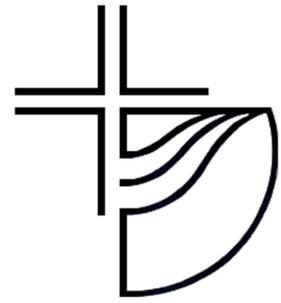


Montezuma Today

September 2017



Calling of Deacons

Montezuma Church will hold a brief service to call or renew the call of deacons for the congregation on Sunday, September 24th, during morning worship. What do Deacons do? In short summary, deacons serve the congregation by assisting in the ordinances of baptism, Love Feast, and anointing; they provide care and support to families and individuals during times of need; they offer spiritual guidance to the congregation and they are called to practice ministries of hospitality within the church. The office of deacon finds attestation in the New Testament and has found expression in every generation of the church since New Testament times.

Deacons here at Montezuma are asking each member of the congregation to give prayerful consideration to individuals or married couples who would serve with mature faith and sound judgment. Please come prepared to offer 5 names for this time of calling on the 24th.

Fall Sunday School

Sunday school classes will be changing on Sunday, September 10th. The children's department will be offering a nursery class through 2 years of age, a class for 3 and 4 year olds (must turn 3 by Sept 30th), a class for kindergarten through 2nd graders, and a class for 3rd-5th graders. We would love to see your children during Sunday school. We are still in need of Sunday School teachers. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to teach, please contact Pastor David or Pastor Gabe.

Brethren Heritage and Belief Class This Fall

Montezuma's fall study theme is Brethren Heritage and Belief. Pastors David and Gabe will cover six topics: The Mind of Christ, Discipleship, Priesthood of all believers, peace, service, and the Body of Christ. Among the resources used is a curriculum called "Little Macks and Dunker Punks." Classes begin the week of September 17 and include the following times: Sunday School (Pastor David); Monday evening at 6:30 (Pastor Gabe); and Tuesday morning at 10 (Pastor David). As we discuss individual topics, Brethren history and practices will be included in conversation. This class is a good opportunity for adults considering membership at Montezuma and for folks who are new to the Brethren tradition. Everyone is welcome.

Love Feast – October 1st

Montezuma will gather for the sacred service of Love Feast on Sunday, October 2nd at 7 pm at Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren. The Love Feast has guided and fired Brethren worship and discipleship from the church's beginning over 300 years ago. If you participate regularly in these semi-annual services than we welcome you again; if you have not visited these tables before or in a long time, now is the time to return to them. It is not we who invite you, but Christ. Childcare will be provided.

Church Events: September

- 5: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 6: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 8-9: Jr. High Camping Trip –
- 10: Youth Parents Meeting about NYC – 10:45am
- 10: Sunday Night Live Youth Event – 6-8pm
- 11: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 11: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 12: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 13: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 14: Salvation Army Meal
- 17: Deacon Meeting – 11:30am
- 18: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 19: Woman's Prayer Group – 6:30pm
- 20: Adult Choir – 7pm
- 22: Constitution Revision Committee – 6:30pm
- 23: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Corn Maze Trip – 6-10pm
- 24: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Picnic – after Sunday School
- 25: Bell Choir – 7pm
- 26: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 27: Adult Choir – 7pm

What's Inside:

- 2 Worship Topics
Peace of my mind
- 3 News
- 4 Youth Events
All In – by Pastor Gabe
Church Historian
- 5-6 Newline Digest
- 7 Stewardship
Financial Report
- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

WORSHIP – September 2017

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

3: **Conformity**

Romans 12:1-2, 9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

The Brethren have long talked about and practiced nonconformity. There is value there. But the deeper point is not our nonconformity to the world – it's our conformity to Jesus.

Special Music: Abe Evans

International S.S. Lesson: The Rainbow

10: **Lead me in the Path**

Psalms 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." That is Paul's summary of the law and commandments. Again, the prescription is Jesus Christ.

Dedication of Sunday School Teachers & classes
International S.S. Lesson: Circumcision

17: **Stories of Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:21-35; Psalm 103:8-13

How many times should we forgive? For some reason, I think we would answer this question in Sunday school differently than how we would answer this question anywhere else. Forgiveness can be one of the most difficult directions from Jesus, yet we know how important it is. Let's talk about it!

International S.S. Lesson: Sabbath Observance

24: **A Changed Mind**

Jonah 3:10-4:12; Ps 145:8-9; Phil 1:21-30

The story of Jonah is an incredible story. There's a point behind this fish story. And it's not just about Jonah's attitude ... it's about God's attitude and our alertness to it.

