



FEBRUARY 2020

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

Meat canning is scheduled for April 13-16 and 20, if there is enough money to support that number of days. Mid-Atlantic partners with So. PA district in funding and distributing the meat. Distribution is one-third to international/national destinations and one-third to each District. Mid-Atlantic and So. PA congregations distribute to food banks in their communities, where it has met needs and is counted upon. Average expenses run \$11,022 a day, so we would need \$55,110 to fund five days of canning. Mid-Atlantic has received \$2,200 so far in 2020, bringing us to a total of \$9,240 on hand toward what would be our \$27,555 half-share of support; that means we still need \$18,315 to fund our half of support for five days of canning. I know feeding the hungry and supporting the meat canning project financially, personally, and prayerfully has always been important to Mid-Atlantic congregations, and I know such will be the case again this year, which is why I bring this to your attention.

Congregations and individuals may send checks to the district office, 19 Bond St., Westminster, MD 21157, made out to Mid-Atlantic District and noted "Meat Canning." Every cent received will go toward feeding the hungry. Thank you.

Thinking of service, the **Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction** will be held again this year on May 2 at the Ag Center in Westminster, MD. The Auction Benefit Dinner will again be hosted by the Bush Creek Church on April 4 at 6 p.m. Please plan to participate in and support both. Reservations for the dinner are available through the district office, as is information about either: AAMAD@brethren.org or 443-960-3052. Every year these two events raise around \$65,000, the bulk of which is sent to support Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief Ministries, with a small portion retained to help send district congregational volunteers to work at disaster projects.

For many years, John Laudermilch and Jeff McKee co-chaired the district Disaster Auction Task Team. Jeff has been solo chairing the past couple of years, and we need someone to help him shoulder the load as the Disaster Auction Task Team co-chair. If you have some passion for helping families who have been hit by some disaster, some time to give, and a bit of ability to organize and follow-through, we invite you to prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. You can call Jeff at 443-547-5958 or me at 443-960-3052 to let us know of your interest and to talk about the possibility. Thank you for prayerfully considering this calling.

You may be aware that **Chris Stockslager** resigned as of December 31, 2019 as our half-time Manager of District Operations to accept a call to become the full-time Chief Financial Officer of Fahrney-Keedy Home. The district's loss is our home's gain! While the bad news is that Chris is gone, the good news is that he is not completely gone. The district Leadership Team has accepted Chris's offer to continue as Volunteer Manager of District Operations as time permits. He'll be helping congregations and pastors with tax issues and contract questions and will help me on special assignments, again as time permits. In the less than a year that the district had Chris with us in an employed position, many of you have experienced how incredibly gifted, helpful, and professional Chris is, and you came to have great appreciation and affection for him. I miss him terribly, but know you join me in wishing Chris all the best in his new position. We are praying God's blessings for him, and we know he will strengthen and make a very positive contribution to the ministry and mission of our district home.

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The district's **Don Rowe Student Endowment Fund** is named in memory and honor of a past district executive who over many years provided outstanding leadership to Mid-Atlantic district and the Church of the Brethren. The fund is available to provide annual grants of \$800 to MDiv students at Bethany Seminary or another ATS-accredited seminary, and \$450 a year to TRIM, ACTS, or EFSM students. Grants in excess of those amounts may be considered by the district Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team. Applications are available by contacting Jo Ann at the district office. The district Continuing Education Scholarship Fund may provide \$200 a year for pastors to participate in continuing education

events, with priority given to events that are district or CoB sponsored. Again, application may be made through Jo Ann at the district office.

Finally, **Lent** begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, the first step in the journey that culminates on Easter Sunday, April 12. I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Holy Lent – that is, a Lent that will be marked by some deeper intentionality in your discipleship, which will lead you to your brightest Easter yet.

Thankful to be on the journey with you,

Gene Hagenberger

DISTRICT CONGREGATIONAL OPENINGS:

(pastoral search unless otherwise noted)

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- Beaver Creek
 - Broadfording
 - Brownsville (Pastor Alan Smith retiring April 30)
 - Frederick (Family Ministries)
 - Hagerstown (in negotiation)
 - Harmony
 - Long Green Valley
 - Myersville
 - Woodberry
 - Woodbridge
-

GIETA GRESH RESIGNS AS CAMP MARDELA ADMINISTRATOR

Gieta Gresh, camp administrator for Camp Mardela (Denton, Md.) since April 2005, has announced her resignation. Gieta informed the camp board at its January 25 meeting that she and her husband, Ken, will be moving to Pennsylvania following the 2020 summer camp season.

In an online post following her official announcement, Gieta said: "These 15 years have been an amazing journey for all of us, but honestly it was my dream, my passion, and it has been my honor to serve as the camp administrator. I am thankful to be a part of a ministry where many lives have been touched by the love and transforming power of Jesus."

Camp Mardela has enjoyed a strong run during her tenure, with improved facilities, increased community connections, solid summer camper and rental numbers, and a stable budget. The board expressed its gratitude for "Chief" Gieta's long service and they look forward to continuing to work with her during these upcoming months of transition. Her resignation will be effective the end of August.

Camp Mardela is one of two camps in the Church of the Brethren's Mid-Atlantic District. The camp board plans to assess the needs and goals of the camp going forward and will then create a position description and search process to find leadership for the camp's next era of ministry.

Greetings in the name of Christ. Welcome to 2020! Your Program and Arrangements (P&A) Committee has met twice, and they are busily making plans for the 2020 Mid-Atlantic District Conference. The Conference will be held October 9 and 10, with a Friday evening worship service followed by Bible Study and the Conference on Saturday.

