

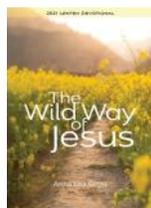
The Herald

A LENTEN OPPORTUNITY

In the Christian calendar, Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent (40 days before Easter minus Sundays). It is a period typically for self-examination and repentance. With the close of 2020 and the beginning of the new year, consider using the Season of Lent as a season of hope. We have much to hope.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 PM and then every Wednesday up to and including March 31, Pastor Dave will have a Google Meet devotional centered on *The Wild Way of Jesus*, the Church of the Brethren's Lenten Daily Devotional booklet. As participants, we will daily read the devotions and bring to our Wednesday meetings, thoughts to inspire, truths to ponder, and hopes for tomorrow. Our time together will be between 30 to 45 minutes in length. We will close our time in prayer. To participate, you will need the devotional booklet (available at church) and an email address that Pastor Dave can send the Google Meeting invitation. Please contact Pastor Dave or the church office with your intent to participate.

We hope you can join in as we discover the hope that occurred on that Easter Sunday so many years ago when Jesus brought hope eternal.



A MONTHLY OPPORTUNITY

For decades and until COVID, members of West Richmond have traveled to the Veterans Shelter on Hull Street on the first Tuesday of the month to serve a meal to approximately 30 residents. While we still provide a meal, we are not currently serving because of the close quarters and the residents need to take off their masks to eat.

If you would like to provide part of the meal (*main dish, side dish, bread, dessert, drinks or ice*) or make a donation, please call Sandy Faw, Dolly Guyer or Susan Robertson.

Pastor Dave and those who want to ride with him usually meet around 5:15 pm and the food and supplies are loaded and transported to the Shelter around 5:30 pm. If you would like to accompany Pastor Dave and Zherina as they transport the food, be sure to contact him.

We look forward to the time we can return to the shelter when we can provide the meals in person. But for now, we provide this ministry in the safest way possible.

Won't you consider joining us?

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KNOW THE QUESTION TO FIND THE ANSWER!

Many of us go to the Bible for answers to life's perplexing questions, and rightfully so. For we believe the Bible is a purveyor of God's Word. It holds life's great truths. Gertrude Stein is said to have asked on her deathbed, "What is the answer?" A little while later she spoke again, "What is the question?" It is hard to look for answers when we don't know the question. I believe each of us has a burning question within us that motivates and drives our spirit in some way. For the most part, many of us don't even know what it is. Frederick Buechner writes, *There is perhaps no stronger reason for reading the Bible than that somewhere among all those India-paper pages there awaits each reader whoever he is the one question which, though for years he may have been pretending not to hear it, is the central question of his own life.* Buechner then lists a few of them.

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
(Matthew 16:26 NIV)

Am I my brother's keeper?
(Genesis 4:9 NRSV)

If God is for us, who can be against us?
(Romans 8:31)

What is truth?
(John 18:38)

How can someone be born when they are old?
(John 3:4 NIV)

What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3 NLT)

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
(Psalm 139:7)

Who is my neighbor?
(Luke 10:29)

What shall I do to inherit eternal life?
(Luke 10:25)



You need to know the question before you can find the answer. In reading the Bible, look for the questions. You'll know the one that has been burning within you when you read it.

Pastor Dave

In Our Congregation

The Baker girls were a Christmas gift!

They arrived Monday, December 21. Mommy and Daddy (Monica & Shawn) are doing great. Simone, born at 1:07 pm, weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces, and was 19 inches tall.

Sophie, her fraternal twin, arrived at 1:14 pm, weighed 4 pounds 6 ounces, and was 17 inches tall.

Shaun Finchum and Joe Mattys are their big brothers.



Emmanuella Dedrick knew she was going to be a big sister in the spring. For Christmas she learned she's getting a baby brother. Everyone is excited. Congratulations to the Dedrick family. Can't wait to meet baby 2.0!



Congratulations to Claire Lynch and Wes Bosman!

Back before Thanksgiving she shared this on Facebook.

West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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Pastor Dave Whitten (319-610-2274)
Administrative Assistant Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)
Sunday Worship (On site & Online) 11:00 a.m.
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 so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted by **noon each Thursday** to the church office. All articles for the **February** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **February 15, 2021**.



We want to thank Nancy Martin for her many years of faithful service to West Richmond. Back in 2005, Nancy traded her Youth Advisor hat for the Head Teller hat while Brian Crawford was our Treasurer (the first time). Over the following 15 years, she has seen four treasurers come and go. In 2014, Nancy took on the position of bookkeeper and Alyce Newman became our Treasurer. Last Fall Nancy submitted her resignation as Head Teller and has been training Joel Guyer to take over. Last month Nancy submitted her resignation as bookkeeper and Stewards Commission is in the process of finding a replacement.

