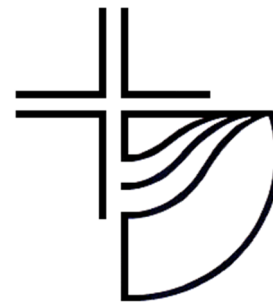


Montezuma Today

November 2018



Congregational Business Meeting

Montezuma Church will hold its Fall congregational business meeting Sunday, November 4, immediately following Sunday School. Items of business include the proposed revision of the church constitution (which requires a two-thirds vote of members present and voting), the calling of leaders and conference delegates for 2019, and the proposed 2019 budget of \$311,244. Participation in the church business meeting is vital to the church's life. Your participation in this meeting is requested and desired.

Open Doors – November 26-December 3

Montezuma is excited to be hosting the Open Doors community again this year. Throughout the winter months, Open Doors provides shelter to homeless men and women at local churches. Montezuma and partner congregations – Beaver Creek, Sangerville and Mt. Bethel– will house and feed up to forty guests during the week of Nov. 26 to Dec. 3, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. each day. Carol Lena Miller, Ralph Rohrer and Mary Frances Heishman are shelter coordinators for Montezuma. We look forward to another successful event with lots of engagement by our congregation. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and food donations are in the entryway.

Youth Auction

This year's Youth Auction will be on Friday, November 9th. We have already started to collect treasures that will be available to bid on, including a handmade Nativity set made by Tom Womble. We are excited to see what else people will donate to the auction. The auction is only successful if many good things are donated, AND if many, many people attend. Proceeds will benefit the youth fund.

Holiday Bellfest Saturday, Nov. 17

Holiday bells are coming soon! Montezuma's bi-annual bellfest is set for Saturday, November 17, at 7 p.m. The congregation's handbell choir, directed by Ramona Evans, hosts a number of local church handbell choirs for this event which includes music from two seasons: Thanksgiving and Advent. Please join us for this evening of good music, worship, and fellowship.

Church Events: November

- 1: CROP Meal at Bridgewater College – 5-7pm
- 4: Congregational Business Meeting – 11:40am
- 4: CROP Walk – 2pm
- 5: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 6: Golden Lunch Bunch Fish Fry at church – 11:30am
- 6: Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 7: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 8: Salvation Army Meal
- 9: Youth Auction – 6pm
- 9-10: Jr. High Lock-in
- 12: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 12: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 13: Executive Committee – 7pm
- 14: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 16: MYF – 6:15pm
- 17: Worship Center Committee – 9am
- 17: Bellfest (concert at 7pm)
- 19: No Bell Choir Practice
- 21: Choir Practice – 7pm
- 22: Thanksgiving
- 22-23: Church office closed
- 26: Bell Choir Practice – 7pm
- 27: Dorcas Circle – 1pm
- 28: Choir Practice – 7pm

What's Inside:

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Financial Report
- 8 Birthdays & Anniversaries

WORSHIP – November 2018

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

4: Junior High Sunday: Abundant Life in Jesus

John 10:10

*Music by the adult and children's choirs
International S.S. Lesson: Troubled Birth*

11: I Have Nothing.. Pastor David 1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 12:40-44

The prophet Elijah is asking for food and the widow of Zarephath has "nothing." She's down to the last meal for her child and herself. This is the existential question of meeting another person in need even though we may have needs. How does the widow answer? How should we?

*International S.S. Lesson: Jacob Receives
Isaac's Blessing*

18: Hope Pastor David Daniel 12:1-3; Mark 13:1-8

What is resurrection if it is not hope? And who hopes for what they see? In Daniel's story the most revolutionary action was to be a Jew and to teach others to be a Jew. Those are the first stories in Daniel. For us, the revolutionary action is to be a people of faith and to teach others the gospel of life and Jesus Christ. That is our revolutionary hope; that is living the resurrection now.

*Music by the adult and handbell choirs
International S.S. Lesson: Jacob Forms a
Relationship with God*

25: Prepare for the Lord Pastor Gabe Luke 21:25-36

Advent begins in just one week, but who says we can't start preparing now? Waiting on the Lord seems passive, but to prepare is to be active in getting ready for Jesus. How are we watching for Jesus? How are we making room in our lives for Jesus to be Lord, Savior, and Prince of Peace?

