



## ***Together on the Journey with your District Executive Minister . . .***

Licensing, and credentialing – commissioning or ordaining, is a partnership of district, denomination, and congregation. Attending to licensing and credentialing is one of my primary responsibilities as your district executive minister. That may mean talking with a potential licensee about how to fulfill training requirements through one of our three denominationally approved training tracks, and which track might be best for them. It could mean contacting a minister who is falling behind in meeting educational requirements. It has meant discerning with ministers about whether they are being called to set-apart ministry, and ministry in the Church of the Brethren, which can be two separate questions. It includes facilitating the rarely but sometimes needed response to a complaint of ministerial ethical misconduct. It means support of our annual district relicensing event that is always on the first Sunday afternoon of November, or helping to carry out the five-year ordination review process in which all ordained and commissioned ministers must participate. It means coordinating with our interviewing team and Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team and Leadership Team, all of whom have designated responsibilities in the licensing and credentialing of ministers. It includes keeping up-to-date and secure ministerial files in the district office for every Mid-Atlantic minister, and communicating decisions and information to the CoB Office of Ministry.

We have a district task team, creatively called the Ministry Interviewing Task Team (MITT), which interviews all candidates for licensing, and ordination or commissioning, and makes recommendations to the Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team (C&CMT), what used to be called the Ministry Commission. MITT members are Charlotte Bear, Rolland

Kiracofe, Donna Ritchey-Martin, Howard Miller, Greg Shook, and myself; C&CMT members are Chair Kim McDowell, Melvin Cheshire, Tim Hollenberg-Duffey, Jan Flora, Rolland Kiracofe, Gene Walbridge, and myself. C&CMT considers MITT recommendations, occasionally themselves interviewing candidates for ordination or commissioning. They make recommendations to the Leadership Team, which interviews all candidates for ordination and commissioning. The Leadership Team, following CoB polity, is the ultimate credentialing body for our district. Over the nine years (as of Aug. 1) of my tenure, and in previous service on and chairing the Middle PA Ministry Interviewing Team, it has been encouraging and inspiring to see how the Lord has called persons to ministry through and for the church.

The district offers some financial support through annual interest from our Don Rowe Student Endowment Fund currently totaling \$73,733 and invested with BBT. Support goes to district members attending Bethany or another ATS-accredited seminary, and for TRIM, ACTS, and EFSM students. Application forms may be requested through the district office beginning September 1 and are due by December 31, with applications reviewed by C&CMT and grants being distributed during January. Gifts to the Don Rowe Student Endowment Fund are needed and always welcome and appreciated, helping to support students and build the church of the future. Please make checks payable to "Mid-Atlantic District" and note "Don Rowe Student Fund."

*Gene Hagenberger*

## Who We Are

### The Basement Service at Frederick COB

*Article and pictures by Britnee Linton*

How can we get more young adults here? How do you make a setting more comfortable for worship? Which room in the church can we drink coffee? What's something different that might engage new people? These were a few of the questions we pondered as a new worship space was created at Frederick Church of the Brethren. It was time for Fellowship Hall to get a new look. The old cinder block walls with the tile floor needed a revamp. As this conversation started, there was conversation of adding another worship service to the list that already existed. We have an 8:15 and 11:15 classic service and a 9:45 contemporary worship service. Also, at 11:15 our Deaf Fellowship worships in the chapel. It's a hopping place on Sunday mornings, and the worship committee was intrigued by the idea of a unique style of worship that would be a smaller service, but a bit "cozier." This would also provide an opportunity for Sunday School attendees to have the choice of a contemporary service or classic service to attend after class.

Permission was granted and after much renovation the Multipurpose Room was finished. Adding purple paint for the walls contrasted with white walls by the kitchen, wood plank laminate flooring, pillars that light up different colors, a stage, and multiple screens this room was now ready for worship, church events, Sunday Night youth group, wedding/funeral receptions, and more. Now, to get it ready for Sunday Morning worship.



