



## September, 2017 Southern Ohio District Newsletter Printable Version

**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](http://www.sodcob.org)).

### Coming soon!!

We are excited about a new publication from Southern Ohio District in collaboration with Messenger. It will contain informational and inspirational material. Be watching for more details at District Conference in 2017 at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren.

### Salem Church of the Brethren Celebrates 200 years!!

Salem Church of the Brethren extends an invitation to everyone to join in our celebration of 200 years of ministry in our community. Many people have been impacted and have also provided support to the ministry of Salem, and it is a good and fitting time to invite all to gather and fellowship in this two-day celebration. Festivities begin on Saturday, September 30th and end on Sunday, October 1st.

Included in this celebration is the opportunity to join others in a celebration choir, which will sing on Sunday, October 1, 2017. The service begins at 10:30 am. There will be one rehearsal on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 pm. Please call Salem or email the office at [salemcob@gmail.com](mailto:salemcob@gmail.com) if you are interested and able to participate in this celebration choir! The more the merrier! Join us!

#### Agenda for events:

Saturday-4:00-8:00 pm- Reunion style picnic includes time for games, music, campfire, and a display of the history of the Salem Church

Sunday--9:00-10:30 am-Communion Breakfast in the fellowship hall

10:30 am-12:00 pm-- Worship

12:00-2:00pm--Fellowship Luncheon with history display

Contact Salem Church of the Brethren at 937-836-6145 or by email [salemcob@gmail.com](mailto:salemcob@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Disaster Ministry Updates

**Ice Cream Social** – The 10th Annual Ice Cream Social was held on August 5 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. The attendance was about 420, which included about 105 workers. Others helped by baking pies. Preliminary figures show that about \$8,500 was raised. Yet to be included is the money contributed in the coin jars and some Share-a-Meal tickets. Thank you for this tremendous support! All proceeds benefit the ministry of S. Ohio BDM, funding volunteers going on rebuilding trips and buying supplies for Church World Service kits and cleanup buckets.

**Golf Scramble** – On August 12 a Golf Scramble was held at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. This event was jointly sponsored by BDM and the Camping and Retreat Ministries. Twenty – three teams participated, and there were twenty hole sponsors. \$6,306.05 was raised to support these two ministries. We are grateful for all who supported this event.

**School Kit Assembly** – Fifty people from ten churches gathered on August 17 at Bullen Ultrasonics in Eaton to assemble 1,402 school kits. These are ready for the Church World Service (CWS) truck that comes to S. Ohio in September. It will transport them to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Together we have met our goal of sending 2,000 school kits in 2017! We appreciate all those who attended this event as well as those who sent donations. It costs about \$5.00 per kit, and donations are still welcome. 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, September 30 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, CWS school kits are needed for disaster survivors, refugees, and the economically disadvantaged. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

**Pork Festival Parking** - BDM will be parking cars at the Eaton Pork Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 -17. Many volunteers are need for this fundraising project. To volunteer for a shift, please call Jim Shank at 937-533-3800.

## **Camping and Retreat Updates**

### **Name Changes**

Recently the Shared Ministries Commission voted to change the name of the Camping and Retreat Committee to the Camping and Retreat Ministries to reflect the truer nature of the established group. Therefore the CRC has become the CRM. The emphasis of the group is the ministry supporting camping and retreats for the District.

### **CRM GETTING READY FOR FALL EVENTS**

Many fall events are being planned by the Camping and Retreat Ministries (CRM). Bringing people of all ages together to share experiences of fellowship, faith building, and fun has been expanded beyond the usual summer camping season.

First this fall will be the **Adult Bible Schools**. Troy and Salem Churches of the Brethren have each developed a week of exciting Bible schools just like the ones many churches have for children. Both Bible schools will take place beginning on Monday and continuing each day through Friday. 9:00 am will be the gathering time with 1:00 pm the closing after sharing a light lunch. Some of the activities include Bible study, singing, crafts, interest groups, recreation, helpful information about community resources, games, and lots of time to share stories with new and old friends.

