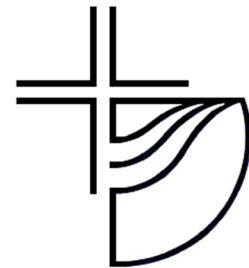


Montezuma Today

July & August 2019



Greensboro Annual Conference, July 3-7 *Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion*

Annual Conference gets underway July 3 in Greensboro, N.C., under the leadership of Moderator Donita Keister. It is the culmination of a year of conversations aimed at producing a 'Compelling Vision' that encompasses the common threads and themes that have the power to bring greater unity to the denomination. The 'Compelling Vision' process began last year at Annual Conference and is the primary item on the business agenda for 2019. The 2020 Annual Conference will review the outcomes of the 2019 conference and deliberate regarding affirmation during the final phase of the 'Compelling Vision' process next year.



Each year special offerings are taken at conference to benefit several ministries. This year those offerings will go to church rebuilding in Nigeria, Church of the Brethren Core Ministries, childcare expenses at Annual Conference, and disaster response in Puerto Rico.

For the first time in over a hundred fifty years, a full Love Feast will be held at Annual Conference. The historic service will take place after the final business session Saturday afternoon.

Delegates from Montezuma are Vince and Wendy Rhodes. They are accompanied by their children: Walter, Kenley, and Corinne. Marty Barlow is participating, as are Fred & Helen Shank, Pastor Gabriel Dodd, his wife, Pam, and their son Elias, and Pastor David Miller will be there too!

Workcamps!

Sr. High youth will be traveling to Boston, MA from July 14-20 to serve at a soup kitchen, food bank, and local farms. Jr. High will be traveling to Roanoke, VA from July 17-21, to serve in a rescue mission, serve food, and work in a thrift store. The scripture theme for their week is 2 Peter 1:5-8. Your prayers and support for Jacob Ross, Daisy Obst, Hayley Daubert, Rachel Craun, Ashley Knott, Kyle Brown, Julia Eye, David Miller, Gabe Dodd, and Patty Black are encouraged!

Church Events

July:

- 2: No Golden Lunch Bunch
- 2: Nurture & Stewards Commission Meetings – 7pm
- 3-7: Annual Conference
- 8: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 9: Executive Committee Meeting – 7pm
- 11: Salvation Army Meal
- 14-21: Sr. High Work Camp in Boston
- 17-21: Jr. High Work Camp
- 23: Dorcas Circle – 1pm

August:

- 6: Golden Lunch Bunch – 11:30am
- 8: Salvation Army Meal
- 12: Montezuma Support Group – 11:30am
- 13: Church Board Meeting – 7pm
- 24: Youth Yard Sale
- 27: Dorcas Circle – 1pm

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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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WORSHIP – July 2019

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

7: Gifts Given By Grace *Linda Waggy* Deuteronomy 6:1-19, Romans 12

*Special Music: Dwight & Linda Burkholder
*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Teaches
about Fulfilling
the Law*

14: A Neighbor's Love *Pastor David* Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 10:25-37

One of the best known – and loved – parables of Jesus. Our tendency is to narrow the circle of neighbor love by asking: “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus shows us that he asks the question a different way.

*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Teaches Us
to Love One
Another*

21: Questions God Asks Us *Ron Wyrick* Mark 4:26-29, Ephesians 3:14-19, Exodus 4:1-9 Former Montezuma pastor Ron Wyrick preaches this Sunday. Often we focus on the questions God asks us. But God asks us questions, too.

*Special Music: Wanda Flora & Handbell
Choir
*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Teaches
about Trans-
forming Love*

28: Celebrating Easter beyond Easter Sunday *Pastor Gabe*

You have heard of Christmas in July... Coming this July 2019, come celebrate Easter in July! InMotion School of Dance will be bringing the Easter theme to our worship with a mini ballet called, “The Cross.”

*Special Music: Praise Dance
*International S.S. Lesson: Jesus Teaches
about Spiritual
Discernment*

WORSHIP – August 2019

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

4: One's Life *Pastor David* Psalm 49:1-12; Luke 12:13-21

Jesus goes right at the issues we face. “One's life,” he tells his listeners, “does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” He tells a parable about a man who is not dishonest, or unjust, or lazy, or mean. He just doesn't seem to have...a life.