*International S.S. Lesson: God Blesses Jacob
and Rachel*

Peace of my mind

"Is not this the fast that I choose.... Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house." Isaiah 58:6-7

The Prophet Isaiah writes about the kind of worship God desires of us. He goes through the usual heroic "worship" themes of conspicuous offerings, humble clothing (as a sign of grief and confession), and personal fasting. There is a place for these, but Isaiah gets deep. What is the kind of "fast" God wants?

Isaiah points to a fast that will "loose the bonds of injustice" and let "the oppressed go free." It's inspiring stuff. It's also very scary to me. I am not a very good worshiper according to Isaiah. I don't see how I work for justice, which Isaiah and many prophets care about. And Jesus opened his ministry in Luke 4 quoting from this very section of Isaiah.

Usually we look for ways to make the gospel manageable. It's how most humans work at it. We either reject religion altogether, or we make it manageable. After all, who wants the "homeless poor" in their house?

This November Montezuma is doing just that. We are welcoming poor and homeless men and women into our house – or, should I say, God's house. For seven nights homeless people – homeless "images of God" – are in this meeting house to be fed, to sleep in safety and warmth, and to receive a kind word and smile. They might even get a haircut. They might even have a nurse check them over. They might even have their clothing washed. Little things we take for granted.

Will some of them be intoxicated? Yes, they will. Will some of them have mental health issues? We know that they will. Will some of them say "thank you from the bottom of my heart"? You can count on that, too.

For sure, the Open Doors Thermal Shelter at Montezuma is not everyone's favorite thing. Some of us are not crazy about the shelter. Some of our neighbors are uncomfortable. Discomfort is a prerequisite of faithfulness. There is no way to get there from here without a case of the willies.

Is this any way to treat God's house? Isaiah seems to think so. I admire this congregation for taking care of its property. That is not a misplaced faith at all. We are supposed to take care of this house. And when the homeless poor need it ... when they need us – it is here. Thanks be to God. And thank you.

Peace to you, and to our world – David

November Special Offering: CWS Blanket Fund

The special offering for the month of November will be the Church World Service Blankets. CWS Blankets help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. Share this love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.

District Conference Nov. 2-3

Under the theme "On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand," the Shenandoah District Conference will meet at the Antioch Church of the Brethren in Woodstock, VA, beginning Friday, November 2. Friday night worship, beginning at 6:45, includes a district children's choir and Pastor Chuck Davis of the Calvary congregation will preach. Worship continues Saturday morning with a series of four preachers, including Montezuma's own Gabe Dodd. The conference will consider business during the afternoon of November 3. Marty Barlow is on the district slate for the office of moderator-elect. Conference delegates for Montezuma are: Marty Barlow, David Richard, church board chairperson Linda Waggy, and Pastors Gabe Dodd and David Miller.

Jr. High Sunday

Jr. High Sunday is on November 4th. This year's theme is "Abundant Life in Jesus", based on John 10:10.

Fish Fry

The Golden Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the church (not the Hall due to Election Day) on Tuesday, November 6th for a trout fish fry. Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to share.

Office Administrator

Mary Lou Glick will serve the congregation as interim Office Administrator during Linnette Coaker's maternity leave beginning on December 11th and continuing through February. We are very grateful to Mary Lou for volunteering to serve Christ and the church in this way.

Pastoral Visit Request Box

The Nurture Commission has placed a box in the entry way in which anyone may request a pastoral visit. The box is intended to make asking for a visit as easy as possible. It's located on the table right inside the glass doors.

Thank you,
Neva Clayton, Nurture Commission

Salvation Army

Montezuma is serving the Salvation Army meal on Thursday, November 8th. The following people are signed up to help prepare and serve this meal:

- Janet Whetzel
- Patty Black
- Bill & Gloria Heishman
- Bob Michael
- Barbara Ross

Backpack Program

I'm glad to be working with you on the backpack program for the Ottobine Elementary School this year. We are providing food over the weekends for 8 children. If anyone is willing to help with donations or fill in when I'm unable to take the food to the school, please let me know.

