Montezuma Today

June 2017



2017 Graduates

We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 4th.

Cameron Brown – Cameron will graduate from Turner Ashby High School on Saturday, June 10th. He plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College in the fall, and continue working.

Tina Serrell – Tina will graduate from Harrisonburg High School on Saturday, June 10th. She plans to attend Eastern Mennonite University to pursue a nursing degree.

Molly Shickel – Molly will graduate from Turner Ashby High School on Saturday, June 10th. She plans to attend James Madison University to pursue a nursing degree.

Amy Vandevander – Amy will graduate from Turner Ashby High School on Saturday, June 10th. She plans to attend Bridgewater College.

Brittany Evans - Brittany graduated James Madison University.

Olivia Mandeville – Olivia graduated from Bridgewater College on Saturday, May 20th. She is currently working for Leitner Law Group as a legal assistant. In August, she plans to start a certificate program at JMU to become a certified paralegal.

Tanner Shifflett – Tanner graduated from Virginia Tech on Saturday, May 13th, and plans to attend medical school.

Chelsea Tumer – Chelsea received a Masters Degree from Liberty University and will continue to work as a social worker.

Maker Fun Factory VBS

Monday, July 17th – Thursday, July 20th: 5:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Church Events: June 2017

2: MYF: 6:15pm

4: Graduation Sunday

4: Jr. High Hike Day

6: Golden Lunch Bunch: 11:30am

8: Salvation Army Meal

8-11: Jr. High Heritage Tour & Youth

Conference

12: Montezuma Support Group at

Maple Terrace: 11:30am

13: Church Board Meeting: 7pm

16: MYF: 6:15pm

16-18: Sr. High Youth Camping Trip

22: Constitution & By-laws

Committee Meeting: 6:30pm

27: Dorcas Circle: 1pm

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This year's Bible School theme will be, "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God- Built for a Purpose!" During VBS, children will have an opportunity to become hands-on inventors who discover that they are lovingly crafted by God.

Dinner will be served each evening from 5:00-5:30 pm. Following dinner, students will attend a variety of stations including Bible Discovery, KidVid Cinema, Game Makers, Snack Factory, and Imagination Station.

VBS is for children who will be 4 years old by September 30th through rising 5th graders. A week of service, bible study, and fellowship will also be planned for the Jr. High Youth.

Please contact Julie Smith at 879-9559 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

WORSHIP - June 2017

Sunday mornings – 9:10 a.m. Gathering Time, 9:30 a.m. Worship Hour, 10:40 a.m. Classes

4: Pentecost Sunday: What do you hope to do with your life?

Acts 2:1-21

On Graduation Sunday, we wonder what graduates will do after school. On Pentecost, we wonder what Christians will do after Jesus ascends. When we are filled with the spirit, we discover that it is not us who do any action, but it is Christ who lives within us, that enables us to do all things.

*Adult Choir

*Handbell Choir

International S.S. Lesson: Deborah and Barak

11: Trinity Sunday: A Living God

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Christians confess the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That affirmation is more a mystery than a rational explanation of God. But it's an affirmation that is meaningful personally and for the world.

International S.S. Lesson: Gideon's Call

18: Called for a Greater Cause

Jonah 1-4

Reporting on Jr. High Conference, we will explore the theme and story of Jonah through four separate small services: Calling, Thanksgiving, Transformation, and Helping the World. These are the seasons of Jonah's life. Come to hear about the ways we are called to continue God's work.

International S.S. Lesson: Jephthah answers the call

25: Sad Stories

Genesis 21:8-21; Matthew 10:26-31

The story of Abraham and Sarah rejecting Hagar and Ishmael is one of the hardest in the Bible. By reading these stories we are turned away from facile faith, and hopefully, are driven toward the truer variety.

International S.S. Lesson: Samson's Call

Peace of my mind:

After worship June 11 Jonas and I are leaving for the Amazon River basin in eastern Ecuador. We plan to be away for a full week.

The trip is sponsored by the New Community Project and is led by its executive director, David Radcliff. Jonas was about seven when he first learned of this opportunity to visit the massive rain forest in South America. He wanted to go right away. Thankfully, NCP limits tours to participants 14 years and older so we held Jonas off on the promise that when he was 14, he could go. Also, he needed to save his own money to pay for the registration fee; we'd cover the travel expenses.

Jonas is 14 and he's saved his money, so he's going. I decided to take advantage of this opportunity and will go along. About ten years ago Pastor Gabe went on the same trip.

