

Camp is Ready

The summer camping season of Southern Ohio is just around the corner. Everyone who comes to camp will find friends, acceptance, adventure, and a setting that encourages them to explore the fullness of God, who they are created to be, and what they are called to do. Just think how the community of Christ will be enriched as campers come together and find the courage to trust, forgive, do justice, change, connect, and stand up to life's challenges. All camps have important life skills to be shared that are woven throughout the days' activities and fun.

Family Camp will highlight that God's family is ageless. Registered campers represent every stage of life from infant and toddler through grandparent, but act as one whole family of God. Games, swimming, Family Olympics, singing, worship, crafts, and just being together make every moment a special memory for campers. Some people stay in the cabins, while others commute to camp. Each day promises to be full, but relaxing and inspiring in the beauty of camp.

Camp Safari is shaping up to be an exciting time for campers with special needs. This camp is drawing new participants from the area who want to experience camp that is designed to meet them at their level and comfort zone. With the trained leadership, these campers will be seeing God's kingdom in a way that challenges and supports them on their adventure of living at camp.

Adult/Child Camp is a time for generations to have time for building strong relationships with each other and God. Activities pull campers together for talking, sharing, leaning, and worshipping in an atmosphere of love and acceptance. The fun is in the games, stories, crafts, singing, swimming, and of course making ice cream!

Creative Arts Camp promises to ignite any camper to try new things. The adventures are waiting for the campers to arrive and being their exploration of art, music, wood working, drama, singing, creating worship, photography, hiking, and more. The campers will be choosing the things that interest them the most. The only complaint of this camp is that nearly of them want to do everything. Bible study will be taught by leaders in groups divided by age to be sure that campers experience lessons at their level of maturity and most meaningful to them.

Quilting Camp is not for the faint of heart. Quilters are serious about their work! Yet the atmosphere is one delightful hub of activity. These campers enjoy a more retreat setting with individual rooms containing bathrooms and comfortable beds. Delicious meals are served in an elegant dining room with no preparation from the campers, because they are hard at work quilting. The instructor, Dee Heart, will once again be helping campers create unique quilts and assisting them in elevating their skills. This year will include a service project for nursing homes. Evening Bible studies have drawn the campers closely together over the years with the sharing of hearts and faith. The warm friendships and silliness that pops up creates spirit stitched with love.

Camping and Retreat Events

Be sure to save these dates for exciting events sponsored by the Camping and Retreat Committee: Sunday, July 17, **Bike Hike** starting at Golden Gate Park in Brookville, Ohio, at 2:00 pm Saturday, August 13, 2016, **Golf Outing/Scramble** benefiting both Camping and Retreat Committee and Brethren Disaster Ministries

Women's Retreat September 9 - 10, at Bergamo Retreat Center, with the theme "Passages, Faith, Hope, and Love in a Women's Life"

Healing Hearts of Traumatized Nigerian Children

In April, 2016, Kathy Fry-Miller, Assistant Director of Children's Disaster Ministries (CDS) for the Church of the Brethren and Southern Ohio's John Kinsel of the Beaver Creek Congregation and long-time trainer for CDS traveled to Jos, Nigeria to train a group of 14 EYN Women Theologians to become trainers of other EYN folks on ways to respond effectively to the children who have been traumatized by the Boko Haram insurgency. The curriculum, developed by Kathy and John over the previous six months, was called Healing Hearts for Children.

Kathy and John found the recipients of the training to be enthusiastic, welcoming and well informed. It was easy to join with these amazing women, many of whom had been directly affected by the Boko Haram. They expressed deep joy and faith even as they claimed their grief and pain at the losses they have suffered in a pure manner that was awe-inspiring and humbling. While there, other groups asked for the same training, as there is an increasing awareness of the suffering of the children. We have designed a new version of the curriculum that is suitable for use with Muslim as well as Christian children and plans are underway to return to Nigeria to follow-up with the Women Theologians as well as train more people to carry on this ministry. Materials such as crayons and drawing paper are needed to support this work. People who can sew are being sought to create small stuffed animals and dolls for these children who have so little.

If you or your congregation is interested in learning more about this ministry by having John come and share a presentation or if you would like to learn more details on how to help (such as getting the patterns for the dolls and animals, please contact John Kinsel at john.kinsel@gmail.com or 937-371-4906. Thank you. John Kinsel, CDS Volunteer

2016 Annual Conference Delegate Briefing

Delegates and others interested in the business of this year's annual conference are invited to a briefing on Sunday, June 5 at 2:00 PM at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. Bring your Annual Conference booklet.

