

February, 2019
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Compelling Vision Prayer Summit

As we look forward as a denomination to the continuation of the "Compelling Vision" process, it seems imperative that we prepare for this year's Annual Conference with lots of prayer. The 2019 "Prayer and Worship Summit" titled "Praying for the Vision" will be an excellent pre-conference event. On March 29 and 30, in Harrisonburg, VA, brothers and sisters will come from all over the nation to devote time for worship and prayer over the visioning process. This Summit is open to everyone, and as in the past, there will be no business conducted. We are coming together to worship and pray for our Denomination, asking God to help us recapture our vision.

The event is free, but we are asking for folks to register early as space is limited. Saturday's lunch will be provided free as well. Again, early registration will help us to prepare for the necessary food services for the event.

A brochure and a poster can be found on the district website. Please feel free to reproduce these as needed.

New Carlisle Church of the Brethren announces the Music on Main Series dates and performers

The seventh Music on Main Series will open on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 7:00 pm. with Jim McCutcheon performing. Mr. McCutcheon is an outstanding classical guitarist, hosts "The Intimate Guitar" weekly on Dayton Public Radio, and appears as "The Guitar Man" in schools grades pre-K-12, performing assemblies and residencies including demos on the science of music. IN 2017, Jim McCutcheon was awarded the Ohio Governor's Award for the Arts.

The Series continues the Tecumseh High School Women's Chorus on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Saturday, April 6, 2019 will be a Flute and Harp Duo. Then on Saturday, May 4, 2019, the Corn-drinkers will perform. This group is a local group from the New Carlisle area who performs Appalachian folk music. The Series concludes with the Ohio Valley British Brass Band on Friday, June 7, 2019.

Come and enjoy these free concerts at the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren.

Science Fiction and Theology

February 22-23, 2019

Presenter, Steve Schweitzer

"Science Fiction is extremely popular in our wider culture. This genre is filled with theological themes: who is God, what does it mean to be human, what is the nature of evil, how is it overcome, is war or violence necessary, to name only a few. Based on a course I teach at Bethany, we will explore some examples from widely popular SciFi series--Star Wars, Star Trek, and Doctor Who--that allow connections between theology and culture."--Steven Schweitzer

Steven Schweitzer (PhD, Notre Dame) is Academic Dean and Professor at Bethany Seminary. He regularly teaches a graduate seminar on Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah and a course on Science Fiction and Theology. Steve has preached, taught, and led workshops for several congregations and districts, including Bible studies and Insight Sessions at Annual Conference. Steve and his wife, Jill, have three children and attend Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in Southern Ohio/Kentucky District. Registration deadline is February 15.

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

2018 Data - The S. Ohio/KY District was very supportive of BDM throughout 2018. There were 14 rebuilding trips with 159 volunteers. These trips were to Missouri, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, and Puerto Rico at a cost of \$9,500. Locally, four volunteers helped Bethany Seminary by painting a bedroom and bathroom in Patterson House after renovations. For Church World Service (CWS), 2,500 School Kits and 4,011 Hygiene Kits were assembled for \$31,600. At six Sewing Bees, bags for school kits were sewn by 49 volunteers. There was also a trip to the Brethren Service Center with 26 volunteers who processed CWS kits. Through Children's Disaster Services, there were seven volunteers who served. Thank you to all for your support. Together we bring hope and share God's love.

2019 Rebuilding Trips – Sign up for a trip in 2019! The current site is in Lumberton, NC, but new sites will be 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. [Click Here](#) for a flyer with trip dates. Sign up for a trip by contacting Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com

Sewing Bee – On Saturday, January 26, a Sewing Bee will be held at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Come sew bags for CWS school kits. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. [Click Here](#) for the 2019 Sewing Bee flyer.

Prayer needs

As we know from the news over the weekend, the government shutdown has ended, may our prayers be extended to all those affected by the shutdown and now the efforts to return to some sense of normalcy. However, there is still a lot of fallout from this situation. May our prayers be offered that officials will come together to find a peaceful solution to these issues facing our country and our world.

- One of my colleagues, José Calleja Otero, District Executive of Puerto Rico, shares that his uncle passed away and upon sharing the news with his grandmother, she died from the emotional shock of the news. Please keep this family in prayer during this time of loss.

- The Constance congregation has vacated their building due to structural concerns as previously reported. Worship is being held in space graciously provided by the nearby Hebron Lutheran Church. The Constance congregation will be selling the current property and seeking a new permanent location. Our prayers for these sisters and brothers during this time of transition are appreciated.

- Please lift in prayer the mother of Angela Asamoah (pastor at Bear Creek and member of the district board), as she suffered a heart attack recently.

- Mary Sue Rosenberger, former chaplain at BRC and spouse of Bruce, former pastor at Greenville and interim director at Woodland Altars, has been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis along with a slow growing carcinoma in her lungs. Mary Sue and Bruce are currently members of the Living Peace congregation in Columbus. Mary Sue has begun immunotherapy injections which will continue every two weeks for a year to help prevent any additional cancer growth. Mary Sue has posted an update to her blog about her Adventure with Cancer and Pulmonary Fibrosis.
- Rob Raker, former pastor, continues to deal with the heart condition that has plagued him for some time now. He is hoping for a new procedure which may alleviate some of the issues he has been facing. Doctors continue to work with Rob as these heart struggles continue. Rob appreciates our prayers.
- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - Beech Grove is discerning next steps in their pastoral transition; Painter Creek has arrangements with Phil Reynolds for regular pulpit supply. Good Shepherd is in an arrangement with Carla Gillespie for pastoral services; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at Brookville during this time of transition. White Cottage will shortly begin a pastoral search.
- May we remember the possibility of a new church starts in various locations in our district as well as the urban ministry team for revitalizing some of our urban churches.
- 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.