While the trip offers the chance for foreign travel, new cultural experience, and sight-seeing, it will highlight the importance the rain forest in sustaining life as we know it on earth. One in ten known species in the world lives in the Amazon rainforest – the largest collection of living plants and animal species in the world. There are 2.5 million insect species there alone. We'll need to pack the bug spray!!

Jonas and I are incredibly fortunate to take this trip. We'll be seeing a part of the world in person that we've only learned about through movies and reading. This first-person learning is so valuable. We'll see faces, encounter a geography, and smell the smells that will become part of us.

We also expect to learn about threats to this incredible part of the world. We need oil for our way of life, as everyone in the modern world does, but on this trip we'll discover that oil production comes with a cost – especially to an environment that's crucial to earth's biodiversity. While we expect an exciting trip, I anticipate it will be a sobering one as well. We appreciate your prayers for a good journey and we look forward to sharing some of our discoveries with you upon our return.

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

May Special Offering: Friend-to-Friend

The Witness Commission asks for the support of the congregation for the Friend-to-Friend project. For the last 3 years we have invited people in our community to attend a time of fellowship before Christmas where they receive a gift card to Sharp Shopper. The cards are for \$50 or \$100 and the store does not sell alcohol or tobacco products. We do this with the help of the Community Service Board. The CSB gives an invitation to some of their clients in our immediate areas. As a Witness Commission we have no idea of who or how many will come.

We have some refreshments, a small gift basket of fruit, a gift card and an invitation to worship with us. It is just a time of friendship.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge said, "Friendship is a sheltering tree". That is our guideline – we always invite the members of Montezuma to drop by and meet the recipients of the cards and offer our friendship. Last year we gave out about \$1,300 in gift cards and entertained between 20 and 30 people including children, young adults, and senior citizens.

In order to finance this project, the Witness Commission invites you to generously support this opportunity to offer our friendship and be a sheltering tree.

Thank you.

Youth Events: June 2017

Jr. High Hike Day:

Sunday, June 4:

Youth are planning an open invitation Hike Day. We will meet at the church at 1pm, and leave for Saint Mary's Falls. This hike is relatively flat, and is just over 4 miles total. During the hike, we will have time to rest, build a campfire, and swim at the falls. Hotdogs and smores are included! Everybody is welcome to join the youth!

Jr. High Heritage Tour & Youth Conference:

June 8-11

Jr. High youth will travel to Philadelphia to visit the Germantown Church of the Brethren, the Wissahickon Creek, the Liberty Bell, and Independence Hall. They will also get to tour the Ephrata Cloister and a pretzel factory before attending Jr. High Conference at Elizabethtown College, with youth from all over the country. On the way back, we will stop at Hershey's Chocolate World. Please keep these youth in your prayers at they get to have fun, and visit some of the history of our Christian tradition.

<u>Sr. High Youth Camping Trip at Shen. River State Park</u>

June 16-18

We will be leaving Friday and returning Sunday for a weekend of camping, tubing, hiking, games, campfire & s'mores, and more!

Youth Money

Historically, the Montezuma Senior High Youth have kept a separate checking account out of which all youth activities, including National Youth Conference, were paid. The Junior High youth have not, until the last year, had a separate account. Even with this separation of accounts, it has become increasingly difficult to account for programing that includes local youth activities, week-long work camps each summer, and national conferences for both age groups, including National Youth Conference every four years and Junior High Youth Conference every two years.

Because of the congregation-wide fundraising that is essential to pay for National Youth Conference every four years, and the importance of annual work camps, a committee of Board representatives, youth workers, and pastoral staff are now recommending that the large sums of money needed to pay for youth be retained in the congregation's funds and be accounted for on the congregation's balance sheet, which will make the amount of money available clear to everyone. A work camp account for Senior and Junior High youth will be added to the balance sheet as well. This account will also include funds for special denominational events such as the Christian Citizenship Seminar. This accounting for funds will help the congregation understand the scope of youth activity and understand its own responsibility in sponsoring youth events. Both Senior High and Junior High groups will continue to maintain separate checking accounts but these will now be smaller and dedicated to local youth ministry projects and activities.

The National Youth Conference account should appear on the church's June balance sheet with an amount of \$30,019.38. We hope to have the initial work camp accounts in place for that balance sheet as well. Questions? Talk to Pastor Gabe.

Ministry of Hope

The Ministry of Hope expresses a huge thanks to all of those that were moved to give their gifts to this ministry last February. The Ministry was blessed greatly, and the gifts that were given will be used to help those that are in need. I would like to offer you a brief description of Ministry of Hope.

