A compilation of ministry successes in the Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren as highlighted at the 2019 District Conference
Fruit at Antioch

Wed. nights are a "B.L.A.S.T." at Antioch when youth participate in Believing, Loving and Serving Together. Associate Pastor Dale Bennett said, "We have an average now of about 35 [and] we have had many as 44 not counting helpers and leaders." He added, "...it's only possible from God and good help." Contact Antioch for more information.

The Sportsman's Banquet is a well-attended event where men come together to eat a variety of critters and fellowship. Rumors are going around that mule deer will be on the menu this year after Pastor George Bowers' recent hunting trip to Colorado. Contact Antioch for more information.

Antioch also participates in Family Promise of Shenandoah County. Read more here (scroll to the bottom).

Fruit at Barren Ridge

The Women’s Fellowship group at Barren Ridge is very active, hosting dinners for various groups, such as Western State Hospital, Staunton Church seniors, the warm shelter and others. Contact Barren Ridge for more information.

Continued on next page...
Fruit at Barren Ridge

Conducts outreach through a unique fellowship event. People invite friends and new people are encouraged to attend a stew dinner style pot luck. The stew is followed by a cake walk and homemade ice cream contest. Everything is free. “It’s a great example of unity,” Co-Pastor Janet Elsea remarked. “Everyone brings something for the pot and then we eat what’s there. Nice time,” she added.

As many churches do, Barren Ridge maintains a large cemetery adjacent to the church. Jennifer Cook reported recently, “We were very excited this year to have a soon to be Eagle Scout donate his time and effort, along with Troop 121, in restoring our Cemetery Caretakers building. They worked hard to make this building look so much better.”

Contact Pastor Janet Elsea for more information.

Fruit at Bridgewater Church

The church plants a yearly garden which is situated behind the church building. The sole purpose of the project is to provide food for people who need it. The total produce harvested in 2019 was approximately 6,000 pounds. They have grown more than 20 different types of vegetables and fruits. Church representative Mike Fike said the project involves around 25 regular volunteers, and two interns and 15-20 regular volunteers from Bridgewater College. However, over 200 college, high school, and elementary students and VBS participants participate, although some for only one day. Click here to learn more about this ministry with the food pantry, or email Mike Fike.
Fruit at Calvary

Successful outdoor education and recreation program for youth established through Trail Life and American Heritage Girls. These programs were featured in the Oct/Nov Shenandoah Journal. Contact Pastor Jonathan Martino for more information.

(Foto courtesy of Jonathan Martino)

Fruit at Cedar Grove-Ruckersville

Cedar Grove-Ruckersville holds an annual fish fry with all proceeds going to Disaster Auction. Pastor John Hawkins catches the trout throughout the year and his son helps him do the frying. The women's group (Happy Cooks) provides the rest of the menu. Almost everything is donated by various members. They usually make around $1,200.00, which is given to the Disaster Auction to offset the cost of oysters for the dinner. Additionally, they have what is called their hole in the bucket. The bucket is placed in the vestibule to collect change throughout the year. It is emptied every month and thus it got the name hole in the bucket. They purchase items with some of the money to be sold at the auction and donate the rest to for auction expenses. Last year's total was estimated at $3,500.00. Email Pastor John Hawkins for more information.

(Foto courtesy of Jonathan Martino)

Fruit at Columbia Furnace

The Love Center at Columbia Furnace provides food for Shenandoah County families in need.

In addition, they support Family Promise, which was featured in the Oct./Nov. Shenandoah Journal. Contact Pastor William Fitchett for more information.

(Photo courtesy of Becky Leland)
Fruit at Community Mission

Community Mission also supports Family Promise, which was featured in the Oct./Nov. Shenandoah Journal, and host the Adopt-a-Family program for Christmas. Email Pastor Dale Bowers for more information.

Fruit at Cedar Run - Damascus

Serving the residents at White Tree Hill assisted living facility, which was featured in the Oct./Nov. Shenandoah Journal. Call Pastor Frank Tusing at 896-5731 for more information.