What came of this dream was The Basement service. Couches were added just in front of the stage area for comfortable seating. More often than not you see the teenagers and children in these seats. Stadium-type seating then proceeds behind the couches, about 50 chairs set up each week with more available. Around the edges are tall and short round tables that seat three to four people. In the back corner is a small coffee bar with a few Keurig machines set up and snacks if people bring some to share. The ceiling lights stay low, but the light up pillars give an added intimate touch to the worship space.

This service started out as a contemporary worship service with a recording of the pastor preaching upstairs. A large screen would

roll down in the front, and we would "watch" the sermon. In 2017, live preaching was introduced that provided an opportunity for lay speakers in the church to share their preaching skills. This has been an excellent opportunity for people to explore their call to ministry. We see a lot of new faces at the Basement service along with a lot of familiar faces.

All ages come to the service as well. We have grandparents with their grandchildren, young couples, single young adults, and families.



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## Who We Are

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### The Basement

*Continued from page 2*

The space is very casual and allows for good fellowship along with a quick escape if you are having a Sunday where you just needed to come, worship, and go home.

It is a unique space, but a sacred space. It is a good way of remembering that the Holy Spirit is present when we intentionally strive to make that happen! Whether welcoming new faces or enjoying familiar faces, The Basement service provides a comfortable setting for all who come there to worship.



**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

*Design by Linda Lambert,  
Artist Kasia Caputo*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In preparation for District Conference on Oct. 12 and 13, I have challenged and called all to memorize 1 Thess. 5:23-24, our theme scripture Spirit-Soul-Body. It is never too late!

As time for registration and final plans are made I'm asking for us to unite in prayer. Please prayerfully read John 17; Jesus prayed for himself and his disciples both past and present. In verses 13-17 Jesus asked his Father not to remove them from the world but to protect them from evil. To Sanctify them by the Word. Jesus said that the Word is the truth.

In 1 Thess. 5:23-24 the Word says God will do it...Sanctify. In John 17 Jesus says he will do it through the Truth which is Jesus living in us. It is an inside-out process.

The kingdom of God is within, Luke 17:21, where the king lives in our hearts through faith; empowered by the Holy Spirit to live not by the standard of the world but by the love of the King.

We are called to live loyal to our King. 1 Tim. 1:17: Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen

*Linda Lambert, District Conference Moderator*



## Placement Update

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- Doug Diamond from Pastor, Fellowship to Pastor, Broadfording, beginning 10/1/18
- Philip Curran to Pastor, Columbia United Christian, began 7/16/18
- Mike Trott from Intern, Mohler Ave. to Pastor, Denton, beginning August

### Openings & Transitions in Progress

**Allensville:** Arlington – profile circulating – Christy Dowdy Interim; **Frederick**, Pastor of Discipleship & Evangelism – profile being prepared; **Meadow Branch** – profile being prepared – Amy Bell Interim; **Midland** – profile being prepared; Myersville – profile circulating – Duane and Carol Strickler Interims; **Oakton** – profile being prepared – Randy Yoder Interim; **Ridgely** – profile circulating – Ken George Director of Church Ministries; **Sharpsburg** – Larry Cook pulpit supply; **Thurmont** – profile circulating – Bill Caputo, Joanne Gaver, Linda Lambert Interims; **Union Bridge** – profile circulating – Sandi Rogers Interim; **Woodbridge** – profile circulating – Charlotte Bear Interim

## 2018 District Directory Changes

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Christopher Mohler's new email address is myactv.net

**Congratulations** to **Paul Munday** on his call, through the 2018 Annual Conference, to be the **2019 Moderator-elect** for the Church of the Brethren.

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**Parts of District Conference will be live-streamed on Facebook this year. Watch for more details.**

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*Also at District Conference –*

Details on the

## Compelling Vision Process



### **48<sup>th</sup> Annual Dunker Church Worship Service**

**Sunday, September 16, 3 P.M.**

This annual worship service will be held in the restored Dunker church at the Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD. This service commemorates the peace witness of the Brethren during the Civil War and takes place the Sunday closest to the 136th anniversary of the battle of Antietam. Scott Holland will bring the message this year. Scott is the Slabaugh Professor of Theology & Culture and director of Peace Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary. This annual service is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic District and is open to the public.