Ministry of Hope began to unfold with the community at Commerce Village, located on the north side of Harrisonburg. This government housing is set up to help house Veterans and other men and women without homes. Initially, I encountered Commerce Village through a re-acquaintance with a woman I met at Montezuma when we hosted Open Doors. Through conversation with her, and visiting the Village, my heart was moved. I saw that the needs there were great, but also realized that because of God's love for this community, there was hope for them.

A door opened, and my heart moved me into a walk that I share with another sister in Christ, Linda Waggy. We started meeting with several residents once a week, and that led to one on one visits and the building of relationships. We have done this now for over a year.

While the struggles our friends at the Village have are not the same struggles we may have, and as such may seem simple in our eyes, I could see they needed a friend, and we wanted to share God's love with them. Along the way we have helped many set up their homes at the Village by delivering furniture, contributing groceries, personal items, over-the-counter medicines, providing transportation to appointments, making hospital visits, and answering many emergency phone calls during challenging and emotional times in their lives. All of this, but above all, we have ministered among them as witnesses of the One who is our Lord, who loves them and will provide all that is needed. We hope to encourage them to trust Him and spend time in His presence, learning to know Him and themselves becoming His witnesses.

Along the journey of this ministry, we have served others outside of Commerce Village, and as we have done this I can see that our God wants the ministry to serve. Even though the root has started at the Village, it has branched out to serve those that were in need that did not live there, and this has moved my heart into a vision of what our God may want to do with this ministry. So, my heart is open to hear where he may send us and to whom He wants us to serve and share His word. Again, I thank all that have shared their gifts with this ministry and hope that as the door stays open that God will move hearts to share in this walk, and when the need comes to serve, that God will provide all that is needed according to His will. I speak for myself on this walk that so long as God keeps the door open and the passion in my heart to serve Him by helping others, I will share His love with others and encourage them to hope. I want others to know that God loves them; and I want to encourage them to trust and love the Lord.

A huge thanks to my sister, Linda Waggy. She has been given to me to share in this ministry, and has been there to share in every step and with every need. She has shared her heart and her gifts to help others. Thank you, sister.

I hope to see others join in on the movement of this ministry as God unfolds it, and I look forward to where our God will take us. We are called to reach out to others that they may see the reflection of Christ in us, however humble that may be.

~ Kathleen Michael

Montezuma Today is a monthly publication of **I** Montezuma Church of the Brethren. Articles **I** and information for publication are **I** appreciated by the 20th of each month.

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EYN confirms release of 82 Chibok schoolgirls

n May 6, president Joel S. Billi of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) confirmed reports of the release of 82 of the Chibok schoolgirls who were abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014. News media reported the girls were released to the Nigerian government in exchange for the government's release of five Boko Haram suspects.

Nigeria Crisis Response staff Roxane Hill reported that "we don't know when and if the girls will be allowed to return to Chibok." She shared a list of the names of the 82 released girls, which was taken from an announcement by the office of the president of Nigeria. However, as of mid-May, the names had not yet been confirmed by EYN leadership.

Concerns remain for the hundreds of other children and adults who have been abducted by Boko Haram in recent years.

In response to queries about how to offer financial support to the released girls and their families, the Nigeria Crisis Fund will receive donations for that purpose. Brethren Disaster Ministries will work with EYN to oversee the use of the donations.

Donations may be made to the Nigeria Crisis Fund, with a note that the gift is made to support the Chibok schoolgirls (1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120). For more about the Nigeria Crisis Response go to www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis.

Personnel notes

Bob Chase has retired from his longterm leadership of SERRV International, Inc., which had its start as a Church of the Brethren program. Retiring as president and CEO, he has been part of the SERRV team and the global fair trade community for more than 27 years. He will continue on the World Fair Trade Organization Board of Directors and on a part-time basis will oversee SERRV's Loan Fund. The SERRV board appointed Loreen Epp as president and CEO effective April 1. Epp, who grew up in Canada, was most recently chief creative strategist for Room Planners, Inc., in New York, and previously held positions at Staples and Levitz Home Furnishings.

Joven Castillo has been hired as technology support specialist for Brethren Benefit Trust. He holds an associate of applied science-information technology degree from Elgin Community College and most recently worked at Frain Industries in Carol Stream, Ill.