Fruit at Emmanuel - Sangerville

Vacation Bible school is sponsored by six North River area churches, reaching out to kids from 14 different churches as well as community kids. About 150 kids and volunteers show up each night for supper and the Bible School program.

Contact Pastors Steve Spire (Sangerville) or Tim Ball (Emmanuel) for more information.
**Fruit at Forest Chapel**

The youth from Forest Chapel assist the elderly in their community.

Contact Pastor [Dave Stewart](#) for more information.

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**Fruit at Free Union**

The prayer shawl ministry at Free Union began a few years ago with four people knitting or crocheting shawls, which are prayed over and given to those who are sick. Pastor Janet Parkhurst remembers, “More than one recipient has had their shawl buried with them! That’s a sign from God that we are making a difference and touching lives. I praise Him for that!” While the shawls are being made, others simply come out for fellowship, food, and games. Contact Pastors [Richard and Janet Parkhurst](#) for more information.

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**Fruit at Gordonsville-Knight’s Chapel**

The Knight’s Chapel congregation has planted a new congregation at [Gordonsville](#) (click to read more)! The new church plant has been in existence for three years and is moving towards official recognition by the District. Pastor Terry Jewell gives God the credit, “God gets you humbled so you can be obedient, then God can take over and make something happen.” Contact Pastor [Terry Jewell](#) for more information.
**Fruit at Grottoes**

The Grottoes congregation is bearing fruit through study and service. The Wed. evening Bible study started with Genesis and has worked their way through Leviticus at the end of two years.

Pastor Tim Munson reported that Grottoes has also recently started, “...an outreach ministry for a senior apartment complex in the community by having a worship service in their community room. In Nov. we held one service and starting in Dec. we will have two services a month.”

Contact Pastor **Tim Munson** for more information.

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**Fruit at Harrisonburg First**

First Harrisonburg hosted a back-to-school block party in their neighborhood. For the month leading up to the event, members went door to door in the area and personally handed out invitations and got to know their neighbors. Over 200 people attended. The event consisted of games, face painting, cake-walks, and other fun activities. They also gave away 75 backpacks and hosted a school supply swap. At the end of the day, they shared a meal and people lingered to talk and enjoy the evening long after the event was over. This event was a kick-off for their new Kids Club outreach. Contact Pastor **Beth Jarrett** for more information.
Fruit at Leake’s Chapel

Leake’s Chapel hosts a successful Jr. Kids’ Church program with more than a dozen children participating.

They also participate in Casey’s Backpack program.

Contact Johnny Woodward for more information.

(Foto courtesy of Becky Leland)

Fruit at Luray Church

Luray Church takes seriously the words of Jesus and regularly visits the sick in nursing homes and those who are homebound.

The Luray congregation will be celebrating 100 years of ministry in 2020!

Contact Pastor Leah Hileman for more information.

(Foto courtesy of Leah Hileman)

Fruit at Madison

The fruit borne at Madison is two-fold: it begins with loving worship and has grown into offering two weekly Bible studies. In Sept., the church offered Focus on the Family’s The Truth Project. Citing several passages about truth, Pastor Ed Morris noted, “I see us becoming a church with a sounder doctrine. What we believe has an impact on what we do, how we live, and our unity within the body.”

Contact Pastor Ed Morris for more information.

(Photo courtesy of Madison Facebook)
Fruit at Moscow

Moscow’s congregation bears fruit through the work of the Moscow youth at Valley Mission during their Month of Mission.” Pastor Darren Howdyshell says, “This month of focused ministry on serving others as Jesus served us transpired from a dwindling attendance at our Fall Love Feast. Now we still teach ‘washing feet’ but we’ve simply moved this instruction time beyond our fellowship hall and sanctuary.”

Another fruit-bearing ministry is cooperating through the North River Ministerial Association to provide wood for those who are unable to do so for themselves. Twelve churches work together to serve the greater community.

Contact Pastor Darren Howdyshell for more information.