Some of the items we would like to have are:

- Individual drinks
- Sweet treats (Little Debbie's-only one box, they don't stay fresh long, raisins, yogurt raisins, gold fish crackers, small packs.)
- Meal items such as mac and cheese, spaghetti w/ meatballs, boxed meals, noodle dishes, rice dishes

Please keep in mind the following:

- Expiration date is very important
- No glass, homemade, or perishable items
- Items must be individually packaged
- Sizes to fit in a medium size backpack

Thank you so very much for your much needed prayers and help. If you have questions, please contact me at 820-9658. – Patty Black

Pastor David on Vacation

Pastor David will be on vacation November 19th-25th.

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Events: November 2018

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

Jr High Sunday

Sunday, November 4th

Youth Auction

Montezuma Hall
Friday, November 9th, 6-9pm

Jr. High Lock-in

Friday-Saturday, November 9th-10th

Sunday Night Live

Sangerville COB
Sunday, November 11th, 6-8pm

Spiritual Direction

by Gabe Dodd

*"Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift
up my soul." Psalm 143:8*

Ever heard of something called Spiritual Direction? Spiritual Direction is a special type of ministry that is done in individual or group settings, guided by someone who is trained. Self-understanding and spiritual growth come from sharing our joys, struggles, doubts, and questions, as we consider how and where the Spirit of God is moving in our lives. Anyone desiring deeper awareness of and communion with God, and a more substantive prayer life will benefit from meeting with a spiritual director. Pastor Gabe is trained in Spiritual Direction, and is available if anybody would like to meet with him. Please contact Pastor Gabe for more information.

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.

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Mail: 4937 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821

Are You On the Bus or Not

by Gabe Dodd

Have you ever taken public transportation? I once spent a season of my life taking the DC subway and bus to work every day. I assume that if you have never done it, it would be terrifying. How much do you pay? How do I know when to get off? How do I know I am getting on the right one? How long does it take? These are some of the many questions one considers before "jumping on." The first time I took the bus was like that. I didn't want to embarrass myself by asking the bus driver, but I sure did need to know some of those things. One thing I did learn, one cannot be both on the bus and off the bus at the same time. One has to commit - am I going to brave the system or am I going to walk it alone?

I think that is how it is with Jesus. I think Jesus will take what he can get from our attention - but the Gospel spells it out that we are called to be committed because Jesus is committed to us. We cannot just carry around a Christian ID card in our wallet. Our identity needs to be in Christ - all day, every day, in everything we do, in everyone we interact with. I also think this bleeds into the commitment we have to the youth group (for our teens). If we are part of the group, we should be all in. Fully committed. In that type of community, we are offering our love to others, our trust in our friends in the youth group, and our own contributions and vulnerabilities. Not only do we need places to be authentic, but others count on us to be there for them - to offer our own love, trust, and vulnerabilities when others need it most.

This type of community is present to one another all the time - not just when tragedy happens. This type of community supports one another through thick and thin. This type of community reflects the commitment Jesus has for us! My vision is for the youth ministry at MCOB to be full of resilient authentic disciples... Yes. R.A.D. I can see the MCOB youth to be totally R.A.D.! Let's get on the bus together!

*"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."
Revelation 3:15-16*

Brethren Disaster Ministries responds to Florence

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) mounted a rapid response following Hurricane Florence's landfall on the North Carolina coast on Sept. 13.

BDM has already had a long-term presence in the Carolinas, with teams working at rebuilding projects since fall 2016 in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Work began in the area of Columbia, S.C., and later moved to Marion County before expanding earlier this year to sites in both North and South Carolina, sending more than 30 volunteers and leaders each week. The most recent site has been in Lumberton, N.C.

Volunteers from Atlantic Northeast, South/Central Indiana, and Virginia districts scheduled for the week of Sept. 9-15 still traveled to the area and did what rebuilding they could ahead of the storm, including a completely new roof the day before the storm hit, replacing one that had been damaged in 2016. The volunteers then traveled home that day ahead of Florence's landfall.

