

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

Winter Blast 2017

The very first Winter Blast sponsored by the Camping and Retreat Ministries was just that, A BLAST!

Friday evening Cricket Holler welcomed over fifty people of different sizes, shapes, and ages. After checking in and finding our bunks or mattresses, the group headed off to the Vandalia Recreation Center for splashing, sliding on the giant slide, and swimming in the warm water of the pool. The noise level really rose when our group joined the activity filled pool. Too soon for some, the time came to dry off and return to camp.

Evening devotions taught us about God's love before more fun began. Hot chocolate and inside s'mores were the treats just before watching a silly movie together. However bedtime arrived, and we had only seen half of the movie. The crisp walk to the cabins woke up some of the campers while others seemed to revive. Sleeping in a cabin with twenty-five or so other people can be interesting, but eventually everyone did sleep.

Campers were allowed to sleep in on Saturday morning, which is unusual for camp. The sausage and pancake breakfast was not served until 9:00. The pancakes vanished as all the campers got their fill. Now they were ready for the morning activities.

Table talks were first. Each table shared about talking with a famous person and why they chose that person. Then the campers told what they would like to say to Jesus if He were at their table. Table Talks are always interesting.

Games began with find the picture. Ted Foster had taken pictures all over the camp. Then he printed off the pictures on paper. Teams were given a picture to locate on the campus. Kids went running outside all over the camp trying to find the scene on the paper. As soon as it was found, the teams raced back to Ted for verification and to receive the next picture. Since Ted had made 40 pictures, the teams had lots to do.

Inside the hot chocolate flowed. Kids went in and out to warm up, but with all the running, no one was cold. Still the hot chocolate was very good. Games, puzzles, crafts, and blocks were there for more fun.

A traditional grilled cheese and tomato soup lunch was served by wonderful volunteers. Dirt pudding was the highlight dessert. Then the real fun started.

We went sledding down a slippery hill, had snowball fights using the camp director as a target, and played outside in the blustery air. Edible snow people were created and sampled. Snowball nose boink was played. How could we do all this when there was only a dusting of snow? You will have to ask someone who came to camp for our secrets. Our closing using sign language we learned was very moving and spiritual. As we left camp, tired and happy, the new memories of our fun and friendships followed us.

NEW INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE CAMP 2017 ! ! ! ! June 11 - 15, 2017

The Camping and Retreat Committee has designed a new camp for an intergenerational group to live together in a Christian community and go out into the local area to offer service. One doesn't need to go far to see places where a helping hand is needed. "Branching Out" is the camp theme and focus this year. By serving others in need, we can demonstrate our faith. This camp is open to everyone 14 years and older. The home base will be at Cricket Holler with breakfast and dinner served there. Each camper can pack his/her own sack lunch for the work site. Swimming and evening activities will be included. On the last day, the campers will serve by helping with the Camp Safari's activities, bringing the two camps together. More details are being planned, but it is hoped that lots of people decide this might be the camp they want to join.

Camp and Retreat Schedule for 2017

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: Intergenerational Service 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

Disaster Ministry Updates

Thanks from BDM Office - *We are very grateful for all of the effort that the members of the S. Ohio District put into gathering books to send to Nigeria. Thank you for bringing them here (New Windsor, MD) and for doing the initial sorting. I think you'll be pleased to know that the books are now on pallets ready to be shipped. We have nearly eleven pallets! Thanks to all who helped with this huge effort.* Sharon Franzen, BDM Office Manager

Feb. 25 Sewing Bee – Attention all sewers! There is a great demand in the U.S. and internationally for Church World Service school kits. A Sewing Bee will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Greenville COB, 421 Central Ave. Come at 9:00 AM to sew bags for school kits. Bring your sewing machine an extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information, call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. [Click here for a flyer with 2017 Sewing Bee dates.](#)

2017 Trip Schedule – Have you considered volunteering for a 2017 BDM trip? S. Ohio has weeks throughout the year that we have committed to sending a crew of fifteen volunteers. Expenses and transportation are covered by S. Ohio BDM. Some trips are to Columbia, SC and others will be to a site scheduled to open in March. Currently we are needing volunteers for April 23 – 29 and May 28 – June 3.