David Lawrenz has announced plans to retire as executive administrator of Timbercrest Senior Living Community in North Manchester, Ind. No date has been set. Lawrenz has been at Timbercrest since 1974 and has served as executive administrator since 1979.

Lynn Phelan of Hoffman Estates, Ill., has begun as an accountant for the Church of the Brethren. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor's of science degree in accountancy.

Tara Shepherd-Bowdel has resigned as regional advancement officer at Bethany Seminary. Since March 2016 she has served the seminary in the eastern US by strengthening relationships with alumni/ae and friends, seeking financial support, and representing the seminary at events. She earned a master of divinity degree from Bethany in 2015.



Pastors of the Chicago-area church plants receiving grants from the Wieand Trust, shown here at the 2016 church planting conference: Jeanne Davies, pastor of Parables Ministry (left), and LaDonna Sanders Nkosi, pastor of The Gathering Chicago (right), and her husband, Sydwell Nkosi.

Wieand Trust gives grants to church plants in Chicago area

Congregational Life Ministries is supporting and overseeing grants from the David J. and Mary Elizabeth Wieand Trust to two church plants in the Chicago area. The trust names Christian work in Chicago as one of three purposes for its grants.

The Gathering Chicago, a community of prayer and global/local service based in Hyde Park, Chicago, led by pastor LaDonna Sanders Nkosi, has received a grant of \$49,500.

Parables Ministry, a community of empowerment and belonging for persons with special needs and their families, is hosted at York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill. It received a grant of \$23,372. The ministry is led by pastor Jeanne Davies.

The grants complement district support for the church starts. Congregational Life Ministries staff Stan Dueck and Joshua Brockway have worked with Illinois and Wisconsin District to support, supplement, and encourage the new ministries with intentional conversations around practices and plans for sustainability.

Upper campus of the Brethren Service Center closes

worship service on Sunday, April 30, closed the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md. Some 125 people gathered on the lawn in front of the Old Main building on a sunny afternoon to remember and celebrate the ministries that have taken place at the campus.

The lower campus continues as the Brethren Service Center and houses office and/or warehouse facilities of Brethren Disaster Ministries, Children's Disaster Services, Material Resources. On Earth Peace, and SERRV.

In November 2016, the Church of the Brethren signed a purchase agreement with Shanghai Yulun Education Group for the upper campus of the property in New Windsor, which had been listed for sale since July 2015. The purchaser intends to establish a private school on the property.

Those who led the simple, 40-minute service represented the leadership of the denomination and Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic District, area congregations, and current and former staff of the center.

Opening and closing the service were Mission and Ministry Board chair Donald Fitzkee and general secretary David Steele, who gave a welcome and introduction, and Annual



Conference moderator Carol Scheppard, who closed with prayer. Scriptures were read by Gene Hagenberger, executive for Mid-Atlantic District, and Roy Winter, associate executive director of Global Mission and Service and Brethren Disaster Ministries. Miller Davis, former manager of Emergency Response and Service Ministries, reviewed the history of the Brethren Service Center.

Jim Benedict, pastor of Union Bridge Church of the Brethren, gave the message. "We must be careful not to let our imaginations, memories, and love for this place keep us from seeing the opportunities that we still have to serve God," he said, in part. "We must continue to listen for God's call, and be ready to get up and go when we hear it."

Employees end service on closing of Zigler Hospitality Center

With the closing of Zigler **Hospitality Center** at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., 10 employees end their work with the Church of the Brethren. These employees, along with some long-term volunteers, were recognized at an all-campus luncheon on April 28.

May 5 marked the end of service for the following two employees:

Mary Ann Grossnickle began as manager of Zigler Hospitality Center on Jan. 20, 2015. She had served as interim coordinator of hospitality since Oct. 20, 2014. She oversaw continued expansion of services up to the time the facility closed. She managed the hospitality and kitchen team, and kept the Zigler center close to a break-even budget. In previous work at the Brethren Service Center, she

held a variety of positions with SERRV International from 2006 to 2014.

Connie Bohn had been program assistant for Zigler Hospitality Center since June 29, 2015. Previously, from 1999 to 2012, she was secretary at the New Windsor Conference Center-the predecessor to Zigler. She also had been administrative support assistant at the Heifer International Mid-Atlantic Office 1988-98, when it was located at the Brethren Service Center.

Eight kitchen staff of Zigler Hospitality Center ended employment on April 30:

Janet Comings, head cook, had been employed at the Brethren Service Center since 1982. She had worked for both the New Windsor Conference Center and Zigler Hospitality Center. She began as head cook on Jan. 2, 2013, and led a team

of assistants and volunteer kitchen aides in providing dining services for guests of the center and for volunteer groups.

