



August, 2016
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
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2016 Southern Ohio District Conference

Registration for this year's District Conference is now open online. It will be held September 30-October 1, 2016, at our Oakland Church of the Brethren. Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Seminary, will be our guest speaker. The focus for this year's conference training will be developing a vision for ways we can "Work together". The Program and Arrangements Committee has been meeting regularly and is excited about another inspiring time together as we explore our future as a district.

District Conference Outreach: Wide Arms Security Blankets

Your Program and Arrangements Committee has chosen the Wide Arms Security Blankets as a ministry we can support together at this year's District Conference. They would like to ask congregations and individuals to bring blankets to donate to this new ministry in our district. Wide Arms Security Blankets is a vision of Brandi Motsinger from the Stony Creek Church of the Brethren. More about the ministry and Brandi can be found on the District website.

Reconciliation Process Next Steps

The Congregational Listening Sessions portion of the Reconciliation process is over. All congregations in the District were sent a copy of the Reconciliation Team's summary. If you have not seen it, ask your Pastor or Board Chair for a copy!

The next step in the process is for members of the Reconciliation Teams to meet with interested persons from the Southern Ohio District in a series of face-to-face sessions to ask follow-up questions and get feedback on ideas Team has for future activities. Three regional meetings (East, South and West) are in the process of being scheduled. If your congregational would like to offer to host such a session, please contact John Kinsel, Reconciliation Team Liaison, at john.kinsel@gmail.com or 937-371-4906.

The Reconciliation Team will also have a presence at this Fall's District Conference on Saturday, October 1. Thanks to all who participated in the Listening Sessions. Please consider being an active part of the next steps in Reconciliation by attending one of these meetings!

Our next District Board meeting will be held August 6, 2016 at the BRC beginning at 10 AM. You can go online to read reports at any time preceding the meeting.

Camping and Retreat Upcoming Events and Updates

Aug. 13 Golf Outing
Sept. 9 - 10 Women's Retreat
Sept. 26 - 30 Adult Bible School at Salem COB
Oct. 10 - 14 Adult Bible School at Troy COB

Registrations, brochures, and more information about these events can be found online or by contacting your congregation's church office.

Great Success at Summer Camps

The 2016 summer camps held by Southern Ohio District were exciting and filled with spirit. The campers and staff enjoyed perfect weather as they explored nature, played games, created all kinds of crafts, shared meals, sang, studied scriptures, and lived with old and new friends in God's beautiful world.

The summer camping season began with Family Camp. A wide range of ages and generations were treated to some memorable moments as they worked and played together. The camp was filled with happy children, excited teens, and relaxed grownups. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Great Family Olympics. Some of the events were hilarious, like throwing the cheese puff on the head of the person wearing shaving cream on their head or running a dripping sponge to fill a bucket with water. More quiet and thoughtful times shared around the campfire brought the group closer together. But the S'mores got everyone active again. It was difficult to see Family Camp end, because the special feelings of love and acceptance experienced during camp is not always found in the "real life world." Yet, the spirit of Family Camp will stay with those who attended, until they return next year, to once again participate in another wonderful camp.

Camp Safari was new this year with the focus of providing a Christian camping experience for campers with special needs. Our hope was to have 10 campers for the first year, but were blessed by having 15 participants. The camp met in the mornings into the afternoons with one overnight for the older campers. Each camper experienced unconditional love and acceptance by all the caring volunteers and leaders. The exciting activities of clowning around, making kazoos from detergent jugs, to interactive Bible stories, a talent showcase and closing campfire brought everyone in the camp close together in the Family of God. Such joy that abounded is difficult to describe.

Another very popular camp that brings generations together is the Adult/Child Camp. Sometimes it is grandparents with grandchildren, cousins with cousins, parents with children, many combinations. Our camp had a wide variety of campers to hike, listen to stories, sing, play, paint, worship, learn about the scriptures and realize how great God's love is. Of course, some traditions like swimming, campfires, making ice cream were all hits, too. Exhausted adults and energetic kids left camp with the admission their time at camp was quite special.

