

# NEWSLETTER

Spring-Summer 2025

## Blue Ridge Region Covenant Brethren Church



### *Executive Board*

**Janet Elsea, Chair**

**Darren Howdyshell, Vice Chair**

**Ron Layman, Treasurer**

**Scott Harris**

**Penny Adams**

**Ann Jones**

**Diane Pence**

**Jonathan Farmer**

**Jon Prater, Elder Representative to the  
Board**



# Message from our Chair

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write, spring is in full force. Everything is blooming and the bees are busy around all my plants outside our home. It's all very beautiful, even when my sinuses disagree. Spring is my favorite season of the year because it brings life! We have just celebrated the resurrection of Jesus and it's always a busy time. From Love Feast to Community Good Friday services to the Sunday services, they are all filled with joy at being together.

As your Regional Chair, it is important to me that we find joy in being together from our Pastors gatherings, our CEU opportunities, our Board meetings, our Annual Meeting and Worship Conference to our Regional Meeting and Worship Conference. All of these are opportunities to come together and, Lord willing, there are more on the way.

So, as Paul tells us, we should not neglect coming together in his letter to the Hebrews (10:25), I want to remind everyone to register for the Annual Meeting in Greensboro, NC, July 17-19 of this year. Registration is open on the covenantbrethren.org website. I know with all the line-up scheduled it will be a wonderful time. Then, just a few months later, mark your calendars for our own Blue Ridge Annual Meeting at Barren Ridge Church in Staunton, VA on November 8th. Your Board is busy getting all things ready for that meeting with a special speaker, praise and worship, a tiny bit of business, exhibits and a time of fellowship and joy.

On that note, our chosen theme for this year is "The Radiance of God's Glory" from Hebrews 1:1-4. I'm excited for what God has done, is doing and what is yet to come in the Blue Ridge Region. I pray you are as well.

Your regional board has been very busy planning and working for the churches! We have newly ordained ministers, newly licensed ministers and ministers in training. Let God arise! We are also working on developing a more active Disaster Response Team. If anyone from your church is interested, please contact Darren Howdyshell.

I pray you all enjoy our newsletter. We are all thankful for the work of our new Administrative Secretary Joy Mauzy. Should you have questions for her, don't hesitate to email or call her at 540-209-4862. And, if at any time you have questions or comments for your board, please do not hesitate to let me know.

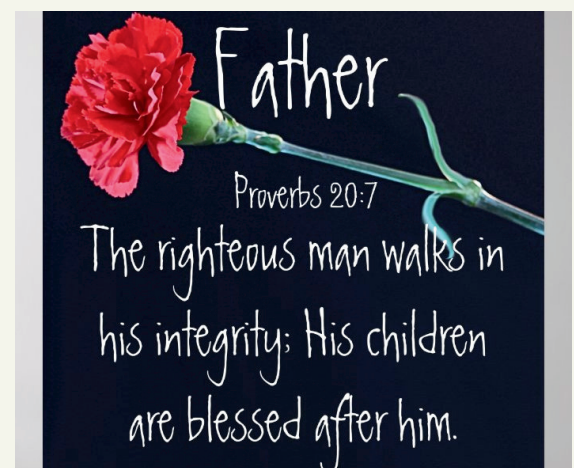
I'm happy to speak with you.

God bless you richly!

Janet W. Elsea, Chair



May 11, 2025



June 15, 2025 2



**Greetings from the Blue Ridge Region CBC,  
My name is Joy Mauzy and I am happy to be the new  
Administrative Assistant for our Blue Ridge Region. I am a  
lifelong native of Augusta County, Virginia and retired in mid-  
March after 40 years as a Business Tax Auditor for Augusta  
County. I have been married for 39 years to my husband,  
Dwayne, with two sons and daughters-in-law, Shawn & Molly  
and Brad & Taylor. We are also the proud grandparents of June  
and Nellie.**

**I have been an active, serving member of Barren Ridge CBC for  
over 45 years and have raised my family there. I am also  
serving as the Church secretary. Our youngest son, Brad and  
his wife Taylor, head up the Children's Church at Barren Ridge.  
I am looking forward to working with CBC and helping to carry  
out the mission and vision of the Blue Ridge Region. You can  
email me at [blueridge@covenantbrethren.org](mailto:blueridge@covenantbrethren.org) anytime.**