International S.S. Lesson: Spirit-Filled Heart

Peace of my mind

Honestly, the political and cultural conflict of the last months is generating a hint of despair in my soul. I am weary of the accusations and outrage, and at the same time – and this discourages me – I am attracted to the fight. What will happen next? What has so-and-so said about it? Endless cycles of public outrage have become a drug nursing our addiction.

Those of us not officially engaged in these arguments through office, or by a calling to activism, are no less influenced by it. It's not simply the controversy – it's the atmosphere. It's the air we breathe.

How do we respond? The old Brethren would have answered something like this to, say, the confederate monument controversy: since the monuments are civic in nature, we Brethren are not empowered to be critical of them. Of course, we are in no position to defend the monuments either. They are simply not our concern.

That view seems quaint to us now. But the view didn't prevent Brethren from making specific witness amidst conflict by their deeds. For example, Brethren refused to own slaves and actively disciplined members of the church who sought to do so. Further, Shenandoah Valley Brethren refused to support intentionally the Confederate war effort, and even accepted heavy taxation or "commutation" fees for young men who didn't join the southern army. Those costs were \$500.00 plus two per cent of assessed property value per conscription age male – no small sum in the 1860s. Few could pay that cost alone. They needed help from their congregations. They were in it together.

When conflict comes, the choice is not really if we can avoid it. The real choice is how we will conduct ourselves. It's not only about what we say. It's what we do. We live in a country of free speech and that inevitably cheapens our talk. The real cost – as it was for Jesus – is in how we live. What values do our lives evidence? How do our everyday lives give testimony to the Gospel? Despair is complicated, but it is different from sorrow, frustration, disappointment, and bewilderment. These last four are common enough; Jesus and his disciples experienced all of them. Bad as they are, they aren't despair. They still make room to find hope in positive action, which for us, finds its source in the way of Christ.

Peace to you, and to our world – Pastor David

Special Offering for September: Open Doors

Open Doors is a homeless shelter that began in 2007 to serve homeless people in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham area. The shelter is hosted by area churches, and provides meals and shelter from November through March for homeless people over age 18. Montezuma, in partnership with Sangerville, Mt. Bethel and Beaver Creek, will be hosting Open Doors November 13th-20th.

Upcoming Heritage Festival

The annual Heritage Festival is an exciting event for our church and the local community and it is quickly approaching; it will be held on Saturday, October 21st this year. Soon, there will be sign-up sheets out for participation and items that need to be donated. It takes a lot to make this event successful each year and we are grateful for those that will be able to lend a helping hand in one way or another.

There will be six kettles of apple butter made the Saturday before the festival, October 14th and one kettle of apple butter made the day of the festival. Canning jars are always needed for this event; specifically pint jars, wide mouth or regular. Please be sure you have thoroughly washed the jars before donating them. If you are able to donate any jars, please talk to Vince Rhodes.

The profit from this year's Heritage Festival will go to the Montezuma Building Improvement Fund.

Salvation Army

Our church is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, September 14th. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Tom & Ann Miller
- Bonnie Guyer (help prepare only)
- Mary Frances Heishman
- Libby Kiser
- Helen Shickel

Montezuma Today is a monthly publication of Montezuma Church of the Brethren. Articles and information for publication are appreciated by the 20th of each month.
Email: montezuma.cob@gmail.com
Mail: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Woman's Prayer Group

After many months of thought and prayer, I believe there is a need for a woman's prayer group here at Montezuma. This will be an opportunity to come together in prayer and strengthen our relationship with God and each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

We will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm in the choir room. Our first meeting will be held on September 19, 2017.

God has called me to this journey, and I look forward to spending time in fellowship and prayer with others. Women of all ages are welcome to participate.

Blessings, Rose Miller

Crop Walk at Bridgewater College

On Thursday, October 26th from 5-7pm, members of local churches are invited to the Bridgewater College CROP Meal where they can purchase meals surrendered by Bridgewater College students in the college's dining hall. All proceeds go to Church World Service's hunger education and relief programs in 80 countries around the world.

The Bridgewater/Dayton Area CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, October 29 at 2pm. Prior to that day, members of area churches and Bridgewater College students will ask others to sponsor them for every kilometer of the 6K (3.7 mile) route they will walk.

More information about signing up for the CROP meal or the CROP walk is coming soon.

Calling All Choir Members: Past, Present, Future!

