

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2019

- 1 Council of District Executives Meeting - Elgin, IL
- 2 Council of District Executives Meeting - Elgin, IL
- 3 OFF
- 4 Office/Commission on Ministry
- 5 Heritage Day Festival at Camp Bethel
- 6 Preach at New Bethel - Chatham/Revival at Topeco - Floyd
- 7 Office/Revival at Topeco
- 8 Office/Revival at Topeco
- 9 Staff Meeting/Office/Council of District Executives Zoom Call/
Revival at Topeco
- 10 OFF
- 11 Office
- 12 New and Renew Retreat at Camp Bethel
- 13 Worship at White Rock/Pulaski, First Leadership
- 14 Office/Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship Meeting - Blacksburg
- 15 Calling the Called Meeting at Buena Vista - Stone
- 16 Staff Meeting/Office/Lynchburg Search Committee
- 17 OFF
- 18 Office
- 19 Brethren Heritage Bus Tour - Central and Eastern Virginia
- 20 Worship Undetermined/Disaster Response Dinner at Antioch
- 21 Office/Southern Area Ministers Meeting at Copper Hill
- 22 Office
- 23 Staff Meeting/Office
- 24 Speak at Peters Creek (Joyful Hearts Group)
- 25 Office
- 26 OPEN
- 27 Worship Undetermined
- 28 Office
- 29 Office/Mission Resourcing Committee
- 30 Staff Meeting/Office
- 31 OFF

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2019

- 1 Office
- 2 OPEN
- 3 Worship Undetermined
- 4 Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee/New Church
Development Committee
- 5 Office
- 6 Staff Meeting/Office
- 7 OFF
- 8 Office/Ministers and Spouses Dinner at Grandin Court Baptist/
District Conference Worship
- 9 District Conference
- 10 Worship Undetermined
- 11 Office/Lake Side Steering Committee at Moneta
- 12 Awakening Committee/Christian Growth Institute Admin. Comm. -
Buena Vista
- 13 Staff Meeting/Office
- 14 OFF
- 15 Office

DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NEEDED NOW

The initial deadline has passed to register for the 2019 District Conference, to be held at Grandin Court Baptist Church on November 8-9. Not everyone has completed the registration process, however. Since books for delegates are about to go to print, we would like a fair estimate of how many we will need. So, if you and your congregational delegates have not registered, please do so by going to <http://www.virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/80-2019-virlina-district-conference-registration-forms.html> and download all forms. Then, please mail or bring the registrations, meal reservations and age group forms with payment to the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.

If you need a paper copy of any of the registration forms, please let Mary St. John know by e-mail at virlina2@aol.com or by calling the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816 or toll free at (800) VIRLINA.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2019

16 OPEN
 17 Worship Undetermined/Peters Creek Council Meeting
 18 Office/District Board Executive Committee
 19 Office
 20 Staff Meeting/Office
 21 OFF
 22 Office
 23 OPEN
 24 Worship Undetermined
 25 Office
 26 Office
 27 Staff Meeting/Office
 28-29 **District Resource Closed for Thanksgiving**
 30 OPEN

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2019

1 Office
 2 Staff Meeting/Office
 3 Office
 4 Office
 5 Heritage Day Festival at Camp Bethel
 7 Office/Northern Area Ministers at Roanoke, Williamson Road
 8 Office/Ray Moore, Patrick Henry Family Services
 9 Staff Meeting/Office
 10 Office/Disabilities Ministries Committee at Roanoke, Oak Grove
 11 OFF
 14 OFF
 15 Office
 16 Staff Meeting/Office
 17 Office/Spiritual Development Retreat Committee
 18 Office
 19 Brethren Heritage Bus Tour - congregations in Central Virginia
 20 Disaster Response Dinner at Antioch
 21 OFF
 22 Office
 23 Staff Meeting/Office
 24 Office
 25 Office
 28 OFF
 29 Office
 30 Staff Meeting/Office
 31 Office

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2019

1 Office
 4 OFF
 5 Office
 6 Staff Meeting/Office
 7 Office
 8 District Conference at Grandin Court Baptist
 9 District Conference
 11 OFF
 12 Office/Awakening Committee District Office
 13 Staff Meeting/Office
 14 Office
 15 Office
 18 OFF
 19 Office
 20 Staff Meeting/Office
 21 Office
 22 Office
 25 OFF
 26 Office
 27 Staff Meeting/Office
 28-29 **District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving**

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES MEAL AND PROGRAM AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2019

The Ministers and Spouses Meal and Program will be held at the Grandin Court Baptist Church at 2660 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke, VA on Saturday, November 8, 2019. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. and the meal at 5:00 p.m. Following the meal, Nancy S. Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, will present a program entitled “Who am I? – Weaving Together Identity and Ministry.”

