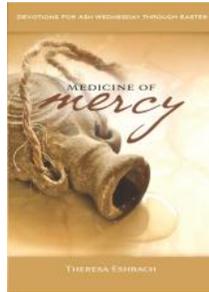


The Herald

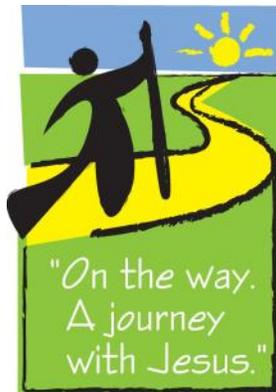
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

The Nurture Commission has provided copies of this year's publication from Brethren Press entitled, "*Medicine of Mercy*," by Theresa Eshbach, a retired fundraising executive and children's advocate. From the back cover... "*Lent is a season of repentance and healing. God anoints us with the medicine of mercy, a healing balm that draws us back to God's ways and strengthens us to extend this generous mercy and forgiveness to a world in need.*" Find them in the communications center by the front doors.



LENTEN STUDY Our Lenten study "On the way. A journey with Jesus" will be on **Tuesday evenings (March 7—April 4)** from **7:00 to 8:15** in the pastor's study. Dick Shreckhise will lead us as we travel with Jesus after he sets his face to go to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51 through 19:10 will form the basis of our study. Within these chapters are some of the best-known passages of this book, such as the

Good Samaritan and the stories of Mary and Martha, the lost sheep and the lost coin. As we travel on the way with Jesus, we will consider the condition of our own spiritual lives. The study will give us an opportunity to learn and grow in our spirituality as we travel along the way with Jesus. All are welcome to the journey. Please sign up in the gathering room.



After 40 years serving in the ministry, **David Brunk** is retiring and we are having a day of celebration with worship, a reception, and program of celebration on **Sunday, March 5.**



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On Sunday, March 12th, David Shumate, VIRLINA District Executive, will lead our congregation in worship. Following worship, you are invited to stay for a meal with David as he guides us through the process of creating a congregational profile, the first step in finding our next pastor. Please join us, share your thoughts and enjoy a meal together. The food will be provided — no cooking required!





THE PATH

There is an old story told of a tourist lost in an African jungle. When at long last he came to a primitive village, he asked one of the natives to lead him out. After more than an hour of hacking their way through the jungle growth, the tourist said to his guide, "Are you sure this is the way? Where is the path?" The guide answered, "Sir, in this place there is no path. I am the path."

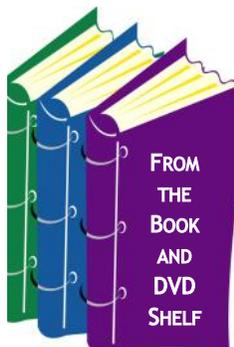
As we embark on days of transition for our congregation, we realize there may be times we feel a little lost in the tangle of things. For me right now it is thinking of a new situation, and for you perhaps it is thinking of new leadership and congregational direction. In all areas of our lives, not just the church, we need guides to give us direction. As we think of the future for our congregation, our denomination, the nation, and even the world, we yearn for clear direction. Relationships with family and friends, situations at workplaces, problems with health may challenge us, and at times tangle us.



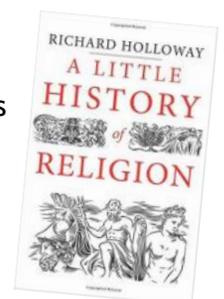
Clear direction is sometimes hard to come by. During such times we need to renew our trust in life path we know as Jesus. In places where there is no path, we need to see him as the path, the one who gives us a way of life that transforms all that is about us. That way of life is holy compassion, a compassion that encourages us to help each other, a compassion that forgoes even the mistakes we make with one another.

As we continue on the journey, let us meditate long and hard on the words put on Jesus' lips by the writer of John's gospel, "I am the way, the truth, and the life... those who believe in me will do even greater things." (John 14:6, 12) With such a promise, let us embrace any of the unknown things that lie before us.