Project leaders Steve Keim, Kim Gingerich, Henry Elsea, and Rob and Barb Siney stayed behind in Lumberton, however, to pre-

pare for Florence, as the host church—located in the northern part of the city—had avoided flooding in 2016. They filled water coolers, set up a generator, moved vehicles and trailers to safer spots, and strapped down several trailers. Following the storm, they began effecting basic repairs.

In the wake of Florence, BDM said it would “continue to wait out the storm and flooding and have volunteers return as soon as possible,” according to a release. “When the flood waters recede, volunteers will work with our local partners to identify how best to help to attempt to contact past clients who might have been re-affected.” A robust schedule of volunteer teams in the Carolinas for 2019 has been created.

Meanwhile, BDM's Children's Disaster Services (CDS) activated four child care teams for deployment shortly after the storm. The week after Florence, 17 CDS volunteers were on the ground in the two states providing care for children in shelters. Additional CDS volunteers were standing by to deploy as needs arose or to provide relief.

Volunteers from the Church of the Brethren Children's Disaster Services program mounted a quick response in North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Florence.



Courtesy of Children's Disaster Services

Samuel Dali joins Bethany seminary community

Samuel Dante Dali of Nigeria has been serving this fall as international scholar in residence at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind. He and his wife, Rebecca, arrived the first week of August and will remain in residence through the end of December.



Samuel Dali served as president of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) from 2011 to 2016, the period when EYN was most severely affected by violence from Boko Haram. A theological scholar, Dali has served as academic dean and head of the Department of Church History at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria and as chairman of its

governing council. He has also held the positions of lecturer and treasurer at Kulp Bible College and is known for his work in peacebuilding and advocacy.

Dali will attend selected classes and join discussions during his time at Bethany. He is also working on two books and doing speaking engagements around the denomination.

BVS units 319, 320 hold orientation

Two Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) units held orientation over the summer and have begun their service at project locations across the country and around the world.

BVS Unit 319 met at Camp Colorado (Sedalia, Colo.) from late July to early August. Volunteers and their placements: Julia Bambauer of Trier, Germany, and Judith Blaik of Bingen, Germany, are serving with Good Samaritan Services in Ephrata, Pa.; Donthia Browne of Freetown, Sierra Leone, is serving with Project PLASE in Baltimore, Md.; Lauren Capasso of Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren is serving with Casa de Esperanza de los Niños in Houston, Texas; Kathy Edmark and Roger Edmark of Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren in Seattle will be serving at

World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan, starting in summer 2019.

Elly Green of Louisville, Ky., is serving with the Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland; Lukas Kuhn of Brackenheim, Germany, is serving with Highland Park Elementary School in Roanoke, Va.; Pauline Liu of Parker, Colo., serving with L'Arche Kilkenny in the Republic of Ireland. Lisa-Marie Mayerle of Hoechstaedt, Germany, is serving with the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center in Maryland; Monica McFadden of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren (Elgin, Ill.) is serving with the Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Washington, D.C.

Caitlin O'Quinn of Gary, Ind., is serving with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan;



New volunteers Carson Ocker (in white T-shirt) and Emily Kline (in maroon) are pictured with house parents Sheldon and Jolene Shank and their children. Orientation leaders Walter and Peggy Heisey are at back left.

Alex Parker of Community Church of the Brethren (Hutchinson, Kan.) is serving with Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Holden Stehle of Greensboro, Md., is serving with ABODE Services, Fremont, Calif.; Judy Stout of San Diego (Calif.) Church of the Brethren is serving with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria); and Ben Zaspel of Offenburg, Germany, is serving with SnowCap Community Charities in Portland, Ore.



The members of Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 319: (front kneeling from left) Judy Stout, Pauline Liu, Judith Blaik, Monica McFadden, Lauren Capasso; (middle row) Holden Stehle, Ben Zaspel, Donthia Browne, Alex Parker, Julia Bambauer, Lisa-Marie Mayerle, Caitlin O'Quinn, Elly Green, Roger Edmark; (back row) Lukas Kuhn, Kathy Edmark.