The icebreaker, “two truths and a lie” reveals that our identities are complex and multi-faceted, both playful and profound. They are also a sacred journey on which God leads us. Ponder together several complex biblical characters, a few table group questions, learnings from a recent study of ministers, and kernels of wisdom for faithfully following Jesus amidst our various roles in ministry.

The cost of the meal is \$16.00 and registrations must be received by October 25.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

- **BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - *Jessica A. Slusher has resigned effective December 31, 2019 to pursue further training.*
- **BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply (negotiations pending).
- **BOONES MILL** - *Jerry W. Naff called as pastor on a part time basis effective September 1, 2019.*
- **EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - *Harold E. "Hal" Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.*
- **JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (P)- James R. Worline serving as interim pastor.
- **JONES CHAPEL** - Part or full-time position, profile circulating (P/I) -Emma Jean Franklin Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.
- **LYNCHBURG** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor (interview pending).
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Brian Sink serving a pulpit supply.
- **MASONS COVE** - Part time position, no profile available - *Jack W. Lowe, Jr. resigned as interim pastor effective August 31.*
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - *Christian Becker (FGBC) terminated as interim pastor on September 8. He continues as pulpit supply*
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - *Samuel T. Light has resigned effective September 30, 2019.*
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply by Nathaniel Milton.
- **RED HILL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** -Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith is serving as interim pastor.
- **TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Pulpit supply.

BRETHREN HERITAGE BUS TOUR - OCTOBER 19, 2019

• Our Brethren Heritage bus tour is planned for Saturday, October 19, 2019. This year's fall foliage outing, sponsored by the Historical Committee of the Virlina District, will include visits to a number of congregations in central Virginia. Among those visited will be Lynchburg, Bethel, West Richmond, Hopewell, Wakefield Chapel and New Covenant. Several historical presentations will be a part of this tour and (0.6) continuing education credits will be available for ordained ministers.

• The cost, including continuing education credit, transportation and the luncheon meal, is a bargain at \$49.99. The tour will depart from the District Resource Center in Roanoke at 7:00 a.m. The luncheon meal will be provided by the West Richmond Church. We plan to be back in Roanoke by 6:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to learn about Brethren life in the Piedmont of Virginia! Please contact Betty M. Wills at the District Resource Center to reserve your spot and make your check out to Virlina District Board - Church of the Brethren (put "Heritage Tour" in memo spot).

DISASTER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION - OCTOBER 20, 2019

• The annual Disaster Response Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Antioch Church on Sunday, October 20, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to volunteers, but all persons interested in disaster response or those who have supported disaster response through making kits, financial aid, or prayers are invited to attend. 2018-2019 volunteers will be recognized as part of the program. To reserve your place, contact Mary Sink StJohn at the District Resource Center at (540) 362-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com>.

SOUTHERN AREA MINISTERS AND SPOUSES MEETING - OCTOBER 21, 2019

• The Southern Area Ministers of the Virlina District will meet at Copper Hill Church at 3460 Floyd Highway, South in Floyd County, VA on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6 p.m. Following supper, Harry S. Rhodes, an attorney and member of the Central Church in Roanoke, will present a program on wills, trusts and bequests.

CAMP BETHEL - FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2019

• Please help on Fall Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 2! The day begins in the Ark at 7:30 a.m. with free breakfast and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed to prepare camp for the winter conference season. There are workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP meals by October 29 to (540) 992-2940 or <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. Details may be found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 8-9, 2019

Virlina District congregations gather annually to worship, fellowship, learn, and handle business items. The 2019 Virlina District Conference will be held on November 8-9 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church (2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia). The theme will be "Don't Hide the Cross" with the scripture focus "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

Dana Beth Cassell, pastor of the Peace Covenant Church in Durham, NC, and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren, Inc. will be our preachers. Nancy will preach at the Saturday morning worship service. Dana Beth will preach at the Friday evening worship service. Some original pieces of music by Randy Gallimore of the Pleasant Valley Church will enliven our services.

