

Blue Ridge Region Covenant Brethren Church

*Antioch CBC
Mission Team
in Guatemala*



**Message from
BRR Chair**

See p. 2



**Get to Know Your
Sister Congregation**

See p. 5



Youth Mission Trip

See p. 6

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

--Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)



Message from BRR Chair

Greetings from the Blue Ridge Regional Board!

Many of us were blessed to attend the third annual meeting and worship conference in Fairmont, West Virginia. This year's theme was "Order my Steps" based on Psalm 119:133 "Order my steps in your Word and let not any iniquity have dominion over me". The meeting was a wonderful time of praise and worship, singing, powerful messages and devotions, and fellowship (with a little business scattered in between!). Praise God!

Back home here in the Blue Ridge Region, many of us have been enduring a hot summer with very dry conditions. In the spring, we waited for the soaking April and May rains but they were few. Through June and now July we have watched summer thunderstorms continue to go around the area where we live.



Psalm 42: 1-2: As the deer longs for flowing stream, so I long for you, God. I thirst for God, the living God. Where can I go and appear before God?

We have noticed deer moving more than usual for this time of year. Many mothers have fawns and bucks have antlers carpeted in velvet. My family and I were discussing how these deer sightings probably mean that the deer are hungry and looking for some tender grass, and certainly thirsty and seeking a flowing stream of cold water. Psalm 42 comes to mind. I imagine these deer panting for cool flowing streams of water to refresh and sustain them. As Christians, do we desire God and love His Word as the deer pant for water in the summer heat and drought? Do we make it our priority to seek Him every day? Our daughter shared how, while driving home on our dirt road this afternoon, she caught twin fawns nursing. They were thirsty!

As a young, newly-born region, may we stay thirsty for God and His Word! May we continue to pray and seek God's direction for all things that we do within our individual churches, region, and national Covenant Brethren Church.

We hope that everyone has marked September 23rd on the calendar and plan to attend our first regional fellowship event at Antioch Church in Woodstock. The late afternoon/evening meal will be provided and a light program is planned. The focus is fellowship; we want all churches to meet their brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy our time together. More details will be coming soon - please plan to attend!

Love in Christ,

Ann for Your Regional Board

Blue Ridge Region CBC

FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Sep 23, 2023, 2:00 pm

Antioch Church

23502 Senedo Rd., Woodstock, VA

Food by Franklin's Smokin' Barnyard

Home-made Ice Cream

Greetings from National CBC

Informal Praise & Worship

Bouncy House & Corn Hole!

Come and meet members of your sister congregations.

All ages welcome.

RSVP: blueridge@covenantbrethren.org

No charge for this event thanks to National CBC.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another –and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

--Hebrews 10:24-25



Don't Let The Enemy HAVE A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE

Camp staff and 32 youth enjoyed four days at Camp Shenandoah Meadows in Fort Valley the last week of July. This was the first youth camp sponsored by the Blue Ridge Region CBC.



Rising 6th through 12th graders from Antioch, Calvary, Columbia Furnace and St. Luke churches met in a spirit of unity to learn more about building a relationship with their Lord Jesus and to make new friends. No one was left out as they met each morning at 8:30 for breakfast, worship, and a video from a study by Louis Giglio, "Don't Let the Enemy Have a Seat at your Table."

After the video the kids broke into small groups for further discussion. Then it was time for games and crafts where they worked up an appetite for lunch. After lunch the gang enjoyed free time for swimming, kayaking and fishing.

They really wanted their camp director (Dale Bennett) to get wet, so they teased him about drowning so he would jump into the pool with them! Always thinking ahead, Dale replied he'd have to breathe life back into them by giving them CPR. That usually ended it!!

A hearty supper was served at 5:00. Three guest speakers (Pastors George Bowers, Darren Howdyshell and Freddie Helsley) joined the campers for evening worship. Music was a high point of the evening activities which usually concluded around 10 pm.

These were full days for the youth, and they gained a new understanding of how Satan worms his way into their lives and how they can be on the look-out for Satan's tricks.

