



# Manassas Church of the Brethren

## January 2022 Newsletter

### Welcome 2022!

Welcome all! We have a lot to look forward to this year. During our Fall Congregational Council Meeting, the slate was approved for this year. The 2022 Church Board is shown below. Please be in prayer for our new leadership in this new year!

#### Church Board:

Steve H., Chair (2023)  
David S., Clerk (2022)  
Luke C., Moderator (2022)  
Dale R. Treasurer, ex officio  
Mandy N., Pastor, ex officio  
Ben W., Trustee Chair, ex officio

#### Communications

Travis W.(2023)  
Tyler B.(2022)  
Jared K. (2024)

#### Christian Education

Briana B.(2023)  
Carol R. (2022)  
Amanda B. (2024)

#### Fellowship & Hospitality

Joan K. (2022)  
Carla B. (2023)  
Kelly K.(2024)

#### Mission & Service

Linda T. (2022)  
Kim K. (2023)  
Chris E.(2024)

#### Property

Jim F.(2022)  
Marc B.(2023)  
Sonny C.(2024)

#### Stewardship

Christian S. (2023)  
Don K. (2022)  
Vacancy (2024)

#### Worship & Music

Patricia G. (2023)  
Terrie C. (2022)  
Rebecca V. (2024)

Please see the rest of our committees on page 3.



In 2018, “Bound Together: Clothed in Christ” was the theme of National Youth Conference. As we navigate our way forward into 2022, we are using this same theme based on Colossians 3:12-15 to remind of who we are and whose we are in the new year bounded together through Christ.

Colossians 3:12-15

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

# Pastor's Page

There's a prayer practice growing in popularity in Protestant churches involving Star Words during Epiphany. The idea is that congregants choose a word to reflect on throughout the year, giving the person focus and intention on how God may be moving in their midst and guiding them forward, much like the star that appeared and guided the Magi on Epiphany. To read and learn more about the prayer practice, you can check out this article from the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville: <https://pclawrenceville.org/epiphany-star-words/>.

My own personal prayer practice has included the use of Star Words for the past few years with "Faith" being the word in 2020 and "Hope" in 2021. As the pandemic descended upon us in 2020, "Faith" seemed like an appropriate word of intention as our world was turned upside down and our faith was tested. When the vaccine became available in 2021 and things started to open up again, "Hope" was most certainly in the air as we continued to navigate our way forward. As we prepare for 2022, the Star Word that has been on my heart and mind is "Connect." We have been separated for so long with feelings of disconnection as the pandemic continues and the Omicron variant runs rampant. My prayer for 2022 is that we will be intentional in the ways that we seek to connect with each other and with God, and to break down the walls that have divided us in this season. Spend



some time in prayer with me, reflecting on how God is guiding us forward together on this journey to connect in this new year.

~ Pastor Mandy

## Worship Themes

### **January 2**

Luke 2:15-21, Isaiah 7:13-16

Preacher: David S.

Worship Leader: Melvin C.

### **January 9—Epiphany**

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6

Preacher: Pastor Mandy N.

Worship Leader: The Anderson Family

### **January 16—The feet who bring good news**

Isaiah 52:1-10

Preacher: Pastor Mandy N.

Worship Leader: Ramona V.

### **January 23—Baptism of Jesus**

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17

Preacher: Pastor Mandy N.

Worship Leader: Terrie C.

### **January 30 – Blanket Sunday**

Mark 1:29-31

Preacher: Pastor Mandy N.