Fruit at Mountain Grove Chapel

Mountain Grove Chapel seeks to strengthen the community by bringing people together, and they seek to strengthen the church by reaching out to folks who do not yet attend a church. In the summer, they accomplish this cooperatively with the local Baptist Church through hosting a picnic for everyone.

There was a good turnout this summer, so Pastor Jim Jinks says they plan to invite the whole community to an alcohol-free New Year’s Eve event on Dec. 31. Contact Pastor Jinks for more information at (434) 985-4118.
Fruit at Mountain View Fellowship - McGaheysville

Pastor Wayne Pence reports the fruit borne at Mountain View Fellowship is service. Recently, the youth group partnered with Jerry Ruff, director of the Shenandoah District Disaster Ministries, who had been contacted by the Department of Social Services to replace a roof on a woman’s home. Zach Butler, a contractor who attends Mountain View, led the youth and other volunteers in completing the project. Pastor Wayne Pence reflected, “It was a good community effort, including Social Services, BDM [Brethren Disaster Ministries], Mountain View folks, and neighbors.” Contact Pastor Wayne Pence for more information.

Fruit at Mt. Bethel

Miss Mae's Thrift Store is a ministry of the Mount Bethel Church, which collects used or new clothing to sell. The congregation was not entirely sure this was the best idea but gave it a chance, and they have started their ninth year. One of the founders, Karen Shiflet, remembers, “Miss Mae Albright was a lady we all knew who had had a tremendous influence on our congregation...We decided this was a perfect name for our new shop.” She says, “We are able to use the funds from Miss Mae's to support a number of agencies and persons who need additional financial assistance.” Excess clothing is given to the mobile clothing bank, which shares clothing at Open Doors and food pantry locations. “We try not to waste any donation that we are given,” Shiflet affirmed.

Shiflet believes, “The shop has enabled us to learn to know people in our community and many of them visit us every week...It has been a real ‘fruit bearing’ ministry in our community.”

Contact Pastor Marty Doss for more information.
Fruit at Mt. Olivet

Mt. Olivet offers a monthly Senior Day for the community. Pastor Victor Norris said the ministry, “...touches the lives of about 100 seniors each month. Seniors come from many areas to participate in playing bingo, fellowshiping together, and concluding with a delicious meal. No one goes home a loser. Everybody wins.”

Contact Pastor Victor Norris for more information.

Fruit at Mt. Zion - Luray

Mt. Olivet supports missions locally through PageOne and in Kenya by supporting a doctor. Regionally, they support the Brethren Disaster Ministries by donating quilts for the annual Brethren Disaster Auction and Sale.

Contact Pastor Gary Major for more information.

Fruit at Oak Hill

Oak Hill was featured in the last Journal where Pastor Duke McCaffrey described the fruit borne through their Wed. night program, Sunday spontaneous fellowshipping after worship, and Christmas Day service. They also witness fruit borne through their Vacation Bible School ministry.

Contact Pastor Duke McCaffrey for more information.
Fruit at Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley cooperates with local churches to provide a weekly backpack program and a consignment store called Karis, which were featured in the last Journal.

Contact Board Chair Carol Wilson for more information.

Fruit at Rileyville

Rileyville bears fruit through its Sunday School, Youth Group and Small Group ministry.

Contact Pastor Donnie Lam for more information.

Fruit at Round Hill

The Round Hill congregation bears fruit through service projects and community outreach. Pastor Beverly Funkhouser said, “Last year the congregation put together 46 shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse,” and recently they, “...hosted a fall festival for the community that was absolutely free. Approximately 175 people attended.” She said they presented a line-up of activities that included, “gospel music, a cruise-in, a chili cook-off, hot dogs, drinks and snacks, as well as carnival games for all ages and a bounce house for the children.” Round Hill also supports Family Promise of Shenandoah County.

Contact Pastor Beverly Funkhouser for more information.
Fruit at Sangerville

Sangerville bears fruit by participating with the Montezuma congregation in the Open Doors ministry. The congregation has provided a meal and volunteers to staff the thermal shelter for one evening for four years in a row. Pastor Steve Spire noted, “This has been an eye-opening act of service and learning for our volunteers and the congregation as a whole.”