*International S.S. Lesson: A Covenant between
Friends*

11: Proclaim Christ, Reclaim Passion *Pastor Gabe* 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

The Annual Conference Theme this year helps churches reclaim its one passion for existence, that is Jesus our Lord and redeemer. Through God's efforts, the power of the Spirit, and our faithfulness, our church may flourish with the Gospel of Christ, Jesus. An Annual Conference report will also be given.

*Special Music: Abe Evans
*International S.S. Lesson: A Mother-Daughter
Covenant*

18: Surrounded ... by witnesses *Pastor David* Hebrews 11:39-12:2

As a young person I'd find my way to Pentecostal or black church worship services. Often, the preaching was interactive. The preacher expected people to talk back. Give an amen! Sometimes the preacher would plead with the congregation: “Can I get a witness?” Is there someone here who knows what I'm talking about? Who can verify what is being said? Hebrews says we are surrounded by such witnesses.

*Special Music: Morgan Dakin
International S.S. Lesson: A Covenant to Mary

25: Standing up Straight *Pastor David* Psalm 103:1-8; Luke 13:10-17

The problem with honoring tradition reflexively is that we may stop seeing what's right in front of us. We know what we are supposed to do. We know what we expect to see. But what if the action taking place isn't what we expect? Jesus is telling us to use our eyes.

*International S.S. Lesson: A Covenant of Mutual
Love*

July Special Offering: Bridgewater Food Pantry

The mission of the Bridgewater Food Pantry is to distribute food to local needy families. The Food Pantry is housed at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, and is open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month.

Generally speaking, the clients come from within a 5 mile radius of Bridgewater. The policy now is to give the clients food, no money is given. If folks need help with financial concerns, they are referred to People Helping People.

All cash donations will go to People Helping People, who provides financial assistance to local residents in need.

A reminder, if anyone has surplus garden produce this summer and fall, the Bridgewater Food Pantry will be happy to utilize it.

August Special Offering: Bridge of Hope

Bridge of Hope is a non-profit organization in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County that helps homeless and at risk mothers and children. They train and support mentors to serve these clients.

Bridge of Hope offers supportive friendship for a lasting impact. Individuals and church groups provide mentors to single mothers and children to help bridge the gaps. There are working classes, classes on money management, housing choices, etc. Then there is a graduation for the client, and the mentor continues to walk alongside the client.

Salvation Army Meals

Montezuma will be preparing and serving the Salvation Army meal the following dates:

- Thursday, July 11th
- Thursday, August 8th

Hall Rate

The church board approved a rate increase to \$150 for non-members to rent the Hall. The church will honor existing reservations at \$100. This change does not affect church members.

Youth Events: July & August 2019

Sr. High Workcamp

July 14 – 20
Boston, MA

Jr. High Workcamp

July 17 – 21
Roanoke, VA

Youth Yard Sale

August 24th

Youth Yard Sale!

The youth are raising money to send them to National Youth Conferences! Jr. High go to PA every two years, and Sr. High go to CO every 4 years. Mark your calendars for August 24th for a fund day of treasure hunting. Please keep your donations until the week of August 24th, when donations can be delivered to the hall for sorting and pricing.

Pastor David & Pastor Gabe will be away the following dates:

Pastor David

July 3 – July 7: Annual Conference
July 17 – July 21: Jr. High Work Camp

Pastor Gabe

July 3 – 7: Annual Conference
July 8 – 13: Vacation
July 14 – 20: Sr. High work camp

Vespers at CrossRoads

The Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center has scheduled Worship in the Woods each Sunday at 7pm through August 11 in the amphitheater at the CrossRoads campus at 1921 Heritage Center Way, Harrisonburg. Bring a lawn chair and worship in this serene setting. Golf cart service will be available to assist those needing help moving from the parking area to the amphitheater.

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.

Ministerial ethics training uses new workbook

A new ministerial ethics workbook is featured in the current renewal cycle for ministry credentialing. Ordained and commissioned ministers across the Church of the Brethren are required to take ministerial ethics advanced-level training every five years in order to renew their credentials. Licensed ministers and those new to the denomination take basic-level training. The training is the responsibility of the Office of Ministry, working with district leaders and ministry commissions.

