

***An Easter Message . . .***

Tom Hanks' character Chuck Noland in the movie *Cast Away* is marooned by himself on a deserted island as a result of a plane crash. Chuck cobbles together a raft, but the overpowering surf break throws him back. After an extended period of time struggling to survive and maintain physical and mental health, material that can be utilized as a sail washes ashore, and with that advantage, Chuck can finally escape the break and drift out to the shipping lanes where he's plucked out of the water at the point where neither he nor his raft could have survived much longer.

Later, in the comfort of a friend's living room, with a tall, ice-filled glass of water in his hand, Chuck recounted to a friend how he kept his hope alive on that island. He told himself, "I gotta keep breathing. Because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?"

That resonates with me. I have had a few experiences in my life where God provided or made a way forward when I felt I had reached the end of my rope. I think that's Easter faith. Because God has raised Jesus from the dead, because of the goodness of God that we have experienced in the past, we trust that God will come through for us when we most need him, turn an apparent dead end into an open door. So ... "[you] gotta keep breathing. Because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?"

*Together on the journey,*

***Gene Hagenberger***

Mid-Atlantic District Executive Minister

***From our District Conference Moderator...***

I'm excited about the plans and possibilities for District Conference. Our #1 priority is worship, # 2 scripture, # 3 children and Jr. High youth ministry (which will focus on our theme Spirit, Soul and Body), #4 fellowship, and #5 business and budget.

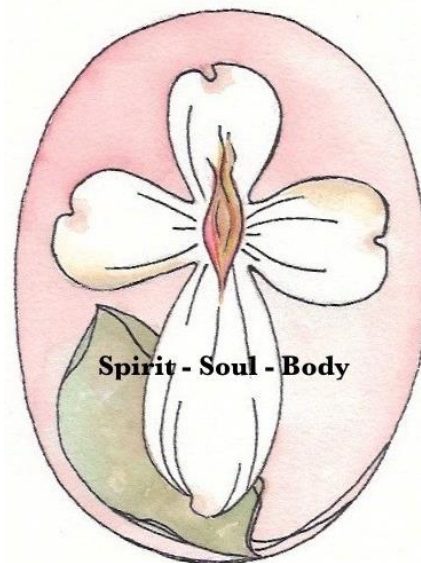
When we receive God's abundant gift of grace, it makes us passionate never passive. If you have slipped into passivity .... oh well, I may or may not go ...I'll wait and see... it depends on the weather ... this is Body/the flesh is weak (Matt. 26:41. Yes, but I have been there before; I don't like this or that music. I don't like the speaker's voice.... this is Soul (Gal. 5:13-18).

Set your Spirit on God's will (Rom. 12:1-9), set your mind on bringing your passion for Christ to District Conference Oct. 12-13, 2018 at Manassas COB.

*The Lord be with your Spirit. Grace be with you (2 Tim. 4:22).*

Moderator,

***Linda Lambert***



**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

*Design by Linda Lambert, Artist Kasia Caputo*

## Church Extension

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### FROM CHURCH EXTENSION AND EVANGELISM

The Church Extension and Evangelism Ministry Team is excited about the new restart ministry at **GraceWay** Church of the Brethren, seeded by the former Dundalk congregation. We continue to support and encourage **GraceWay**, and we are beginning to plan for future new opportunities in our District.

If you have a heart to see the message and witness of the Church of the Brethren expand, we would invite you to send your contribution to the District office earmarked for “**Church Extension Fund.**”



### EXTENDING GRACE

Easton Church of the Brethren Leadership Team chair Gene Walbridge—also a member of the Mid-Atlantic District Leadership Team—and his wife, Diane, recently took a trip to the District’s **GraceWay** church plant in Dundalk, MD. They found a vibrant, multicultural congregation with energetic worship that was working to engage its urban community.

The District has committed to support **GraceWay** for its first three years, through 2019, but funds in the District’s Church Extension Fund are currently expected to run out in 2018. Gene challenged the Easton congregation to step up and support this important new witness in the Baltimore area as part of its partnership with the District.

Easton’s Leadership Team recently decided to send \$500 in support of the Church Extension Fund and its work with **GraceWay**. Other congregations in Mid-Atlantic are encouraged to consider how they might also be able to join in supporting the work of this fledgling fellowship. Together, we can continue the work of Jesus and reach out to our increasingly diverse communities.

*Submitted by Walt Wiltschek*

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## Placement Update

- **Allensville**—Rich Cooper, Interim.
- **Arlington**—Christy Dowdy, Interim.
- **Broadfording**—Eric Henderson, Interim. Searching and interviewing.
- **Columbia**- Searching and interviewing.
- **Denton**—Rusty Curling, Interim. Searching and interviewing.
- **Frederick**—Jim Benedict, Interim Acting Lead Pastor. Kevin King begins as Lead Pastor April 1. One or two other positions to follow call of Lead Pastor.
- **Friendship**—Tom Richard begins as Pastor April 14.
- **Meadow Branch**—Amy Bell, Interim beginning in May.
- **Midland**—Tim Monn retiring August 31, 2018.
- **Myersville**—Duane and Carol Strickler, Co-Interims.
- **Oakton**—Randy Yoder, Interim.
- **Ridgely**—Searching.
- **Sharpsburg**—Jim Peyton retiring April 2, 2018.
- **Thurmont**—Interim team of Bill Caputo, Joanne Gaver, and Linda Lambert.
- **Union Bridge**—Sandi Rogers, Interim. Searching.
- **Woodbridge**—Charlotte Bear, Interim. Considering future direction.