The 2017 trip schedule flyer is available on the district website. Please note that the June 11-17 and July 16 – 22 trips are for youth. To sign up for a trip or for more information, contact Burt Wolf 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Appreciation Dinner – “Sowing Seeds of Kindness” is the theme for our annual BDM Appreciation Dinner. It will be on Saturday, March 11 at 6:00 PM at Salem COB. There will be a recognition of first time volunteers and a celebration of the ministry of S. Ohio BDM. Supporters, trip volunteers, sewers, and those who want to learn more about this ministry are all invited. Please RSVP to Burt Wolf at southernohiobdm@gmail.com or 937-287-5902.

Are you a Dr, Nurse Practitioner, RN, LPN, or EMT?

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids is looking for DRs, RNs, LPNs and EMTs who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Dr. Rosalie McBride of Northern Indiana District is coordinating the First Aid Office this summer in Grand Rapids and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers. Click here to contact her.

Listening for Grace Coming to the West Charleston Church of the Brethren

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Listening for Grace is a new play, presented by Ted and Co. about relationships, sexuality, and the church. The West Charleston Church of the Brethren, is sponsoring this event on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Admission is free - donations are appreciated. The church is located at 4817 South State Route 202, Tipp City, OH.

The play uses Ted Schwartz' distinctive humor to give voice to our fears and hopes when a faith community engages in questions around sexuality and same-gender relationships. The main character in the play is challenged by many different viewpoints and experiences. Those interested may stay after the presentation for a half hour of facilitated conversation in small groups. All perspectives will be welcome and respected.

Links for bulletin inserts, posters, and a trailer about the play are available on the District website.

New Carlisle Church of the Brethren presents the Corn Drinkers on Music on Main Street

Church of the Brethren begins their new season of Music on Main Street to the community with the delightful band the "Corn Drinkers" on Saturday, February 4, at 7:00pm. The audience will be entertained with music from the 1920's and 1950's. That long forgotten sound of country music will bring back memories to many. Each song will have a strong and harmonious rhyme. The band will also be singing two original songs from their second album, "Mona in the Garden" and "Snowy Evening Waltz" written by Barbara Kuhns and Don Thrasher. Your evening will be filled with music so rich with emotion and beauty that you will be glad you attended the concert.

The concerts are free and open to the public, however during intermission a "free will offering" will be accepted as a donation to the performers. Refreshments will be served during intermission for a

nominal cost. Bring family and friends to these evening concert series "Music on Main Street" at the Church of the Brethren, 219 N. Main Street. Once again mark your calendar for Saturday, February 4, 2017, 7:00pm.

West Alexandria Church s seeking a part-time associate minister providing leadership to our music and youth ministries. This position will launch as 10 hour a week ministry role, which we hope to begin in May or June of 2017. Some ministry and/or leadership training is preferred, but we are open to filling these roles without the pastoral title and ministry training. Seminary scholarships are available with this position toward 40 to 100% of your seminary tuition. This opportunity is perfect for an undergrad college student seeking ministry opportunities in the future, but anyone with a call to ministry please apply. Express interest to Pastor Brody Rike at pbrodyrike@gmail.com.

Trinity Church is seeking pianist/organist

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.

West Charleston Church Seeking Music Director

West Charleston Church of the Brethren is seeking a Music Director for their multicultural worship services. The position involves about 10 hours a week and facility with Spanish language is a plus. Contact the church at 667-3988 or send a resume to w_c45371@yahoo.com.

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.

- Julie Hostetter, released from home health care. Has returned to work on the Bethany campus several days a week. She express her deep appreciation for the cards, notes of encouragement and prayers over the past several months.
- Nan Erbaugh, death of ' sister, Stephanie.
- Larry Tyner, Pastor of the Prince of Peace congregation--retirement on or before September 30, 2017.
- Rob Raker, dealing with heart condition--testing to determine the best way forward.
- Shannon Collins--recovering from brain surgery
- Cathy Lutz--recurrence of breast cancer
- Don and Patty King-- Don, hip replacement; Patty undergoing cancer treatment.
- Libby Kee, breast cancer treatment
- 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.