Worship Leader: MSO Team

# Church Committees

**Acolytes** – Joshua C., James S, James L. Tyler N., Makayla G., Owen B.  
**Audit Committee** - Rick A. Christian S. Chris E.  
**Cemetery Committee** - Rhonda C., Cotton J., John and Patricia G., and Orrin K.  
**Chancel Choir Officers** - Terrie C.(Librarian), TBD (Robe Custodian)  
**Delegates to Annual Conference** (July 10, 2022 – July 14, 2022), Mandy N. and Rob D.  
**Delegates to Mid-Atlantic District Conference**, Chris E., Tina F. Anna W. Travis W.  
**Education & Enrichment Fund Committee** – Lavonne H., Bonnie C., Donna H.  
**Elva Ramey Kline Memorial Fund Committee** - Martha A. and Patricia G.  
**Financial Secretary** – Joan K.  
**Goals and Purpose Committee** - Illana N. Luke C. Wayne K., Carla B., Jaylin K.  
**Head Ushers** – Melvin C., Sonny C., Leonard P., and Rob D.  
**Hospitality Committee** - Rhonda C. Wayne K., and Linda T.  
**Kitchen Supplies Coordinators** - Terrie and Sonny C.  
**Leadership Calling Team** - Rhonda C., Linda T. and Anna W.  
**Librarian** – Jeanette S.  
**Memorial Fund Committee** - Rick A., Martha A., Rhonda C., and Linda T.  
**Nursery Committee** - Luke C., Carla B., and Christy L.  
**On Earth Peace Representative** - Illana N.  
**Organist** - Lois W.  
**Pianists** - Susan D., Patricia G., Linda H. Krista K, Ben W, and Travis W  
**Senior & Junior High Coordinator** – Brianna B  
**Shepherd's Spring Advocate** – Mary Jane P.  
**Staff Advisory Committee** – Melvin C., Lisa N., Jen R., Preston L. and Margaret B.  
**Treasurer** – Dale R.  
**Trustee Board** – Ben W. (Chair), Preston L. , Lynn K. , Bonnie C., Steve H., Cotton J., and Don K.  
**Vacation Bible School Directors** – Rose C.



**Deacon's Meeting**

**January 9th**

**12:00pm**

**Stewardship by the Numbers  
Worship Attendance & Giving**

2021 Average Worship Attendance: 65

2021 Average Weekly Offering: \$6,400.00

December Average Worship Attendance: 93

December Average Offering: \$13003.00

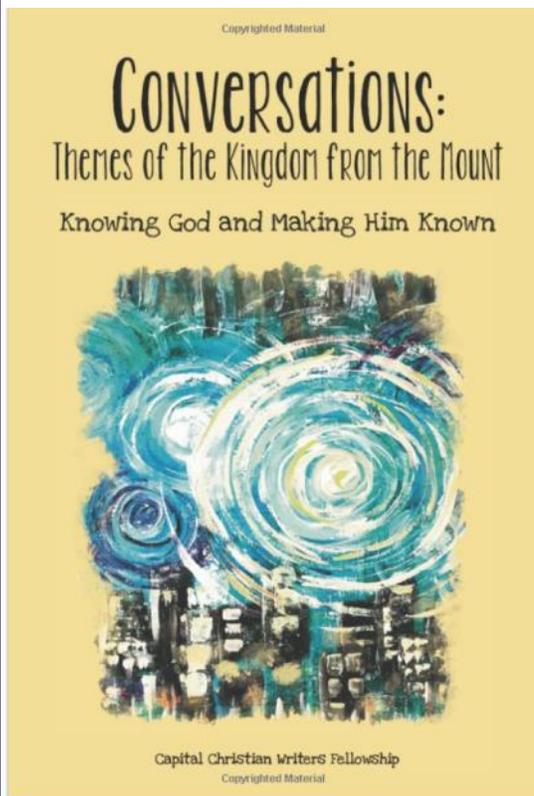
## Creation Care Corner: If You Could Only Plant One Tree, Plant an Oak! By Louis H.

The Church of the Brethren emphasizes caring for nature as a critical component of advancing God's kingdom. An [article in the November 2021 Messenger](#) discusses this issue. One of the article's recommendations is to preserve natural areas and plant trees. The November 2021 Messenger also reprinted an article on the [importance of scientific methodology](#) for understanding the environment in a clear and rigorous manner. The scientific methodology concept is essential in deciding what our next steps should be. If we want to plant trees, it is valuable to understand our environment and pick a tree appropriate to the location. Given that we are called to take care of the environment in a thoughtful manner, what should the individual do?

We all face competing demands on our time, and you may want to focus on one activity to assist nature near you. If you have the space or access to land, planting a tree would help restore balance. This question has been a subject of research by Dr. Doug Tallamy, of the University of Delaware. Dr. Tallamy has published several books on the relation between insects and the health of the environment and has developed a web site that can help you find a tree or a plant appropriate for your space. Look at [Homegrown National Park](#), a site devoted to encouraging people to plant something in their yard to "support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water." His [research](#) has found a link between health of the environment and the availability of caterpillars for birds and other creatures. If you have space for a tree, an oak would be the single best option as it can be a host for up to 517 moths and butterflies. If you have a small space, consider a native plant. In Manassas, goldenrod can support 114 species of moths and butterflies.



