

# Pastors Memo

## February 2011

Shenandoah District Office, Church of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 67 Weyers Cave VA 24486-0067  
Tel: 1-540-234-8555 or 1-888-308-8555

Fax: 1-540-234-8333  
Email: [districtoffice@shencob.org](mailto:districtoffice@shencob.org)

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### 1 In Our Pastoral Family

We request your prayers for David & Carol Lena Miller and their family following the death of Carol Lena's father, Enos Griffith, who passed away on January 13. Enos is survived by his wife, Edith, their eight children and numerous grandchildren. He was an ordained minister of the Roanoke - First Church and former pastor of the Pleasant View, Copper Hill, Mount Union, Pleasant Hill, Selma, Coulson and other Virilina District congregations. A funeral service was held on Sunday, Jan. 16 at the Coulson CoB in Hillsville, VA. Cards and expressions of sympathy may be sent to Carol Lena and the family at their home at 460 Ohio Ave., Harrisonburg, VA, 22801.

We ask your prayers for the family of Rev. Howard L. Kaucher Jr., 80, who passed away on January 1 at Chapel Pointe in Carlisle, PA.

Born Nov. 24, 1930, in Reading, he was a son of the late Howard L. Sr. and Mary (Fryberger) Kaucher. He was the widower of Elva S. (Martin) Kaucher.

Rev. Kaucher devoted his life to pastoring the people in numerous churches of the Brethren. Howard served in churches along the East Coast for nearly 40 years, including the Lebanon Church in the 1980's.

Surviving are his three sons: Kerry L. Kaucher, and his wife, Rose, Graham, N.C.; Kenneth L. Kaucher, and his wife, Becky, Newville; and Keith L. Kaucher, and his wife, Sue, Carlisle; daughter, Kathy D. Davidhizer, and her husband, John, Altoona; brother, David Kaucher, and his wife, Helen, Terre Hill; sister, Ruth Edris, Lebanon; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 5, at the Annville Church of the Brethren with burial at Middle Creek Church of the Brethren Cemetery. To sign the guest book, visit [www.hoffmanroth.com](http://www.hoffmanroth.com).

We ask your prayers for the family of Dr. David G. Metzler who passed away on Sunday, January 2. Cards and expressions of sympathy may be sent to Doris and the family at 102 Rosewood Circle, Bridgewater, VA, 22812. The obituary follows:

Dr. David G. Metzler, age 80, of Bridgewater, Virginia, died peacefully at his home on January 2, 2011, surrounded by family. Dr. Metzler was born June 23, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of the late Burton Metzler and Alma Stump Metzler of McPherson, KS. David was an ordained minister of the Church of the Brethren and a professor at Bridgewater College from 1958-62 and from 1966-95. He taught at the University of Jos in Nigeria from 1981-83 and served as head of the Department of Religious Studies for the University during that time. David earned a BA degree in philosophy and religion from McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas. He earned a Masters degree from Bethany Theological Seminary, a Masters degree in New Testament from Harvard Divinity School and a PhD in theology from Boston University. He also pursued overseas studies at the Ecumenical Study Center in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Ecumenical Institute at

Tantur, Jerusalem Israel. David served as an interim and guest pastor in numerous Brethren Churches throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

David was known as a kind and gentle man, and his deep convictions upon the importance of peacemaking led him to be active in reconciliation work both locally and in the wider world. He was a member of the Inter-church Relations Committee of the Church of the Brethren, and a member of the Ecumenical Task Force on Christian-Muslim Relations for the National Council of Churches. In January of 2003, immediately prior to the second Gulf War, he spent a month in and around Baghdad as a member of a Christian Peacemaker Team. David was convinced that what people of all nations and faiths share in common is greater than their differences.

In 1971, David designed and built the family home on Round Hill near Bridgewater, with the help of family and friends. David's wide-ranging interests included a love of animals. He milked the family cow for many years, kept bees, and planted an orchard. He was also a good athlete; in 1952 he ran a 1:55.8 in the 880 yard run at the Kansas Relays, setting a McPherson College record that stood for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Doris (Kesler) Metzler, and his children, Daniel and Gwen (Slavik) Metzler, Steve and Karen (Glick) Metzler, D.Burton and Diane (Hess) Metzler, Laurel (Metzler) Byler and the late Joseph Byler, and Suzanne (Metzler) and David Peterson. He is survived by grandchildren David Michael, Genita, Joey, Clara, John, Jenica (Metzler) Huffman and husband, Bobby, Riley and Taylor Metzler, Megan Button, Samantha and Nicholas Peterson. In addition, he is survived by three great-grandchildren: Nickolas Metzler, and Ava and Rocco Huffman. He is survived by two sisters, Anne (Metzler) Albright and Mary (Metzler) Wagoner of McPherson, KS. He was predeceased by a son, Timothy John, and a daughter, Lucinda Ellen Metzler. A memorial service was held Saturday January 8, at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren.

