



## February, 2016 Southern Ohio District Newsletter Printable Version

### **Woodland Altars Memorabilia**

Since the October District Conference, Charlene and Ted Foster, and Tom and Karen Dillon have spent many hours going through all the buildings at Woodland Altars. They have met with the new owners to make the necessary transfers. Vonda Jones was a big help in making the transition a smooth process. She has been hired by the owners to continue her work managing and caring for the property. The District owes Vonda a great deal of appreciation for her contributions in keeping Woodland Altars operating so well during the past few difficult years.

Ted, Charlene, Tom and Karen have searched through all the spaces at Woodland Altars to find any pieces of memorabilia that might be important or of sentimental value to Southern Ohio District. Some of the items were books, plaques, artwork, pictures, slides, histories, stories, maps, and documents. All of these items have been placed in the hands of the Brethren Heritage Center where they are protected, stored, and available to anyone wishing to see them. We also brought back items that will be used in our camping and retreat programs: dishes, cooking utensils, craft materials and supplies, etc.

### **Fearless Faith Summer Camp, 2016**

What does it mean to be a part of a Christian community? Campers will explore how they themselves are a part of the church and what that means about how we relate to one another and the world.

The entire summer camp schedule is posted on our website. Mark your calendar and save the date.

**Youth Winter Retreat**--has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

**Men's Retreat**-- has been cancelled due to lack of interest

Contact Rick Dobberstein (rdobberstein@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Volunteer Opportunity in CO** - Volunteers are needed in Loveland, CO **January 31- February 6 and February 7-13**. There are no groups signed up for these weeks, so individuals are being recruited. S. Ohio is not sending a van, but is announcing the need. If there are some who would like to make their own arrangements to fly, S. Ohio BDM will do a partial reimbursement after the trip. Please contact Burt Wolf (937-287-5902) for details.

**New BDM Project Opening** – Brethren Disaster Ministries will open a long-term recovery project in February in Harts, West Virginia. A multiple county area was hit repeatedly with major flooding in 2015. BDM will assist with the rebuilding of both homes and washed out bridges. **S. Ohio crews will serve here February 14-20, April 24-30, and November 27-December 3**. Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 to join a crew.

**Sewing Bee** – On Saturday, Feb. 27 at 9:00 AM there will be a Sewing Bee for Church World Service. It will be at Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine for sewing school bags for CWS kits. **If you want to sew, but don't have a portable machine, we do have two sewing machines that can be used.** Please call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442 to reserve a machine. Lunch will be served.

**Appreciation Dinner** – The annual BDM Appreciation Dinner will be on **March 19 at 6:00 PM** at Castine COB, 624 U.S. 127, Arcanum, OH. Come for dinner, inspiration, BDM updates, and fellowship. First time trip volunteers will be recognized. Please RSVP to Burt and Helen Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or 937-287-5902.

**2015 S. Ohio Data** – During 2015 the S. Ohio District shared God's love through rebuilding homes and providing CWS kits. There were fifteen trips with 191 volunteers serving in New Jersey and Colorado. The total trip cost was \$14,988.17. For Church World Service, 37 Baby Kits, 500 Hygiene Kits, 200 Clean Up Buckets, and 1,648 School Kits were assembled at a cost of \$9,841.71. Through Brethren Helping Hands, twenty volunteers painted at Brethren House for Bethany Seminary. Thank you to the congregations and individuals who supported BDM financially, prayerfully, and with volunteers. Together we have served in Jesus name

### **Oakland Church presents "The Cemetery Club" Dinner Theatre**

The Oakland Church of the Brethren, 8058 Horatio-Harris Creek Road, Bradford (2 and a half miles north of Gettysburg, Ohio) will be presenting "The Cemetery Club" by Ivan Menchell as their 2016 Dinner Theater production. The play centers around three Jewish widows who meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband's graves. Sam, the butcher becomes a romantic interest to one of the widows causing some conflicts to arise. The dates will be March 4, 5, 11, & 12 at 6:00pm, cost of the dinner buffet and play will be \$22.00. On Sunday, March 6, dessert only will be served at 2:00pm with the play to follow at 3:00pm, cost of \$12.00. Cost for children 10 and under will be half price. Reservations may be made from 4-8pm with Brenda Coblentz at 937-548-1895.

### **Shane Claiborne Comes to Southern Ohio**

The New Carlisle congregation is hosting Shane Claiborne of March 12 for a Red Letter Christians/Radical Christians conference. Shane is a founder and board member of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia. A flyer with more information, including a registration form, is on our website. Registration deadline is February 29.

**2016 Annual Conference Update** 2016 Annual Conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Early delegate registration remains the same at \$285. In terms of housing costs, in Greensboro, we will only have one hotel (the convention center and the hotel are all in one building). Our hotel rate is \$109 + 12.75% tax which makes it a total of \$121.75 inclusive. The Sheraton is also giving us free parking and free wi-fi, so there is no additional charge for those. Registration for both delegates and non-delegates will open in February.

## Church of the Brethren General Secretary speaks out Against Anti-Muslim Rhetoric

Church of the Brethren General Secretary, Stanley J. Noffsinger, has issued a statement against the current escalation of rhetoric that seeks to demonize Muslims. Citing Jesus' commands to love God, and love neighbor as self, and the parable of the Good Samaritan, the statement also calls church members to revisit portions of the 1991 Annual Conference statement "Peacemaking: The Call of God's Peace in History" that directs the church to "explore avenues of interfaith dialogue leading toward a visible expression of God's plan for human unity." The full statement as well as a YouTube video is available on the Church of the Brethren website, [brethren.org](http://brethren.org).

## Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other in prayer. The **2016 Prayer List for Congregations** is available on our website.

-- We offer our prayers for the ongoing racial unrest across our country with recent demonstrations and protests on college campuses. May the peace of God guide us toward whole and healthy relationships among all people.

--Judy Cupp family, loss of Judy

--Libby Kee, breast cancer

-- Daniel Fullen, serving as interim pastor of Olivet along with beginning a full time chaplaincy in Newark, OH

-- Tom Bowser, interim pastor of Good Shepherd

-- Dean Garrett, providing pulpit supply and other ministry as needed for Emmanuel congregation

--Jim and Linda Vandermark's daughter, Amanda, breast cancer

--Olivet Congregation, discerning next steps.

--Wolf Creek Congregation, preparing for restart.

--Possibility of new church start in Lexington, KY.

--There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact Dave if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.