

**VMC News**

         **Join Beldor Mennonite Church** for an evening with Danny Lam & the Virginia Traditions bluegrass gospel group from Elkton. They will perform Sunday, February 5, 2017, 6 PM. A light snack will follow the concert. The church is located at 4985 Beldor Rd., Elkton, Va.

         **Save the date for the Spring 2017 Credentialed Leaders Consultation** addressing racism on Friday, May 5, 2017, most likely 8 or 8:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Shady Oak at Weavers’ Mennonite Church, Rawley Pike (Rt 33) in Harrisonburg. Shady Oak is the building off to the side of the church. More details about the topic and presenters, and registration, will be coming soon.

         **“The Seven Pillars of Mennonite Theology”** is on exhibit at VMRC Park Gables Art Gallery through Friday, February 10. Kathryn Fenton, Eastern Mennonite Seminary graduate, presents her paintings depicting Mennonite Theology. The abstract pieces represent the Trinity, the dual nature of Christ, Scripture, salvation, the sacraments, discipleship and nonviolence.

         Are you interested in learning more about conflict transformation, facilitation and gaining peace-building tools for working and organizing in the community? The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding invites you to attend **SPI Community Day** on February 17, 2017. Cost is $50 and includes a full day of presentations, workshops and lunch. For more details and registration visit <http://www.emu.edu/cjp/spi/spicommunityday/>.

         Join **Highland Retreat** for their annual **Benefit Auction** on Saturday, February 18, at Eastern Mennonite High School. The Auction is designed to subsidize camp tuition for all camper families and provide scholarships for families with greater need. See [www.highlandretreat.org](http://www.highlandretreat.org/) for more information. Contact [info@highlandretreat.org](mailto:info@highlandretreat.org) if you have a new item, service, collectible, or baked good you would like to contribute.

         **Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Va. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage." Learn more and register at virginiaconference.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/

         **Annual Meat Canning** is scheduled for February 27-March 3, 2017 at the Hinton Mennonite Relief Center, Hinton, Va.  **Virginia Mennonite Conference is responsible to help provide help on Tuesday, February 28.**  Help is needed from 5 AM until 11 PM each day. Friday, March 3 is scheduled as a community day and help is especially needed in the early morning. Anyone is welcome to come and help on any day! Funds are needed to purchase turkey for processing and for the ongoing operation of the Relief Center. If you would like to contribute to this project you can send a donation to the: Hinton Mennonite Relief Center, PO Box 519, Dayton, VA 22821. If you have any questions about this project you can contact Leon Rhodes at (540) 820-5443 or Gerald Knicely at (540) 478-4203. Thanks for your participation in this effort to feed the less fortunate in the world.

         **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center** is hosting fundraising banquets at Huntington Mennonite Church in Newport News on Saturday, March 18, and at Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg on Saturday, April 1, from 5:30 to 8pm. Enjoy music, an update on the ministry of WCRC, and the chance to win a handmade quilt stitched by "Peace by Piece" sewing group of Williamsburg Mennonite Church using donated fabric. Dinner is by donation and there will be opportunities to give to WCRC. RSVP to director@wcrc.info or by calling 757-566-2256

         **Join the exciting, new *a cappella* competition "The Shenandoah Valley Sing Off!"** on Saturday, April 8, 2017, 7 pm, Harrisonburg High School. This will be a fun, family friendly event attracting *a cappella* groups from all across the state. 1st place-$750 cash prize, 2nd place-$500 cash prize, Audience Favorite-$250 cash prize. Application deadline: February 19. For more information, visit singoff.org

         Register Now for Kaleidoscope Summer Camp!  Camps are available for ages 7 to 18 and run from June 25th through August 3rd. Fun activities, great counselors, Christ-centered worship, amazing food and new friends! Information is on the web at www.wcrc.info or call us at 866-566-9272.

**Courses and learning tours:**

         **Registration is now open for “Places, People, & Prayers, A Cross-Cultural Encounter with the Holy Land,”** an Israel/Palestine study tour offered May 4-27, 2017, through Eastern Mennonite Seminary.  Trip leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, and Kevin A. Clark, EMS Campus Pastor.  “Places, People, & Prayers” is open to all interested travelers, with or without seminary credit.  NOTE: All MCUSA pastors are eligible to apply to the MCUSA “Come and See” program for a $500 scholarship to assist with trip costs.  If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at [weaverdj@emu.edu](mailto:weaverdj@emu.edu) at your earliest.