Montezuma's music ministry needs you! Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00pm. Rehearsals will be held four Wednesdays per month. The choir will sing for the 9:30 a.m. service of worship two Sundays per month. Exactly which two Sundays remains to be established, based on work schedules, vacations, and the bell choir schedule.

All interested singers from middle and high school, and adults, are welcome to come check out the choir. Please contact Katie Grant with questions: (757) 374-9649 or email mamatommy@gmail.com

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: September 2017

See the church's website for more details about these events: www.montezumacob.org

Jr. High Camping Trip

September 8th-9th

NYC Informational Meeting

Sunday, September 10th, 10:45-11:30am

Sunday Night Live

Sunday, September 10th, 6-8pm

Jr. & Sr. High Corn Maze

Saturday, September 23rd, 6-10pm

Youth Picnic

Sunday, September 24th,
after Sunday School at the Hall

Wanted: New Church Historian

Carolyn Glick Cline has served as our Church Historian since she wrote the church history in 2003, *Montezuma Church of the Brethren History 1878 - 2003*, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the church. While she was growing up in the church, her mother, Marguerite Glick, wrote histories of special events, laying the groundwork for Carolyn's later church history, which she said was compiled from notes left by other people in the church's past.

Carolyn is stepping down as our Church Historian, leaving a vacancy which we need to fill. The responsibilities include recording important church events, such as the church's dedication, as well as saving news clippings of events relating to the church family and newsletter items. Normally occurring events, such as the annual Birthday Luncheon, would not be included, as they would fall within the church Board minutes.

Thank you, Carolyn, for doing such a wonderful job, helping us to keep connected to our history!

Anyone interested in taking up this important role for our church, please contact Neva Clayton or Pastor David.

All In

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Matthew 19:21

What does it mean to be completely invested in our relationships? Does that mean that we will try to have relationship with another only until they reject? If we are completely invested in our relationships, wouldn't we give endless attempts of extending our loving hands in compassion and support? I believe Jesus is 'all in' with us. Jesus will never give up on us no matter how many times we run away from his arms, shut our eyes from his miracles, or plug our ears from God's Word. I also believe that Jesus calls us to be 'all in' with him. If Jesus is 'all in' with our relationship, I believe we are called to be 'all in' with our relationship with others.

I am convinced that relationships are a huge part of what God created us to do in life. God has relationship with us by sharing compassion and support. Therefore, when we share compassion and support with one another, we are sharing God. Sharing compassion and support with one another is how we fulfill God's plans for us. Oftentimes we think of starting relationship so that something might happen in return that will benefit us. For example, someone may say, "I want to have a better relationship with my neighbor so that they will become a Christian." This is a great idea if we only love our neighbor if they are a Christian. What would it be like if we loved our neighbor because we are Christians? I would argue that the relationship is not the means to an end, but it is the end. It is not the avenue to coerce or persuade others to believe a particular truth or idea. The relationship itself is what God is after.

In what ways are you feeling called today? Are you interested in being in an 'all in' relationship with your child, mother, neighbor, or church youth? Do you feel called to be 'all in' with God? Talk to somebody about what this idea sparks in your mind. Talk to a pastor about what it means that Jesus is 'all in' with us. If you are so led, ask Pastor Gabe how you can mentor a youth in this 'all in' type of relationship building.

Blessings on the journey!
Pastor Gabe

Mission and Ministry Board approves 2018 budget

The Mission and Ministry Board approved a \$5,192,000 budget parameter for the denomination's Core Ministries in 2018, the same as the current 2017 budget. In pre-Annual Conference meetings in Grand Rapids, Mich., the board also heard a report on the sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., among other business.

Giving from congregations and individuals is projected to provide \$2,585,000 toward the Core Ministries budget in 2018. A quasi-endowment created with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Brethren Service Center upper campus will provide up to \$512,000. The rest of the support for the budget is projected to come from draws on savings and other funds, such as bequests.

In March, the board had allocated percentages of the anticipated property sale to several funds. A designated fund for upkeep of the historic Brethren property at Germantown, Pa.—where the denomination owns the church, parsonage, and cemetery—receives \$100,000 to help support major work at this site. Thirty percent of the remainder of the sale proceeds, totaling \$1,584,809, is being put into a new Brethren Faith in Action Fund. Seventy percent, or \$3,692,697, is going into the quasi-endowment fund. The lower campus of the property in New Windsor continues as the Brethren Service Center.

In other business

The board gave staff permission to explore hiring a consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study to determine if and how to

launch a major fundraising effort.