Peace,



As someone who has had a life-long curiosity about ultimate matters and all things religious, I recently came across Richard Holloway's *A Little History of Religion*. In a time of hardening religious attitudes and explosive religious violence, this book offers an antidote by retelling the entire history of religion from the dawn of religious belief to the 21st century. It does so with respect and keen accuracy, examining but going beyond major religions to our human search for meaning throughout history. The book offers perspective on finding our way through the tangles of religion.



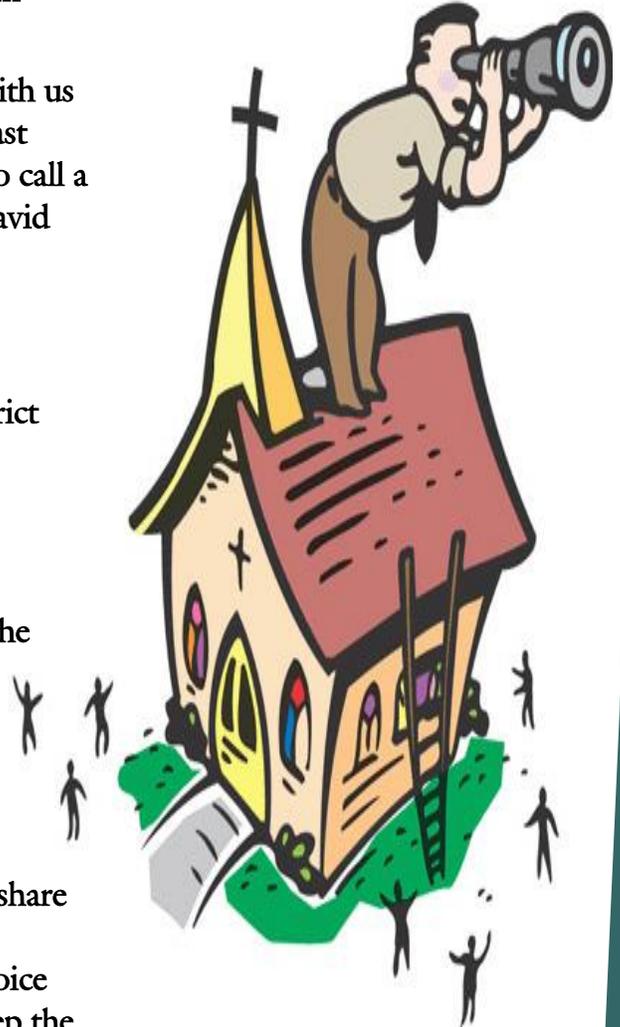
In Our Congregation

Pastor David's last Sunday with us is March 5th. Tracy Hartman, who served as interim before, will begin serving as interim pastor beginning March 19th.

District Executive Minister David Shumate is working with us and our search committee to secure a new pastor. Our past experience has been that it takes nine to twelve months to call a pastor; some churches take longer. We will meet with David Shumate on March 12th.

The search process proceeds by:

- creating a profile during a congregational gathering
- reviewing pastoral profiles as received from the District Executive Minister
- interviewing and entering into negotiations with an acceptable candidate
- recommending a candidate to the congregation
- having a get acquainted time and trial sermon with the perspective pastor
- voting with a 2/3 majority to call a pastor
- having a majority vote confirm the pastoral package
- receiving a favorable response from the pastor



Please be aware that any search committee is not able to share information about which candidates they consider. The congregation will be informed about the candidate of choice prior to the time of the trial sermon. We ask that you keep the church and the Search Committee (Ann Andrus, Jori Carter, Dustin Dedrick, Pat Gangwer*, Carol Goss, Bill Kinzie and Belinda Layman) in your prayers.

