



November, 2017
Southern Ohio District Newsletter
Printable Version

2018 Annual Conference
Cincinnati, OH – July 4-8, 2018
Duke Energy Center
Theme: *Living Parables*

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at Duke Energy Center Cincinnati. Southern Ohio District will be hosting the conference with the theme of "Living Parables." Our district has the opportunity to be a "living parable" by assisting and serving in some capacity at the conference.

Volunteers are needed to assist with Early Childhood Care; Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Junior High, Senior High, Young Adults, Single Adults, Conference Registration, Ticket Sales, Ushering, Unloading(7/3/18) and Loading(7/8/18) of equipment. You can download a form on the district website, check your interests, provide your contact information and send it to Glenn and Linda Timmons, On Site Co-ordinators by February 1, 2018. (4481 Valleybrook Drive, Englewood, OH 45322) If you have questions, call us at 937-832-2630 (H) or 937-623-5609.

163rd Southern Ohio District Conference

What a wonderful weekend of sharing in District Conference. From the time conference convened on Friday afternoon through its conclusion on Saturday afternoon, our Pleasant Hill congregation showed us marvelous hospitality. Conference closed with passing the gavel on to next year's moderator, Deb Oskin. Our 2018 Conference Theme is "We are Christ's Body." A more detailed report of business and events can be found on the district website.

Bethany and EYN Form Educational Partnership

Bethany Theological Seminary and EkklesiyarYan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) have entered into an historic relationship, the first of its kind between the Seminary and a Church of the Brethren group outside the United States. At the 2016 Annual Conference, Bethany president Jeff Carter and EYN president Joel Billi signed a Memorandum of Understanding which outlined a new intercontinental online education program. Conceived as a way to facilitate theological study at Bethany for EYN members, the program is a joint effort between the Seminary and EYN.

It is hoped that this innovative program will create a pathway for more EYN students to enroll as degree students and study on campus at Bethany. Courses taken for the CATS can be transferred directly into the master of divinity or master of arts program at Bethany. As EYN moves from a state of crisis to one of greater independence after enduring widespread violence and destruction at the hands of Boko Haram, this educational partnership can help strengthen the leadership, mission, and ministry of a resilient and growing denomination.

Musa Mambula and Mark Lancaster are always willing to speak with individuals and congregations about how God has moved the Seminary to embrace this unique partnership with EYN. Contact Mark with questions about the program or how to support this holy effort: lan-cama@bethanyseminary.edu, 765-983-1805 (work), or 510-809-6721. Click here for more information.

Camping and Retreat Updates

In past times, summer camp was just that - summer camp. As the world around us has changed, so have the camping season and ministry changed. We now offer retreats and adult gatherings in the

fall, winter and spring. Winter fun for children and teens is a popular event. Even fund raisers have captured the spirit of working together in the Cookie Camp in December. All these events bring us together to share special times and strengthen the bond of fellowship as we work to build God's kingdom on earth.

COOKIE CAMP has been so well supported by the many churches over the district that we have had to expand our baking to two days. One day had become too crowded with all the orders we received. So we are going to begin baking on Friday evening, Dec. 8, at 6:00 pm, at Salem Church of the Brethren. That evening we will bake the cookies that take extra effort like dipping in chocolate or icing and decorating the tops. This will give us a head start for Saturday's baking. Saturday, Dec. 9 at 9:00 am, Cookie Camp will be in full swing. We will be baking and packing cookies from 9:00 - 1:00. Lunch will be provided along with lots of milk, tea, and coffee to go with the cookies. All the ingredients and supplies will be at the church. We only need heavy duty mixers brought by people coming to bake. It is a wonderful time with lots of fun as we sift, mix, plop, roll, cut, and create the many kinds of holiday cookies for everyone to enjoy. Camp Ambassadors and church offices have received Cookie Order Sheets. Orders can be placed with ambassadors, church offices, or directly to Karen Dillon. [Click here to download an order form.](#) Orders are needed by December 1. The orders will be filled and ready for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Salem. Some ambassadors will be delivering cookie orders to their churches. The funds collected from Cookie Camp will be used to help pay for the two Winter Blasts being planned for campers in January, thus keeping the costs as low as possible.

If anyone would like to come to both days of baking, overnight accommodations can be made by contacting Karen Dillon.