Two congregations received citations from the Disabilities Ministry, and director Debbie Eisenbise welcomed them to the Open Roof Fellowship: Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren and York Center Church of the Brethren, both in Illinois and Wisconsin District.

Don and Belita Mitchell received the Revelation 7:9 Award from the Intercultural Ministry, in recognition of their time, passion, and energy to make the Church of the



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Brethren an intercultural church. Most recently, they have offered intercultural leadership in Atlantic Northeast District.

International guests were introduced from Church of the Brethren bodies in the Great Lakes region of Africa, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Spain, and the Dominican Republic.

The board thanked three members who completed their terms of service: Don Fitzkee, who has been serving as chair, J. Trent Smith, and Donita Keister.

In a reorganization meeting, the board chose new members for its executive committee: Carl Fike, Jonathan Prater, and Dennis Webb. They will serve with chair Connie Burk Davis and chair-elect Patrick Starkey.

Raising awareness on Capitol Hill for the crisis in Nigeria

One week after attending Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., on July 10 leaders of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) attended meetings in Washington, D.C., organized by the Office of Public Witness.

Meetings included conversations with the US Institute of Peace, US Department of State, and 21st Century

Wilberforce, a partner in work on Nigeria focusing on international religious freedom. EYN members were able to share extensively on their experiences during the years of crisis in their country, and advocate for an appropriate response from US leaders.

The Office of Public Witness along with the Nigeria Working Group organized a briefing for policy makers and

their staff, to provide knowledge on local solutions, US policy, and interfaith organizing for Nigeria. A variety of congressional offices attended, representing 12 House representatives and 5 Senate offices, along with humanitarian and advocacy groups.

Panelists included Roy Winter, associate executive director of Global Mission and Service and Brethren Disaster Ministries, and speakers from Search for Common Ground, Oxfam International, and Mennonite Central Committee. The standing-room-only briefing, held in a room in the Russell Senate Building intended for 40 people, was attended by at least 64.



Courtesy of Office of Public Witness

Emergency Disaster Fund supports work in S. Sudan, DRC, S. Carolina

Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to support rebuilding following flooding around Columbia, S.C., the mission in South Sudan, and the Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

South Carolina: An allocation of \$45,000 supports Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding near Columbia, following flooding in October 2015. Brethren Disaster Ministries first worked in the area through a partnership with the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as part of the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative. That site closed in October 2016. To continue the work, a Brethren Disaster Ministries project opened in the same area at the beginning of October 2016. Brethren Disaster Ministries has been awarded \$175,000 in grant money from United Way of the Midlands for construction materials needed for the rebuilding work. The project is anticipated to be completed by the fall.

South Sudan: Civil war has forced more than 3 million people to flee their homes, nearly 7.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, and a famine was declared in February in parts of the country, affecting mostly internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. A grant of \$10,000 will provide \$5,000 to assist the Ifoti community with emergency food and supplies, and \$5,000 for initial repairs and replacement of supplies at the Church of the Brethren Peace Center.

Democratic Republic of Congo: A grant of \$5,000 assists families displaced by violence, working with Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development. Increased



armed conflict was reported in the eastern DRC in early July. The ministry is assisting a growing number of displaced families, and this initial grant will assist in providing emergency food and household supplies to displaced families from North Kivu villages. Additional grants to support a larger response are anticipated.

For more about the Emergency Disaster Fund go to www.brethren.org/edf.

CDS serves in New York, California

Children's Disaster Services volunteers have responded following flooding in New York state and wildfires in California. In New York, CDS volunteers carried out a two-day deployment in response to flooding in the Utica area. CDS provided three volunteers, who assisted a total of seven children. In California, the American Red Cross asked CDS to work in shelters set up for wildfire evacuees close to Mariposa. The initial request was for teams to support 6 shelters with a population of 450 people. For more about CDS go to www.brethren.org/cds.



Personnel notes

Haley Steinhilber of Fort Wayne, Ind., is the 2017-18 intern in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She graduated in January from Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind., with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in French. Previously, she worked at the Fort Wayne History Center.

Victoria (Tori) Bateman of Indian Creek Church of the Brethren in

Harleysville, Pa., has joined the Office of Public Witness as a Policy and Peacebuilding associate through Brethren Volunteer Service. She graduated from Messiah College with a degree in Politics and International Relations in December 2016.