**While our physical address remains the same, our mailing  
address is P. O. Box 426, Grottoes, VA 24441. Donations may  
continue to be sent to Treasurer Ron Layman, 2317 Wilson  
Blvd, Winchester, VA 22601. We have also added a new phone  
number: 540-209-4862 and two new emails.**

**For those wishing to contact the treasurer, please use:**

**[Blueridgetreasurer@covenantbrethren.org](mailto:Blueridgetreasurer@covenantbrethren.org);**

**For those wishing to contact the Board Chair, please use:**

**[Blueridgechair@covenantbrethren.org](mailto:Blueridgechair@covenantbrethren.org)**

**I feel blessed to have this opportunity to work with each of you  
and all the Churches in our Region. I am a firm believer that  
God puts us where he want us to be and to serve him.**

**Blessings,  
Joy**



**Congratulations to all  
the graduates in all our  
Churches!**



**Congratulations to our newly licensed ministers:**  
**Chris Payne**  
**Diane Pence**  
**Terri Palmer**

**CEU**

Pastors ---make sure you take advantage of all opportunities to get your credits!!!

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brethren Bible Institute, taking place July 21-25, 2025 in Elizabethtown, PA.

Pastor Renewal Retreat: "Getting closer to God" at the Billy Graham training center retreat on October 6-8, 2025.



**Blue Ridge Region CBC SUMMER CAMP**  
 @Shenandoah Meadows in Fort Valley, VA

June 1-5 Senior Camp (compl. 8-12th)  
 June 8-12 Junior Camp (compl. 3-7th)

Learn about the **Armor of God!**  
 Call 540-459-3661 or email [adminassistant@antiochcob.org](mailto:adminassistant@antiochcob.org) to register.

**WHAT DO WE DO AT CAMP?**

- BIBLE STUDY**  
This summer we're talking about the ARMOR OF GOD!
- CRAFTS**
- SWIMMING POOL**
- GAMES**
- FISHING**
- WORSHIP**

**Why Come To Camp?**

1. Encounter God in a personal way.
2. Build relationships.
3. Enjoy the outdoors.
4. Learn from the Bible.
5. Grow more independent.
6. Disconnect from daily distractions.
7. Have Fun!

**ARMOR OF GOD**  
 EPHESIANS 6:11

**My name is Tammy Yoder and I attend Calvary Covenant Brethren Church in Winchester VA. I am directing the Jr. Youth Camp this summer along with Becky Leland who is directing the Sr. Youth Camp.**

**We are hoping to get some information out to all of the Blue Ridge Region churches about how they can help assist these camps for our youth. One way is for anyone who would like to purchase camp items for our camp store from our amazon wish list. These items would ship directly to Becky at Antioch and we will coordinate getting them to camp in June.**

**The Blue Ridge region youth camps are happening on June 1-5 and June 8-12. To help keep costs down for our summer campers, we invite you to purchase items for our camp store. The camp store is something the kids look forward to every day! We appreciate any donation you can make!**

**The link is <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1A5LETYPRQT2A?type=wishlist>**



## **Blue Ridge Region CBC Regional Conference**

November 8, 2025

Barren Ridge Church  
1790 Barren Ridge Rd  
Staunton, VA 24401

### **“The Radiance of God’s Glory”**

**“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.” ( Hebrews 1:1-4, NIV)**

**Your participation is essential and contributes greatly to the success of our Blue Ridge Region ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you can become more involved in our outreach, evangelism, and fellowship efforts by serving with us. In accordance with our Constitution and bylaws, the Regional Board is hereby calling churches to provide:**

**Nominations for Regional Board members – The region has two openings for which we need nominations this year on the Blue Ridge Regional Board. Nominations must be approved by each local church congregation and then submitted in advance of the Annual Meeting to the Blue Ridge Regional Board. Proposed candidates must be approved and vetted by the Regional Board in advance, and short candidate biographies and photos should be provided for inclusion within the Annual Meeting program. Nominations for Regional Board membership must be submitted to the Blue Ridge Regional Board on or before **June 15, 2025.****

**Exhibitors needed for the conference. If you know someone who would like to have a table at the conference, they can find the guidelines and application on our website at <https://blueridge.covenantbrethren.org/> or email Joy Mauzy, Administrative Assistant at [blueridge@covenantbrethren.org](mailto:blueridge@covenantbrethren.org)**

# Team Reports

## ***-Elders: Jon Prater***

Jon met with Barren Ridge Church in their search for a pastor since Pastor Janet and Pastor Henry will be retiring in August. The Elders also helped with the search for a pastor for St. Luke. George, Henry and Jon will be getting together soon. Ethics training is coming up and is very important. The Spiritual health of the region is very good at this time. Jon feels that they need to do something to explain what an Elder actually does for the Region.

