



September, 2016 Southern Ohio District Newsletter Printable Version

2016 Southern Ohio District Conference-- Register Delegates Now!

Registration for this year's District Conference is September 30-October 1, 2016, at our Oakland Church of the Brethren. If you have not yet registered delegates, please do so right away. Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Seminary, will be our guest speaker. The focus for this year's conference training will be developing a vision for ways we can "Work together". The Program and Arrangements Committee has been meeting regularly and is excited about another inspiring time together as we explore our future as a district. Registration is available online at www.sodcob.org.

District Delegate 2017 Budget Information Sessions

The District Board will host two meetings to allow District Delegates more time to better understand the proposed 2017 District budget, to ask more in depth questions and to allow additional time for prayerful consideration. The meetings will be held on Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 AM at West Charleston and Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 PM at Happy Corner. Your District Board encourages District Delegates and Pastors to attend one of these sessions.

District Conference Outreach: Wide Arms Security Blankets

Your Program and Arrangements Committee has chosen the Wide Arms Security Blankets as a ministry we can support together at this year's District Conference. They would like to ask congregations and individuals to bring blankets to donate to this new ministry in our district.

Wide Arms Security Blankets is a vision of Brandi Motsinger from the Stony Creek Church of the Brethren. More about the ministry and Brandi can be found on the District website.

Reconciliation Process Next Steps

The Congregational Listening Sessions portion of the Reconciliation process is over. All congregations in the District were sent a copy of the Reconciliation Team's summary. If you have not seen it, ask your Pastor or Board Chair for a copy!

The next step in the process is for members of the Reconciliation Teams to meet with interested persons from the Southern Ohio District in a series of face-to-face sessions to ask follow-up questions and get feedback on ideas the Team has for future activities. Three regional meetings (East, South and West). [Click here for dates and locations.](#)

The Reconciliation Team will also have a presence at this fall's District Conference on Saturday, October 1. Thanks to all who participated in the Listening Sessions. Please consider being an active part of the next steps in Reconciliation by attending one of these meetings!

Camping and Retreat Upcoming Events and Updates

Sept. 26 - 30 Adult Bible School at Salem COB

Oct. 10 - 14 Adult Bible School at Troy COB

More information about these events can be found online or by contacting your congregation's church office.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser – Thank you to the churches of S. Ohio for another successful Ice Cream Social. On August 6 at Happy Corner COB many worked to set up, serve food, dip ice cream, and clean up afterwards. Others baked pies, brought their coin jars, and bought Share-A-Meal tickets. The event was attended by about 400 people, and preliminary figures show about \$7,500 was raised. All proceeds from this annual event benefit S. Ohio BDM, as we serve disaster survivors. It covers the cost of sending volunteers for rebuilding homes, for supplies for Church World Service kits, and grows our van replacement fund.

School Kits Ready for Shipment – On Wednesday, August 17, thirty-five volunteers gathered at Mill Ridge Village Community Center, and assembled 1,281 school kits for Church World Service (CWS). When the CWS truck comes to S. Ohio in September, we have a total of 1,701 school kits to send to New Windsor, MD. From there they are shipped both within our country and internationally. They are distributed to disaster survivors, the economically disadvantaged, and to the homeless. Thank you to all who have sewn school bags, assembled kits, and donated funds to support this project.

It costs about \$5 per kit, which covers the school items and shipping to the point of need. Donations may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Please footnote checks "BDM - CWS Kits." The next sewing bee will be on Oct. 8 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue.

Bob Evans Community Fundraiser - Dine at select Bob Evans locations Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 5, 6, and 7. Download the flyer from the Southern Ohio District Website, then present it at the following participating locations. 15% of the sale will be donated to S. Ohio BDM. Please copy the flyer, and share it with others!

Participating Locations:

7715 Hoke Rd., Clayton, OH

1700 N. Barron St., Eaton, OH

1366 Wagner Ave., Greenville, OH

22 Weller Dr., Tipp City, OH

Trip to Brethren Service Center – Three rooms left! We've passed the August 15 registration deadline, but we want the rooms filled. Register now for the October 24 – 28 trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Transportation will be provided in the BDM vans, or you may travel on your own. Three days will be spent working with Church World Service kits and for SERRV. Lodging and meals will be in Zigler Hall. Please click here for a registration form.

Parking Cars at Pork Festival - BDM has the opportunity to partner with the Preble County Pork Festival Committee, assisting with parking vehicles, and to receive \$1500. About 200,000 people attend the two-day event on September 17 and 18. There are 55 positions to fill, with most shifts being for 4 - 4 1/2 hours. Volunteers, age 16 and older, may work one shift or multiple shifts. To volunteer, click here, or contact Jim Shank at jim3shank@hotmail.com or (937) 533-3800. Please share a phone # and an email address, so we can communicate details of the event with you. This is a great opportunity for BDM. We hope you will join us! Together we fund this important ministry.

PEACE DAY 2016—How Are You Called to Build Peace?

On Earth Peace invites churches, peacebuilders, and seekers of justice to participate in Peace Day 2016. Plan a prayer service or community action event and reflect on how you and your community are called to build peace during the week surrounding September 21, 2016.

We are all called to build peace in unique and transformative ways. Some are called to resist and undo racism, some to pray without ceasing, others to heal God's creation, and others to stop war. Some are called to build peace in their neighborhood, in their church congregation, in their local community, or somewhere across the world.

This Peace Day we invite you to follow God's call to wherever you and your church community can build peace together to God's glory and your neighbor's good.

Learn more about Peace Day and get involved:

Tell us what you're planning and how we can help!

E-mail us: peaceday@onearthpeace.org

Visit our website at <http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com>

Follow us on Twitter [@peacedaypray](https://twitter.com/peacedaypray)

Join the [Peace Day Facebook Group Conversation](#)

Prayer Needs

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

--A special prayer request from our District Executive, Dave Shetler -- I'm continuing the serious concern I've shared before as violence and killings continue, Milwaukee is not the latest to experience significant violence. There is continuing and escalating violence and hatred across our country and around our world. As followers of the Prince of Peace and with our Brethren heritage of being a peace church, I am calling us all to prayer. In the midst of seeking to be people of God's peace, we are bombarded with calls of hatred, mistrust, accusations, and violence and threats of violence. Even in places of joy and celebration, places we normally think of as safe, we see violence bringing heartache, fear, injury and death. We have seen those who have appeared to be profiled injured and killed; we have seen those sworn to uphold the law and keep the peace ambushed and gunned down. We hear speeches and see posts on various social media sites calling for even more violence, to "get even", to not trust those who do not look like "us". May our prayers be for a more peaceful world, down to our own communities and neighborhoods. May we be witnesses to the grace and peace of our God in all of our dealings, our speech, and our writings. May the leading of God's Spirit guide all persons to love and respect each other, even when we think differently.

-- Julie Hostetter, underwent critical surgery on August 22. She is recovering at Kettering Hospital

--Rob Raker, pastor of the Bear Creek congregation, still dealing with his heart condition; prayers for difficult decisions he is making as well as prayers for the Bear Creek congregation.

--Don and Patty King and the Prices Creek congregation; Don's hip replacement surgery went well. Patty is in treatment for cancer

--Sie Brock, Jr., heart attack

--David Shumate, at home recovering. Returning to work June 25

--Mike Hostetter, retirement beginning August 31

--Salem Church, pastoral transition

--Libby Kee, breast cancer

--Possibility of new church start in various locations in our district.

--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.

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--Rob Raker, pastor of the Bear Creek congregation, doctors are pleased with how the pacemaker is working.

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