SAFARI WINTER BLAST Friday, JAN. 19, 6:00 pm (after dinner) - Saturday, Jan. 20, 4:00 pm. This camp is for campers who attend or are eligible for Safari Summer Camp. These special needs campers and caregivers will enjoy winter activities geared to their abilities as they share time with new and old friends. Cost: \$20 per person

WINTER BLAST II Friday, JAN.26, 6:00 pm (after dinner) - Saturday, Jan. 27, 4:00 pm. Calling all kids who want to have another winter time camping experience. With or without snow, the fun-filled event will keep everyone active with swimming, singing, running, playing, as we get to know each other better. Invite your friends to come with you.
Cost: \$20 per person

Registrations and more information will be available in November.

Camp Ambassadors and all churches will be receiving the information, registrations in the mail. All details and flyers about Camping and Retreat Ministries can be found on the District website.

Disaster Ministry Updates

CWS Project Update: 504 Cleanup Buckets

In response to the hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, our district worked together to respond to the need. 504 Cleanup buckets for Church World Service (CWS) were assembled on October 19 by 96 volunteers, ranging in age from three to 91+ years. They represented thirteen COB congregations, plus several other churches. With many hands working, the buckets were filled with fourteen different items and stacked on skids in less than an hour. What an amazing evening, truly a God moment for many who were helping. These buckets were shipped to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD, arriving there on October 25. From there they will be shipped to the point of need.

S. Ohio BDM stepped out in faith as we undertook this project. District churches were invited to set their own goal, knowing the scope of the project. CWS values the buckets at \$75, but we have consistently assembled them for less. About \$33,000 has been received to fund this project. Not all bills have been turned in, so we don't yet have the total cost of the project. Donations have definitely exceeded the cost of 504 Cleanup Buckets. We are checking with Church World Service and Brethren Disaster Ministries to see what the need is for additional buckets, kits, or supplies. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project. Together we are sharing God's love by helping those in need.

Sewing Bee-- Come sew school bags on Saturday, November 11 at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. These bags will be used for CWS school kits. Come not only to sew, but for great fellowship too. For more information, contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

2018 Trip Schedule-- The 2018 schedule for rebuilding trips is now set. [Click here to download.](#) Some trips are to the Marion, SC site, which is currently scheduled to be open throughout 2018. Others are to Eureka, MO, but this site is scheduled to close the end of March. A new site will then open. volunteers need to be at least fifteen years old, unless they go with a parent or guardian, and then they may be fourteen. The June and July trips are youth oriented trips. BDM covers expenses and provides transportation in the BDM vans. Sign up for a trip by contacting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com

SOKD Mission Buy and Sell

At the 2017 District Conference an initiative to explore new fund streams was presented. The SOKD Mission Buy & Sell is now functioning on Facebook Marketplace. These items have been donated by individuals within our district. If you would like to purchase something, you can leave your bid on the page. All proceeds will be divided between the church in Nigeria and the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. You are encouraged to go on the site and post a bid or make a comment, then share the site with your friends.

Chicken. . . and Noodles . . . Apple Dumplings . . . Oh my!

The Covington Church of the Brethren fall fund-raiser, featuring homemade chicken and noodles and apple dumplings will be held Saturday, November 11th. Serving will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue until all is sold out, which usually occurs around 5 p.m.

The noodles are prepared from a tried and true recipe first developed years ago as the church's festival booth offering. And the apple dumplings, well, they just keep tasting as delicious as ever. Beverages will be available, and there will be ice cream cups for those who like to top off their apple dumplings. For more details please email covingtoncob@gmail.com or call 937-473-2415.

Our next District Board meeting will be held November 10 & 11, 2017.

The Retreat will be held at the Brethren Retirement Community. As reports become available they will be posted on our website.

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 as well as the current information on prayer needs of the church in Nigeria are available on the website.

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 continue to lift those being affected by the recent hurricanes and wildfires and those servint to assist in these regions.

--Karen Dillon, back and leg pain

--Pete Kontra, new District Executive of Atlantic Northeast District beginning January 1

--Doug Veal, long term intentional interim at Prince of Peace

-- Rob Raker, heart condition

-- Those congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace has called an intentional interim; West Charleston working through changes in their staff as co-pastor Nancy Heishman has accepted the call to become Director of Ministry, interviewing potential candidates; Fred Bernhard assisting Bear Creek for the coming months as they continue to discern next steps

--May we remember the possibility of 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 Dave if you know of prayer situations of which he should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.