## Book of the Month—Featuring Carol Rusaw!



“Knowing God and Making Him known” serves as the lodestar for the message in Capital Christian Writers Fellowship’s 2021 anthology, *Conversations: Themes of the Kingdom from the Mount*.

Members of Capital Christian Writers Fellowship share their vision on how to have a conversation with God using the Sermon on the Mount as inspiration. In the pages of this anthology, you’ll hear from aspiring and published writers, poets and novelists, and bloggers, magazine writers and artists, all of whom shared the words God laid upon their hearts. **This book also features a poem, a painting, and an essay from our own Carol R.!**

Today, more than ever, Christian writers seek to fill this world with the light of God’s Word. They desire to share words that will comfort those who need a hug. They give praise to the Author and Finisher of their faith.

The sincere prayer of the CCWF writers and the editorial team is that as you read this book, you will be drawn into the conversation.

Copies of this book can be checked out of the church library.

## Church Board Retreat & Meeting

MANASSAS CHURCH  
OF THE BRETHREN

### Church Board Retreat

Saturday January 8th 8:30am - 12:00pm

Benedictine Pastoral Center

9535 Linton Hall Road  
Bristow, VA 20136

Please contact the church office with any questions

This year the church board retreat will be at the Benedictine Pastoral Center in Bristow on January 8th from 8:30am—12:00pm. There will be a continental breakfast, followed by scripture readings, intentional prayer, and community building. The retreat will center our hearts and prepare us for the new year of ministry together. The board is welcome to stay at the center to walk the labyrinth or to explore the natural beauty in the gardens and trails.

The business of the church board will be on Monday January 10th at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom.

Ministry teams will be asked to come up with a regular meeting schedule to share with the board leaders. An initial meeting of each ministry team will be required before our February church board meeting on Monday February 14th.

The Executive Committee will be meeting on January 10th at 6:15pm.

## Historic Thoroughfare Sacred Walk

The Coalition to Save Historic Thoroughfare and the United Tribes of the Shenandoah, co-organized a sacred walk on December 10, 2021 that included the wreath laying ceremony in honor of Frank Allen and Moses Johnson, WWI veterans. Appropriately our walk took place on Human Rights' Day.

The Coalition began in April 2021 with Frank Washington as Chair and Oakrum Baptist Church, served by Rev. Dulaney Washington, as its spiritual center. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisor Pete Candland and PWC Archaeologist Justin Patton provided the following background: "Thoroughfare, located off Route 55 outside Haymarket, was established by freed slaves and Native Americans as a self-sufficient standalone farming community. Their descendants have deep roots in our history, including the civil war. Now that history is being threatened by encroaching development."

In June, the Executive Committee approved a Letter of Support that was read on June 15, 2021 at the Prince William Board of County Supervisors meeting. Challenges continue; yet it is with deep gratitude to report that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors recently voted unanimously to support this community and even had several supervisors participating in this sacred walk.

According to Tina F.: "It was a beautiful experience and I feel honored to have been a part of the sacred ceremonies at the two different cemeteries. It is encouraging to see PWC provide some positive action toward resolution for the harm already caused and veneration of the community by making a park."



## Child Protection Policy



As we step into the new year of 2022 and re-introduce certain programs, Christian Education is looking to get back into compliance with the church's Child Protection Policy. The Child Protection Policy was approved by the church board in 2017 to protect our children against any kind of harm or mistreatment while church volunteers are providing necessary care. This new year marks 5 years since approving the policy, and in turn, updating background checks. Therefore, we will take the new year as an opportunity to train and retrain our members! We will offer one in-person training after church and one virtual training session; stay tuned for the dates. Rose Cox will be sending out emails within the next few weeks to get essential volunteers started on the first steps. However, if you are interested in starting the process, please email Rose C. at

[chris.educ@manassasbrethren.org](mailto:chris.educ@manassasbrethren.org) to let her know you are interested in becoming certified for 2022!

## VOICE Update



Here is a quick update on the Prince William County (PWC) Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), one of VOICE's top organizing priorities this year.

Next year PWC is positioned to use significant funds from its federal ARPA allocation for the start-up and facility costs associated with creating a desperately-needed regional CSU in the county. The big challenge has been to secure funding, roughly \$4m/year, for a portion of the ongoing operational expenses to support the center.