Everyone is welcome to attend District Conference, whether one is a delegate or not. For all information, forms, and instructions, please visit <www.virlina.org> and check the "buttons" on the opening page of the website. For more information or questions, please call Mary Sink St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness, at (540) 362-1816 or by e-mail at <Virlina2@aol.com>.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE BUSINESS ITEMS

Three items of business, in addition to the elections, are to be handled at the 2019 District Conference. These items are: 1) Proposed Amendments to the Virlina District Constitution and By-Laws, 2) Proposed Resolution in Support of Calling the Called 2020, 3) Proposed 2020 Virlina District Board Budget. They may be found on the <www.virlina.org> website under the corresponding "button" on the home page. These were previously distributed by e-mail and, to those who need it, U.S. Mail.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!

Calling ALL young adults! Please plan on attending the Friday evening Worship Service at District Conference on November 8, 2019, 6:45 p.m., at Grandin Court Baptist Church, 2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24015, and then plan on staying for an ice cream fellowship and a time of discussion with Joy Murray, the new Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries for Virlina, about what your congregation does to invite and excite young adults in your church. Bring some ideas of what you'd like to see young adults doing in our district.

EVANGELISM IDEAS NEEDED FOR SHARING AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Good News Team of the Virlina District Commission on Witness, formerly called the Evangelism Committee, will have an informational display at the District Conference on November 8-9. Each congregation is requested to submit information about your efforts in this area to be shared with others. Please consider the following questions:

What evangelism efforts (sharing Jesus) has your congregation done or is doing now? Include ideas that "took root" and those ideas that "didn't sprout."

Recognizing that each of us are called to proclaim and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, what have you done personally that has been effective?

These ideas will be shared at the Good News Team display. They will be available on the www.virlina.org website after conference. Please note your congregation, location, pastor and, if possible, a contact person that might share details if others would like to more information.

Please send via electronic mail at virlina2@aol.com or by U.S. Mail to the District Resource Center at 3402 Plantation Road, N.E., Roanoke, VA 24012. For e-mail please use: GOOD NEWS TEAM - DISTRICT CONFERENCE. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Blackwell at <kathyboydblackwell@gmail.com>.

ACHIEVEMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Virlina District Achievement Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, November 17, with a special offering in our congregations to benefit the mission and ministry of the Virlina District including Camp Bethel (divided 80/20). This event, sponsored by the Virlina District Commission on Stewardship, allows congregations and individual members to share, over and above the ordinary self-allocation giving, in the work of the Lord which we all do together. A special bulletin insert and a cover letter is attached to this e-mail or enclosed with the U.S. Mail version for every pastor and contact person explaining the details.

UPCOMING CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS

Registration for 2020 Denominational Workcamps opens on January 16 at 8 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Go to the website at <www.brethren.org/workcamps> for more information.

Other upcoming youth and young adult events include:

Junior High

November 3, 2019 is the **National Junior High Sunday**. The theme for 2019 is "Strong and Courageous" based on Joshua 1:8. Worship resources are available on the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/jr-high-resources.html>>.

Senior High

February 2, 2020 is the **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**. For more information go to <www.souperbowl.org>.

Christian Citizenship Seminar 2020 will be held April 25-30, 2020. Registration for this event begins on December 2, 2019. Information may be found on the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/ccs/>>.

May 3, 2020 is our **National Youth Sunday**. The theme and worship materials will be posted online in early 2020.

Young Adult

Ministry Summer Service (MSS) is a leadership development program for college students in the Church of the Brethren who spend 10 weeks of summer working in the church (local congregation, district office, camp, or national program). Applications are due on Jan. 10, 2020. Go to <<http://www.brethren.org/yya/mss/>> for more information.

The National Young Adult Conference will be held on May 22-25, 2020 at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina). Registration opens on January 20, 2020. For more information on this event go to the website at <<http://www.brethren.org/yac/>>.

For details regarding events, contact Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at <bullomnaugle@brethren.org> or (847) 429-4385.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 20-22, 2020

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held March 20-22, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

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

DISASTER RESPONSE OFFERING FOR HURRICANE DORIAN

Florence may be over in the Carolinas, but the after effects of the storm continue. For several days, the storm brought unbelievable amounts of rain — in some places almost 3 feet — and as that water continues to flow downstream, various rivers are rising to flood stage. We are receiving offerings from our congregations in response to the Hurricane Florence disaster. Please send your congregation's check to us (Virginia District Resource Center - 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012) with the following inscription on the memo line: "Florence Offering - Account #33508." Funds received will underwrite denominational and/or inter-church efforts to clean up and rebuild.

SELF-ALLOCATION/FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The penultimate Virginia District Financial Secretary Report for September 30, 2019 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving for 2019 in consultation with your treasurer and draw any discrepancies to our attention. Please remember that your offering plate is the offering plate of the district and denomination.