



**Southern Ohio District
Church of the Brethren**
Working Together . . . Empowering Disciples

March 2015

Gifted by God . . . Called by the Church . . . Empowered by the Holy Spirit--The Council of District Executives is sponsoring a conference for congregational leaders May 14-16 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren in Maryland. The conference entitled, "Gifted by God, Called by the Church, Empowered by the Spirit", is for congregational leaders to provide tools and resources to assist congregations to become healthy, vital, growing communities of faith. Arrangements are being made for CEUs for ordained ministers. We may try to organize a bus to go to this event. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend this gathering, and encourage several leaders from your congregation to come as well. Watch for more information on the CODE Leadership Facebook page.

Prayers for Nigerian Church and the Kidnaped Girls

Another female suicide bomber struck a marketplace several days ago resulting in several deaths and destruction of property. Tensions remain high as a number of skirmishes continue to take place between Boko Haram and the military coalition in Nigeria and surrounding countries. The Nigerian national elections, originally scheduled for February 14, have been postponed until March 28 adding to the uncertainty and confusion in the country. There is still no news regarding the girls taken over 11 months ago. The Church of the brethren is organizing efforts for temporary housing and supply basic needs; more information on these efforts can be found on the denominational website. Our prayers are still very much needed for this situation.

Donations are still being accepted for the Nigeria Crisis Fund which will be matched by an amount set aside by the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. Click here to donate online, or make out a check to Emergency Disaster Fund, noting Nigeria Crisis Fund in the memo line. Mail the check to: Emergency Disaster Fund Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

A "Meet the Moderator" Opportunity--David Steele, 2015 Annual Conference Moderator, will be at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren on March 8. He will speaking during the 10:30 worship (anyone is welcome). Pleasant Hill will then host another session at 4 pm for everyone in the district to come. A time of fellowship with refreshments will follow. This is a great opportunity to interact with the Annual Conference Moderator.

National Older Adult Conference *September 7-11, 2015, at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina. Registration is now open. More information can be found at www.brethren.org/NOAC*

Mental Health Workshop *West Charleston Church of the Brethren*

March 1, 8, and 15, 2015--7-8:30 PM

John Kinsel will present three sessions related to Mental Health. John will share what we should know about: March 1 --Depression; March 8 -- Bi-Polar Disorder; March 15 --Alzheimer's and Dementia. This workshop is open to deacons and any others interested in strengthening the emotional and physical health of their congregations.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Congregational Visits --Would your congregation like to learn more about Brethren Disaster Ministries? We welcome the opportunity to come to your church to share about BDM. We are available for programs of varying lengths. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Sewing Bee and Cleanup Bucket Assembly --On Saturday, **March 7** sewers and friends are invited to gather at **9:00 AM** at Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street for a **Sewing Bee**. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine. Others may bring scissors for cutting out baby gowns. We'll also be assembling School Kits, using the bags that have already been sewn. Lunch will be served. Come join in a time of fellowship and service.

Assembling 200 **Cleanup Buckets** for Church World Service will take place in **late March or early April**. We are now purchasing the needed items, and are uncertain of their delivery date. Watch for an upcoming announcement of the exact date. We appreciate and thank you for your support of this project. Click here to make donations through Southern Ohio website. Checks may be sent to: District of Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren, 2293 Gauby Rd.

New Madison, OH 45346

Volunteer Opportunities --Responses of volunteers have been great for trips to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy Recovery. The next opportunity is **May 24-30**. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or click here to email. Please consider this opportunity and share it with others.

Camping and Retreat Commission is gearing up for another camping season with camps for everyone. All camps will be held at Cricket Holler, except for Quilting Camp which will return to Bergamo Retreat Center.

Family Camp is new. We will be sharing the Fourth of July weekend at Cricket Holler. People can come for a day or the whole weekend. Some can camp in tents, RVs, cabins, under the stars or just return home for their own beds. Lunch, supper, and snacks will be shared together, but breakfasts are on your own. Highlights will include family Bible study, games, free time, swimming, campfires, singing, seeing fireworks, and eating together. What a special time this will be honoring a national holiday with church friends and family! Come and join in the celebration and fun.

Volunteers are NEEDED. Camp counselors, cooks, Bible study leaders, singers, campfire builders, dish washers, crafty people, storytellers, and even warm bodies are all needed to make camp an exciting and wonderful place to be. Volunteers can be sued for as little as an hour or as much as a week or more. Please look over the list of dates to find the time you could serve in this vital camping ministry.

For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District (sodcob@brethren.org) or you can always visit our website: www.sodcob.org. In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to sodcob@brethren.org before the 15th of the month.

