



Risk Hope, our 2017 Annual Conference theme, emerges as a recurring chorus from an Old Testament saga of tragedy and redemption. As we look toward Grand Rapids, our conference moderator, Carol Scheppard, will be offering a monthly message addressing, episode by episode, important elements in the story. Her hope is to engage churches and individuals in a series of Bible studies that will help us all prepare for our Annual Conference worship and work together. Click here to see the first message. Feel free to reference it yourself or share it with brothers and sisters in your congregation as we all wrestle with the challenges of being both the Chosen of God and the Servants of God in the midst of a troubled world.

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 Upcoming Events

Cookie Camp, Saturday, December 10, will be our winter fund raiser. Ambassadors were given order forms for the cookies to take back to their churches. Churches not sending ambassadors will receive the information in a mailing to them. We will be making the same eight kinds of cookies as last year. They are: Chocolate Chip, Decorated Sugar Cookies, Lemon Cookies, White Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snaps, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Chocolate Crinkles, Oatmeal Cookies (with and without raisins), and Snickerdoodles.

Here is how the Cookie Camp will operate. We will meet at Salem Church of the Brethren at 9:00 am, on Dec. 10. All the supplies for the cookies will be there. The only other items for people to bring would be mixers. After selecting a type of cookie to make, everyone gets busy to make the fun begin! As soon as the cookies are baked and cooled, they are packaged into the \$2.50 or \$5.00 boxes. Samples are always available as well as coffee, tea, milk, and juice. Lunch will be served to all the workers. Since we will be handling lots of hot trays of cookies, it isn't a safe environment for small children. However, children 10 years old and up are welcome to come with a parent or grandparent. Please let Karen Dillon know if you would like to participate in Cookie Camp. phone: 937-890-7388 or email crimdill@aol.com This year's proceeds will help fund a new adventure for the children and their friends of Southern Ohio churches, WINTER BLAST.

WINTER BLAST is coming January 27 - 28, 2017. It is an overnight experience for kids and their friends who attended camp last year or want to attend camp in the future. Ambassadors and churches will be receiving a mailing soon with all the details about registration. The cost for the event will be \$20 per person. More information is available

online.

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

District Board Meeting Our next District Board meeting will be held January 14, 2017. You can go online to read reports at any time preceding the meeting.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Van Replacement - More than a year ago a van replacement fund was started and grew to \$5,000.00. Recently, due to the generosity of two donors and Interstate Ford, Southern Ohio BDM had the funds to purchase a twelve passenger 2015 Ford Transit with 14,000 miles. This replaces our 1998 Dodge van that had 99,000 miles. Once again, we have been blessed by God's grace.

A schedule of Southern Ohio's Disaster Ministry trips for 2017 is available on our website.

Oakland Church of the Brethren Dinner Theatre Announcement

Please inform your friends, family, and congregation of the following: the Oakland Church of the Brethren has decided to cancel the Dinner Theater for 2017. It is usually scheduled for the first two weekends of March. Thank you for supporting our many years of service. We are hopeful for a 2018 production and pray you will consider joining us in the future. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Mojo Brass and WOTQ at New Carlisle Church of the Brethren,

December 9th! John Mojo Brass and the Western Ohio Tuba Quartet for an evening of virtuosic holiday warmth and brassy fun as they open the 5th season of the music on Main Series on December 9, 2016 at the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren, 219 N. Main St, New Carlisle, Ohio at 7 PM. The event is free and fun for the whole family!

*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) 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.***

