



June, 2017
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
Printable Version

Southern Ohio District Conference will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. The theme will be ***Created to Love*** based on the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.

Our moderator is John Kinsel. We look forward to what God will teach us through this theme in the months ahead.

Camping and Retreat News and Notes

Scholarship Money Needed for Camps

Last year the generosity of the donors in the district helped many campers. Children, special needs kids, and families were able to attend camp, because funds were available to supplement the costs. Without the support, many campers would not be able to experience the exciting, faith building life in the Christian community we of Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren offer.

We are looking at another year with similar needs. The funds from last year have been completely depleted. The camping program is growing, as is the need for scholarship money. Please consider making a donation now to this important ministry. You can be a big part of helping lives change through camp! [Click here to donate now.](#)

All Summer Camps Still Need Campers!

Registrations for Branching Out, this year's theme, are being taken as the summer camping season quickly approaches. There is a camp for everyone in the Southern Ohio District. Whether you are a toddler, elementary school student, teen, mother, father, friend, grandparent, cousin, quilter, hiker, singer, writer, swimmer, adventurer, more mature adult, or less mature adult, you are invited to come to camp for the time of your life! We have all kinds of camps that just need campers!! Check out the different camps and information on brochures from your Camp Ambassador, church office, and online at the Southern Ohio District website. We are waiting to welcome you to camp this summer!

Disaster Ministry Updates

June Sewing Bee – Come sew school bags on Saturday, June 24 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. Both in the U.S. and internationally, Church World Service (CWS) school kits are needed for disaster survivors, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday, August 5 - Ice Cream Social Fundraiser at Happy Corner COB, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Saturday, August 12 – Golf Scramble at Turtle Creek Golf Course, Greenville, 8:00 AM Registration, 9:00 Scramble Start

Support BDM: Kroger Rewards – A simple way to support S. Ohio BDM is through the Kroger Community Rewards program. Each time you make a purchase at a local Kroger and have your Kroger Plus card scanned, a donation can be given to a registered nonprofit community group. Why not support S. Ohio BDM? To register, call Kroger at 800-576-4377 and select option 3. You'll talk to a person, and be asked to verify your personal information. Then identify BDM (#38704) as your preferred organization. You can also register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. In 2016 S. Ohio BDM received about \$100 for each quarterly payment. More registered supporters will increase this amount, giving more funds to help disaster survivors.

Annual Conference Update

Annual Conference 2017 is almost upon us! I trust that you all are keeping well and turning your thoughts, study and prayers to the worship and work before us in June. Grand Rapids, with its natural beauty, history, art and culture is an exciting and enriching place for us to gather, and our worship plans, programming and business agenda promise a meaningful experience as we come together as the Body of Christ.

Our theme for this year's conference is Risk Hope. It emerges as a recurring chorus from the story of Israel's progressive descent into and return from exile, even as it speaks Christ's call to us in our world today. In the words of the writer of Hebrews, Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful. We hope that this theme, and its related monthly Bible studies, provide wisdom and guidance for us as we prepare for our gathering, and that it will permeate our time together in Grand Rapids.

Worship this year draws inspiration from our theme, as each preacher will identify a particular lesson learned by God's people in exile and illuminate its instruction and encouragement for us today. The Worship Team has done a fabulous job of crafting ways for us to engage in praise and meaningful reflection as we enter into God's presence together. Annual Conference worship is often a highlight for conference attendees, and this year promises another series of rich, uplifting expressions of reverence and adoration.

The Program and Arrangements Committee has been hard at work all year long preparing activities and opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and relevant learning. After last year's smashing success, the Friday Jubilee Afternoon is back, with its focused time for special programs and music, service projects, community engagement, and equipping workshops. The exhibit hall will have some exciting new exhibitors interspersed among some returning favorites.

This year's business agenda is robust, and calls on delegates to enter prayerfully and thoughtfully into the hard work of being the Body of Christ. We ask all of our brothers and sisters to be in prayer that we engage one another and the matters before us in humility, discernment, and love. Our business time represents more than the task of completing the agenda - it offers us one more opportunity to join together in worship.

May God's blessing be upon you and with us in the weeks ahead as we prepare for our time together in Grand Rapids. Indeed, made bold by the eternal presence and steadfast love of Jesus Christ, let us Risk Hope without wavering, confident that He who has promised is faithful.

