

## **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** The 2016 Cookie Camp held at Salem Church of the Brethren was a fantastic time of baking, laughing, talking with new and old friends, and working together to support the camping and retreat ministries of Southern Ohio. Eight Kitchenaid mixers were kept busy creating all the doughs. All day long the cookies kept coming and going in the oven, out of the oven. The good thing was that not one of the trays of cookies was burned. So many cookies were made that we lost count. Well over 4000 cookies were packed in trays ready for delivery. What seemed like a mountain of cookies vanished before our eyes as people picked up orders or took cookies back to their home churches to fill the orders. We could hardly believe it - all the cookies were gone. Even requests for more cookies couldn't be filled, because the cookies were not there. We were sold out! It was hoped that the Cookie Camp would make around \$600. After expenses and with some very generous donations, the profit was \$1300. What a wonderful show of support people of the District have shown by buying the cookies we made. This money will help pay for the rental of Cricket Holler for Winter Blast, a gathering of campers and friends for a winter adventure later in January. The remainder of the money will go to fund some activities at summer camp. Many churches had volunteers come to do the baking, decorating, and packing of the cookies. Without these kind volunteers, Cookie Camp would not be possible. I know everyone who helped with the camp felt exhausted at the end of the day. Yet the tremendous feeling of being a part of a wonderful event, lifted each heart a little bit and gave all the campers the Christmas spirit through their service. Saying "Thank you" seems small for the dedication shown at Cookie Camp 2016. But a huge "THANK YOU!" is sent to everyone who helped.

**WINTER BLAST** - January 27 - 28, 2017 Cricket Holler Registration for Winter Blast is now open. Kids and adults will be gathering at 6:00 pm (after dinner), in the evening of January 27, at Cricket Holler, for a winter camping experience. We will be staying in the cabins and using the Schiewetz Center for activities and meals. Friday's first activity will take us to the Vandalia Recreation Center for swimming. Snacks and a movie will fill the remainder of the night's fun. Devotions and a story before bed will get everyone ready to snuggle in their sleeping bags or blankets for a restful night. Pancakes for breakfast in the morning will help all to get ready for the day of fun and play in the snow (hopefully). Lots of crafts, games, hikes, snowball throwing, sledding, and exciting times inside and outside are being planned for the day. After lunch we will continue the winter ad-

venture until departure at 4:00. Registration forms are available from Camp Ambassadors, church offices, in this newsletter or on the website of Southern Ohio District. The cost of \$20 per person covers the cost of food and swimming. The rental of Cricket Holler was provided by the profits from Cookie Camp 2016. Registrations and money need to be turned in no later than JANUARY 20, 2017. Confirmations, medical forms, permission slips, and packing lists must be sent out so campers can bring the needed information with them to Winter Blast. Please send registrations to: Karen Dillon, 756 Old Springfield Road, Vandalia, OH 45377.

## **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**

**2016 Data** - In 2016 the S. Ohio District was very supportive of BDM. One hundred thirty-three volunteers went on twelve trips to Colorado, West Virginia, Michigan, and S. Carolina to help rebuild homes for disaster survivors, costing just over \$9,000. For Church World Service 1,700 School Kits and 32 Baby Kits were assembled at a cost of \$9,100. Sewing Bees were held about every six weeks to sew bags for these school kits. A trip was organized to the Brethren Service Center with twenty-three volunteers. Locally twelve workdays were held at Mack Memorial COB to repair the educational wing. Thirty-six workers from eleven churches helped with this project. Also, there were volunteers who served through Children's Disaster Service. Others throughout the district collected and sorted books for Nigeria. Two donors helped make it possible to purchase a 2015 Ford Transit Van. Thank you to all for your support of S. Ohio BDM.

**Sewing Bee** - There is a great demand in the U.S. and internationally for Church World Service school kits. On Saturday, Jan. 14 there will be a Sewing Bee at Greenville COB, 421 Central Ave. Come at 9:00 to sew bags for school kits. Bring your sewing machine an extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information, call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. [Click here for a flyer with 2017 Sewing Bee dates.](#)

Prior to the Sewing Bee, you're invited to join the women of Greenville COB at the Coffee Pot on Broadway in downtown Greenville. They meet the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM for coffee, goodies, and fellowship.

2017 Trip Schedule – It's time to volunteer for 2017 BDM trips. Some trips are to Columbia, SC and others will be to a site scheduled to open in January. [Click here for the 2017 trip schedule flyer.](#) 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](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

## **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 2017 Prayer List for Congregations is available on our website.

- Julie Hostetter, released from home health care. Has returned to work on Bethany campus several days a week. She express her deep appreciation for the cards, notes of encouragement and prayers over the past several months.
- Nan Erbaugh, loss of sister, Stephanie.
- 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.
- Libby Kee, breast cancer treatment
- Cathy Lutz, recurrence of breast cancer
- 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.