



August, 2017
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
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Southern Ohio District Conference will be held October 6-7, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. This year's theme, Created to Love, comes from 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. Again this year, the pre-conference leadership sessions are open to all. Our guest speakers will be Debbie Eisenbise and Gimbya Kettering. Both are on staff with the Church of the Brethren. Registration is open at our district website (www.sodcob.org).

Disaster Ministry Updates

Volunteers Needed - S. Ohio BDM is seeking volunteers to work in Eureka, MO August 6 - 12. We already have four volunteers, and can take up to fifteen. Volunteers' expenses for food, housing, and transportation are covered by BDM. The work is recovery from flooding in December 2015 and April 2017. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

10th Annual Ice Cream Social – Support BDM while you enjoy a delicious supper, pie, and ice cream (vanilla, peach, black raspberry, and maple pecan). The Annual Ice Cream Social will be on Saturday, August 5, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Happy Corner COB, 7037 Union Road, Clayton. Tickets for Share-a-Meal will be available for \$20 each. Click here to see the dates and hosts for the meals. New this year will be a sale of items from SERRV, a fair trade organization working with artisans throughout the world. Bring the coin collection jars that you may have received last year. All proceeds benefit the ministry of S. Ohio BDM, funding volunteers going on rebuilding trips and buying supplies for Church World Service kits. Invite a friend and come for an evening of food and fellowship!

Golf Scramble – On Saturday, August 12 there will be a Golf Scramble at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. This is jointly sponsored by BDM and the Camping and Retreat Ministry. You can give support as a golfer or as a hole sponsor. Click here for registration and hole sponsorship forms. Due date is August 4, 2017.

School Kit Assembly – On Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 PM school kits will be assembled for Church World Service. To help with this project, come to Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. This is the warehouse location for BDM's storage. Donations are needed for purchasing supplies. Our goal is to send 2,000 kits this year, at a cost of about \$5.00 each. Please make checks payable to S. Ohio District COB, with a footnote "CWS Kits". These may be sent to S. Ohio District COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

Sewing Bee – Come sew school bags on Saturday, August 12 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. Both in the U.S. and internationally, Church World Service (CWS) school kits are needed for disaster survivors, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

Empowering Grants Available

By action of the 2015 Southern Ohio District Conference a percentage of the interest from the sale of Camp Woodland Altars is to be used each year for grants. The monies received from the Nature Conservancy come from the sale of the undeveloped portion of the Camp. The grants will be used to Empower Congregations and to Empower Leadership within the District. We are excited to announce that we are now prepared to begin funding these grants.

The intended purpose of the grants is twofold:

1. To provide financial support to any congregation within the District which seeks it for the development of new or expansion of existing missional efforts;
2. To provide financial support for any member of a District congregation who is in a leadership position and wishes to obtain further training to enhance their leadership role or any member of a District congregation who wishes to seek training to prepare them for future church leadership.

Grant applications have been mailed to all congregations and are available online. The first deadline is August 1, 2017. Completed applications should be mailed to the district mailing address:

P O Box 785,
Greenville, OH 45331

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.

As violence, fear, and unrest continues across our world, may we keep lifting our concerns to our God of grace and peace.

- Neil Stackhouse, recurrence of tongue cancer
 - Tom Bowser, health issues which prevent him from serving as Interim Pastor at Prince of Peace Congregation.
 - The Stony Creek congregation has called Ryan Claybaugh to serve as their new pastor. He is taking the appropriate steps to be licensed.
 - Bear Creek congregation, Nan Erbaugh serving as Interim Pastor while they discern next steps
 - Rob Raker, former pastor, still dealing with his heart condition and is continuing to undergo tests to determine the best way forward.
 - Lee Saylor, new pastor for Salem
 - Prince of Peace Congregation, Pastor Larry Tyner retired, awaiting interim pastor to be assigned, circulating their profile
 - Trinity in negotiations with a pastoral candidate, Arnold Collett is serving as the interim.
- May we remember the 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.