



**December, 2017**  
**Southern Ohio District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**

## **2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Cincinnati, OH – July 4-8, 2018  
AnchorDuke Energy Center

Theme: Living Parables

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at Duke Energy Center in 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.

Contact Glenn and Linda Timmons, On Site Co-Coordinators by February 1, 2018. 937-832-2630 (H) or 937-623-5609 to volunteer.

## **“Together” Magazine**

The Connections Commission and the District Board are working on a new publication for the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. This magazine will feature inspirational and informational articles and other items from members of our district. The magazine will be sent twice a year as an insert in Messenger magazine, the official magazine of the Church of the Brethren. These special editions will be sent to all the addresses we have in our data base including those who do not currently subscribe to Messenger. Anyone who would like to receive this mailing should submit their mailing address to the district office at P O Box 785 Greenville, OH 45331.

## **Passport Adventure**

The Connections Commission is also sponsoring another fun experience we are calling the Great Southern Ohio/Kentucky Passport Adventure. The purpose of this experience is to get acquainted with sisters and brothers in our district who attend church at some other congregation. The Passport Commission has assembled a book of our churches, their location, and their worship times. Here's how the adventure begins: Download the book on our website. Then choose a church to visit and go for it. You can make yourself known once you are there, or visit incognito as just another guest at their service. Enjoy yourself then share your experience on Facebook in the group that has been created for this purpose. Just search Facebook for "SOKD Passport Adventure" and join the group.

## **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.

Cookies are pre-ordered and the orders will be filled and ready for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 9, 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

Registration is now open. You can obtain your form from camp ambassadors, church offices, and on the website. Click here to download Winter Blast Registration. Click here to download Safari Winter Blast Registration.

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.

## **Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Men's Retreat**

The District Men's Retreat will be held February 2-4, 2018 beginning at 7:00 PM on Friday at Woodland Altars Heritage Lodge. This year's guest speaker will be Trent Smith, pastor of Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. The theme for the weekend is "An Exploration of Celtic Christianity". Watch for more information including online registration and cost of event.

Disaster Ministry Updates

**Children's Disaster Services (CDS) Training** – Since 1980 Children's Disaster Services (CDS) has been meeting the needs of children by setting up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos created by natural or human caused disasters.

On April 20 & 21, 2018 there will be a training for those who want to become CDS volunteers and for recertification of current volunteers. It will be held at Trotwood Church of the Brethren. To reserve a spot, email Kathy Fry Miller by December 10, 2017 at kfry-miller@brethren.org. Once your spot is reserved, you will later receive word when online registration is open and about the payment of the \$45 fee. After Dec.10 the workshop will be opened to those beyond S. Ohio. Click Here for more details.

**Hurricane Response** -Following the hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, our district responded to the tremendous need by assembling 504 Cleanup Buckets for Church World Service. About \$33,000 has been received to fund this project, which cost about \$14,200. The project was estimated to cost about \$20,000, but using pickle buckets rather than purchasing buckets for \$5 or \$6 a piece, made a big difference in the project cost. BDM also partnered with the Brethren Retirement Community who assembled 1,000 Hygiene Kits. BDM paid \$2,000 which covers the \$2 per kit fee for shipping the kits from the warehouse to the point of need.

Donations exceeded the cost of the Cleanup Bucket project, enabling us to expand our response. Church World Service now needs more hygiene kits. Brethren Disaster Ministries needs funds for the response in Puerto Rico. Therefore, our next projects will be purchasing supplies for 1,000 hygiene kits, and sending a \$10,000 donation to the Emergency Disaster Fund, designated for relief in Puerto Rico. Thank you to everyone for their compassion and generosity.

**2018 Trip Schedules** – In 2018 ten rebuilding trips are scheduled ([Click Here](#)), with room for fifteen volunteers on each trip. Current sites are Eureka, MO and Marion, SC, with new sites opening later in the year. 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 for youth and their leaders. Expenses are covered, and transportation is provided in the BDM vans. Sign up for a trip by contacting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

## **On Earth Peace**

### **Racial Justice – Miami Valley**

### **COMMUNITY FILM DISCUSSION AND DINNER**

Where: Beavercreek Church of the Brethren

(Brethren Hall)

When: January 20th at 4 PM

What: We will be watching a film, “The Bail Trap” followed by discussion.

A potluck dinner will begin at approximately 5PM. Bring a dish to share.

Join us as we talk about bail reform, connect with other passionate individuals interested in racial justice work, and build a beloved community.

All are welcome!

We will be accepting donations for Racial Justice NOW! as a way to support the racial justice work in our Miami Valley community.

Facebook page: OEP-RJ Miami Valley

Emily Parsons. OEP intern email: [oep-rj-miamivalley@onearthpeace.org](mailto:oep-rj-miamivalley@onearthpeace.org)

## Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2017 Prayer and the 2018 Prayer List for Congregations are available on the website.

-- May we continue to lift those being affected by the recent hurricanes and wildfires and those serving to assist in these regions.

--The memorial service for Julie Hostetter will be held at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren (420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, Va.) this Saturday, December 2 at 11 AM. To honor her dedication to ministry education, Julie's family has established the Julie Mader Hostetter Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership Scholarship Fund. Memorials may be sent to this fund, which will support Academy students: Bethany Theological Seminary, 615 National Road West, Richmond, IN 47374. Tributes may be left at [www.rothermelfuneralhome.com/notices/Julie-Hostetter](http://www.rothermelfuneralhome.com/notices/Julie-Hostetter). Cards can be mailed to Mike at: 303 Homeview Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812. Please keep Julie's family in prayer during this time of loss.

--Libby Kee, surgery on Dec. 4 to remove a portion of her colon due to an enlarged polyp. She will be in Bay Medical Center, Panama City, FL.

--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 Charlston 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.