At the invitation of the Office of Ministry, retired pastor Jim Benedict wrote a workbook titled *Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister*, with versions for both basic and advanced training. He brings expertise in the field of medical ethics and decades serving in pastoral ministry.

Orientation for trainers was held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., in preparation for the credentialing renewal process currently underway in the districts. Nine leaders from six districts received orientation to serve as facilitators for the process that is to be completed by the end of 2020.

In addition to English, the workbook is available in Spanish with sessions led by Ramón Torres of Reading, Pa.; and in Haitian Kreyol with sessions led by Ilexene Alphonse

of Miami, Fla. Other facilitators include Joe Detrick, Lois Grove, Dave Kerkove, Janet Ober Lambert, Dan Poole, Jim Eikenberry, and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, director of the Office of Ministry.



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Ministry ethics trainers received orientation: (from left) Janet Ober Lambert of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; Nancy Sollenberger Heishman of the Office of Ministry; Jim Benedict, author of Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister; Lois Grove; Dan Poole of Bethany Seminary; Joe Detrick; Jim Eikenberry; Ilexene Alphonse who will lead training in Haitian Kreyol; and Ramón Torres who will lead training in Spanish.

Seminar seeks creative solutions to violence

The 2019 Christian Citizenship Seminar gathered 47 high school youth and advisors

from 14 congregations in 12 states, April 27-May 2 in New York and Washington, D.C. It focused on “Creative Solutions to Violent Conflict

Worldwide” with leadership from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Office of Peacebuilding and Policy.

Participants learned about how churches, governments, and non-governmental organizations can proactively build peace and defuse vio-

lence without resorting to military force. In between sessions about the military budget, unarmed civilian protection, and advocacy, participants visited the United Nations, explored New York, and met with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

Youth lobbied their senators and representatives to support funding for unarmed civilian protection, a strategy for preventing violence by providing a protective, nonviolent presence to observe and accompany civilians living amid conflict. They also shared how their background as members of a historic peace church informed their desire to see less militarism and more efforts to build peace in foreign policy.



Personnel notes

The Church of the Brethren information technology (IT) department has announced two promotions. **Francie Coale** has been named director of IT for the denomination's General Offices and Brethren Service Center after serving as director of IT at the center in New Windsor, Md. She also continues as director of buildings and grounds at the Brethren Service Center. **Fabiola Fernandez** began May 13 as manager of IT at the General Offices, where she had been a system specialist.

Everett Teetor resigned effective June 14 as accounting assistant for Brethren Benefit Trust, where he has been employed since July 23, 2018. Previously he was an intern in BBT's finance department. He is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill.

Zoe Vorndran begins June 24 as intern in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. She graduated from Manchester (Ind.) University this year and while a student was archives assistant for the Funderburg Library. She is a member of Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Tim Courtright will begin July 15 as executive director of Camp Swatara near Bethel, Pa. He has been executive director of Kenbrook Bible Camp north of Lebanon, Pa. Camp Swatara also hired **Allison Mattern** of Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren as Family Camping Center manager, following the resignation of **Rick and Sarah Balmer**. Mattern holds a degree in environmental science from Slippery Rock University.

Castañer hosts Heifer's 75th

Global Mission and Service invites Brethren to a celebration of the 75th anniversary of Heifer International, commemorating its roots in the Church of the Brethren and its historic ties to the community and hospital of Castañer, P.R.

On Friday, Oct. 4, participants will gather in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital city. Saturday, Oct. 5, they will spend the day in Castañer to attend the celebration and tour the hospital. On Sunday, Oct. 6, they will worship



with congregations, return to San Juan, and travel home.

Participants are responsible for their own expenses. Global Mission and Service offers to assist in coordinating flight and hotel bookings and will arrange transportation for

Leaders issues statement on withdrawal process

The Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren has provided district executives with a congregational withdrawal process. This “best practices” document was developed in consultation with the Council of District Executives in keeping with current polity. It was prepared for district leaders who are working with congregations that may be considering withdrawing from the denomination.

The Leadership Team is not encouraging any congregation to withdraw. If withdrawal becomes necessary, however, this document gives guidance for proceeding in accordance with polity.

The Leadership Team of the denomination includes the Annual Conference officers—moderator Donita Keister, moderator-elect Paul Munday, and secretary James Beckwith—along with general secretary David Steele and district executive Cindy Sanders, who represents the Council of District Executives.