To give you an idea of the amount of work seven years as bookkeeper means, let me break it down:

- Uncounted months of working with a consultant when we started Servant Keeper;
- 7 years of reports to the Church Board ten times a year is 70 4-page reports;
- 7 years of overseeing the tellers as they count our weekly offerings is at least 364 Sundays (not counting the years with 53 Sundays);
- 7 years of projecting our estimated income following our Stewardship Campaigns;
- 7 years of paying bills on time;
- 7 years of reconciling bank statements;
- 7 years of filing;
- 7 years of tracking down signatures on payment authorizations;
- and every Sunday while we were having virtual church and sitting at home, Nancy was in the church office with Alyce, with their masks on, taking care of what needed to be done.

There are sure to be many more things that have been missed, and one thank you in the newsletter for all of Nancy's time, talents and energy, just does not seem like enough. Join me in thanking Nancy for her years of service at West Richmond Church of the Brethren.

THANK YOU THANK YOU
THANK YOU THANK YOU



Church Board Notes

Our church board had its most recent meeting on January 12, 2021. Here are some highlights of recent happenings:

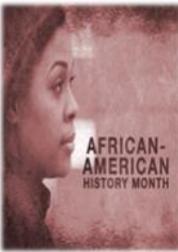
- Our Brethren Foundation Investment Funds are up \$4816.60 since November.
- Last year we spent less than we received.
- Kevin Beers began his official position as Director of Technology & Media on December 1st and was paid his first salary payment from the Visioning Initiatives fund. Now that the church's technology for live streaming was upgraded, it is now possible to use the Gathering Room as a true "overflow room." He highlighted some impressive stats from our video outreach and the advertising dollars that were put behind them. The five Advent candle videos that Kevin created resulted in:
 - ◆ Over 10,000 video views
 - ◆ 3868 unique video views (many people watched multiple videos)
 - ◆ 334 Page clicks (Christmas Eve page on our website)
 - ◆ \$283.97 (spent to show videos to a 10-mile radius around the church)
 - ◆ Our Facebook quality score was "above average" for those videos. That's important just to confirm that we are doing them correctly.
 - ◆ In addition, our Christmas Eve service had 131 views
- Nancy Martin has resigned as Head Teller and Joel Guyer has begun taking over. Nancy has also resigned as our bookkeeper. Negotiations are underway for a replacement.
- Shawn Baker will be doing our 2019 and 2020 financial audits sometime in February. He will have an assistant yet to be confirmed.
- The Board made a motion to upgrade five computers to Microsoft Office 2019 by taking the \$525 out of C-01 Capital Improvements funds. There are currently various versions of Office being used for church business (some quite old), making some files incompatible from one machine to another.
- This year we will celebrate communion in the months that have a fifth Sunday (January 31, May 30, August 29 and October 31). Nurture has purchased individual communion cups with wafers. Participants who attend virtually can make arrangements to pick theirs up prior to Friday, January 29 per the announcement in the bulletin.
- Important future dates were set:
 - ◆ 05/23 - CBM for Hilltop Report & their Board elections
 - ◆ 06/12 - Staff Evaluations
 - ◆ 10/03 - CBM for Board Elections
 - ◆ 10/17 - Board Reorganization
 - ◆ 11/21 - CBM Year-End Reports and 2022 Budget



02/01	Jonathan McCloud
02/05	Joe Martin
02/07	Eric Evenson
02/10	Jonathan Reynolds
02/11	Zack Keithly
02/14	Ellie Hemenway Bennett Tulli <i>Frank & Betty Fuller</i>
02/15	Emily Tulli
02/15	<i>David & Janet Brunk</i>
02/18	Brian Skillen
02/22	Sarah (Ziegler) Hodkinson
02/23	Claire Lynch
02/24	<i>Mark & Andrea Ludwick</i>
02/27	Beth Martin <i>Peter & Amparito Brunk</i>
02/28	Jack Mace
02/29	Gayle (Wampler) Adams

*Have we missed your
birthday or anniversary?
Please let the church office
know of the omission.*

