



**January, 2018**  
**Southern Ohio District Newsletter**  
**Printable Version**

## **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**

Cincinnati, OH – July 4-8, 2018  
Duke 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.

## **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.

**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 still open. You can obtain 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.

## **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.

## **Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update**

**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](mailto: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

## **January Online Course Opportunity**

The next course offering from the "Ventures in Christian Discipleship" program at McPherson (Kan.) College will be "Congregation in Mission." Congregational life provides settings for persons in community to flourish in their faith. What are the dynamics to allow this to happen? What are the impediments that get in the way of this flourishing? These and other questions can be a spring board for drawing us into a lively discussion. We

will work on the concepts of “settler” verses “frontier” churches and explore how these concepts impact congregational life and mission.

The class will be held online Saturday, January 20 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST and taught by Jim Tomlonson. Jim has served the denomination in many ways, including as associate pastor, campus minister, rural parish ministry, and district executive/minister.

All classes are donation-based and continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. To learn more about Ventures and to register for courses, visit [www.mcpherson.edu/ventures](http://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures).

## **On Earth Peace**

### **Racial Justice – Miami Valley**

#### **COMMUNITY 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.

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: [oeprj-miamivalley@onearthpeace.org](mailto:oeprj-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 2018 Prayer List for Congregations are available on the website.

--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.

--Cathy Lutz, surgery, recovering at home

--Larry Lutz, seeing orthopedic surgeon, hip issues

--Jim Moore, prostate cancer

--Rob Raker, heart condition

--Congregations in pastoral transition-- Prince of Peace, Doug Veal interim; Bear Creek, Fred Bernhard is assisting until their new pastor (Angela Asamoah) arrives in January

--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

