



December, 2016
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
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Risk Hope, our 2017 Annual Conference theme, emerges as a recurring chorus from an Old Testament saga of tragedy and redemption. As we look toward Grand Rapids, our conference moderator, Carol Scheppard, will be offering a monthly message addressing, episode by episode, important elements in the story. Her hope is to engage churches and individuals in a series of Bible studies that will help us all prepare for our Annual Conference worship and work together. Click here to see the first message. Feel free to reference it yourself or share it with brothers and sisters in your congregation as we all wrestle with the challenges of being both the Chosen of God and the Servants of God in the midst of a troubled world.

Men's Retreat

We are pleased to announce that Men's Retreat will take place on February 3rd through the 5th of 2017 and will be held at Sugar Grove Lodge at camp Woodland Altars. Men's retreat is an excellent weekend getaway which includes powerful teaching from the scriptures, uplifting fellowship, worship, and fun. This year's speaker is Dan Trego who is the president of Bittersweet Ministries which is a ministry that spreads the love of Christ to the people of Tijuana Mexico. We hope you are able to join us this upcoming February and experience why Men's retreat has become a yearly highlight for men all across the district and beyond! Males 16 years of age and up are invited to attend. A brochure with more information as well as a registration form are available on our website.

Camping and Retreat News and Updates

Cookie Camp, Saturday, December 10, will be our winter fund raiser. Ambassadors were given order forms for the cookies to take back to their churches. Churches not sending ambassadors will receive the information in a mailing to them. We will be making the same eight kinds of cookies as last year. They are: Chocolate Chip, Decorated Sugar Cookies, Lemon Cookies, White Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snaps, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Chocolate Crinkles, Oatmeal Cookies (with and without raisins), and Snickerdoodles.

Here is how the Cookie Camp will operate. We will meet at Salem Church of the Brethren at 9:00 am, on Dec. 10. All the supplies for the cookies will be there. The only other items for people to bring would be mixers. After selecting a type of cookie to make, everyone gets busy to make the fun begin! As soon as the cookies are baked and cooled, they are packaged into the \$2.50 or \$5.00 boxes. Samples are always available as well as coffee, tea, milk, and juice. Lunch will be served to all the workers. Since we will be handling lots of hot trays of cookies, it isn't a safe environment for small children. However, children 10 years old and up are welcome to come with a parent or grandparent. The cookie baking is exciting and so interesting to watch. It's like seeing a beehive of worker bees buzzing around. The aromas of the baking cookies are also heavenly.

Please let Karen Dillon know if you would like to participate in Cookie Camp. phone: 937-890-7388 or email crimdill@aol.com This year's proceeds will help fund a new adventure for the children and their friends of Southern Ohio churches, WINTER BLAST.

WINTER BLAST is coming January 27 - 28, 2017. It is an overnight experience for kids and their

friends who attended camp last year or want to attend camp in the future. We will meet at Cricket Holler on Friday evening after dinner at 6:00 pm. Kids will be assigned cabins with counselors and adults. After finding a bunk and meeting their counselors, we will head off to the Vandalia Recreation Center for swimming and splashing in the pool. When we return to the camp, we will have snacks, devotions, and watch a movie before heading back to the cabins for a good night's sleep!?! A pancake breakfast will be served Saturday morning before the games and activities begin. In the morning we will go sledding, play outdoor games, go hiking, have snow related activities, and enjoy being in the winter wonderland. Kids will be free to come and go in the center to refresh or get warm. Puzzles, board games, crafts, and activities of all kinds will be set out for the campers inside. After lunch we will have a Bible study and then more fun outside and inside. When parents pick up their children at 4:00 pm, we hope the campers will have had a great time with friends, playing in the snow, and experiencing God's great creation in winter. Invitations have been sent to last year's campers, but all churches are invited to send campers. Ambassadors and churches will be receiving a mailing soon with all the details about registration. The cost for the event will be \$20 per person.

Camp and Retreat Schedule for 2017

January 27 - 28: WINTER BLAST - Cricket Holler

March 12: Ambassadors' Meeting Salem COB

June 7: Camp Set Up Cricket Holler

June 8 -11: Adult/Child Camp--Cricket Holler

June 12-15: Camp Safari-- Cricket Holler

June 11-15: Possible Youth Service/Work Camp (local projects) Cricket Holler

June 15-18: Family Camp--Cricket Holler

June 18-24: Creative Arts Camp--Cricket Holler

July 5-8: Quilting Camp-- Bergamo

August 12: Golf Outing

September 22-23: Women's Retreat Bergamo

September 25-29: Adult Bible School - Salem COB (other locations and dates to be added in the future)

October 15: Ambassadors' Meeting

Disaster Ministry Updates

Van Replacement - More than a year ago a van replacement fund was started and grew to \$5,000.00. Due to the generosity of two donors and Interstate Ford, Southern Ohio BDM had the funds to purchase a twelve passenger 2015 Ford Transit with 14,000 miles. This replaces our 1998 Dodge van that had 99,000 miles. Once again, we have been blessed by God's grace.

2017 Trip Schedule – We now have the dates for the 2017 S. Ohio BDM trips. Some trips are to Columbia, SC and others will be to another site that opens in January. The 2017 trip schedule flyer is available online. Please note that the June 11-17 and July 16 – 22 trips are for youth. To sign up for a trip or for more information contact Burt Wolf 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Oakland Church of the Brethren Dinner Theater Announcement

Please inform your friends, family, and congregation of the following: the Oakland Church of the Brethren has decided to cancel the Dinner Theater for 2017. It is usually scheduled for the first two weekends of March. Thank you for supporting our many years of service. We are hopeful for a 2018 production and pray you will consider joining us in the future. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Mojo Brass and WOTQ at New Carlisle Church of the Brethren, December 9th!

John Mojo Brass and the Western Ohio Tuba Quartet for an evening of virtuosic holiday warmth and brassy fun as they open the 5th season of the music on Main Series on December 9, 2016 at the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren, 219 N. Main St, New Carlisle, Ohio at 7 PM. The event is free and fun for the whole family!

Trinity Church of the Brethren Seeking Accompanist

Trinity Church of the Brethren in Sidney, Ohio is looking for a full time or part time person or persons to play music for worship or as needed at other times such as Christmas Eve / Christmas Day and Love Feast. For more information, please contact either Linda Miller at 1-937-726-5258 or Shirley Stone at 1-937-492-3670.

West Charleston Seeking Music Director

West Charleston Church of the Brethren is seeking a Music Director for their multicultural worship services. The position involves about 10 hours a week and fluency with Spanish language is a plus. Contact the church at 667-3988 or send a resume to w_c45371@yahoo.com.

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.

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-- As we are on the other side of election day, there are both celebrations and protests of the results. Regardless of your position or of who you voted for (if you did), may we as followers of Jesus, hold our nation "in the light" to borrow a phrase from Quaker sisters and brothers.

-- Julie Hostetter, released from home health care. Worked on campus two days last week. She express her deep appreciagtion for the cards, notes of encouragment and prayers over the past several months.

-- Nan Erbaugh' sister, Stephanie suffered a broken leg in three places.

-- Larry Tyner, Pastor of the Prince of Peace congregation--retirement on or before September 30, 2017.

--Rob Raker, dealing with heart condition--testing to determine the best way forward.

--Shannon Collins--recovering from brain surgery

--Don and Patty King-- Don, hip replacement; Patty undergoing cancer treatment.

-- LibbyKey, breast cancer treatment

--Possibility of a new church starts 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 me if you know of prayer situations of which I should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.