

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2020

- 1 Awakening Bible Study - Daleville/Office/Staff Meeting/
Awakening Service - Cloverdale
- 2 OFF
- 3 Office/Commission on Ministry
- 4 Nominating and Personnel Committee
- 5 Worship Undetermined
- 6 Northern Area Ministers - Jeters Chapel/Office
- 7 Awakening Committee/Office
- 8 Staff Meeting//Office/Henry Fork
- 9 OFF
- 10 Good Friday - District Resource Center Closed
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Worship at Daleville
- 13 Office
- 14 Office
- 15 Staff Meeting/Office/Henry Fork
- 16 OFF/NRHS
- 17 Calling the Called - Brethren Woods
- 18 Calling the Called - Brethren Woods
- 19 Preach at Newport News, Ivy Farms
- 20 Travel
- 21-23 Council of District Executives - Elgin, IL
- 24 Travel
- 25 OPEN
- 26 Worship Undetermined
- 27 Office
- 28 Office
- 29 Staff Meeting/Office/Henry Fork
- 30 OFF

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2020

- 1 Office/Long Range Financial Planning - Jones Chapel
- 2 Ministry and Mission Day - Fairview (Rocky Mount)
- 3 Worship Undetermined
- 4 Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Oak Grove/New Church
Development Committee/Moneta, Lake Side Steering Committee
- 5 Office
- 6 Staff Meeting/Office/Henry Fork
- 7 OFF/VCC Steering Committee (Zoom)
- 8 Office/Retinal Specialist
- 9 OPEN
- 10 Worship at Daleville
- 11 Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee/Office/Iglesia del Buen
Pastor Steering Committee - Willis
- 12 Staff Meeting/Office
- 13 Council of District Executives - Hagerstown, MD
- 14 OFF

NORTHERN AREA WOMEN'S RETREAT - APRIL 25, 2020

The Northern Area Women's Spring Retreat will be held at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church, located at 2138 McVitty Road, SW, on April 25 from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The worship message will be "Myths, Misunderstandings and Misinterpretations" by Tim Harvey. The program for the day will feature Shannon Abell, Director of Senior Services from the Local Office on Aging who will describe the latest ways scams take place today. The registration fee is \$10, includes lunch and must be prepaid.

MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY WEEKEND - MAY 22-25, 2020

Our Memorial Day Family Weekend will be held on May 22-25. Check our website at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/MemorialDay> for the schedule of activities and our concert schedule. Please reserve meals before May 15 by contacting us at (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY FUNDAY - MAY 23

Family Fun Day and Summer Camp Open House will be on Saturday, May 23. Camp Bethel invites you to come walk the grounds, meet other families and the camp staff, check out a cabin, and enjoy refreshments in the Ark Dining Hall on Saturday, May 23 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Meet at the Ark at 1:00 p.m. Stay all day and enjoy Memorial Day Weekend free swimming and the concert at 7:30 p.m.

- 15 Office/Commission on Stewardship
- 16 OPEN
- 17 Worship Undetermined
- 18 Office/Southern Area Ministers Meeting - Collinsville
- 19 Christian Growth Institute Admin. Committee - Buena Vista, Stone/Office
- 20 Staff Meeting/Office
- 21 OFF/NRHS
- 22-24 VACATION
- 25 Memorial Day - District Resource Center Closed
- 26-28 VACATION
- 29-31 Concord, Living Faith

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2020

- 1 Office/Staff Meeting/Awakening Services - Cloverdale
- 2 Office
- 3 Office
- 4 Program and Arrangements Committee/(T)Nominating and Personnel Committee(T)
- 6 OFF
- 7 Office/Commission on Witness - Fairview, Rocky Mount
- 8 Staff Meeting/Office
- 9 Office
- 10 District Resource Center Closed - Good Friday
- 13 OFF
- 14 Office
- 15 Staff Meeting/Office
- 16 Office/Good News Team
- 17 Office
- 20 OFF
- 21 Office
- 22 Staff Meeting/Office
- 23 Office/Disabilities Ministries Committee - Roanoke, Oak Grove
- 24 Office
- 25 Northern Area Women's Spring Rally - Roanoke, Oak Grove
- 27 OFF
- 28 Office
- 29 Staff Meeting/Office
- 30 Office