## ***·Ministerial Leadership Team: Darren***

Darren sent an email to all pastors in our region with details about the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brethren Bible Institute, taking place July 21-25, 2025 in Elizabethtown, PA. The Apologetics Conference with Andy Bannister was held in April at Antioch Church and was very informational. There will be a Pastor Renewal Retreat: "Getting closer to God" at the Billy Graham training center retreat on October 6-8, 2025. At their next meeting, they plan to review CEU submissions and progress, approve reporting for those who are up to date, send reminder letters regarding the 2025 CEU reporting deadline and ensure all documentation is complete by year end so pastors can be reaffirmed and receive new ordination cards. Chris Payne will be the lead on the mentor letter update. There is a draft in progress. Jonathan Farmer will be the lead on the ministry training team. He is actively working to form the team. Jon Prater and Janet agreed to be on the team. Brian Crickenberger from Barren Ridge Church also has agreed. Darren stated that our region remains committed to supporting and equipping pastors through meaningful training opportunities. If someone is going to be ordained or licensed in our region, their Elder should be notified.

## ***·Missions Team – Ron***

Ron would like for someone to step up to chair this team to put life into it. There are several people they will get with to try to get to serve on this team.

## ***·Prayer Team – Diane***

Diane reported that Nancy and Charles Harlow from Elk Run are new to the team. Others were mentioned as possibilities. The meetings are held by Zoom.

## ***·Congregational Life/Focused Planning Team***

Dale Bowers will be heading this up with help from Penny.

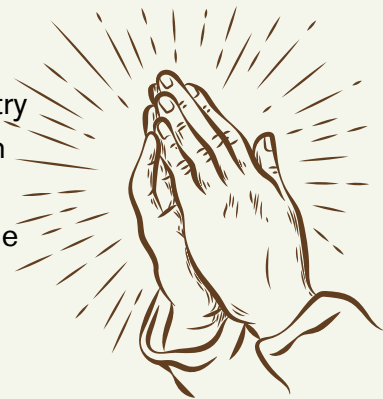
# The Blue Ridge Region extends a heartfelt welcome to Community Mission Church!!! We are happy to add Dale Bowers into our Church family!!



Our Mission: John 15:12 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." We believe: The Bible is the inerrant Word of God, II Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

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Pastor Janet and Pastor Henry have announced their retirement from pastoral ministry effective the end of August. We wish them both much happiness and relaxation in their next chapter. Barren Ridge Church has organized a search team and will be looking for a pastor. If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact the Church at [info@barrenridgechurch.com](mailto:info@barrenridgechurch.com). Please be in prayer for that Church.



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What's going on at Barren Ridge Church?  
Homecoming will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Galen Combs as the speaker and  
Vacation Bible School will be June 22-27 so please spread the word.

# Resurrection Day at our Churches

Columbia Furnace

Mt. Zion



Moscow

# Antioch



# Barren Ridge



# Annual Meeting & Worship Conference 2025

Join us for the 2025 CBC Annual Meeting & Worship Conference at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, from July 17th to July 19th. Experience a weekend of worship, fellowship, and prayer as we gather together. We are excited to welcome keynote speakers **Will Graham** and **Craig Alan Myers**, along with a **Youth Conference** to inspire and strengthen us in our faith walk.

[Learn More & Register >](#)

July 17th - July 19th, 2025  
**Koury Convention Center**

Days  
85

Hours  
02

Minutes  
05

Seconds  
22

**Join Us for the 2025 CBC Annual Meeting & Worship Conference!**

We're excited to welcome individuals and congregations to the 2025 Covenant Brethren Church Annual Meeting & Worship Conference at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC from July 17th to July 19th, 2025! This event is an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship and to experience spiritual renewal through Spirit-led worship, engaging sessions, and meaningful connections. At the same time, we will be hosting a CBC Youth Conference, offering young people a space for worship, fellowship, and spiritual engagement.