Alyce Newman, Church Board chair

West Richmond Church of the Brethren
 7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

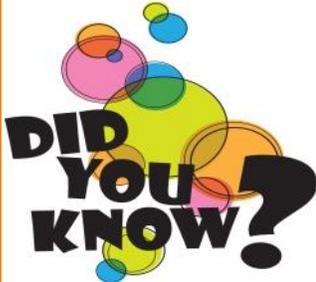
Phone: 804-288-6439 Fax: 804-282-4408 www.wrcob.org wrcob@wrcob.org

Pastor David Brunk (home: 804-515-9406) Administrative Assistant Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Church office (M-F) 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up — *please* leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted by **noon on Thursday** to the church office. Articles for the **March** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **February 15, 2017**.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>If you cannot be present for worship, you can receive email copies of the bulletin and newsheet. Simply contact the church office to make it happen.</p>		1  9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:45 pm Choir	2 9:30 am Friendship Café (away)	3	4 
5 FIRST Sunday in Lent 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Reception for David Brunk's Retirement with program following 	6 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 10:30 am Craft Group 4:00 pm Group Theory 5:45 pm Hull Street Ministry  7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	8 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:45 pm Choir	9 9:30 am Friendship Café	10 	11
12 SECOND Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Begins 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Lunch with David Shumate & Congregational Business Meeting	13 9:30 am Friendship Café 7:00 pm Church Board	14 10:30 am Craft Group 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm Cub Scouts  HAPPY PI DAY	15  9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:45 pm Choir	16 9:30 am Friendship Café	17 	18
19 THIRD Sunday in Lent 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	20 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Girl Scouts  FIRST DAY OF Spring	21 9:45 am Craft Group 1:00 pm Volunteer at Community Kitchen  7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	22 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Handbells 7:45 pm Choir	23 9:30 am Friendship Café (away)	24 	25
26 FOURTH Sunday in Lent LAMB's Basket Collection  8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	27 9:30 am Friendship Café	28 10:30 am Craft Group 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	29 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Handbells 7:45 pm Choir	30 9:30 am Friendship Café 6:30 pm Ladies Nite Out 	31	Mark your calendars for our April 29th Church Yard Sale!!

Who's celebrating and Who's Doing What in...



Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

1 <i>Jacob & Julia Tulli</i>	15.....Carrie Dedrick	22.....Jim McKinnell
2 Brandon Saunders	Gabriella Ryan	<i>Jim & Letha McKinnell (58th)</i>
5 Ralph Diamond	17.....Keri Beers	24.....Reneé Clark
Brendan Faw	Joyce Keithly	26.....Katie Heatwole
Barbara Keithly	Sloan Lynch	Wally Knox
6 Kaici Keithly	Chris Reynolds	27.....Thelma Wright (97 th)
7 David Brunk	18.....Chris Heatwole	28.....Helen Gangwer
9 Mary Jo Fields	19..... <i>Gary & Mary Jo Fields (40th)</i>	Deanna <small>(Heckman)</small> Harding
Peggy Mace	20.....Wendy Carr	29..... <i>Doug Morgan & Paige Tucker</i>
11 Noah McLaughlin	Sandy <small>(Walbridge)</small> Faw	30.....Kevin Beers
14..... Paula Bryant	Darryl Lynch	31.....Lisa Cox

March	5	12	19	26
Greeters <small>(Dolly Guyer)</small>	Dolly Guyer	Sandi Davis	Paula Bryant	Betty Altic
Acolytes <small>(Belinda Layman)</small>	Shaun Finchum	Shaun Finchum	Elijah Beers	Elijah Beers
Worship Leaders <small>(Lib Kinzie)</small>	Barbara Beers	Faye Urban	Joel Guyer	Ken Heatwole
Nursery Care <small>(Carol Goss)</small>	Dianna & Kara Faison	Kenny & Joyce Keithly	Sandy Faw & Annie Lipato	David & Judy McCloud
Fellowship Hosts <small>(Sandi Davis)</small>	Reception at 1:00 pm	Meal with David Shumate	Charles & Belinda Layman	Alyce Newman & Gabriella Ryan
Tellers <small>(Nancy Martin)</small>	Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman	Joel Guyer & Larry McCann	Bob & Pat Gangwer	Betty Altic & Sandi Davis
Care Giving <small>(Barbara McCann)</small>	Carol Goss			



Want to be included in any of these activities? Please contact its coordinator.
If you cannot fulfill an assigned date, please swap with someone and then contact the church office.