**Congratulations to Nate and Jenn Hosler on the birth of Ayuba Eugene Gordon Hosler!**

Ayuba was born May 29th at 11:24 pm, 7.4 lbs. and 20 inches. Ayuba is Hausa (northern Nigeria language) for Job. He spent 5 and a half days in the NICU at Children's National but has since been home and is healthy. Jenn says they are now all doing well.



#### **CANNED CHICKEN**

If your congregation hasn't already requested to pick up cases of canned chicken, please contact the District office at 443-960-3052. There are still cases available.

If your congregation hosts or works with food pantries or knows of a need in your community, this is free food available for pick up in New Windsor.



**Check out MADCOB.com!!**

If you haven't checked out the Mid-Atlantic District's website, you should do so. In addition to information about District church openings, there is a directory that includes information about every church in the District and pictures of many of them (for those who haven't yet provided a picture, we urge you to send one to the District office).

## **Donate**

A new feature on the website is the enhanced DONATE button. When you click on the button and indicate you want to make a one-time donation, you are directed to the PayPal site where you can donate to the District through your credit card or your PayPal account. You can still give to the District by writing a check, but PayPal gives you an alternate and convenient way to support the District ministries.

Here is a link to our website--check it out today!  
<http://www.madcob.com/>



**Join Jim Benedict on an exploration of early Christianity in the Roman Empire.**

Please see the District "EVENTS" that was emailed to church offices on Monday, July 30 for details.



## Church of the Brethren

Mid-Atlantic District  
Church of the Brethren  
19 Bond St  
Westminster, MD 21157

July 12, 2018

Dear Sisters & Brothers of the Mid-Atlantic District,

Brethren Disaster Ministries has been blessed by the support it has received over many years from the Mid-Atlantic district. The many volunteers, who have given of their time for so many efforts, have been amazing and have been greatly appreciated. The congregations and the district office have uplifted us with funds, prayers and encouragement in support of our common ministry to serve disaster survivors. For this faithful support and partnership, we are grateful.

All of us at BDM are particularly thankful for the time, effort and creative energy that the district puts into each year's Disaster Response Auction, which serves the purpose of not only raising funds for disaster ministries but also of helping the wider community understand that work and the recovery challenges faced by disaster survivors. We treasure the contributions of the many volunteers who work so hard each year, before, during and after the event, to make the auction successful and memorable.

We recently received your check for \$60,000, representing proceeds from the 38<sup>th</sup> Disaster Response Auction held on May 5, 2018. We thank you for these funds, which go a long way to support the work that we, in partnership with all the members of the Mid-Atlantic District, are doing.

With gratitude and prayers for God's blessings on all you do,

Roy Winter  
Associate Executive Director  
Global Mission and Service  
Brethren Disaster Ministries

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

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188  
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Gene-Hagerstown, 10 am	3	4 LT Meeting District Office, 9:30 am – 3 pm
5	6 Gene – Pleasant View COB, evening meeting	7 Gene – Northern VA Morning through evening	8	9	10	11 MAD COB Night at the Frederick Keys – Gates and buffet open at 5 pm
12	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline. Tentative District Conf. Registration Open	16	17 Gene - Vacation	18 Gene - Vacation
19 Gene – Vacation. Amy Bell Ordination Service, Meadow Branch	20 Dunker Service Planning Mtg. Hagerstown, Noon	21 P & A – District Office, 6 pm	22	23	24 Administrative Assistant Jo Ann Landon Vacation Day	25 MITT, District Office, 9 am
26 Gene preaching, Columbia UCC	27	28	29	30	31	

LT-Leadership Team  
CCMT-Calling & Credentialing Team  
MITT-Ministry Interviewing Task Team  
CETT-Continuing Education

CEEMT-Church Extension and Evangelism  
F&P-Finance and Property  
OR&S-Outreach and Service  
S&CL-Spirituality and Congregational Life

LCT-Leadership Calling  
P&A-Programs and  
Arrangements

## 2018 Leadership Team Meeting Dates August 4, November 17

Is a picture of your church in 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.

Permission is granted by the Mid-Atlantic District to reproduce and distribute information from this newsletter.

## Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

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