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2020

- 1 Office
- 2 Ministry and Mission Day - Fairview, Rocky Mount
- 4 OFF
- 5 Office
- 6 Staff Meeting/Office
- 7 Office
- 8 Office
- 11 Office/Peace Affairs Committee/Disaster Response Committee
- 12 Office/Spiritual Development Retreat Committee-Rke, Oak Grove/Staff Meeting
- 13 Office
- 14 Office
- 15 OFF
- 18 OFF
- 19 Office
- 20 Staff Meeting/Office
- 21 Office
- 22 Office
- 25 District Resource Closed - Memorial Day
- 26 Office/Commission on Nurture - Germantown Brick
- 27 Staff Meeting/Office
- 28 Office
- 29 Office

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS - APRIL 3-4

Our 19th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Storytelling Festival will be held on April 3-4. The 2020 festival features excellent and nationally known tellers such as Regi Carpenter, Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, and Tim Lowry. As always, there will be food and a Friday campfire. Help spread the word and recruit sponsors for this important fundraiser. For information go to <www.SoundsoftheMountains.org>.

SECOND ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2020

The Second Annual Virlina District Choir Festival will be held at the Central Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA on September 11-12, 2020. Full choirs, one time choir members, or people who just love to sing in a group are encouraged to attend.

Our first event in 2019 was well received and we anticipate even greater participation this year. S. Reed Carter, IV, Minister of Music at the Salem Presbyterian Church and director of the Salem Choral Society, will join us again as the guest director.

Participants will learn four or five anthems. A closing worship open to the public will take place on Saturday, September 12, featuring these anthems. The festival registration fee, to be determined, will cover lunch on Saturday and the anthems to take home.

These anthems will be featured at the opening worship for District Conference on Friday, November 13 at the Bonsack Baptist Church. More information will be shared soon.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

- **BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating (5) - *Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.*
- **FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - *Robert Williard and Hal Sonafrank serving as interim team.*
- **JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (1) - Pulpit supply.
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don Street serving as pulpit supply.
- **LYNCHBURG** - Part time position, profile circulating (1) - *Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.*
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Brian Sink serving as pulpit supply.
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Chrisian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Ron Flora and Zach Tabor serving as pulpit supply.
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **ROANOKE, RENACER** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - *Mark A. Bolt serving as interim pastor.*
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - *Joseph D. Smith serving as interim pastor.*
- **TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating - *Elizabeth Anne Mitchell serving as interim pastor.*

WHY DO WE HAVE A MEMO FOR MINISTERS?

- The purpose of the MEMO FOR MINISTERS is to be a source of communication to pastors, ministers, contact persons and district leaders. Its focus is on the ministry and mission of the Virilina District of the Church of the Brethren. It provides information on the activities of the district staff, status of the pastoral/congregational placement process, announcements of upcoming events sponsored by the district and camp, relevant denominational and ecumenical events, accountability for necessary reports and a report of congregational giving to district and camp. It is issued alternately with the HEADLINER prior to the beginning of even-numbered months (i.e., February, April, June, August, October and December). Because the HEADLINER has a circulation ten times that of the MEMO FOR MINISTERS, we use it for congregational news and events, for items of general or personal interest. It is distributed on odd-numbered months (i.e., January, March, May, July, September and November). The September issue is mainly used for District Conference publicity and registration, as well as providing a platform for promotion of the conference theme by the moderator.
- The schedules of district staff persons is given in order to reduce frustration when staff are out of the office and to advise where staff are on any given day. Obviously this information is preliminary and changes from time to time.
- The placement report is given in order to report changes in ministry placement. It also functions to make persons aware of vacancies that might offer suitable placement.
- The giving reports, in particular, provide a means by which to determine if items are appropriately posted to the district financial records and as an aid to congregational and district audit functions. Several years ago one district ceased to share such information. At a later date it was determined that a district staff person had embezzled perhaps as much as \$500,000, but there was no system of checks and balances to determine what had really been contributed.
- Attachments (or enclosures) to the MEMO FOR MINISTERS are for posting on congregational bulletin boards in order to make a wide audience of our membership aware of district and camp activities. We need, encourage and expect your assistance to "get the word out"