We ask your prayers for the family of Rev. Earl W. "Nicky" Hammer who passed away on December 16, 2010, at Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Cards and expressions of sympathy may be sent to Peggy and the family at 121 Rosewood Circle, Bridgewater, VA 22812. The obituary follows:

Earl W. Hammer was born on February 21, 1931, in Hot Springs, Virginia, a son of the late James E. Hammer Sr. and Mamie Armstrong Hammer. He served in the U. S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. He graduated from Wilson Memorial High School, Bridgewater College and Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

Earl was licensed to the ministry in June of 1956 and was ordained on May 26, 1963. Brother Earl, as he was affectionately called, served 33 years in full time ministry. He served Topeco and Fairview churches in Floyd County, Virginia, Briery Branch near Dayton, Virginia, Charlottesville, and Free Union, and retired from Blue Ridge Chapel in Waynesboro in 1996. While in the Seminary, he served two summer pastorates, one in Durbin, West Virginia and Leakes Chapel in Stanley, Virginia. Also, for three years, while in College, he served four part-time churches in Highland County.

In the Church of the Brethren District, Earl served twice on its national standing committee at Annual Conference. He served as Chairman of the Shenandoah District Board, Chairman of the District Ministry Commission, and served on the nominating Committee. For many years he served as camp leader at Camp Bethel near Fincastle, Virginia, and at Brethren Woods near Keezletown. Since retirement, he filled pulpits when called on, and helped as a Sunday School teacher.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, Peggy, he is survived by three children, Eric D. Hammer and his wife, Faith, Greg S. Hammer and his wife, Debbie; and Dawn M. Watkins and her husband, Andrew; six grandchildren, David, Marsha, Justin, Scott, Brandy and Tony, and eight great-grandchildren; his brother, James E. Hammer Jr. and his wife, Lois; three sisters, Geraldine Cook and her husband, Boyd, Betty Davis, Virginia Lee Murray and her husband, Bob; as well as a number of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was conducted on Sunday, December 19, at the Waynesboro Church of the Brethren with Pastor Ed Carl officiating.

## **Pulpit Vacancies**

*Full-Time:*; Leake's Chapel; Smith Creek-Friends Run (Yoked Parish), Valley Pike, Wakeman's Grove – Senior Pastor, and Wakeman's Grove – Associate

*Part-Time:* Antioch – Associate Pastor, Cedar Grove (Ruckersville), Evergreen, Hiner, Little River, Mt. Zion (Linville), and New Dale.

## **2 Minister's Bookshelf: 2011**

The Minister's Bookshelf returns for Spring 2011 with the theme of *Simple Abundance: Living More with Less as Individuals and Communities*. Dates for the bookshelf are March 3, April 7 and May 5 with options for 9:30—11:30 a.m. and 7—9 p.m. sessions. See the attached flyer for book and registration information.

## **3 Mountain View Fellowship to Celebrate 10 Years**

All district churches and members are invited to join us for a ten year anniversary event, "**Celebrating a Decade of Blessings**", to be held at Mountain View Fellowship in McGaheysville on Sunday, **March 6**, 6:00-8:00 PM. It has been ten years since we began our pastoral program and Sunday morning worship in the town hall. The program will include worship, stories, testimonies, photos and refreshments. Come and celebrate with us as we focus on the amazing things the God has done in our midst.

## **4 Upcoming Events for Your 2011 Calendar**

***The Annual Disaster Ministries Action Kick-Off Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 5***, in the Kline Campus Center at Bridgewater College. Join us for a delicious meal, a pre-view auction and entertainment. Cost for the event is \$20 per person. You are encouraged to use the attached insert in your worship bulletin to help publicize this event.

***Jars Needed for Caramel Corn!*** Save your 40 oz. empty jars (plastic—similar to those that nuts come in). We will be using them for a new project for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction in 2012. These jars will need to be brought to the Spring Meetings to be filled by Auction time.

***Living Peace Recognition Banquet – the Peace Feast!*** will be held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, **March 15**, 2011 at the Linville Creek Church. Our guest speaker will be George Cornelius, President of Bridgewater College. Cost: \$15.00 and \$10.00 for students. This event is sponsored by Pastors for Peace, a group that brings together interested pastors for monthly conversations around issues of nonviolence and peacemaking. Their goal is to embody the Gospel of Christ by enlarging the circle of peace. A registration form is attached; please share it with members of your congregation.

### ***Cultivating A Great Harvest—March 19***

The Church Development and Evangelism Team is planning a summit on Congregational Vibrancy and Innovative Ministries for **March 19**, 8:30-3:00 pm at the Bridgewater Church. The event promises to be a dynamic conference offering transformational tools for the Missional Church with sessions on:

- Creating a Redemptive Culture
- Guest Experience, the First 10 Minutes
- Developing & Sustaining Vibrant Campus Ministry
- Extreme Congregational Life-Engage, Excite, and Expand the Church
- Entrepreneurial Leadership for Church Planting

Presenters include: Craig Sider, Nate Polzin, Russell Haitch, Jonathan Shively, Fred Bernhard, Steve Clapp, and John Neff. Registration materials are enclosed.