Christian Ed News...

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION SPONSORING THE *ELI PROJECT*

Do you remember the Bible story of Eli and the young Samuel? While ministering to Eli the priest, Samuel heard a voice calling him in the night. Thinking that the priest was calling him, Samuel went to him three different times. After Samuel appeared by his bed the third time, Eli perceived that the Lord was calling Samuel and instructed him how to respond. With the older man's guidance, Samuel responded appropriately and received a revelation from God. The Bible states that the young Samuel then "grew and the Lord was with him." Through the Eli Project this spring, the Christian Education Commission seeks to create and deepen relationships between the adults and the children and youth in our church. The Christian Education Commission sponsored a similar program in 2000.

Establishing and nourishing relationships between the older and younger members of our church family is an important responsibility and the Christian Education Commission sees the Eli Project as a way to assist that effort. The project provides a way to strengthen the connections our younger members have with the congregation and the work of the church. The program will run for five weeks from April 23 through May 21.

During the weeks leading up to April 23, the Christian Education Commission will be providing volunteer forms for adults who want to be a secret pal for one of our children and youth (ages 3 through 15) for that five-week period. We will also be asking children and youth (with the help of their parents as needed) to fill out brief questionnaires to provide information about their likes, dislikes, hobbies, aspirations, etc. Once all the forms are collected, we will match the adult volunteers with a child or youth.

There are certain expectations for both adults and children participating in the program. Adults will agree to pray often for their secret pal, to send him or her cards or emails each week, and to provide him or her with a small, inexpensive gift each Sunday of the five-week period. There will be a table in the gathering room where gifts (labeled with the child's name, but not signed by the giver!) can be left. So that no child participating in the program is without a gift each Sunday, adults serving as a secret pal should make every effort to attend church each Sunday or make certain that their gift is at church each Sunday. Children, also, are expected to attend church each Sunday to receive their gifts. At the conclusion of the program, once the secret pals are revealed, the children will be asked, as a sign of appreciation, to provide an inexpensive or handmade gift for their secret pal.

Watch for more information about the Eli Project at WRCOB and plan to participate to help us strengthen the bonds between the generations among us. If you have questions about the project, please talk to a member of the Christian Education Commission. – Ann Andrus, Kevin Beers or Carol Goss.



ROUNDTABLE - Roundtable will be held **March 31-April 2, 2017** at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, VA. "Wildfire in Our Very Soul" will be the theme. The speakers will be Tyler and Chelsea Goss from the West Richmond Church in Virlina District. The Friday night entertainment will be Mutual Kumquat. This event is planned by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet (Abby Brubaker - Antioch and Emily Harvey - Oak Grove/Central serve on IYC). Virlina folks, Hannah Oakes, Tim Harvey, and Jonathan Wilson, will be leading workshops at Roundtable. For more information email or visit the website at <iycroundtable@gmail.com>. For more information please e-mail iycroundtable@gmail.com or visit website at <http://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc/roundtable>.