February

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2  11:00 am Ladies Circle 5:30 pm Hull Street Ministry	3	4 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 	5	6
7 9:00 am Virtual Book Study 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship	8 	9 11:00 am Ladies Circle 7:00 pm Virtual Church Board Mtg 	10	11 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 	12 	13
14  9:00 am Virtual Book Study 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship	15  NewsLetter DEADLINE	16 11:00 am Ladies Circle	17  Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Virtual Lenten Study 	18 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 	19	20
21  9:00 am Virtual Book Study 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship	22	23 11:00 am Ladies Circle	24 7:00 pm Virtual Lenten Study 	25 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 	26 	27
28  9:00 am Virtual Book Study 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship  LAMBs Basket	Greeter Barbara Beers Usher Bob Gangwer				Worship Leader 02/07: Jori Carter 02/14: Alyce Newman 02/21: _____ 02/28: _____	Tellers J. Guyer & L. McCann Bob & Pat Gangwer A. Andrus & N. Martin J. Goss & A. Newman

2020 DISTRICT CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

“Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom” was the conference theme taken from Matthew 6:9-10. The conference, originally scheduled to take place at the Bonsack Baptist Church east of Roanoke on November 13-14, was shifted to a virtual format due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic. While this shift was a challenge to the established pattern, the Program and Arrangements Committee chaired by Moderator Cathy S. Huffman rose to the occasion. This provided an opportunity to view worship and the business of the delegate body online at the district website using YouTube and Vimeo at www.virlina.org and portions are posted on the Virlina District Resource Center on Plantation Road FB page. A video message was provided from the 2021 Annual Conference Moderator, Paul Munday, as well as presentations for youth from the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet sponsored by Bridgewater College.

The 2021 Worship Service featured musicians from several congregations in Franklin County, Virginia. These offered a broad range of sacred music including instrumentals, hymns, and modern praise. The speakers were Adam Stultz, associate pastor of the Roanoke, Summerdean Church; Ted M. Turner, pastor of the Topeco Church; Emily Laprade Van Pelt, a member of the Antioch Church; David Radcliff, from Blue Ridge and the Director of the New Community Project, and John Thompson, pastor of the Peters Creek Church. Each speaker shared short vignettes about the Radical Hope they’ve witnessed and how God’s Kingdom is seen here on earth.

Written reports were presented in the conference booklet by all of the district commissions and committees, as well as from the denominational and ecumenical partners. Included in the booklet are the minutes and statistics from the 2019 District Conference,

the district and Camp Bethel 2021 budgets, the biographical information of those who ran on the ballot, and district staff reports. Conference booklets containing all reports and other items of interest are still available from the District Resource Center by contacting us at virlina2@aol.com or (540) 362-1816.

There were two items of business:

The 2021 Virlina District budget remains unchanged from the 2020 budget, and therefore it was supplied as a matter of information. The members of the 2020 District Board affirmed the budget for 2021.

Ballots were included in the booklets that were mailed to congregations that registered delegates. The election of leadership for district conference, board and camp was facilitated by mail-in ballots. These were counted under the supervision of Pam M. Hodges, the Head Teller and a member of the Fairview – Rocky Mount Church. The results were announced in the business session presentation on Saturday, November 14, by the Moderator-Elect, Greg Fleshman.

There were 192 delegates from 60 congregations registered including 52 pastors. In-kind offerings received included 11 Disaster Response Clean Up Buckets & 100 Personal Hygiene Kits.

Following his installation, Moderator Greg Fleshman announced that the 2021 theme will be based upon Isaiah 40:31. This verse reads *“...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* The 2021 Virlina District Conference will be held, if the Lord wills, at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia on November 12 -13, 2021. Let us pray that it is so!

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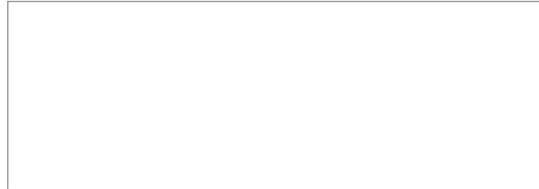
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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



Richmond Peace Education Center

Building just, inclusive and nonviolent communities through education and action since 1980

The Richmond Peace Education Center is pleased to announce its Annual Peacemaker of the Year Award for 2020 to

The Richmond Mennonite Fellowship

for its partnership, on-going support and involvement in working to build a more just and peaceful community over the last 40 years.

The Richmond Mennonite Fellowship (RMF) actively fulfills its spiritual commitment as a congregation committed to peace, deeply involved in non-violence, conflict resolution and peacemaking. RMF was an RPEC founding faith community and has been an invaluable Peace Center partner for 40 years, supporting its mission with member participation and financial support.

The Peace Center strives to be an inclusive community that works with all people and organizations who share their goals, annually honoring one individual or organization for outstanding action toward building just, non-violent, inclusive communities through education and action. This announcement comes late due to cancellation of the 2020 Annual Members' Dinner and Celebration of the Peacemaker of the Year.