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Cooks Fay Reese and Charlotte Willis and kitchen assistant Elena Cutsail all had served at both the New Windsor Conference Center and Zigler Hospitality Center. Reese had worked at the Brethren Service Center since 2000. Willis had worked there since 2003. Cutsail had been at the center since 2007.

Kitchen assistants John Frisby, Helen Eyler, Katherine (Kathi) Blizzard, and Robyn Jackson had been employed solely at Zigler Hospitality Center-Frisby since 2014, Eyler since 2015, and Blizzard and Jackson since 2016.

Two long-term kitchen volunteers also ended their service: Maria Capusan and Mathea Iglich.

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Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
May 7	174	74	\$5,075.00
14	196	77	\$5,549.17
21	177	91	\$7,174.81
28	150	74	\$4,470.00
May average per Sunday	174	79	\$5,567.25
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	175	86	\$5,252.20

Special Giving for May 2017

2¢ Meal Offering	\$75.73	Mem. Flower Fund: Eunice Shull	\$100
Disaster Ministries	\$445	Shen. District Disaster Auction	\$200
Honoraria Fund	\$200	Youth Cookooks	\$15.82

Serving in June

Nursery

- 4 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 11 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 18 Amy & John Knott
- 25 Stephanie Diehl & Olivia Mandeville

SOUND SYSTEM

- 4 Ron Shickel
- 11 Randy Glick
- 18 Jim Rusmisel
- 25 John Layman

USHERS: Roger Moyer, Bob Black, Ben Hall, Jim Rusmisel

VALET PARKING

WORSHIP CENTER

4 Weldon Good

4 Wanda Hollen

11 Lisa Shickel

18 Dawn Kiser

25 Jill Sease

- 11 Wade Showalter
- 18 Bob Michael
- 25 Brad Smith

Nursery Schedule

If you are interested in helping with nursery care during worship September 2016 through August 2017 or you would like your name deleted from the current list, please contact Frances Shenk at 540-879-9257 by August 1st. If your name is already on the list, it will remain there unless notified otherwise.

Summer Music

Anyone who would like to provide special music for worship during the summer months, June to August, please contact Marsha Shank or Ralph Rohrer.

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, June 8th. This month, the following people are signed up to help with the meal:

- Brenda Wine
- J O Good
- Mary Frances Heishman
- Judy Lokey
- Doug Tumer

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays:

- Clayton Adams Rachel Coffman Drew Shull
- 2 Fay Airey
- 3 Brandi Harpine LeAnne Kendall
- 4 Sandra Huffman Curt Kendall
- 5 Randy Showalter
- 6 Ramona Evans
- 7 Bradley Glick Alannah Harback Bob Jerome
- 8 Ernie Havener
- 9 Beth Bazzle Nicolas Huffman Matthew Ross
- 10 Anderson DePoy
- 11 Faye McNett
- 12 Mason Black John Serrell
- 13 Robert Black, Jr. Eric Shank

- 14 Gary Payne
- 15 Marty Barlow
- 16 John Coffman
- 17 Walter Coceano Skyler Shank
- 18 Mike Healy Jonathan Northrop
- 20 Troy Knott Linda Waggy
- 21 Liam Harback Yvonne Miller
- 22 Tammy Hall Cory Payne
- 24 Mason Payne Lavonne Rusmisel
- 25 Laurie Kile
- 26 Ann Click
- 27 Tom Ross June Wenger
- 29 Jared Diehl Judy Lokey Kim Showalter
- 30 Andrea Adams

June Anniversaries:

- 1 Jonathan & Bobbi Jo Ross
- 2 Chris & Shannon Airey
- 12 Ivan & Lillian Howdyshell John & Marian Layman Brian & Janelle Weaver
- 13 Phil & Ramona Evans
- 15 David & Kathy Lilly
- 16 Melvin & Edith Burger
- 17 Aaron & Heather Barnhart Harold & Faye McNett
- 18 Brent & Monica Burkholder Tom & Ann Miller
- 21 Don Poston & Cheryl Martin
- 24 Bobby & Bonnie Guyer Charles & Bonnie Miller
- 25 Earl & Edith Hartman
 Donnie & Mary Jackson
 Lynn & Carolyn Mohler
 Dean & Holly Wood
- 27 Austin & Nikita McNett
- 28 Randy & Mary Lou Glick
- 29 John & Amy Knott

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