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE WEBINAR- 70 percent of people 65 and older will need long-term care. That's a big number. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 70 percent of people age 65 or more will sometime in their life need care for 90 days or longer. That means whether you are young or old, the odds are high that there will be a time sooner or later when you will need long-term care. With the Baby Boomers coming into retirement age, the need for long-term care facilities is rising, pushing up the cost of such care. Are you prepared for this? The Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust can help. Register for the LTC Planning Webinar "The Ins and Outs of Long-Term Care." This webinar will be introducing and explaining long-term care insurance. What is it? Who needs it? What are the options? What are the basic costs? This helpful webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, April 6, 2017**, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Each session will be 30 minutes with live Q&A to follow. It will be led by Randy Yoder, Independent Agent for Brethren Benefit Trust and Long-Term Care Specialist. If April 6 is not convenient, you may contact Randy Yoder by phone (847) 849-0205 or e-mail at <ryoder@cobbt.org> for a consultation by phone, a personal visit, or a group presentation for your church. To register for the 10 a.m. morning session and 7 p.m. evening session, please go to the Brethren Benefit Trust website at <<http://www.cobbt.org>>. Don't miss this chance to learn more and begin to prepare for your future needs.

WOMEN OF MANY HATS--WOMEN'S RETREAT – "Women of Many Hats" is--an inspirational, fun filled time of fellowship for women of all ages planned just for YOU! This event will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017**, at the Peters Creek Church, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., registration and fellowship time begins at 9, program begins at 10. Lunch will be provided by Peters Creek, cost \$10, reservations due by April 15, to Gwen Kropff, (540) 761-8672. Mark your calendar and plan now to attend. Additional information will be sent to churches soon. Sponsored by the Northern and Southern Area Women's Fellowship of the Virlina District.

MINISTRY AND MISSION IN VIRLINA EVENT – The annual Ministry and Mission in Virlina event will be held at the Roanoke, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren (2138 McVitty Road, Roanoke, Virginia) on **Saturday, May 6**. It will be a day of worship, workshops, food, fellowship, and the Annual Conference Briefing. The theme will be "Listen to the Spirit!" with the scripture focus from Revelation 3:13-22. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the event will conclude by 3:00 p.m. We will begin with worship at 9:00 a.m. and Timothy H. Emmons, Virlina District Conference Moderator, will preach. Following worship there will be a variety of workshops sponsored by the commissions (Ministry, Nurture, Stewardship and Witness) and committees (New Church Development and Outdoor Ministries) of the District Board. After lunch, the Standing Committee Delegates will facilitate the Annual Conference Delegate Briefing. The Commission on Witness will sponsor and plan event; so, mark your calendars and plan to be at Ministry and Mission in Virlina on May 6.

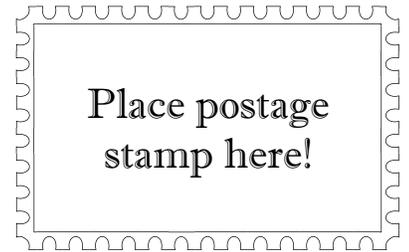
NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE - The National Junior High Conference is for youth who have completed grades 6-8. Youth and their advisors will consider Jonah's story through the theme "Called for a Greater Cause: Jonah's Journey." The conference will be held **June 9-11** on the campus of Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Come, sing, laugh, worship, make friends from all over the country, and spend time with God. Worship speakers will include Katie Heshman, Rudy Amaya, and Jeff Carter. Kyle Remnant will be coordinating music and worship will be coordinated by Rebekah Houff and Trent Smith. In addition to four celebrations of worship, there will be time for learning during workshops, and time for play during recreation and evening activities. The cost is \$175 per person. After March 31, the cost increases to \$200 per person. For more information or to register, visit <www.brethren.org/njhc> or call (847) 429-4385.



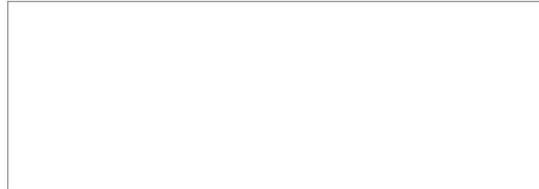
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wrcob@wrcob.org



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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Summer Camp

Hilltop Preschool
(804) 288-3887

1 - 12 Weeks
9am - noon

Enroll & Info: www.WRCOB.org

Ages: 3 - 6