Creative Arts Camp was, to say the least, creative. The range of campers was our most extensive, third graders through juniors in high school. This made a challenging group for planning and preparing activities. Sometimes the group was a whole, but other times campers were divided into age levels or interests. A creative sandwich contest delighted the campers, but they had to eat what they made. A few even asked to make a second sandwich. Workshops abundant with ideas and activities filled many hours. Campers learned proper fire building, how to make a camera, tie-dying techniques, strawberry jam from field to jar, puzzling woodworking, singing through the ages, acting up a bit, and so much more. Bible studies on living a "Fearless Faith" had three wonderful leaders: Sue Wampler, Linda Waldron, and Andrew Wright. Evening campfires, making ice cream, walking a labyrinth, playing instruments in a drum circle, and having a Dutch auction kept the energy going. Departing from camp reminded us all just how special the week had been. There was a longing to take the experiences back home and keep the feeling of camp going in the everyday life.

The last camp of the season was Quilting Camp. Seventeen women, some for the first time and others returning for the 7th time, came to Bergamo Center for four days of sewing, piecing, cutting, pinning, marking and unsewing. Laughter sprinkled around the room of very serious quilters. The setting was a beehive of activity with many beautiful results. To say that quilters like to talk would be an understatement. The conversations were heart-warming as members shared stories of struggles and victories in daily lives. The Bible study discussions hit some tender points about forgiveness and remaining in our faith. Quilting Camp is a fellowship of close-knit workers stitched together with love. This year every person coming to camp was asked to design and make a quilt square. In the "Fearless Faith" theme was an encouragement to show one's faith by giving back to the community. So leaders, volunteer dish washers, Bible study teachers, children, grandparents, caregivers, campers, cooks, anyone who was there, made quilt squares. During Creative Arts Camp, Judy Tipton,

Gloria Dell, and Becky Clegg came to camp to start putting the quilts together. There were enough squares to make six quilted wall hangings. These quilts will be given to BDM's ice cream social, BRC's gala, the Golf Outing, and the District Conference for them to use as they choose. In a way, the campers and participants of camp have each done something small. However, when that small act is multiplied over and over, and combined with others, the result is a wonderful, beautiful quilt telling the story of our 2016 camping season. The pictures, stitches, drawings, and decorations are worth a thousand words!

Disaster Ministry Updates

Ice Cream Social Fundraiser – Saturday, August 6 at Happy Corner COB from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This annual event is a time for coming together as the S. Ohio District to enjoy fellowship, supper, and ice cream. Come buy a ticket for "Share-a-Meal." Bring the coins you've been saving, or pick up a coin collection jar for the upcoming year. All proceeds benefit S. Ohio BDM, as we serve disaster survivors. It covers the cost of sending volunteers for rebuilding homes, and for supplies for Church World Service kits. Invite a friend, and plan to attend!

Sewing Bee - On Saturday, August 13 at 9:00 AM, sewers are invited to come to **Greenville COB**, 421 Central Avenue. Come to sew school bags for Church World Service. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch.

School Kit Assembly – School Kit Assembly - On Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 PM, there will be an assembly of school kits for Church World Service. It will be at **Mill Ridge Village Community Center**, 1000 Mill Ridge Circle, Union, OH. Our goal is to assemble 1,000 school kits! It costs about \$5 per kit, which covers the school items and shipping to the point of need. You are invited to purchase supplies for these kits by sending a monetary gift 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.

Trip to Brethren Service Center – Now is the time to register for the October 24 – 28 trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Transportation will be provided in the BDM vans, or you may travel on your own. Three days will be spent working with Church World Service kits and for SERRV. Lodging and meals will be in Zigler Hall. Please click here for a registration form. Registration deadline is August 15.

Volunteers Needed - Join a BDM crew Sept. 4-10 to W. Columbia, SC for flood recovery work. This is a new BDM project opening in September. Transportation is provided, and costs are covered by BDM. Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 for more information, or to join the crew.