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED - APRIL 9-13, 2020

- In observance of the Easter Holiday, the Virilina District Resource Center will close at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 13. We will, as always, monitor e-mail at <virilina@aol.com>.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR - APRIL 25-30, 2020

- Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue. This year's Christian Citizenship Seminar will focus on pursuing economic justice. All high school youth and their adult advisors are eligible to attend the seminar. Congregations are strongly encouraged to send an advisor with their youth, even if only one or two youth attend, and are required to send one advisor for every four youth in attendance. Registration is limited to the first 60 participants.
- The \$450 registration fee includes the event, the lodging, two meals and transportation from New York to Washington D.C. Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and car fares. If you have questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at <nmcbride@brethren.org> or (847) 429-4385.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY IN VIRLINA DISTRICT - MAY 2, 2020

"Ministry and Mission Day in Virlina District" will be Saturday, May 2, at the Fairview Church of the Brethren on Route 40 between Rocky Mount and Ferrum (4638 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The hymn sing and worship starts at 9:00 a.m.

The featured speaker for worship is Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday. Seven helpful and timely workshops following worship are available for participants. Each workshop provides 0.1 CEU for ordained ministers.

Workshops for 2020 are as follows:

Children's Ministry: Inside And Out will examine how to effectively reach children in Sunday School, in chapel/church services, and in the community. Participants will receive a combination of resources to create a vital Christian Education program in their congregation. The Children's Cabinet of the Commission on Nurture will lead this workshop.

The Matthew 18 Mandate will review the wisdom and effectiveness of "Matthew 18:15-20." Conflict is rampant in our relationships, families, churches, and culture. We often attempt to avoid conflict by going to "third parties", engaging in gossip and idle talk. In Matthew 18 Jesus counsels us to go directly to persons with whom we have difficulty. In addition, Jesus provides other valuable peacebuilding skills. Paul Munday, 2020 Annual Conference Moderator, will lead this workshop sponsored by the Commission on Ministry.

Help! There's Too Much Month at the End of my Money! This informative session will help participants look at cash management and budgeting from a Christian perspective, with an eye toward stewardship and simple living. Know the difference between financial planning and budgeting, and find out how to do both.

Your Ticket to Retirement will explore methods for determining retirement income, projecting a desired retirement date, and planning for life expectancy issues. Participants will discuss the impact of taxes and inflation on retirement. The workshop will highlight the development of a model to project a savings strategy for a secure financial future. Ed Shannon, the Retirement Planning Consultant for Brethren Benefit Trust will lead this and the preceding workshop, both sponsored by the Commission on Stewardship.

Blacksburg Iglesia Del Buen Pastor: A New Addition to the Blacksburg Community will feature Raul and Lidia Gonzalez, pastors of this new and growing fellowship presenting the needs and opportunities for Hispanic Ministry in the New River Valley of Virginia. This is sponsored by the New Church Development Committee.

Growing Young concerns the absence of youth and young adults in our congregations. Reaching young people happens when all of us, across the generations, grow young. The key to this progression is understanding the six facets of growing young, along with honoring, understanding and eventually bridging generational distinctives. Paul Munday, 2020 Annual Conference Moderator, will lead this important presentation sponsored by the Commission on Witness.

Learning for Life--Continuing Education for Ordained Ministers will review the requirements for Continuing Education for ordained ministers in the Virlina District and how those experiences are reported. The leader for this presentation will be Bruce E. Huffman, Director of Continuing Education for the Commission on Ministry.

Following the workshops, lunch will be provided on-site. After lunch, Moderator Paul Munday and our Standing Committee delegates will hold the Annual Conference briefing at 1:30 p.m. for pastors and delegates to learn more about what to expect at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The briefing will conclude at 3:00 p.m. Please make sure to invite all church Sunday School superintendents, church treasurers, Christian Education leaders, deacons, and anyone else who can benefit from the workshops being offered.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 3, 2020

National Youth Sunday for the Church of the Brethren is May 3, 2020. The 2020 theme information will be available in mid-February 2020. For more information, go to <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/national-youth-sunday.html>>.