The “Congregational Withdrawal Process” document does not change Church of the Brethren polity related to property ownership. The intent of the document is to encourage intentional conversations between district leadership and congregations through a defined process, to pull together the denominational polity regarding church property, and to give guidance to ministerial and congregational leadership.

The Leadership Team urges a reconciling spirit in all congregational withdrawal conversations. The document also asks districts to be consistent with all aspects of Church of the Brethren polity as they work with congregations and ministers considering withdrawal, fostering a respectful spirit toward all parties and giving serious attention and care to those church members who choose to remain a part of the Church of the Brethren.

Those seeking more information are to contact their district executive.

Our Stewardship for June 2019

		Attendance		
		Worship	Sunday School	For Budget
June	2	159	77	\$8,919.00
	9	148	51	\$4,850.91
	16	166	61	\$4,145.60
	23	158	79	\$4,163.00
	30	114	49	\$4,495.00
June average per Sunday		149	63	\$5,314.70
Last 12 mos. average per Sunday		153	75	\$5,427.92

Special Giving for June 2019

Brethren Woods "Adopt a Staff"	\$1,590	Ivan Howdysshell Memorial		\$10,000
Building Repairs	\$100	NCP		\$50
Disaster Auction	\$100	Worship Center Fund		\$25
		Youth Cookbooks		\$8

Serving in July

NURSERY

- 7 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 14 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser
- 21 Sarah & Bobby Williams
- 28 Stephanie Diehl & Kenzy Hiner

SOUND SYSTEM

- 7 Randy Glick
- 14 Ben Hiner
- 21 Jim Rusmisel
- 28 Bobby Williams

VALET PARKING

- 7 Donnie Jackson
- 14 Jeff Wine
- 21 Melvin Burger
- 28 Weldon Good

WORSHIP CENTER

- 7 Jill Sease
- 14 Kathy Veal
- 21 Lisa Shickel
- 28 Dawn Kiser

USHERS: Bob Black, David Skelton, Randy Glick

Serving in August

NURSERY

- 4 Becky & Hayley Daubert
- 11 Pam Dodd & Brittany Hammer
- 18 Rhonda Mandeville & Roma Holloway
- 25 Sara Atkins & Dawn Kiser

SOUND SYSTEM

- 4 Ron Shickel
- 11 John Layman
- 18 Randy Glick
- 25 Ben Hiner

VALET PARKING

- 4 Wade Showalter
- 11 John Monger
- 18 Brad Smith
- 25 Ralph Rohrer

WORSHIP CENTER

- 4 Jill Sease
- 11 Ann Monger
- 18 Wanda Hollen
- 25 Dawn Kiser

USHERS: Jim Rusmisel, Guy Lee Clark, J.O. Good, Roger Moyer, John Monger

July/August Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Dawn Kiser
Cindy McNett
Helen Shaw | 17 | Andy Ringgold |
| 2 | Janet Whetzel | 18 | Cathy Coceano
Kody Payne
Brent Sayre |
| 6 | Jenifer Hiner | 19 | Sallie Hunter
Reese Ostlund
Chad Brooks |
| 7 | Gabe Dodd
Cathy Snider | 22 | David Lilly |
| 8 | Susan Butzler | 23 | Ralph Pettit
Nancy Shickel |
| 9 | Dusty Moyer | 26 | Cameron Brown
Dennis Hill |
| 10 | Gene Golladay | 27 | Ray Shank |
| 11 | Amanda Huffman
Donnie McNett
Zeb Miller | 30 | Jennifer Kiser
Corinne Rhodes
Ashlyn Smiley |
| 12 | David Richard | 31 | Corinne Crumley
Gloria Heishman
Barbara Moyer
Marshall Smiley |
| 13 | Grant Ostlund
Chris Payne
Julie Smith | | |
| 14 | Amy Brown
Aaron Will | | |

August Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Christopher Lilly
Troy Ostlund
Sam Rhodes | 15 | Allison Prawdzik
Logan Wilhelm |
| 2 | David Kuykendall | 16 | Roma Holloway
Bob Martin |
| 3 | Pam Dodd
Blake Eavers
Bobby Guyer
Kellie Serrell
Blake Brashears | 17 | Laura Healy
Jason Payne
Derek Smiley
Gene Wampler |
| 4 | Scott Airey
William Monger | 18 | Heather Barnhart
Jaxson DePoy
Colby Pettit |
| 5 | Lane Bazzle | 19 | Fonda Harper
Jonathan Ross
Susan Shull
Robbie Symons |
| 6 | Gail Miller | 20 | Eddie Black |
| 7 | Roger Moyer
Glenn Patterson | 22 | Preston Miller
Joyce Rhodes |
| 8 | Cathleen Coffman
Lynn Mohler
Diamond Patterson
Kathy Riley
Dick Ryan | 23 | Orva Lambert
Lyza Will |
| 9 | Wanda Driver | 24 | Heidi Mason |
| 11 | Brittany Evans
Bobbi Jo Ross | 25 | Elaine Shank
Ken McNett
Joyce Sheffer
Abe Evans |
| 12 | D.J. Moats
Zach Sease | 26 | Jim Glick
Chad Shipe |
| 13 | Dennis Evans | | |
| 15 | Mark Butzler
Jo Ellen Evers | | |

July Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | David & Dawn Mason
Gary & Missy Vandevander |
| 2 | David & Sheila Skelton |
| 7 | Adam & Autumn Pequignot
Jordan & Katya Sites |
| 8 | Brad & Yvonne Miller |
| 9 | Bobby & Sarah Williams |
| 10 | Fred & Susan Kinkead
Bob & Kathleen Michael |
| 11 | Drew & Susan Shull |
| 14 | Gary & Eleanor Payne |
| 15 | Andrew & Lorissa Skelton |
| 16 | Marshall & Krista Smiley |
| 17 | Elvert & Lois Black
Dusty & Rachel Moyer |
| 21 | Ethan & Morgan Dakin
Aaron & Katelyn Will |
| 23 | Vince & Wendy Rhodes |

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 27 | Glenna Harper |
| 28 | Carrie Miller
Donna Lou Shickel |
| 29 | Susan Wrenn |
| 30 | Joyce Perry |
| 31 | Jimmy Mason
Sharon Weaver |

August Anniversaries:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Jim & Betty Jo Glick
Roy & Barbara Keller
Ken & Joy Monger |
| 3 | Ernie & Diana Havener |
| 5 | Craig & Shari Payne |
| 6 | Mike & Stephanie Diehl |
| 7 | Eric & Annie Wilhelm |
| 10 | Calvin & Judy Lokey |
| 12 | Eddie & Nellie Black |
| 13 | Tom & Barbara Ross |
| 15 | Robby & Londia Dean
Bill & Gloria Heishman |
| 18 | Gabe & Pam Dodd |
| 25 | Ben & Tammy Hall |
| 28 | Norman & Glenna Harper |

Strong and Courageous

by Pastor Gabe Dodd

Following Jesus is not easy. This might be the reason why the message for National Jr. High conference this year, was, Strong and Courageous, from Joshua 1. It is a message that is known by Joshua, already. When some scouted out the promise land and reported back to the Israelites that moving to the promise land would be an incredibly difficult challenge, Joshua told his people to be strong and courageous. He wanted his friends to have a strong faith. Now that Moses has died, Joshua is going to lead these people with an amazingly strong and courageous faith. At the conference, the theme brought out some great conversation among the youth and advisors about what it means to have a strong and courageous faith. What gets in the way of our faith? In school, how do kids stay faithful when that might mean defending bullied kids at school? In school, how might kids stay faithful when that might mean speaking out to their own friends who might display poor behavior. Sometimes it is about learning to see injustices so that we might challenge them.

Another part of being strong and courageous is about trusting God in the midst of our own challenges. Joshua surely needed to trust God's support while they entered the promise land. It is less about what we are able to do on our own, and more about allowing God to do what God does best - actively loving us through wonder and life. Through our "helpless efforts," God is able to be visible in our lives. It's like when God prepares a table for us to sit at with our enemies — forcing us to fully rely on Gods power. Sadly, it sometimes takes our most difficult events of life in order for us to surrender to God's help. Our conference was all about trusting God in the day-to-day living through reading the Bible and journaling, to trusting God when the going gets tough. May this be a blessing to Montezuma as well as we lean into this journey of following Jesus, together. May we know God's love, and seek it all the days of our life. May we be strong and courageous.

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