Six interns served in Ministry Summer Service this year: **Brooks Eisenbise** of Kalamazoo, Mich., served at Hollidaysburg (Pa.) Church of the

Brethren; **Laura Hay** of Modesto, Calif., served at Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren; **Cassie Imhoff** of Sterling, Ohio, served at Camp Mardela near Denton, Md.; **Nolan McBride** of Elkhart, Ind., served at Camp Mack near Milford, Ind.; **Monica McFadden** of Elgin, Ill., served at the Office of Public Witness; **Kaylie Penner** of Huntingdon, Pa., served at Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

Our Stewardship for July 2017

	Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
July 2	132	49	\$5,340.10
9	159	76	\$4,929.97
16	151	78	\$5,571.58
23	220	69	\$4,111.66
30	183	80	\$5,548.02
July average per Sunday	169	70	\$5,100.27
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	177	86	\$5,114.91

Special Giving for July

2¢ Meal Offering	\$22.61	Friend-to-Friend	\$50.00
Backpack Program - VBS	\$378.65	Vacation Bible School	\$100.00
Bridgewater Food Pantry	\$395.00		

Our Stewardship for August 2017

	Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
August 6	163	81	\$6,669.25
13	154	56	\$6,471.50
20	165	69	\$5,263.05
27	176	--	\$2,177.01
August average per Sunday	164	68	\$5,145.20
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	176	85	\$5,158.08

Special Giving for August

Bridge of Hope	\$205.00	Salvation Army	\$80.87
Fall Festival Booth Rental	\$70.00	Youth Cook Books	\$40.00
Messenger Subscriptions	\$65.25	Youth Workcamps	\$40.00
Nigeria Crisis Fund	\$254.50		

Serving in September

NURSERY

- 3 Bobby & Sarah Williams
- 10 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 17 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 24 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway

SOUND SYSTEM

- 3 Bill Heishman
- 10 Ron Shickel
- 17 Randy Glick
- 24 Jim Rusmisl

WORSHIP CENTER

- 3 Dawn Kiser
- 10 Wanda Hollen
- 17 Ann Monger
- 24 Rose Miller

VALET PARKING

- 3 Donnie Jackson
- 10 Gene Golladay
- 17 Melvin Burger
- 24 Weldon Good

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

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Donna Chandler
Charles Cline Jr.
Cathy Fisher | 18 | Helen Shank
Jessica Shipe |
| 3 | Jimmy Dove
Wanda Hollen
Tom Womble | 19 | Liam Hunter |
| 4 | Allie Coffman
Carson Patterson
Carolyn Wenger | 21 | Ben Barlow
Danelle Ross
Brenda Wine |
| 6 | Patty Black
Donnie Simmons | 22 | Sammy Cox
Laurie Anne Serrell
Cheryl Simmers |
| 7 | Betty Click
Steve Keplinger
David Shickel | 23 | Wendell Chandler |
| 13 | Carolyn Cline
Marsha Shank | 24 | Jordan Sites |
| 14 | Susan Kuykendall | 25 | Jennifer Shreiber |
| 15 | Debbie Smiley
Uriah Smiley | 26 | Juanita Sayers
Molly Shickel |
| 16 | Isaac Shank | 27 | Devon Kuster
Meagan Miller |
| 17 | Melody Cash
Kathy Ringgold | 28 | Lillian Howdyshell
Libby Kiser |
| | | 29 | Janice Rhodes |
| | | 30 | Susan Floyd
Donnie Jackson
Acklene Knott |

September Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Vincent & Melody Cash |
| 3 | Scott & Diana McNett |
| 4 | Robert & Andrea Black
Nelson & Frances Shenk |
| 6 | Matt & LeAnne Young |
| 8 | Steve & Connie Stiles |
| 10 | Ron & Lulu Shickel |
| 11 | Gordon & Gail Miller |
| 13 | Mike & Beth Bazzle |
| 16 | Ken & Cindy McNett |
| 17 | Donald & Lynn McNett |
| 19 | Robert & Patty Black
Dennis & Leslie Huffman
Kirk & Chris Kuster |
| 20 | David & Lisa Shickel |
| 25 | David & Susan Kuykendall |
| 26 | Fred & Helen Shank |
| 28 | Weldon & Lori Good |
| 29 | Roy & Margaret Waggy |

Montezuma Church of the Brethren
4937 Ottobine Rd. Dayton, VA 22821
540-879-2246

www.montezumacob.org

David R. Miller, Pastor drmiller.cob@gmail.com
Gabriel Dodd, Pastor for Youth and Young Families
dodd.gabriel@gmail.com

Linnette Coaker, Office Admin. montezuma.cob@gmail.com

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 33
HARRISONBURG
VA 22801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