Parking Cars at Pork Festival

BDM has the opportunity to partner with the Preble County Pork Festival Committee, assisting with parking vehicles, and to receive \$1500. About 200,000 people attend the two-day event on September 17 and 18. There are 55 positions to fill, with most shifts being for 4 - 4 1/2 hours. Volunteers, age 16 and older, may work one shift or multiple shifts. Shifts will overlap so there is continuity. The same schedule will be used each day, with the exception that the ending time is 8:00 pm on Saturday, and 4:00 pm on Sunday. Available shifts are:

5:30 am - 10:00 am

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Saturday)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Sunday)

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm (Saturday)

Due to the large number of guests, all volunteers are asked to arrive 30 minutes early. It can be diffi-

cult to get to the work area quickly.

To volunteer, contact Jim Shank at jim3shank@hotmail.com or (937) 533-3800. Please share a phone # and an email address, so we can communicate details of the event with you. There will also be a sign-up poster at the Ice Cream Social. This is a great opportunity for BDM. We hope you will join us! Together we fund this important ministry.

PEACE DAY 2016—How Are You Called to Build Peace?

On Earth Peace invites churches, peacebuilders, and seekers of justice to participate in Peace Day 2016. Plan a prayer service or community action event and reflect on how you and your community are called to build peace during the week surrounding September 21, 2016.

We are all called to build peace in unique and transformative ways. Some are called to resist and undo racism, some to pray without ceasing, others to heal God's creation, and others to stop war.

Some are called to build peace in their neighborhood, in their church congregation, in their local community, or somewhere across the world.

This Peace Day we invite you to follow God's call to wherever you and your church community can build peace together to God's glory and your neighbor's good.

Learn more about Peace Day and get involved:

Tell us what you're planning and how we can help!

E-mail us: peaceday@onearthpeace.org

Visit our website at <http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com>

Follow us on Twitter [@peacedaypray](https://twitter.com/peacedaypray)

Join the [Peace Day Facebook Group Conversation](#)

Human Trafficking Awareness

What is your impression of trafficking? Are you aware of how our children are targeted and where they are vulnerable? Do you know how simply paying attention to your surroundings could save someone from this unspeakably horrifying life? If you are interested in learning more about this growing danger, Tonya Folks, Human Trafficking Liaison from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, is a suggested resource. Tonya is a powerful speaker and knowledgeable of the human trafficking. You can contact her via email. Tonya would make an excellent speaker for a women's fellowship, Sunday School, or youth event. She can easily tailor her presentation to fit her audience's age and gentility.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. [Click here to download the 2016 Prayer List for Congregations.](#)

There is continuing and escalating violence and hatred across our country and around our world. As followers of the Prince of Peace and with our Brethren heritage of being a peace church, I am calling us all to prayer. In the midst of seeking to be people of God's peace, we are bombarded with calls of hatred, mistrust, accusations, and violence and threats of violence. Even in places of joy and celebration, places we normally think of as safe, we see violence bringing heartache, fear, injury and death. We have seen those who have appeared to be profiled injured and killed; we have seen those sworn to uphold the law and keep the peace ambushed and gunned down. We hear speeches and see posts on various social media sites calling for even more violence, to "get even", to not trust those who do not look like "us". May our prayers be for a more peaceful world, down to our own communities and neighborhoods. May the leading of God's Spirit guide all persons to love and respect each other, even when we think differently. --District Executive Minister, Dave Shetler

--Rob Raker, pastor of the Bear Creek congregation, doctors are pleased with how the pacemaker is working.

--Don and Patty King and the Prices Creek congregation; Don's hip replacement surgery went well. Patty is in treatment for cancer

--Sie Brock, Jr., heart attack

--David Shumate, at home recovering. Returning to work June 25

--Mike Hostetter, retirement beginning August 31

--Salem Church, pastoral transition

--Libby Kee, breast cancer

--Possibility of new church start 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 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.