

### Special District Meeting

The District Board and the Program and Arrangements Committee, including the District conference Officers, are calling a special all District meeting this spring. The tentative date for this event is Saturday, March 17, 1:30-4:00 PM pending securing a location and someone from denominational leadership.

The purpose of this gathering is to share information regarding factions that are developing across the Church of the Brethren which have the potential for our denomination to splinter. Information will also be shared regarding the exit process if congregations choose to begin those conversations. Denominational leadership and the Council of District Executives are currently working on clarifying this process. Their work should be completed in late January or early February.

All members of the district are invited to attend this event. We also ask that all members hold their congregation, the district, and the denomination in prayer as we face an uncertain future and the potential fracturing of our fellowship.

### 2018 Annual Conference will be held in Cincinnati, OH in Duke Energy Center July 4-8.

The 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. Check our website or contact your church office to obtain a form, check your interests, provide your contact information then send it to Glenn and Linda Timmons, On Site Co-Coordinators by February 1, 2018. (4481 Valleybrook Drive, Englewood, OH 45322) If you have questions, call the Timmons at 937-832-2630 (H) or 937-623-5609.

### 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.

### On Earth Peace sponsors Film, Discussion AND Dinner

Where: Beaver Creek 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.

### Camping and Retreat Updates

**Safari Winter Blast** Fri., Jan. 19, 6:00 pm - Sat, Jan. 20, 4:00 pm.

**Winter Blast II** Friday, Jan.26, 6:00 pm - Sat, Jan. 27, 4:00 pm.

Registration is still open. Get your form from camp ambassadors, church offices, and on the website. 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

**Hurricane Response** –Volunteer Opportunities in FL - Through National BDM, work weeks are planned for January 7-13 and January 14-20 in Florida, FL. Volunteers from various districts will be doing roof repair from damage caused by Hurricane Irma. Additional information can be found on the website.

**Hygiene Kits** – In response to Church World Service's (CWS) need for hygiene kits, S. Ohio BDM is ordering supplies for 1,000 kits. The need is great, due to a large number of hygiene kits being distributed this fall when hurricanes struck Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. A February assembly date is anticipated. This project will be funded by donations that exceeded the cost of the CWS cleanup bucket project.

**Sewing Bee** - Come sew school bags on Saturday, January 13 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.

**Children's Disaster Services (CDS) Training** – Registration is now open for the CDS training scheduled for April 20 - 21, 2018 at Trotwood Church of the Brethren. To register, go online at <http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html>. Those who previously reserved a spot in this training need to also submit this official registration with the \$45 fee. More information can be found online about Children's Disaster Services and their work setting up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers.

**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

### Save 2018 Dates

March 3 - BDM Appreciation Dinner, Eaton COB, 6:00PM

August 4 - Ice Cream Social Fundraiser, Happy Corner COB, 4:00-7:00PM

August 11 - Golf Scramble, Turtle Creek Golf Course, 9:00AM

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) visit our website: [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org). In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to [sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) **before the 15th of the month.***