Our hope is that the bulk of that ongoing funding will come from the state, through the agency that oversees behavioral health services, DBHDS (Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services). On Thursday, Gov. Northam released his proposed budget for FY2023. In it, he allocates **\$9m for CSU's statewide**. Likely due in part to our tireless organizing and the work of key allies in the state and in the county, this is actually **\$2m more** than DBHDS originally requested.

Obviously, we would have preferred significantly more funding for CSUs given the dire need in Virginia. Yet, some of our key state-level allies are cautiously optimistic that this level of funding will position the PWC CSU for funding during the General Assembly session that kicks off next month. Much depends on how DBHDS interprets how to distribute the funds and, of course, the General Assembly keeping the funding whole (or adding to it) during their session which kicks off January 10th.

VOICE, together with key allies, is pursuing a meeting with Gov. Youngkin in January to discuss this project and our work around the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system more broadly.

The second issue that VOICE is working on is bringing affordable housing to our communities. In early December, Prince William County VOICE leaders including our VOICE Core team had a meeting with Developer Saif Rahman to learn more about the complexities of affordable housing from the perspective of developers and builders. We are looking forward to more research actions in 2022 that will help us bring better practices to Prince William County and our region around this issue.

## News & Events



### National Youth Conference 2022

“Foundational”

Colossians 2:5-7

July 23 – 28, 2022 in Fort Collins, Colorado

National Youth Conference (NYC) provides high school aged students and their advisors the chance to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation and more!

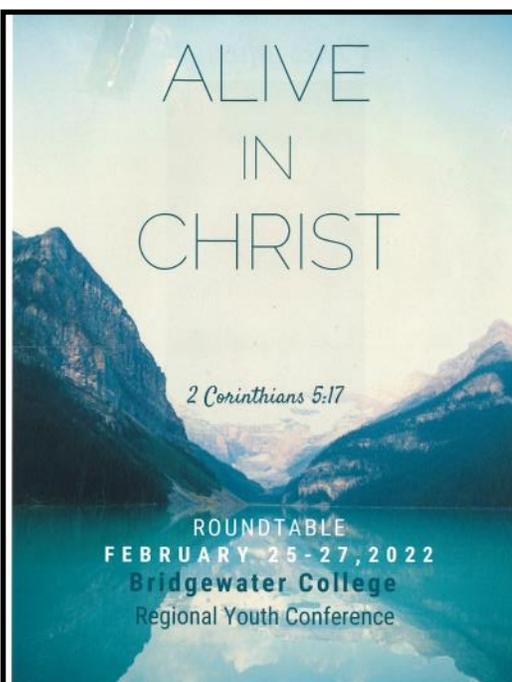
Click Here to learn more and to register: <https://www.brethren.org/nyc/>.

Any questions can be emailed to Rose C. at [chris.educ@manassasbrethren.org](mailto:chris.educ@manassasbrethren.org).



### FaithX Registration for Jr. High opens January 13<sup>th</sup>!

The theme this year is Boundless Faith, We are told that we walk by faith, but what does that mean? What does our faith look like and how do we make sense of it? Let us find out together. Let us imagine a bigger and bolder faith to go with a big and bold God that we serve. Push past the usual answers and seek deeper truths. Go forth and serve outside the safety of normality. Move beyond the mundane and walk with us, together, in boundless faith. **“For we walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Corinthians 5:7 NRSV)



Roundtable will be held on February 25-27, 2022. We will largely be back to a normal schedule, but this pandemic is not over yet, so things will still be done with precautions in place. But we are going to have a blast with worship, singing, small groups, workshops, Friday night activities, vespers, and everyone’s favorite FREE TIME. No matter what, Roundtable will be a fun weekend to remember!!!

Our speaker for this year is Chris Michael, a Bridgewater graduate who served on the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet (and you may know him from his hilarious Tik-Toks). Chris will be delivering messages on our theme: “Alive in Christ.”

Click here for more information: [Roundtable | iycbc \(wixsite.com\)](https://www.wixsite.com/iycbc)

## Successful Bean & Bake Sale!

Our kids and youth were able to raise **\$1493.00** for Bread for the World! Special thanks to Sue W. for putting this event together and Stephanie P. for her beans and jam!