A Biblical Basis for Befriending Foreigners

Sponsored by Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
Refugee Resettlement Committee

June 17, 8:30 AM - 2:35 PM
Nicarry Chapel, Bethany Seminary
615 National Rd. West
Richmond, IN

We live in a time when the fear of terrorists can lead to a more general fear of foreigners. God, however, wants to fill us with love that overcomes fear and opens the door to life-giving friendships. In a series of four lessons on the theme, "A Biblical Basis for Befriending Foreigners," New Testament professor Dan Ulrich lifts up various scriptures from both testaments that encourage us to "pursue the love of foreigners" (Romans 12:13). These lessons offer a biblical foundation for welcoming refugees and for befriending other neighbors from abroad. Cost is \$10 paid at the door. CEUs will be offered upon your request. If you have any questions, contact Christy Schaub at cschaub@spieglerusa.com or call 937.681.5867 .

Presenter: Dr. Dan Ulrich, Professor of New Testament Studies
Bethany Theological Seminary

On the Bethany faculty since 1996, Dr. Ulrich has also served as associate dean and director of distributed education, helping launch Bethany's distance learning track toward the MDiv. He earned a PhD in biblical studies from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and is ordained in the Church of the Brethren.

New District Deacons Ministry

This year, our new Connections Commission with the District Board, is excited to announce the beginning of a the new District Deacons Ministry. Many of us are familiar with the way deacon ministry functions on a congregational level, now we are learning and creating what the deacon ministry would look like on a district wide level.

Our goal is to comprise a team of fifty or so members paired into twenty-five teams of two who will serve two to three congregations each for three to five years. This team will covenant to pray for, support, and visit their assigned congregations annually.

Keeping in tradition with how deacons were once called on a congregational level, we will be collecting prayerfully considered nominations from the district body. You are invited as a church or as an individual to submit nominations of people in your congregation or of those around the district who would be gifted in spiritual caregiving. For more information on the role and qualifications of a deacon, [click here](#).

Please submit nominations to the District Office by Monday, June 5th via telephone (937-203-5254) or email (sodcob@brethren.org). Once all nominations are collected, a group of former district moderators will prayerfully consider the list and compile a list of possible District Deacons. It will then be the task of former moderators and the District Deacon Coordinating committee to extend the invitation to those selected to join this new ministry.

It is our hope that District Deacon Team will be assembled and trained by this year's District Conference so that we could commission them before our gathering and bless their ministry among us.

We look forward to receiving your nominations on or before June 5th!

Trinity Church of the Brethren Seeks 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.

New Carlisle Church offers Music on Main

The Ohio Valley British Brass band will perform an outdoor concert at New Carlisle Church of the Brethren in the parking lot on Friday, June 2, 2017 at 7:00 PM. This talented Brass Band was founded in February 1992 by Francis Laws and the late Ed Nickol. Since January 2009 the band has been under the leadership of music director Michael Gallehue.

The 45-member ensemble is comprised of professional musicians, active as well as retired educators at the secondary and collegiate levels, students and selected brass and percussion players from the Ohio Valley. The mission of the band is to perform a variety of worthwhile and engaging literature while providing an opportunity for the area's finest brass players to participate in a quality musical ensemble.

The OVBBB has performed throughout the Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. Their performance also included the Cincinnati Pops and Dayton Philharmonic Orchestras, Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference, the American School and Directors Association State Convention and was the keynote performing ensemble at the Wisconsin Brass Band Festival in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The band is currently celebrating its 25th Anniversary season and recently performed a concert at the Ray and Joan Kroc Salvation Army Center in Dayton featuring guest composer/conductor Stephen Bulla to commemorate the occasion.

The Church of the Brethren is pleased to share the Ohio Valley British Brass band once again to the community on Friday, June 2, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The program will have selected music ranging from marches by John Philip Sousa and Stephen Bulla to a variety of pieces appropriate for the summer season. Come spend an evening under the stars listening to the traditional music from the British Isles and ending with a patriotic finale commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. The concert is free and open to the public however during intermission a free will offering will be accepted as donation to the performers.

Refreshments will be served during intermission for a nominal cost. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Our next District Board meeting will be held July 29,2017.

As reports become available they will be posted on our website. [Click here](#) to review preceding the board meeting.

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.

-- Don Stackhouse--kidney transplant, donor being his son, Ryan. Don is married to Ann who serves on the District Board.

--Dorothy Langdon of the Trinity congregation and District Board member--recovering from stroke.

-- The Stony Creek Congregation has called Ryan Claybaugh to serve as their new pastor.

Rob Raker, former pastor, is still dealing with his heart condition and is continuing to undergo tests to determine the best way forward; depending on how his health condition goes over the next several months, there may be some procedures to help his condition in April. Rob appreciates our prayers as decisions are made for continuing treatment.

- May we remember the 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.

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