The 2020 Conference would have been held in Easton, MD according to the standard rotation. However, out of concern for delays due to Bay Bridge repairs, it will be held at the Frederick Church of the Brethren in Frederick, MD. We will go back to Easton in 2021, and will continue after that with the rotation to Manassas, Hagerstown, Easton, Frederick.

The theme for 2020 is "Faith.Hope.Love" based on 1 Corinthians 13. The P&A committee has identified several speakers and potential workshop topics. They are working to confirm speakers, and we hope to announce them soon. Watch this monthly newsletter for news in the coming months.

There was this man. He was retired. Recently, he had a rather long and strenuous day of volunteer work. On his way home, he decided to stop at a fast food restaurant and treat himself to a soft ice cream cone. Upon placing the order, he was told the tab would be \$1.37. He reached into his coin purse and searched for a quarter, a dime and two pennies. He didn't have a one-dollar bill, so he pulled a five out of his wallet.

He delivered the payment at the cashier window, and cashier came back with his change of \$3.80. He responded that this was incorrect, and noted that he had given them a quarter, a dime and two pennies in addition to the five-dollar bill. The cashier responded, "No, it was a nickel." An exchange ensued, the manager came, and this man was provided with four one-dollar bills as change.

As he drove off with his ice cream cone, he felt uncomfortable. By the time he reached his home, he was sure the cashier must have been correct – and he felt terrible for his behavior. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us in part that "Love is patient, love is kind...", and that "...the greatest of these is love." This man realized he had not exhibited much love as he *insisted* he was right, while the cashier insisted he was incorrect.

He could have argued that the cashier didn't show much love either, but he quickly realized that his actions were the only ones he truly could control. Some days later when he would again be passing that restaurant, he returned, spoke to the manager and apologized for his actions. He gave her the twenty cents he did not deserve and asked her to relay his sincere apology to the cashier, telling her he was wrong.

"When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

For ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS

<http://www.brethren.org/ac/>

Moderator Paul Munday's quarterly letter

TRAIL THOUGHTS

<http://www.brethren.org/ac/2020/moderator/>

Tod Bolsinger and Michael Gorman are featured resource people for 2020 Annual Conference

<http://www.brethren.org/news/2020/annual-conference-2020/bolsinger-and-gorman-featured-resource-people-for-conference.html>



MAD Junior High Lock-In Retreat

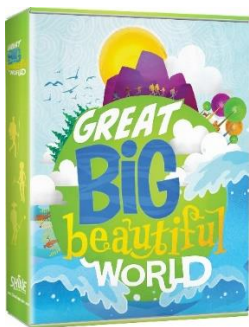
At the end of January, Junior High Youth gathered from all over the district for a Lock-In Retreat held at Manassas Church of the Brethren. The theme of the retreat was "Leap of Faith" challenging our youth to faithfully follow Jesus and trust God in all things. David Radcliff of New Community Project was our speaker throughout the retreat. He shared about all the ways our youth can take a leap of faith and act in this world to love our global neighbors and care for God's creation. Zaccheus climbed a tree. Mary said "Yes!" to giving birth to Jesus. A boy shared his lunch to feed 5,000. Each of these biblical characters took a leap of faith to follow God and it made a difference in this world. As part of our time together, we went to Sky Zone trampoline park to literally leap and jump and have fun in fellowship together. When our time ended, the youth were challenged to take a leap of faith and put what they learned at the retreat into action. Many youth shared contact information with each other so they can keep working together. I'm looking forward to seeing how these youth will take a leap of faith this year and I'm challenged to leap with them! *By Pastor Mandy North*



Photo submitted by Mandy North

*The next district Junior High Event will be a **Global Getaway at Shepherd's Spring April 25-26**. Mark your calendars and look for more information to come!*

The District office received a promotional VBS kit from Shine Curriculum –



Great Big Beautiful World.

If your congregation is planning VBS and you would like to preview this kit to help you decide if you want to order, please contact the office.

For information and registration for **INTERDISTRICT YOUTH ROUNDTABLE**

<https://iycroundtable.wixsite.com/iycbc/roundtable>



<http://www.brethren.org/workcamps/>

Ken Medema and Ted Swartz "Can we Talk?" Friday March 6 Manassas Church of the Brethren 7 PM

Ken Medema and Ted Swartz will be giving a performance of their show "Can we Talk?" on Friday March 6 at 7pm at the Manassas Church of the Brethren. Admission is free and an offering will be taken to support New Community Project. This performance is being sponsored by several COB in the NOVA region.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CORE 10 am – noon District Office
2	3	4 CETT – 2 pm Zoom	5	6	7	8 MITT 9am – 1 pm District Office
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
GraceWay 3 rd Anniversary						
16	17	18	19 District Administrative Assistants Zoom 10 am (Eastern)	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

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

CORE-Church Outreach, Renewal & Evangelism
F&P-Finance and Property
OR&S-Outreach and Service
S&CL-Spirituality and Congregational Life

LCT-Leadership Calling Team
P&A-Program and
Arrangements

**Next District Leadership Team Meeting -
April 25, 2020
Hosted by Glade Valley Church of the Brethren**

2020 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

It will soon be time to update the District directory for the 2020 edition. Please check your information and contact the office if you have corrections.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit items for the JOURNEY newsletter by the 20th of each month.

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

**Mid-Atlantic District
Church of the Brethren**
19 Bond Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
443-960-3052

Gene Hagenberger
District Executive Minister
demad@brethren.org

Chris Stockslager
Volunteer Manager of
District Operations
CStockslager@brethren.org

Jo Ann Landon
Administrative Assistant
aamad@brethren.org
Monday – Thursday 8am to 1 pm

<http://www.madcob.com>