greiser, Peter J. Leddy Sr., Doris Prillaman Light, Wanda Weddle Lovern, Doris "Dee" McVey Mehta, Wilson Joshua "Will" Morris, Sarah Elizabeth Mason Moyers, Nyna Slayton Murray, Dorothy Christine Rutter Naff, Charlie Ann Flora Oliver, Richard F. Shreckhise, Keith W. Simmons, Betty Ann Sowers, Elizabeth Ellen Thomason, Faye H. Turner, Kelda L. Welch and Virginia Bittinger Whitten.

Moderator Lynn N. Myers installed Noel S. Naff as the 2023 District Conference Moderator. Brother Naff shared that the focus of the 2023 District Conference, to be held at the Faith Fellowship Church in Wirtz, Virginia, will be based on John 11:44b, "un-wrap him and let him go." The overall theme will be "Repairing the Rift"

The Virginia District is one of 24 districts of the denomination and encompasses 84 congregations, fellowships and meeting points with 8,216 members located in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. The Church of the Brethren is a denomination of 87,181 members in 887 congregations, fellowships and projects.