Praise God, 3 youth accepted Christ as their Savior for the first time and 2 rededicated their lives to Jesus. Thank you to all who assisted with camp! (cont. p. 8, "Youth Camp")



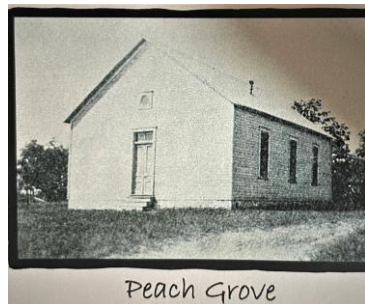
Church Spotlight

Calvary Covenant Brethren Church

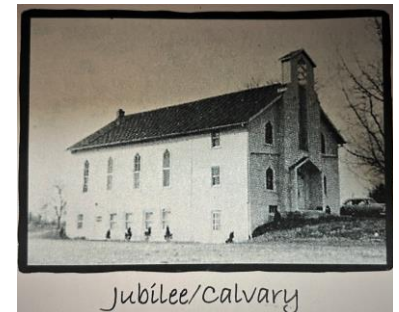


Calvary was one of the first six CBC congregations to form the Blue Ridge Region earlier this year. We welcome Pastor Jonathan Martino and Pastor Charlie Estep and their members to the region!! Located in Winchester, VA, this church was founded in 1956 although its roots extend further back to include Peach Grove (1894) and Jubilee (1917) churches.

Two of their members serve on the Blue Ridge Region Board: Ron Layman (Treasurer) and Stephanie Fincham. In addition, Pastor Jonathan is the team leader for our Prayer Team. Pastor Charlie, his wife Carla, and Judy & Don Cain all helped with youth camp.

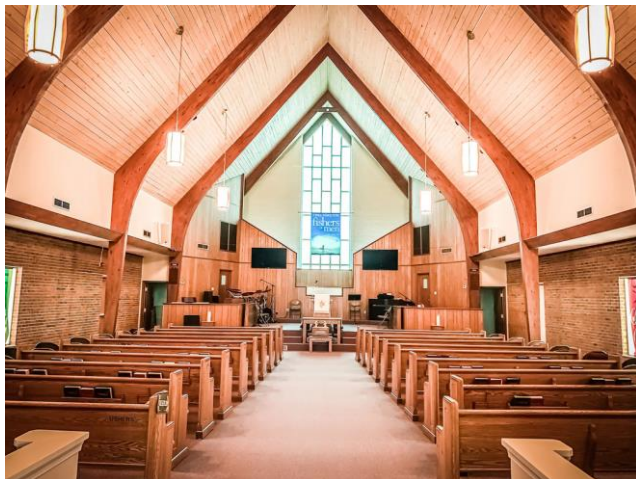


Peach Grove



Jubilee/Calvary

They have a beautiful vision for revival in the Shenandoah Valley and a heart for receiving the Bible as the true and inspired Word of God. We look forward to moving forward with them as we continue to follow the plans God has laid out for us as part of the Body of Christ.



Check out their website: calvarycbc.org



Pastor Jonathan (L) and Pastor Charlie (R)

Romans 12:4-5

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Guatemala Youth Mission Trip

On July 9, 2023, six individuals set out at 1:15 am from Antioch Church, headed for the Baltimore airport where we would join 11 others from the Petersburg, WV area. After 2 flights and a 5-hour layover, we landed in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and headed to San Lucas where Adam Clemmons hosted us for the night and blessed the group with his testimony. High on the mountain top we were able to see smoke from a nearby volcano and met Pastor Walter and his wife who lead the Miracle Fishing CBC Congregation in Guatemala.



The next day we headed to our main destination, San Juan La Laguna, and the home of Tom Palmer, a retired teacher from California. To get there we traveled by bus to Panachel and then by boat to San Juan La Laguna. Over the next 6 days our group of 17 installed 15 cook stoves, gave out 200 bags of food along with a Bible for each, painted, and held a field day for New Dawning Christian School located in San Juan.



The cookstoves that were installed replaced unventilated cookstoves that allowed the toxic smoke to fill the room/home as well as the lungs of anyone therein. Five of the stoves were built in homes in San Pablo, and the other 10 were installed in homes in the towns of Santa Clara and Palestina. Carrying the heavy cement parts, as well as the 11 cinder blocks to go with each, was not an easy task. There is no such thing as flat land in these mountain towns. In addition, our group had to carry each piece down winding paths or

up steep hills. We were blessed with strong young men and women in our group, and us "older" people were grateful for them! After installation the group prayed over each new stove and family. Along the way we handed out soccer balls and pumps to children along the road and at a local school.