This year's conference theme is "Bearing Fruit for Jesus," based on John 15:1-17. Our theme verse reminds us of Christ's call to fruitful living: "This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples." — John 15:8.

On Thursday evening, July 17th, we are honored to welcome Bro Will Graham, Executive Vice President and Evangelist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Bro Will has shared the Gospel with over one million people across six continents and will inspire us with his powerful message of faith and evangelism.

On Friday evening, July 18th, join us for a time of worship with Bro Craig Alan Myers, an ordained minister and pastor at Blue River Covenant Brethren Church, as well as a member of the CBC Executive Board. Bro Craig brings to us decades of ministry experience and a passion for worship and spiritual growth.

Pre-Conference Sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17th, and are open to all attendees. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to participate in discussions and prepare for the full conference experience.

### [Additional Information on Pre-Conference Sessions >](#)

**\*Note: All delegates are required to register online for the conference.**

**July 17th**

**12:00 PM**

**Registration Opens**

**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Pre-Conference Insight Sessions**

**6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Evening Worship with Will Graham**

**July 18th**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Morning Sessions & Worship**

**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Afternoon Sessions**

**6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Evening Worship with  
Craig Alan Myers**

**July 19th**

**8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Worship and Closing Remarks**

**Register at [covenantbrethren.org](http://covenantbrethren.org)**

# Blue Ridge Region Churches

Antioch  
 Barren Ridge  
 Calvary  
 Collinsville  
 Columbia Furnace  
 Community Mission  
 Elk Run  
 Greenmount  
 Moscow  
 Mt. Zion  
 New Beginnings  
 New Life  
 Newport  
 Oak Hill (not yet decided)  
 St. Luke

George Bowers  
 Henry & Janet Elsea  
 Jonathan Martino  
 Roy McVey  
 Bill Fitchett  
 Dale Bowers  
 Jonathan Farmer  
 B. Scott Harris  
 Darren Howdysshell  
 Jon Prater  
 Karen Grossnickle  
 Vacant  
 Duane Painter\*  
 Duke McCaffrey  
 Vacant

23502 Senado Rd, Woodstock VA 22664  
 1790 Barren Ridge Rd, Staunton VA 24401  
 578 Front Royal Pk, Winchester VA 22602  
 553 John Redd Blvd., Collinsville VA 24078  
 20910 Senedo Rd. Edinburg VA 22824  
 50 Coffmantown Rd, Woodstock, VA 22664  
 1599 Scenic Hwy., Churchville VA 24421  
 4881 Greenmount Rd, Rockingham VA 22802  
 866 Nash Rd., Mount Solon VA 22843  
 10589 Mt. Zion Rd. Linville VA 22834  
 10629 Harmony Rd., Meyersville MD 21773  
 P O Box 123, Bridgewater VA 22812  
 408 Newport Rd., Shenandoah VA 22849  
 7010 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley VA 22652  
 3250 Back Rd., Woodstock VA 22664

Spring Word Search Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SpringTime

L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	I	P	P
Q	T	U	L	I	P	X	P	Y	B
G	B	B	J	S	Y	M	A	P	E
A	E	O	G	A	N	Y	S	B	E
R	R	F	L	O	W	E	R	I	S
D	A	X	M	E	R	S	J	R	X
E	I	P	L	A	N	T	N	D	S
N	N	X	L	Z	S	Z	F	S	E
L	H	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E
D	A	G	Z	P	L	N	G	Q	D

Word list:  
 BEES  
 BIRDS  
 FLOWER  
 GARDEN  
 LADYBUG  
 PLANT  
 RAIN  
 SEED  
 SUNSHINE  
 TULIP

SunCatcherStudio.com

**Contact Us**  
**Mailing Address:**  
 P O Box 426  
 Grottoes, VA 24441  
 (540) 209-4862  
**Physical Address:**  
 3250 Back Rd  
 Woodstock, VA 22664  
**Email:**

[blueridge@covenantbrethren.org](mailto:blueridge@covenantbrethren.org)

**Website:**

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