BVS/Brethren Revival Fellowship (BRF) Unit 320

met at Camp Swatara (Bethel, Pa.) in August. Emily Kline of White Oak Church of the Brethren (Manheim, Pa.) and Carson Ocker of Upton Church of the Brethren (Greencastle, Pa.) are serving with The Root Cellar in Lewiston, Maine. Jolene and Sheldon Shank from the Heidelberg Church of the Brethren (Newmanstown, Pa.) are serving as house parents for the BRF unit and living in Lewiston, along with their children. Sheldon Shank is also serving with The Root Cellar.

For more information, visit www.brethren.org/BVS.

Workcamps announce 2019 theme

Inspired by 2 Peter 1:5-8 (The Message), the theme for the 2019 Church of the Brethren workcamp season is "Grow." This theme focuses on complementing basic faith with qualities that encourage steady and active growth. "Workcampers will connect to 2 Peter's spiritual principles through the stages

of a plant and explore God's call, Christ's example, and living with purpose," says the workcamp office. Registration will open Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. CST. Visit www.brethren.org/workcamps to stay up to date. Lauren Flora and Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred are assistant coordinators of workcamps for the 2019 season.



Our Stewardship for October 2018

	Attendance		
	Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
October 7	116	65	\$6,149.00
14	143	85	\$6,762.48
21	169	73	\$4,171.00
28	147	87	\$3,803.10
October average per Sunday	144	78	\$5,221.40
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday	163	80	\$5,149.20

Special Giving for October

Backpack Program	\$5	Heritage Festival	\$16,780.61
Bellfest Registration Fees	\$225	Heritage Festival Vendor Fees	\$90
Global Food Initiative	\$385	Lucille Cox Memorial	\$100

Serving in November

NURSERY

- 4 Stephanie Diehl & Kenzy Hiner
- 11 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 18 Pam Dodd & Brittany Hammer
- 25 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway

WORSHIP CENTER

- 4 Wanda Hollen
- 11 Lisa Shickel
- 18 Jill Sease
- 25 Wanda Hollen

SOUND SYSTEM

- 4 Bill Heishman
- 11 Ron Shickel
- 18 Jim Rusmisl
- 25 John Layman

VALET PARKING

- 4 Bob Michael
- 11 Brad Smith
- 18 Ralph Rohrer
- 25 Donnie Jackson

PROJECTION SYSTEM

- 4 Jared Smith
- 11 Jared Smith
- 18 Ethan Dakin
- 25 Ethan Dakin

USHERS

- Jim Rusmisl
- Guy Lee Clark
- JO Good
- Roger Moyer

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Angela Andrews
Katie Brill
Garrett Cash
Arleigh Mason | 14 | Jill Brashears
Shari Payne
Jackson Healy |
| 2 | Cortland Andrews
Scott Showalter | 15 | William Grady
Corey Shull |
| 4 | Larry Carpenter
Calvin Lokey
Ezra Barnhart | 16 | Delmas Harper |
| 6 | Jeff Harper | 17 | Mike Bazzle |
| 9 | Gloria Horne
Sam Rohrer
Doug Tumer
Titus Smiley | 19 | Cody Airey
Edith Burger
David Harback
Denise Harper |
| 10 | April Payne
Drew Richard | 21 | Barbara Keller |
| 11 | Chris Click
Katie Richard | 22 | Patsy Puffenbarger
Jordan Smiley |
| 13 | Jennifer Prawdzik | 24 | Yolanda Waggy
Katelyn Will |
| | | 25 | Lisa Moran |
| | | 26 | Mason Shull
Hayley Daubert |

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 27 | Austin Shifflett
Rick Kiser |
| 28 | Sarah Craun |
| 30 | Jared Ross
Carter Young |

November Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 4 | William & Louise Grady |
| 9 | Roy & Juanita Swartz |
| 10 | Delmas & Denise Harper |
| 11 | Gene & Joyce Sheffer |
| 14 | David & Shelby Click |
| 18 | Thomas & Jill Brashears |
| 19 | Russ & Kathy Veal |
| 21 | David & Carol Lena Miller |
| 25 | Ken & Sue Miller |
| 26 | Scott & Heidi Mason
Ray & Marsha Shank |

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