### ***Annual Conference Delegate Briefing—June 7***

Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren will be hosting our annual Delegate Briefing on Tuesday evening, June 7. Registration information will be provided in the April Pastors Memo.

## **5 Upcoming Youth Events for 2011**

### ***Jr. High Lock-In—February 11-12 at Mill Creek Church; 6:30 p.m. to 10 a.m.***

Join all your junior high friends for night of non-stop fun and fellowship. We'll start the evening at by spending some time getting to know one another, then head to the mountain (Massanutten that is) for an evening of tubing. Once back at the church, it's time for some fun and games. To close out this event we'll end on a high note of a crazy delicious breakfast. Sleeping optional. (he! he! he!) A registration form is available online at [www.shencob.org/youth](http://www.shencob.org/youth).

### ***Sr. High Winter Retreat—February 25-27 at Brethren Woods***

Leadership for the retreat will be provided by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet, a group of committed Christian students from Bridgewater College who plan Roundtable and travel up and down the East Coast providing retreats for district youth groups. The retreat is open to youth in grades 9 – 12 and costs \$95 which includes lodging, meals and tubing. Registration forms are available online.

***I Believe I Can Fly*** is the theme of the **2011 Southeastern Youth Roundtable to be held March 18-20** at Bridgewater College. David Radcliff, Director of New Community Project will be the guest speaker. This event is planned and sponsored by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet.

## **6 National Jr. High Conference—June 17-19, 2011**

Come join in the fun and fellowship at Elizabethtown College in PA for a weekend packed with powerful worship, activity-filled workshops, music, games and, of course, good food! Cost for the event is \$150 (prior to April 15). Online registration begins January 10 at 7 p.m. (CT) at: [www.brethren.org/njhc](http://www.brethren.org/njhc).

Shenandoah District will be offering bus transportation to NJHC. Thanks for your patience as the details are still being finalized. Youth advisors will receive a packet of transportation materials in February.

## 7 National Older Adult Conference

*Passion and Purpose in a Changing World* will be the theme of NOAC in 2011. The dates are September 5-9 and it will once again be held at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The scripture focus is Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The passion and purpose at the heart of the National Older Adult Conference reflects the desire of older adults to be aware of, involved in, and connected to the dynamic world in which we live. Conference information will be posted at [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org) as soon as it becomes available and registration materials will be available in Spring 2011. For now, you may contact Kim Ebersole, NOAC Coordinator, at [kebersole@brethren.org](mailto:kebersole@brethren.org) or (800) 323-8039, ext. 302, if you have questions.

## 8 Happenings at CrossRoads

**Do VS from your home.** A volunteer is urgently needed to assist in running the CrossRoads Heritage Center in Harrisonburg, VA. Duties include clerical and administrative tasks, grounds keeping, cleaning, and assisting with events and mailings. The position offers flexible hours. Time, work and minimal compensation will be comparable to persons in Mennonite and Brethren Volunteer Service. To explore this option, contact Steve Shenk at (540) 438-1275, [sshenk@vbmhc.org](mailto:sshenk@vbmhc.org), or [info@vbmhc.org](mailto:info@vbmhc.org).

Consider registering soon for the CrossRoads Heritage Center's **Annual Dinner and Meeting** on Friday evening, February 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Mill Creek Church of the Brethren, 7600 Port Republic Rd., Port Republic, VA. Tickets are \$20 per person. To register, call (540) 438-1275 by Monday, January 31, and mail your deposit to CrossRoads, P.O. Box 1563, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. During the meeting Linda Waggy will portray Rebecca Burkholder and Paul Roth impersonate Elder John Kline. Snow date is February 11. ([info@vbmhc.org](mailto:info@vbmhc.org), [www.vbmhc.org](http://www.vbmhc.org)).

## 9 Brethren Woods News

Brethren Woods News for the month of February is attached along with the 2011. Please include these announcements in your worship bulletin, newsletter or post on your church's bulletin board.

## 10 Prayer Calendar for February 2011

We hope that you and your congregation will enjoy using this resource as a way to focus your prayers for the church during the month of February.

## 11 Staff Calendars & Reminders for February

February 1	7:00	Ministry Team, District Office (JM)
February 11-12		Jr. High Lock-In at Mill Creek (SC, JD)
February 12	1-5:00	<i>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</i> , CGI Class (JD)
February 15	1:30	CGI Board, Buena Vista (JM)
February 17	7:00	District Leadership Team at District Office (JD)
	7:00	Auction Coordinating Team at District Office
February 22	7:00	Program & Arrangements Team at Mill Creek (JD)
	7:00	Church Planting Team at Mountain View-McGaheysville
February 26	1-5:00	<i>Teaching &amp; Learning in the Church</i> , CGI Class (JD)
February 25-27		Sr. High Retreat at Brethren Woods (SC, JD)