## Healthy Families Holiday Party



The Annual Healthy Families Holiday Party held on Saturday, December 18 at the SERVE Campus was a great success. The Manassas Church of the Brethren usually hosts the party in our Fellowship Center, but due to COVID, they decided to keep families safe with social distancing and a drive through event. Many thanks to our MCOB volunteers Todd Robbins, DJ Extraordinaire and the Gage family. Mission, Service and Outreach Team donated 30 gingerbread kits to the effort and Unity Works, a local non-profit agency and one of our partners, donated gifts for 30+ families.

Mandi Fisher, Program Manager for the NVFS-run program, "Thanks for all you do to support us, we appreciate it so much! Wishing you a very Merry Christmas! Looking forward to seeing you in 2022!"

Northern Virginia Family Service Healthy Families program provides the tools, guidance, and support that families need to build a healthy, successful life. The program provides free services in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties and the city of Alexandria to promote healthy child development and to prevent child abuse and neglect for families with children pre-birth to age 3 or 4 (depending on the jurisdiction.) Healthy Families' four goals are to promote positive, nurturing, responsive parenting; improve child health and development; promote school readiness; and prevent child abuse and neglect.

# Shepherd's Spring Summer Camp—Early Bird Registration

**SUMMER CAMP**

Online registration now open.

**Classic Camp**  
June 19-24  
Ages 7-15

**Camp Around the World**  
July 10-15  
Ages 7-15

**Headwaters**  
June 26-July 1  
Ages 7-18

Check out our **NEW Global Citizen Camp** options, too!

Both day camp & overnight camp options are now available.

Early bird discount ends February 1st!

[www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org)



## GLOBAL CITIZEN SUMMER CAMP

[shepherdsspring.org](http://shepherdsspring.org)



Campers will get a glimpse of what it's like to live in another country and learn what it means to be a Global Citizen in today's culture. In the two week long option, campers may visit a foreign embassy, try their hand at farm life, work a service project, and tour the nation's capital.

**July 17-22**  
Ages 10-18

**July 24-29**  
Ages 10-18

**July 24-August 5**  
Ages 14-18

**Shepherd's Spring – EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT BEFORE FEBRUARY 1ST!**

Sign-up early for Shepherd's Spring Camp! Click here to register or learn more:

<https://www.shepherdsspring.org/summer-camp>

# January 2022



**Sun**                      **Mon**                      **Tue**                      **Wed**                      **Thu**                      **Fri**                      **Sat**

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00am—Kids SS 11:00am—Worship 6:30pm—Youth Zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	<b>5</b> 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:30 am—12 noon Church Board Retreat at Benedictine Pastoral Center
<b>9</b> 9:00am—Kids SS 11:00am—Worship 12:00 pm—Deacon mtg 6:30pm—Youth Zoom	<b>10</b> 6:15 pm— Executive Committee Mtg 7:30 pm—Church Board	<b>11</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	<b>12</b> 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>13</b> FAITHX Registration Opens!	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00am—Kids SS 11:00am—Worship 12:00pm—Deacons Mtg 6:30pm—Youth Zoom	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	<b>19</b> 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/30</b> 9:00am—Kids SS 11:00am—Worship 6:30pm—Youth Zoom	<b>24/31</b>	<b>25</b> 12:00pm—Lunch Bunch @Liberia Arby's	<b>26</b> 6:30pm—Adult Bible Study 7:30pm—Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>9:00am—Kids SS 11:00am—Worship 6:30pm—Youth Zoom</b>						

**MANASSAS CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
10047 NOKESVILLE ROAD  
MANASSAS VIRGINIA 20110**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Happy  
Birth day*

6-Andrew C.  
6-Jenn F.  
7-Brad H.  
8-Nancy B.  
9-Lance K.  
9-Donna L.  
9-Shirley M.  
9-Heather B.  
11-Debbie E.  
11-Wayne K.  
13-Kate W.  
13-Kim S.  
16-Henry P.  
16-Matthew W.  
17-Alexander P.

18-Clark C.  
18-Jan H.  
18-Lowell K.  
18-Katelyn W.  
21-James F.  
23-David S.  
25-Megan A.  
26-Josephine K.  
27-Brian H.  
27-Margaret B.  
29-Grace C.  
30-Gina M.  
30-Leys R.  
31-Ben H.



**16-Carroll & Susan W.**