*Please hold the family of Paul Dodd in your prayers.*

## 2018 District Directory

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- The new District directories are printed and will be mailed to churches and pastors in the next few weeks.
- There is a new phone number for Clyde Shallenberger **443-578-8235**

### Chicken Canning 2018

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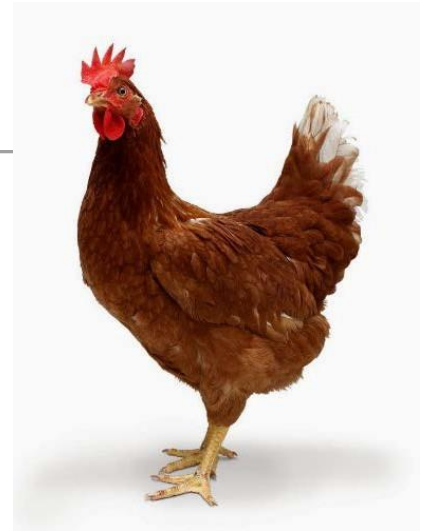
8 Days—April 16, 17, 18, 19 and April 23, 24, 25, 26

Processed at Christian Aid Ministries

***Volunteers are still needed!***

**Call the District office to sign up today**

**443-960-3052**



### Because of Your Generosity

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The following are excerpts from two letters of thanks recently received at the District office:

#### MUSTARD SEED HOUSE 2



“Congratulations! You did it. You raised the funds and sponsored another new home for a low-income family in your district: Mustard Seed House 2. Waynisha and her two children happily moved into their new home prior to Thanksgiving 2017.

We were delighted to receive the Church of the Brethren’s final contribution to the Mustard Seed 2 house in the amount of \$3,400. The District Churches of the Brethren are making a significant mark in their region by helping to provide housing for low income residents. Thank you.

On behalf of the Anderson family whom your generosity has positively affected, please accept our sincere thank you for your support.”

#### EMERGENCY CLEAN-UP BUCKETS



“Thank you for your kind donation of Emergency Clean-up Buckets to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. Caring people like you – who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster – allow people in crisis to receive help when they need it, and hope for the future.

Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind.”

# 2018 Disaster Response Auction

**The 38th Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on May 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland**



*In 2017, \$60,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.*

Since 1981, the first Saturday in May has marked the annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction. There is no admission charged for this annual event that is open to the public and features three auctions, plants, crafts, food and baked goods, books, and white elephant table.

7-9:30am	Breakfast
9am	Outside Auction: tools, lawn and garden, household and general items
9:30am	Special Items Auction: including antiques and collectibles, art and jewelry
10am	Food booths open; child care available 10am-2pm
10:30am	Lunch
12pm	Quilt and Comforter Auction

Terms: cash, check, or credit card; ATM machine located in Shipley Arena.

Your purchase has purpose. Auction proceeds go to the Church of the Brethren Emergency Disaster Response Fund to send trained volunteers to help disaster victims with child care and to repair and rebuild after natural disasters that occur within the United States. Overseas relief includes food, water, shelter and medicine. For more information call 443-960-3052.



**Put May 5th on your calendar!**

Come to the auction and invite your friends  
...together we can make a difference to many people near or far recovering from disasters.

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EASTER 1	2 District Office Closed	3 CCMT 11 am	4	5	6	7 Leadership Team District Office 9-3 Auction Dinner 6 pm Bush Creek
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 ACTS 9 – 12 MITT 9 am Spirituality and Congregational Life
15 Wilkie Nunn Ordination 2 pm Downsville COB	16 Gene on Vacation Meat Canning	17 Gene on Vacation Meat Canning	18 Gene on Vacation Meat Canning	19 Gene on Vacation Meat Canning	20 Gene on Vacation May Journey and Events Deadline	21 Gene on Vacation
22 Gene on Vacation	23 Meat Canning	24 Meat Canning	25 Meat Canning	26 Meat Canning	27 New Pastors Retreat	28
29	30					

**2018 Disaster Response  
BENEFIT DINNER**

Saturday, April 7 6:00 pm  
Bush Creek COB

Contact Jeff McKee  
443-547-5958 [jamckee26@msn.com](mailto:jamckee26@msn.com)



Is a picture of your church on the Church Directory section of the Mid-Atlantic District website?

If not, please send a picture to the office, either as an email attachment or by mail.

**2018 Leadership Team Meeting Dates**

February 3, April 7, June 2, August 4,  
November 17

**Mid-Atlantic District  
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19 Bond Street  
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443-960-3052  
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