Disaster Ministry Updates

House Painting Project – Wanted: youth and adults! Southern Ohio Helping Hands will be painting a small house in Eaton during the month of June. Youth need to be at least 15 years old to work on their own, or 14 years old to work with a parent or guardian. Some adult help will also be required. Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or burtw417@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed - June 5 - 11 is an open week for volunteers in Detroit, MI. If you are able to go, call Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902. Individuals will be matched up, so they can carpool. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity.

Sewing Bee - On Saturday, June 25 at 9:00 AM, a Sewing Bee will be held at the Greenville Church

of the Brethren, 421 Central Ave., Greenville. Come to sew school bags for Church World Service. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. All are welcome! For more information, call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

School Kits For Church World Service - Our district Sewing Bees have produced over a thousand bags waiting to be filled with school supplies. These items will go on sale this summer. Churches and individuals are invited to join in the ministry by giving financially to 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 District support, both past and present, for BDM projects is greatly appreciated.

Save the Date!

Aug. 6 - Ice Cream Social Fundraiser at Happy Corner COB, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Aug. 13 - Golf Scramble at Beechwood Golf Course in Arcanum, 8:00 AM registration, 9:00 AM shotgun start

Oakland Church of the Brethren

Garage Sale Benefits BDM

Wed., 6-22, 5-8 PM

Thurs., 6-23, 9 AM-6 PM

Fri., 6-24, 9 AM-5 PM

If you would like to donate items to sell, please bring them to the Oakland Church before June 19 during office hours (8 AM-4 PM Monday-Thursday).

Eaton Church Has Choir Robes Available

The Eaton Church of the Brethren has 50 dark teal choir robes with cream on the stoles which they no longer need. They also have one director's robe. They would like to donate them to any church that may have a need. If you are interested in having these for your church, click here to contact the Eaton Church for more information.

Listening Sessions Wrapping Up

On May 14 sixteen Listeners gathered at Salem Church of the Brethren for a debriefing session with the Reconciliation team. Responses from the Listeners indicated an overwhelmingly positive experience as they visited their assigned congregations. They appreciated the hospitality and welcoming attitudes of the persons they met and many appreciated the opportunity to worship and share a meal as well as to listen to the members of the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

There are still a few congregations to be Listened to, as schedules and logistics kept some Listeners from completing their task before the May 14 meeting. The Reconciliation Team spent the balance of the day meeting together to review the reports they have received and to begin to assess what next steps in the Reconciliation process will be. Within the next few weeks the Team will be sending a summary of the results of the Listening Process to all congregations and the District Board. We hope each congregation will share the report and discuss it with their members.

In Peace, John Kinsel, Reconciliation Process Liaison

Global Women's Project Update

MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE PROJECT

Thank you to all of you who honored Mothers and Mother figures in your life with a donation to Global Women's Project for Mother's Day. Over \$3000.00 was raised in order to support the mis-

sion of educating about wealth, power and oppression, encouraging one another to live more simply, being mindful of our luxuries, and joining in empowerment with women around the world, sharing resources with women's initiatives.

PREPARING FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

If you will be attending the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in North Carolina, please check out our Global Women's booth in the expo hall!

CURRENT PROJECTS

Global Women's Project is currently supporting projects in 5 countries with grants: India, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United States (in Wabash, IN), and Uganda. It is amazing to see how far donated funds can go in the hands of dedicated people who are working together to empower women! As some of us here have been planting our gardens for the summer, we think of women around the world who are growing good things, whether it be food, clothes, or other items, in order to grow the empowerment of women and the good of their families and communities!

Prayer Needs

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

--Rob Raker, pastor of the Bear Creek congregation, shares the following note: Brothers and Sisters, I deeply appreciate your thoughts and prayers throughout the previous months, and will covet them as we move forward with this latest news. I have been diagnosed with stage 3 congestive heart failure (stage 4 is imminent death). The doctors have placed a pacemaker/defibrillator in me as a first step. The next step will be trying to get on the transplant list at Ohio State. This will no doubt be a long and difficult journey, but God has proven himself faithful to me over and over again. The words I keep coming back to belong to the Apostle Paul, "To live is Christ, to die is gain." I am resting in the assurance that live or die, through Christ, I will win.

-- Flory-Steury family, passing of Mary Jo

--Don and Patty King and the Prices Creek congregation, Don facing hip replacement surgery. Patty is in treatment for cancer

--Sie Brock, Jr., heart attack

--Mike Hostetter, retirement beginning August 31

--Salem Church, pastoral transition

--Jim and Linda Vandermark's daughter, Amanda, breast cancer

--Libby Kee, breast cancer

--Wolf Creek Congregation, preparing for restart.

--Possibility of new church start in Lexington, KY.

--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.