Our group visited two churches where we handed out bags of food and Bibles to local families who seem very grateful for them. The bags included oil, pasta's, rice, seasonings, etc. While some were building stoves, others painted the gymnasium at the New Dawning Christian School. Painting cinder block while dodging the balls of children and trying to keep them out of the wet paint kept us on alert. The last full day in San Juan our group provided a field day for the school kids. We played games such as dizzy bat and make up relays, and provided a lunch for all. At the end of the day we said our goodbye's to the school principal, Francisco, and prepared for our departure in the morning. On Friday we headed back towards Guatemala City and stayed the night in Antigua, a beautiful old town full of life. After mechanical and weather issues, which caused us to sleep on the airport floor one night and book a motel for another, we arrived home safely two days after our intended return.



Our time in Guatemala was blessed by the smiles of the locals, small miracles, and great fellowship. Our group from Antioch was additionally blessed to partner with CBC Pastor Craig Howard, and his amazing group. Future trips are planned for both adults and youth in 2024 so plan to participate.

Becky Leland
Antioch Church



Columbia Furnace CBC
invites any married couple to join us monthly for
Marriage Nourishment

*Matthew 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.*

Marriage takes grace, compassion, humility, love, communication and a lot of effort. This will be a judgment free time for you and your spouse to build on the connection you have.

. Our first session will be Monday September 11th 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m.

If you are newly married or about to celebrate your 50th anniversary please join us.

For more information email: cfchurchsecretary@gmail.com

Youth Camp

Save the dates for next year!

June 16-21, 2024

Junior Youth
Rising 2nd through 5th graders



June 23-28, 2024

Senior Youth
Rising 6th through 12th graders



Prayer Team

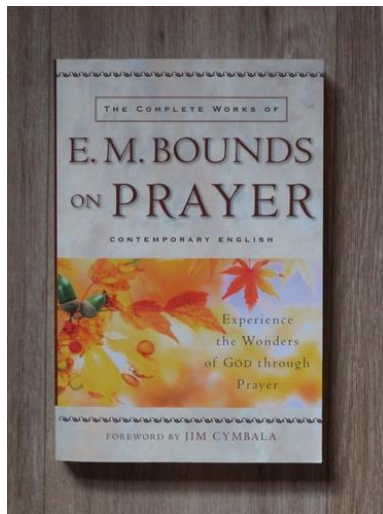
It's easy to become part of our prayer team!!

Join our prayer chain - send an email to brprayer@covenantbrethren.org. If you don't receive any emails from the prayer chain, please check your spam/junk folder.

Join our Facebook Group - send an email to brprayer@covenantbrethren.org. We'll send you an invitation to join. If you don't receive an invitation, please check your spam/junk folder.

Start a prayer team at your church if you don't already have one.

Learn more about prayer. Some of us are reading *The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds on Prayer*. Experience the wonders of God through prayer. **Read along with us at your own pace.** Don't know who E. M. Bounds is? Edward McKendree Bounds (1835-1913) was a lawyer, army chaplain, and pastor in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He spent the last seventeen years of his life reading, writing, and rising before dawn every morning to pray. There are seven sections in the book:



- The Necessity of Prayer
- The Essentials of Prayer
- The Possibilities of Prayer
- The Reality of Prayer
- Purpose in Prayer
- The Weapon of Prayer
- Power Through Prayer
- Prayer and Praying Men

Praises & Prayer Requests

- ✝ **Spirit-filled Annual Conference**
- ✝ **New church in the region: Elk Run Church**
- ✝ **Good turnout & safe travels for all attending Fellowship Event**
- ✝ **CBC congregations who need pastors**
- ✝ **COB congregations who are struggling with decisions**

Our Churches



Antioch



Calvary



Columbia Furnace



Elk Run



Moscow



New Beginnings (MD)



New Life



St. Luke

*Welcome Elk Run
Church in Churchville,
VA!*

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PARTNER AGENCIES