NEW AND RENEW: REVITALIZE - PLANT - GROW! - MAY 13-15, 2020

"New and Renew: Revitalize - Plant - Grow!" is our denominational church planting and church revitalization conference. It is held on alternate, even numbered years. The theme for 2020 is "The Reward of Risk" based on Matthew 25:28 in The Message: "Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most" This event will be held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, IL on May 13-15, 2020. Contact David A. Bess,

Chairperson of the Virlina District New Church Development Committee, if you have interest in going at <dab2240@verizon.net>. We often provide some scholarship and assist with transportation. For more details, go to <www.brethren.org/news/2019/new-and-renew-church-planting-event.html>.

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE - MAY 22-25, 2020

The National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). The 2020 theme, based on Romans 12:9-18, is "Love in Action!" This conference offers persons ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! Registration opened January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at <http://www.brethren.org/yac/>. If you have any questions, contact Nolan McBride, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Assistant, at <nmcbride@brethren.org> or (847) 429-4385.

WIDENING THE WELCOME OF THE CHURCH - JUNE 6, 2020

Come hear guest speaker and author Fred Bernhard speak on the importance of hospitality and how to achieve a vital and thriving congregation. This event will be held on June 6 at the Summerdean Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia (6604 Plantation Road, NE) . Fred Bernhard is the co-author of "Widening the Welcome of Your Church" and a well-known leader in the Church of the Brethren. This event is sponsored by the Good News Team of the Virlina District - Commission on Witness. Continuing education credit will be offered. Lunch will be provided on site. Save the date!

A REMINDER CONCERNING FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MINISTERS

At Clyde Carter's memorial service there were three rows reserved for ministers and these were well filled. This note is a reminder that ministers are normally seated together when there is a funeral or memorial service for a colleague. This policy was adopted by the Commission on Ministry about thirty or so years ago. Unfortunately, we sometimes forget what the practice is.

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS ARE DUE

Yearbook forms collecting directory updates (Forms A and B) and statistical data have been mailed to all Church of the Brethren congregations. The last of them were sent on January 28, so they should have arrived at your congregations by now. The deadline listed on the forms is April 15, 2020.

The following reports are currently overdue.

Form E - Congregational Outreach Report - Self-allocation for 2020 (was mailed from the General Offices in Elgin and was due on December 3, 2019): If your congregation is listed below, please get the information mailed as soon as possible.

Bethlehem, Copper Hill, Danville-Emmanuel, Fraternity, Good Shepherd, Henry Fork, Jeters Chapel, Lighthouse, Maple Grove, Monte Vista, Mount Bethel, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Olean, PleasantDale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Roanoke-Oak Grove, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith Chapel, Smith River, Spruce Run, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel

Additional Officers Form (was mailed from the District Resource Center in December/January Memo for Ministers and is due back January 15, 2020):

Antioch, Beaver Creek, Bethel, Bethlehem, Blacksburg-Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship, Blue Ridge, Boones Mill, Cedar Bluff, Copper Hill, Coulson, Crab Orchard, Danville-Emmanuel, Duncan Chapel, Durham-Peace Covenant, Eden-First, Fairview (Floyd), Fairview (Rocky Mount), Floyd-Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida, Fraternity, Good Shepherd, Henry Fork, Hiwassee, Hopewell, Jeters Chapel, Jones Chapel, Laurel Branch, Lighthouse, Maple Grove, Masons Cove, Moneta-LakeSide Fellowship, Mount Bethel, Mount Joy, Mount Union, New Bethel, New Covenant, New Hope, Newport News-Ivy Farms, Nineveh, Oak Grove (South), Oakvale, Parkway, PleasantDale, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant View, Poages Mill, Pulaski-First, Red Hill, Red Oak Grove, Roanoke-Iglesia Cristiana Renacer, Saint Paul, Saunders Grove, Schoolfield, Selma, Shelton, Smith River, Spruce Run, Trinity, Troutville, Vinton, Virginia Beach-Christian Church Uniting, Wakefield Chapel

ATTACHMENTS FOR THE MEMO FOR MINISTERS

The Virlina District Financial Secretary Report for February 28, 2020 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving in consultation with your treasurer and draw errors to our attention.

The Virlina District Pandemic Policy and the Registration Form for the Northern Area Women's Retreat is attached to this e-mail or enclosed with the U.S. Mail version.