

December, 2020
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Christ's Ambassadors Club Q & A

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."
--II Corinthians 5:20

What is The Christ's Ambassador's Club? "The Christ's Ambassadors Club" is Southern Ohio/Kentucky District's effort to continue the work of Jesus through our district ministries by giving additional financial support. Your financial gift, large or small, helps to make this real. Our goal is to raise an additional \$50,000 during the year of 2021 which will supplement the giving from our congregations to balance the District budget.

Who can become a member? Anyone who believes in the ministry of the Church of the Brethren and wishes to see thriving congregations throughout the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District.

When? Our goal is to meet the goal of an additional \$50,000 in the upcoming year of 2021.

How? Go online to the district website and complete your pledge to the Christ's Ambassador's Club. You can give a one time gift immediately, or pledge to give your gift over the upcoming year, whether monthly or as a one time gift. You can give electronically, or by mailing a check to the district mailing address at P O Box 785, Greenville, OH 458331. Please mark on the memo line that it is for the Christ's Ambassador's Club.

Beginning with the District Board, staff and conference delegates 18 individuals have given or pledged \$11,470 toward our \$50,000 goal for 2021.

District Missional/Renewal Commission holds Conversations About Race Relations

Recent current events and news stories around such topics as racial justice, white privilege, equality/equity, etc. have spurred conversations within the Missional/Renewal Commission. As a result, in an effort to increase understanding within the district, a task team has been formed. Among other things, this team has compiled a list of resources which will help you understand and talk about diversity within your congregation. These are posted on the district website. [Click here](#) The Task Team will add to this list as they continue to meet and learn what resources are available. They also plan to offer other learning opportunities. Be watching for more information.

West Charleston Church of the Brethren Live Nativity

The West Charleston Church of the Brethren is sponsoring a live walk through nativity. It will be open on Dec. 18 from 7 -8:30; Dec. 19 from 4-5:30 and 7-8:30

Church address is 4817 St Rt 202, Tipp city, OH

The event is free and open to all. Visitors are encouraged to make a canned food donation or a monetary donation (for the church's youth programming and Good Samaritan fund). Masks and social distancing are required for this outdoor event

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Dayton BDM Site – Due to the high rate of COVID-19, the Dayton BDM site is not currently accepting volunteers. The BDM leaders are finishing up the current jobs and will not take on any new work. The site

will be paused until the beginning of April. Groups are then scheduled for the remainder of 2021. Much of the work has been removing damaged siding and roofs, and then residing and reroofing the houses. There is also a new build that BDM and Habitat for Humanity are working on together.

2021 Trip Schedule – Monthly BDM trips are scheduled for 2021. In January, February, and March our crews will be working in Bayboro, NC. April through the remainder of the year, we anticipate working in Dayton, OH. Due to the COVID-19 environment, we have committed to a half crew which is six volunteers. If we have more than six who wish to serve, we'll check to see if other slots are available. COVID-19 procedures are in place during travel, at the housing site, and at the work site. BDM works hard at serving disaster survivors and keeping volunteers safe.

Trip Volunteers – It's time to sign up for 2021 trips, particularly January 17-23, February 14-20, and March 14-20. These trips are to Bayboro, NC. Contact Burt Wolf at SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com or call/text 937-287-5902. The 2021 Trip Flyer is available on the district website, or ask in your church office.

Sewing Bee Flyer – The 2021 Sewing Bee Flyer is posted on the district website, or ask in your church office. The sewing bees will alternate between Greenville COB and Eaton CC.

Facebook Marketplace Fundstream Initiative

For the third year in a row, there is an opportunity to participate in a Facebook (FB) Marketplace Auction which raises funds for SOKD ministries. A recent donation of items (both new and collectible items) will be added to the SOKD Mission Buy & Sell site - take a look, as we have beautiful and unique gift items for Christmas giving. For instance, we have a brand new 15" Pampered Chef pizza stone; EASY CARE succulent plants; a 45th Anniversary mug for the Brethren Service Cent (1989) that can be used as a mug or 'drilled' to hold a succulent plant, and MANY MORE, unique, and newly posted items!

Facebook Marketplace functions as an online auction. While each item has a suggested price, it is ok to barter. Matter of fact, that is what makes the marketplace fun.

Here are the steps to access the SOKD Marketplace Auction and request membership (membership is required in this "closed" SOKD BUY & Sell group):

- 1) EASIEST - Go to the S. Ohio Kentucky District (SOKD) Homepage: <http://www.sodcob.org/>
- 2) Scroll down the left side of the SOKD homepage and find the fourth blue button under "District NEWS" that is titled "SOKD Auction on Facebook", then 'click' on that "SOKD Auction" button. Or, you can search Facebook for "SOKD Mission By & Sell"
- 3) The SOKD website at <http://www.sodcob.org> will open. Persons not currently members of our SOKD FB Marketplace will see a button that says "Join Group" Click to join our SOKD marketplace auction.
- 4) You should be automatically added to the Group, if not, please contact SOKD marketplace Administrator, Pat Krabacher, pjkrabacher@gmail.com or 937-765-0483.
- 5) Scroll down to locate items listed for sale. Review the description and look at pictures of items. Hoping that you find something that interests your 'fancy'!
- 6) Place a bid under the comment section, or just make a comment on an item, or ask a question about an item. Let's learn and have some fun raising funds for the SOKD!

DELIVERY: Once agreement on price is reached - arrangements must be made by the purchaser with the Marketplace Administrator for pick-up or delivery of the item purchased. Normally the Administrator will deliver purchases greater than \$15 within 35 mile radius of New Carlisle. For low priced items (less than \$15 total) OR, distances over 35 miles. a purchaser can pick up the item(s) OR a \$5 delivery surcharge could be agreed to by the purchaser and Administrator.

Pick-up or Delivery requires COVID19 physically distanced protocols.

IF ANY PROBLEMS or questions arise about how the marketplace works, please do not hesitate to contact SOKD marketplace Administrator, Pat Krabacher, pjkrabacher@gmail.com or 937-765-0483.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer.

- There are many reports of medical personnel being pushed beyond limits in caring for those in the hospital and in nursing homes. May we lift these persons into the light of God's grace and love as they minister to those who are hurting.

- With the election now behind us but with lawsuits remaining, may our prayers be for wisdom, for safety, for those elected and those continuing to serve.

- Nearly every day there are new reports of injustice and violence, with growing unrest and protests continuing, may we lift this situation in prayer. Racism is still a force of hatred, violence and anger in our country and in our world; we are compelled by the gospel to work to overcome injustice and hate. May our prayers this day be for peace and understanding.

- Brethren Retirement Community (BRC) residents, staff, BRC board and their families . . . Testing continues; Procedures are being conducted to keep our residents and staff safe. There have been a few positive cases and special care is being offered.

- Those affected by the coronavirus outbreak There are many changing directives, regulations and recommendations affecting our country and way of life.

- The Constance congregation continues to discern space needs, although temporarily on hold during the pandemic.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - Andrew Wright is serving as interim at Oakland; Donnels Creek is using pulpit supply; Mark Lancaster is serving as interim at Good Shepherd; Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at Brookville-- their profile has been posted; White Cottage has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation; Tara Hornbacker is serving as interim at New Carlisle.

- 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.