Troy COB Bible School September 18 - 22  
Salem COB Bible School September 25 - 29.

Plans are being formulated for a possible Bible school to be held at the Brethren Retirement Center later in October. Details have not been completed, but information will be announced at the appropriate time.

**Women's Retreat** This year's Women's Retreat at Bergamo Retreat Center has the theme of "Be Still Before the Lord and Wait Patiently on Him" Psalm 37:7. Our speakers will be challenging and

informing us on ways to listen, reflect, meditate, and step back from our demanding lives to focus on spending time with God. Friday evening we will have a talent sharing which is always fun and inspiring as we see different sides to courageous sisters willing to perform for us. Saturday will be a full day as we learn together, sing and worship, share stories, and find new spiritual paths. Registrations are available at church and on the District website.

### **Save these Dates:**

October 15, Ambassador's Gathering Salem COB, 2 - 4 pm.

December 8 & 9, Cookie Camp

January 19 - 20, 2018, Safari Winter Blast Cricket Holler (Special Needs Campers)

January 26 - 27, 2018 Winter Blast Cricket Holler

### **New Director of Ministry Named**

One of Southern Ohio's own has been called to a new role in the Church of the Brethren as Nancy Sollenberger Heishman has been named director of the Office of Ministry. She will begin this role on November 6, working out of the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, IL, and from her home in Tipp City, OH.

Nancy has served in pastoral leadership at West Charleston Church of the Brethren since September, 2011, first as co-interim pastor and then as co-pastor along with her husband, Irvin Heishman. Since July 2015, she also has been coordinator of Spanish language ministry training programs at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

### **Our next District Board meeting will be held September 16, 2017.**

As reports become available they will be posted on our website.

### **Day of Peace Celebration**

To celebrate the Day of Peace, On Earth Peace will have a Feast for Peace hosted by the Lower Miami congregation on September 16, from 5-7pm. Please bring a dish to share in community as we get to know our neighbors throughout the area. Donations will also be accepted for the work of Racial Justice Now. For more information, contact Pastor Nan Erbaugh at [na-daerbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:na-daerbaugh@gmail.com).

### **NOAC Streaming Live**

"Inspiration 2017", beginning September 4, 2017 will be the first National Older Adult Conference to be live-streamed on the Internet. All keynote addresses, worship services, afternoon programs, and daily Bible studies will be available to view live online through a partnership with Enten and Mary Eller and Living Stream Church of the Brethren. This is especially important for conference alumni/ae who are no longer able to travel to the conference in Lake Junaluska, N.C., and who long to be part of the NOAC community. more information about the conference, including a detailed schedule can be found at [www.brethren.org/noac/](http://www.brethren.org/noac/).

### **Prayer Needs**

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer.

--Violence, fear, and unrest continues across our world. We however, follow the Prince of Peace and must be agents and conduits of God's love, peace, and grace to a hurting world. May we continue to lift our world in prayer and may we be the people God calls us to be as our District Conference theme reminds us, Created to love.

--May we lift those being affected by the hurricane and those serving to assist in this region, includ-

ing persons from Children's Disaster Service with two from Southern Ohio; Wanda King from Bear Creek and Pat Krabacher from New Carlisle

--The family of Richard "Dick" Shockney upon his passing

--Sonja Griffith, bypass surgery

--Neil Stackhouse, recurrence of tongue cancer, continues in recovery and rehabilitation

--Tom Bowser, continued health issues, prayer for healing

-- Prince of Peace Congregation, called Doug Veal as long term intentional interim pastor beginning September 15

--Jennifer Keeney Scarr, returned from CPT, graduated as a Reservist with the team in Colombia. Is grateful for the prayer support while she was away. "I am so glad to be part of such a supportive district!"

--Rob Raker, dealing with heart condition.

--May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace has called an interim as noted above; West Charleston will be working through changes in their pastoral staff as co-pastor Nancy Heishman has accepted the call to become Director of Ministry; Nan Erbaugh is serving with Bear Creek as interim as they continue to discern next steps, she continues to serve as Pastor at Lower Miami.

- 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.