Sangerville is also the host site for the North River community Vacation Bible School each year. Read more about it under Fruit at Emmanuel - Sangerville on page 5.

Contact Pastor Steve Spire for more information.

Fruit at Staunton Church

Staunton Church bears fruit with various events and ministries. They celebrate Dunkers' Day. Pastor Scott Duffey explains it “...is a community festival every fall that reaches into the community with support for local mission just as it brings community residents on campus to build bridges for Christ.” In addition, Duffey says they host a “Seniors and Retirees ministry that serves the needs of older persons for fellowship, support, as well as personal growth.” The fruit is borne when the word gets around and new persons join. Finally, the congregation does a Disaster Relief week each year in October. Duffey notes, this is “… a way to live out our call to serve.”

Contact Pastor Scott Duffey for more information.
Fruit at Valley Pike

The Valley Pike congregation was also featured in the last Journal edition, along with many other churches who support Family Promise of Shenandoah County. In addition to this ministry, Valley Pike has been packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child for more than 20 years. Pastor Jonathan Fletcher noted recently, “When Samaritan’s Purse opened a shoebox processing center in the Washington D.C./Baltimore area 5 years ago [the congregation has] been going and helping in the process center…” Pastor Fletcher said they were, “Sharing God’s love one shoebox at a time.”

Contact Pastor Jonathan Fletcher for more information.

Fruit at Stone Church at Buena Vista

The Kids Club ministry and special offerings taken up by children were featured in the last Journal edition. Additional exciting fruit is being borne as the result of their recent Back to Sunday School Bash, which was held during the Sunday School hour. The event featured a light breakfast for adults and children in the fellowship hall. Pastor Galen Combs reported he, “…preached a short meditation about the importance of allowing God’s Word to be a guide for our lives…then the children went downstairs for games and activities.” Information about the different classes being offered in Sunday School was provided after the activities and games. Pastor Combs said, “We have seen fruit from this time because we now have some new children attending Sunday school,” and as a result, a children’s handbell choir has been formed. Now “…there are enough children to work with the bells. The children are planning to do their first performance on December 1 after our all church Christmas lunch,” he said. “Clearly, God has used the Back to Sunday School Bash to breathe new life into our Sunday school department at Stone Church!”

Contact Pastor Galen Combs for more information.
Fruit at Summit

The Summit congregation seeks to live by Matthew chapter 25 and serve people with various needs. They serve meals to the homeless, partner with a nursing home to do events and vesper services and have started a letter-writing program with prisoners through Kingsway Outreach. Pastor Tim Craver says, “We are the ones being blessed.”

Contact Pastor Tim Craver for more information.

Fruit at Wakemans Grove

Wakemans Grove is another Family Promise of Shenandoah County supporter, as featured in the last Journal edition. Yet, the congregation reports bearing fruit in the Youth Club, too. Pastor Mark Bowyer shared, “Our Wed. Youth Club gathers area kids together to hear God’s Word in an age-relevant message and gives them a chance to play and unwind after school! They also learn about what’s going on in their community from local leaders and professionals.”

Contact Pastor Mark Bowyer for more information.

Fruit at Walkers Chapel

Walkers Chapel supports Family Promise of Shenandoah County and was featured in the last Journal edition.

Contact Pastor Cecil Haycock for more information.
Fruit at Waynesboro

The Waynesboro congregation cites multiple ministries that are bearing fruit in their community. Three are especially fruitful because they respond to pressing needs: Disciple’s Kitchen, which serves six meals a year at a soup kitchen, the Clothes Closet, which provides clothing for needy families and the Kid’s Club, which provides weekly meals, activities and Bible lessons for area youth. Waynesboro also supports Love INC.

Contact Pastor Dot Mellott or Witness Commission representative Nancy Coiner for more information.

Fruit at White Hill

The White Hill congregation was featured in the last Journal edition. The fruit they acknowledge comes from participating in Love INC. and the Upward Basketball program. They also open their building for community classes.

Contact Pastor Dave Chappell for more information.